

JULY 2025

FREE



VOLUME 1

ISSUE 6

NYGREN News

LIFE ON THE LAND: FARMING AND RANCHING



SUPPORTING NAVAJO FARMERS: A TOUR OF LENNY'S HAY FIELDS IN CRYSTAL



NAVAJO WILDFIRES: NATION RESPONDS WITH HEART AND STRENGTH

STAY IN THE KNOW WITH PRESIDENT DR. BUU NYGREN

▶ WHAT IS NYGREN NEWS? ◀

The President proudly distributes “Nygren News” across the Navajo Nation monthly. This FREE newsletter is developed and designed to inform the Navajo people about projects the Nygren Administration is working on to serve and assist the Navajo people. This newsletter is created in-house by the media team, who are all Navajo. To date, we have published newsletters monthly in the months of February, March, April, May, and June.

The July 2025 issue highlights several stories. President Nygren:

- Shares his support for Navajo Ranchers and addresses their concerns and needs.
- Provides collected updates of the Navajo Mountain Fire and Oak Ridge Fire.
- Highlights Light Up Navajo and NTUA efforts to provide electricity to Navajo homes.
- Addresses housing needs through NHA’s Indian Housing Plan signing and Nahata’ Dziil apartment complex groundbreaking.
- Highlights importance of peyote medicine as a way to promote healing, resilience, and pride for our youth and elderly at the 59th ABNDN Convention.
- President Nygren celebrates the grand reopening of the theaters in communities of Tuba City and Kayenta.

Additionally, the newsletter includes a special section by First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren that offers her insights on community initiatives.

The President’s media team, consisting of award-winning journalists and editors, ensures informative coverage. Nygren News complements other communication platforms like social media, radio and press releases.

Thank you for picking up your free copy of Nygren News at your local gas station, senior center, chapter house, laundromat, or other public gathering space.



▶ FROM NAVAJO RANCHES TO GLOBAL MARKETS: THE STORY OF NATIVE AMERICAN JERKY

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren energizes himself between meetings with “Native American Beef Premium Jerky,” sourced from Navajo Beef producers.

Sold by the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, this jerky was developed around 2019 by meat scientists at Direct Source Meats, LLC (DSM) in San Antonio, Texas.

“We take premium Native American beef, trim it, slice it, marinate it, then smoke and dry it,” said Leanne Powell, director of research and development at DSM.

Transforming Navajo-raised cattle into this high-quality jerky took years of research and comparison audits with other products. The result is a product available in three flavors: original, green chili, and red chili.

President Nygren often shares his pride in the jerky when meeting with congressional leaders, business people, and Navajo communities in Window Rock.

“Our Navajo beef enters the global supply chain as a premium food source. Having parts of our beef processed into jerky supports our Navajo ranchers,” he stated. “The partnership with Labatt Food Service and Direct Source Meats helps some of our ranches achieve sovereignty in their operations.”

Part of the success of Native American Beef is made possible through Labatt Food Service’s Native American Beef Program



“It’s all handmade by people who love what they do,” said Mallory Angleton, DSM sales manager.



OAK RIDGE FIRE THREATENS HOMELAND, NAVAJO NATION RESPONDS WITH HEART AND STRENGTH



Staff and volunteers demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the well-being of the Navajo Nation.

ST. MICHAELS, Ariz. — As the Oak Ridge Fire raged southwest of Window Rock, the Office of the President and Vice President and supporting agencies mobilized quickly to protect residents, offering shelter, food, clothing, and care to those displaced by the blaze.

When the fire ignited on June 28 and swiftly expanded through timber and grasslands near St. Michaels, **evacuation orders went into effect for several communities, including designated part of the Oak Springs, Hunters Point and Klagetoh areas.** In response, the President's staff and emergency teams transformed the Bee Hóldzil Fighting Scouts Events Center in Fort Defiance and the Window Rock Education Center into emergency shelters. Livestock were safely moved to the Window Rock Fairgrounds with the help of the Department of Agriculture, with careful coordination of handling, water, hay and feed.

