

A R I Z O N A

# Daily Sun

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## Little League

Continental, West Flagstaff All-Stars clash in Area One tourney **SPORTS, B1**



## Border station

12-year-old girl recalls poor care in Texas for herself, sister **ARIZONA, A3**



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# Sliding into summer



**Above:** Dozens gathered Monday morning to take part in a Slip 'n' Slide event hosted by the Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Department. **Right:** Nathan Sullivan (4) plays with a Super Soaker Monday morning during a Slip 'n' Slide event hosted by the Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Department at Bushmaster Park.

**BEN SHANAHAN PHOTOS, ARIZONA DAILY SUN**



# Closures set for holiday, beyond

ADOT warns motorists about delays, road construction

**COLLIN W. CLAYTON**  
Special to the Daily Sun

Motorists who plan to travel through the Flagstaff area are being cautioned by ADOT officials to expect delays as several road closures take place throughout the week and into the latter half of summer.

From Monday, July 1 to Wednesday, July 3 between the hours of 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., Interstate 17 will be reduced to a single lane in both directions at the I-40 junction. A closure of the I-40 eastbound to I-17 northbound interchange will also occur on July 2.

The lane reduction will resume Monday, July 8 and will accompany the closure of the I-17 southbound to I-40 east and westbound interchanges, as well as the I-17 southbound to I-40 westbound interchange. Travelers seeking to navigate from the I-17 onto the I-40 during these times will be redirected through the I-17 northbound to I-40 eastbound interchange.

Drivers should also be aware that exit 341 will be closed July 8, in conjunction with the closure of McConnell Drive underneath the I-17 overpass. This

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# Antarctic ice goes from record high to record low

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The amount of ice circling Antarctica is suddenly plunging from a record high to record lows, baffling scientists.

Floating ice off the southern continent steadily increased from 1979 and hit a record high in 2014. But three years later, the annual average extent of Antarctic sea ice hit its lowest mark, wiping out three-and-a-half decades of gains — and then some, a NASA study of satellite data shows.

In recent years, “things have been crazy,” said Mark Serreze, director of the National Snow and Ice Data Center. In an email, he called the plummeting ice levels “a white-knuckle ride.”

Serreze and other outside experts said they don't know if this is a natural blip that will go away or more long-term climate change that is finally catching up with the South Pole. Antarctica hasn't showed as much consistent warming as its northern Arctic cousin.

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# DINÉ ties culture to curriculum

**KAITLIN OLSON**  
Sun Staff Reporter

Diné is a language and a culture — and now, a program to get teachers and students to embrace both.

After a successful pilot last year, the Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators (DINÉ) is continuing to provide an eight-month professional development program for K-12 teachers on the Navajo Nation.

The program is the result of a partnership between Northern Arizona University's Office of Native American Initiatives and the Navajo Nation through the Yale National Initiative, a 40-year-old program designed to strengthen public schools and teaching in low-income urban or rural areas.

“Our students are losing their language and their cultural knowledge, so we need to revitalize and strengthen that. I want

them to be proud of who they are, their background, their history, their ancestors. And that's why I want to tie culture into my curriculum,” said Marnita Chischilly, eighth grade teacher at Wingate Elementary, a Bureau of Indian Education school just east of Gallup, New Mexico.

This week, Chischilly and 23 other Navajo Nation teachers traveled to Flagstaff for a 10-day session held at NAU, where they learned from and shared ideas with university faculty, traditional knowledge scholars and each other.

“We want teachers to grow their own knowledge and carry that to their students, so we honor multiple knowledge systems in our institute,” DINÉ Director Angelina Castagno said.

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**BEN SHANAHAN, ARIZONA DAILY SUN**

Jennifer McLerran speaks with a Navajo Nation teacher Tuesday afternoon while leading a seminar at the Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators at Northern Arizona University.



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# Rules that control truckers' drive time to be relaxed

**RICHARD LARDNER**  
Associated Press

OPAL, Va. — Truck driver Lucson Francois was forced to hit the brakes just five minutes from his home in Pennsylvania.

He'd reached the maximum number of hours in a day he's allowed to be on duty. Francois couldn't leave the truck unattended. So he parked and climbed into the sleeper berth in the back of the cab. Ten hours would have to pass before he could start driving again.

"You don't want even a one-minute violation," said Francois, a 39-year-old Haitian immigrant, recalling his dilemma during a break at a truck stop in this small crossroads town southwest of Washington.

The Transportation Department is moving to relax the federal regulations that required Francois to pull over, a long sought goal of the trucking industry and a move that would highlight its influence with the Trump administration. Interest groups that represent motor carriers and truck drivers have lobbied for revisions they say would make the rigid "hours of service" rules more flexible.

But highway safety advocates are warning the contemplated changes would dangerously weaken the regulations, resulting in truckers putting in even longer days at a time when they say driver fatigue is such a serious problem. They point to new government data that shows fatal crashes involving trucks weighing as much as 80,000 pounds have increased.