President Nygren dispatched staff to coordinate essential services for evacuees. They established a donation drive at the Fort Defiance shelter, inviting community contributions of non-perishable food, bottled water, clothing, and blankets. Cots and bedding were set in place at the Window Rock Fighting Scouts Event Center. The McKinley Humane Society also joined efforts by supplying dog and cat food for displaced pets. Local chapters were able to assist by opening up and providing shelter to the people.

First responders and emergency management personnel comprising Navajo Nation Fire, Navajo Police, BIA fire crews, and scouts worked through the weekend to ensure safety and deliver supplies. A space was opened for first responders to rest and take a break. President Nygren's team kept the public informed with social media posts about the prevention of inhalation of smoke, the status of the fire, and the whereabouts of shelters with contact information.

Local leaders prioritized community residents, families with children, elders, and pet owners ensuring their immediate needs were met. Support included emergency food boxes, clean clothing, bedding, hygiene items, and essential items.

While the Oak Ridge Fire continues to burn with limited containment, preventive actions including livestock relocation, and human evacuation have reduced risks to lives and property. **President Nygren's leadership in coordinating across tribal departments and with national agencies demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the well-being of the Navajo Nation.**



NAVAJO NATION DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY, PRESIDENT NYGREN ENACTS STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation declared a State of Emergency on June 29, 2025 amid the Oak Ridge Fire, which as of July 2 charred nearly 10,000 acres within a week. President Nygren then signed Executive Order No. 04-2025, enacting Stage 2 Fire Restrictions across the Navajo Nation due to high fire danger. These heightened restrictions came in response to ongoing dry conditions, high winds, elevated temperatures, and low humidity, increasing the risk of wildfires across the Nation.

Under this order, all open fires, including wood, charcoal, and coal, are banned outdoors, except for propane or gas stoves in designated developed areas. Fireworks, debris burning, field-clearing burning, and discharging firearms (outside of legal hunting) are strictly prohibited. Chainsaw use is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., and welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with an open flame is prohibited 24/7 in forested or woodland areas.

Smoking is not banned but must be done with extreme caution—preferably in enclosed vehicles, designated smoking areas, or cleared, barren spaces of at least six feet in diameter.

Permitted activities include:

- Gas-fueled devices for livestock branding (in cleared areas),
- Ceremonial fires with a valid Navajo Nation EPA Burn Registration (required five days in advance; contact (928)729-4323
- Approved public firework displays by the Navajo Nation Fire Department,
- Activities authorized by official permits or signage,
- Actions by emergency and firefighting personnel,
- Low-complexity prescribed burns approved by the BIA.

Violators may face fines up to \$5,000 or be required to provide restitution. Enforcement will be carried out by the Navajo Nation's Public Safety and Natural Resources divisions, NNEPA, BIA Fire Management, and others.



**ONLY YOU CAN
PREVENT WILDFIRES.**




TO REPORT WILDFIRES:
**CONTACT BIA FIRE DISPATCH AT
 (928) 729-2307.**
**FOR QUESTIONS, REACH OUT TO THE
 NAVAJO FORESTRY DEPARTMENT AT
 (928) 729-4007.**
**THESE RESTRICTIONS AIM TO
 SAFEGUARD COMMUNITIES, LAND,
 AND RESOURCES DURING THIS HIGH-
 RISK FIRE SEASON.**



SUPPORTING NAVAJO FARMERS: A TOUR OF LENNY'S HAY FIELDS IN CRYSTAL



CRYSTAL, N.M. — Below the Chooshgai-Lukachukai Mountains, “Lenny’s Hay Fields” grow and bale a mixture of alfalfa and native grasses.

Since the 1960s, the Mark family has actively managed their land as hay producers within a 1,250-acre Range Management Unit (RMU). Led by Leonard “Lenny” Mark, his wife Carol, and their children, the family strives to keep alive the traditions and legacy of their ancestors. Over the course of a growing season, they produce around 100 bales for sale, with most kept to support their herd of 20 livestock during winter.