"I think flexibility is a code word for deregulation," said Cathy Chase, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, an alliance of insurance companies and consumer, public health and safety groups. She said the hours of service requirements, which permit truckers to drive up to 11 hours each day, are already "exceedingly liberal in our estimation."

There were 4,657 large trucks involved in fatal crashes in 2017,



**TOM SAMPSON, ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Truck driver Terry Button looks over his trailer during a stop June 13 in Opal, Va. The Transportation Department is poised to relax the federal regulations that govern how many hours a day truckers can be behind the wheel, a long sought goal of the trucking industry.

a 10% increase from the year before, according to a May report issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, an agency of the Transportation Department. Sixty of the truckers in these accidents were identified as "asleep or fatigued," although the National Transportation Safety Board has said this type of driver impairment is likely underreported on police crash forms.

The NTSB has declared fatigue a "pervasive problem" in all forms of transportation and added reducing fatigue-related accidents to its 2019-2020 "most wanted list" of safety improvements. A groundbreaking study by the Transportation Department more than a decade ago reported 13% of truck drivers involved in crashes that resulted in fatalities or injuries were fatigued at the time of the

accidents.

The trucking industry has developed a strong relationship with President Donald Trump, who has made rolling back layers of regulatory oversight a top priority. At least a dozen transportation safety rules under development or already adopted were repealed, withdrawn, delayed or put on the back burner during Trump's first year in office.

"First of all, this administration is not as aggressive as the prior," said Bill Sullivan, the top lobbyist for the powerful American Trucking Associations, whose members include the nation's largest motor carriers and truck manufacturing companies. "Most importantly, the partnership with them has not been as suspicious of industry as in the past."

Trucking interests had pressed

the administration and Congress for the rule changes and last year secured support from 30 senators, mostly Republicans. The lawmakers wrote in a May 2018 letter to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration chief Ray Martinez that the rules "do not provide the appropriate level of flexibility" and asked him to explore improvements.

Independent truckers in particular have chafed at what they see as a one-size-fits-all directive written by Washington bureaucrats who don't understand what they face on the highways.

"How can you judge me and what I do by sitting in a cubicle in an office?" said Terry Button, a burly hay farmer from upstate New York who owns his truck. Button estimates he's logged about 4 million miles since he started driving

a truck in 1976. He said he's never caused an accident, although he's been hit twice by passenger vehicles.

The regulations have existed since the 1930s and are enforced by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The proposed revisions are being reviewed by the White House's Office of Management and Budget and have not yet been released, according to a spokesman for the motor carrier safety office.

The regulations currently limit long-haul truckers to 11 hours of driving time within a 14-hour on-duty window. They must have had 10 consecutive hours off duty before the on-duty clock starts anew. And a driver who is going to be driving for more than eight hours must take a 30-minute break before hitting the eight-hour mark.

## Culture

From A1

Jolene Smith, fifth grade teacher at Kayenta Middle School, has attended the Yale National Institute since it first reached out to the Navajo Nation in 2010. Six years later, she approached NAU to ask if it would be interested in partnering with Navajo Nation school districts to bring the program closer to home.

This year, participating teachers started meeting in April, and began work on their curriculum unit. The summer residency session is their second time to meet — they will finalize their materials in the fall and have from October to December to use their lessons with their students and then report the results at their final meeting.

"It's not just something they write and then sits on the shelf somewhere, but it's actually being used in classrooms and kids are benefiting from that," Castagno said.

After the fellowship is completed, every created lesson will also be available online for other teachers to access.

### Connections

Those who have completed either the DINÉ or Yale programs agree it has made a difference in their teaching because it helps them create connections, most importantly between students and the content.

Since first introducing their custom lessons into their classes, teachers said their students are performing better on standardized tests and are more eager to learn new things.

Since she started attending both institutes, Elizabeth Isaac, third grade teacher at Tsailie Public School east of Chinle, has designed lessons to improve reading comprehension in her students.

She said they previously struggled on standardized tests because the content was irrelevant to them, so she started to introduce more engaging topics, like Native American historical figures, to help them improve their skills before testing.

Isaac is now working on health



**BEN SHANAHAN, ARIZONA DAILY SUN**

Lorenzo Max, a Diné elder, speaks with a group of educators Tuesday afternoon during a seminar at the Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators at Northern Arizona University.

lessons to tie modern ailments to characteristics of the students' ancestors. She said their morning runs, as well as a diet consisting mostly of corn mush, herbs and plants, kept away conditions like diabetes. Running also helped promote mental wellness.

"I want to teach them something that can sustain their culture as well as enhance it, so they can become individual learners and apply it in their lives," Isaac said.