The farm’s primary focus is on grass and hay production, with natural grasses like Timothy and Clover, as well as alfalfa and oat.

“You have to have passion to do this,” Lenny Mark told President Nygren.

The June 26 tour provided President Nygren and his staff an opportunity to gather insights into local farming practices, water management challenges, and the support ranchers need from government programs.

Water management is a key concern—Lenny relies on mountain snowmelt, Crystal Creek, and runoff collected during winter to flood-irrigate fields, carefully timing planting cycles with natural moisture patterns.

“We use the water ahead of time,” Carol Mark explained.

But depleting underground water tables and invasive Russian olive trees—competing for soil moisture—add to the farmer’s challenges. Wildlife, including prairie dogs and deer, sometimes damage crops, further complicating operations. When the creek runs dry, they depend on the monsoon season’s natural cycle to sustain their crops through summer.

Despite these hardships, Lenny prioritizes land health and remains committed to traditional practices.



MARK FAMILY SHOWS THEIR OPERATION TO
PRESIDENT NYGREN



Lenny observes that younger generations are discouraged from farming due to perceived hardships and a lack of resources, which risks losing valuable ecological knowledge.

Lenny’s story exemplifies resilience rooted in self-reliance and respect for the land. His insights underscore the importance of grassroots efforts and traditional knowledge in facing climate challenges. His farm is a symbol of perseverance—proof that existing practices, combined with thoughtful support, can help communities adapt and thrive in changing conditions.

Impressed by their dedication, President Nygren is meeting with farmers and ranchers across the Navajo Nation this summer to better understand their challenges and explore solutions to strengthen the agricultural economy.

Note: The Marks are this month’s Change Makers. President Nygren highlights “Change Makers”, community members that strive to make a positive change in our communities.



NAVAJO MEMORIAL DAY



FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY



NAVAJO MEMORIAL DAY: HONORING SACRIFICE WITH A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY FOR REMEMBRANCE, HEALING, AND SERVICE

On June 2, I reflected on the incredible service of our Navajo warriors. Our people have shown unmatched bravery throughout history, serving in every major conflict. During the Vietnam War, 90% of Navajo service members volunteered—one of the highest enlistment rates among Native Americans—and 220 of them made the ultimate sacrifice.

Over 147 names are etched on the Veteran Park's plaque honoring those lost, their courage inspiring us all.

Our ancestors, Chiefs Ganado Mucho, Barboncito, and Manuelito, led with resilience and integrity, guiding us through hard times.

Their legacy lived on in our warriors—men and women, as well as those who serve today with the same dedication and spirit. I am especially proud of our Navajo soldiers, who've displayed distinction and resilience in every conflict, especially during Vietnam.

Navajo Memorial Day is not only a day of remembrance but also a day of healing, grief, and support. It's a time for our community to come together—to honor the fallen, comfort the grieving, and strengthen one another.



Through the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA), we hold talking circles, providing safe spaces where veterans can share their experiences and find healing. We've enrolled many into VA healthcare, with clinics in Kayenta and Chinle offering culturally sensitive care.

In honor of all our veterans who have passed, the American flag was flown at half-staff—a symbol of respect, remembrance, and gratitude for their sacrifices.

I want to thank the Navajo Veterans and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration for observing this day and ensuring our heroes' sacrifices are never forgotten. We also continue working to support our living veterans—82 homes are currently in construction, with more on the way, offering safe, stable places to call home. We're accepting applications for renovations and future veteran retirement homes. Veteran housing applications can be found on the NNVA website or call your agency's NNVA administrator for more questions.

To our veterans, their families, and our community leaders who keep their memories alive, thank you. **Their sacrifices uphold our freedom and fuel our resilience. God bless our veterans, their families, and the Navajo Nation—our enduring legacy of service.**



NAVAJO NATION DECLARES DROUGHT EMERGENCY AS THE WATER CRISIS INTENSIFIES

The Navajo Nation is experiencing a similar situation, with 7,500 stock ponds and 900 windmills losing capacity and functionality.