As a math teacher, Chischilly has had her students focus on the geometry of Navajo dwellings, explaining how cone-shaped teepees made for easy transport by nomadic peoples, while the permanent rectangular-prism-shaped dwellings of northern groups allowed them to keep their large families under one room.

Chischilly also once hosted a mini flea market in class to have students practice saying money-related vocabulary in Navajo.

Though she is a math teacher, Chischilly is now focusing on art, like the symmetrical patterns of rugs and ceremonial baskets, to teach students that even though their ancestors did not have the mathematics of modern classrooms, they still used the same concepts in their designs.

This week, Smith said she was particularly fascinated by a lesson on how to be a better listener by feeling the surrounding air and energy and paying careful atten-

tion to the speaker's gestures.

She plans to introduce this to her students at the beginning of the year.

Through this process, teachers have also deepened their knowledge of and connections with their culture, but more importantly with each other.

Smith said different types of schools used to stay separate; however, now that they have met in person, teachers are crossing borders of all types.

"In Kayenta we have a public school across the street from a BIE school and I never used to go over there and now, because of DINÉ, I'm running across the street, talking with the teachers, sharing what we're doing," she said.

The goal is to spread the impact of these teachers, and their DINÉ-formed lessons, so that children across the region can have access to the same resources.

"As teachers, we have that control over how much they can learn. We're more unified to get these students where they need to be because we all want these students to be independent learners and responsible citizens to contribute back to their culture, to show that they are not ashamed, but they're willing to roll their sleeves up and do some work to improve the life of all," Isaac said.

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## Antarctic

From A1

"But the fact that a change this big can happen in such a short time should be viewed as an indication that the Earth has the potential for significant and rapid change," University of Colorado ice scientist Waleed Abdalati said in an email.

At the polar regions, ice levels grow during the winter and shrink in the summer. Around Antarctica, sea ice averaged 4.9 million square miles in 2014. By 2017, it was a record low of 4.1 million square miles, according to the study in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The difference covers an area bigger than the size of Mexico. Losing that much in just three years "is pretty incredible" and faster than anything scientists have seen before, said study author Claire Parkinson, a NASA climate scientist. Antarctic sea ice increased slightly in 2018, but still was the second lowest since 1979. Even though ice is growing this time of year in Antarctica, levels in May and June this year were the

lowest on record, eclipsing 2017, according to the ice data center.

Ice melting on the ocean surface doesn't change sea level. Non-scientists who reject mainstream climate science often pointed at increasing Antarctic sea ice to deny or downplay the loss of Arctic sea ice.

While the Arctic showed consistent and generally steady warming and ice melt — with some slight year to year variation — Antarctica had more ups and downs while generally trending upward. That is probably in part due to geography, Parkinson and Serreze said.

The Arctic is a floating ice cap on an ocean panned in by continents. Antarctica is just the opposite, with land surrounded by open ocean. That allows the ice to grow much farther out, Parkinson said.

When Antarctic sea ice was steadily rising, scientists pointed to shifts in wind and pressure patterns, ocean circulation changes or natural but regular climate changes like El Niño and its southern cousins. Now, some of those explanations may not quite fit, making what happens next still a mystery, Parkinson said.



**TED SCAMBOS, NATIONAL SNOW AND ICE DATA CENTER VIA AP**

Sea ice is seen in January 2017 on the ocean surrounding Antarctica during an expedition to the Ross Sea. Ice in the ocean off the southern continent steadily increased from 1979 and hit a record high in 2014. But three years later, the annual average extent of Antarctic sea ice hit its lowest mark, wiping out three-and-a-half decades of gains, and then some, according to a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on Monday.

## Closures

From A1

closure will block all vehicle access to Beulah Boulevard from the southern portion of NAU's campus, and will continue for approximately six weeks as the McConnell Bridge is reconstructed.

ADOT public information officer Ryan Harding said this

week's highway closures are all part of a \$10 million restoration project, which began with the replacement of several interchange bridge decks last year. Crews will make use of the closures to paint and repave the reconstructed decks.

"[The bridges] were getting older," Harding said. "So, we just like to be proactive and try to keep the bridges up to date and

functioning properly. That way, we don't run into a situation where we have to shut the road down because it's unsafe, especially along the I-40 corridor, which is very heavily used."

Furthermore, several of the roads between Columbus Ave. and Route 66 will be closed July 4 from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. as the Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce 4th of July Parade

takes place downtown. With over 10,000 people expected to attend Thursday morning's celebration, navigating the downtown area could be more difficult than usual.

Harding said ADOT staff are aware of the holiday events happening in town this week and have cooperated with city officials in attempts to avoid scheduling conflicts. He said in order

to keep traffic to a minimum, motorists should be cognizant of the closures when formulating travel plans.

"We always work with cities or local communities wherever we're doing highway work to try and mitigate impacts as much as we can," Harding said. "My word to drivers is plan ahead for delays. Make use of the detour routes and plan your travels accordingly."