CENTRAL NAVAJO AGENCY WINDMILL AND WATER TANK

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, along with the Navajo Commission of Emergency Management (NCEM), have declared a drought emergency, effective May 30 due to severe and persistent drought conditions impacting the region. The declaration calls for coordinated resource management and encourages voluntary livestock reduction, alongside the allocation of \$6.5 million from the tribe's Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to support farmers and ranchers facing water shortages.

"This has resulted in depleting water sources, degraded rangeland, and increased risk of wildfires," Marcarlo Roanhorse, NCEM's Chairman, said.

"Drought is a major concern for many people who live in the Southwest." President Nygren said. "We are doing everything we can to assist our families, elders, and children." He highlighted the urgency of repairing windmills essential for ranchers and farmers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has classified counties within the Navajo Nation—Apache, Navajo, and Coconino in Arizona, and McKinley, San Juan, and Cibola in New Mexico, along with San Juan in Utah—as disaster areas due to drought. This situation mirrors a statewide drought emergency declared by New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and has led to significant losses in functionality for 7,500 stock ponds and 900 windmills in the region.

Under this emergency declaration, local chapters are permitted to utilize emergency funds for activities such as water hauling and storage. All divisions and departments within the Navajo Nation are instructed to initiate emergency response coordination and collaboration with federal, state, and tribal partners for effective drought mitigation. The emergency declaration will remain in effect until further notice from the NCEM or President Nygren.

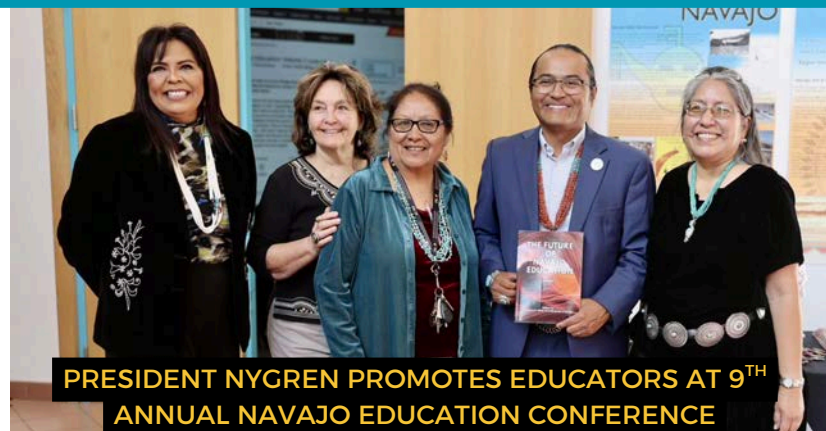


BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION

WINDOW ROCK — At the 9th Annual Navajo Education Conference at the Navajo Nation Museum, President Nygren addressed educators and scholars about the importance of "The Future of Navajo Education."

Education is the foundation for developing roads, water systems, housing, and enabling our people to start businesses. Without good schools and dedicated educators, progress stops. President Nygren has always emphasized education is key to a stronger Nation. When the people are educated, they can find good jobs, create opportunities, and lead better lives. The Navajo community will become stronger and more self-sufficient.

The Nygren administration is committed to helping Navajo people access education and resources so everyone can succeed.



PRESIDENT NYGREN PROMOTES EDUCATORS AT 9TH ANNUAL NAVAJO EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Navajo Education Conference featured workshops and a panel of authors like Dr. Henry Fowler, Dr. Pandora Mike, Dr. Perphelia Fowler, Dr. Albert Haskie, Dr. Viola Hoskie, and Dr. Barbara Mink, who shared ideas and research on improving education for Indigenous communities.

The Navajo Nation Department of Education, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance, and Fielding Graduate University organized the conference.



SUPPORTING AND PRESERVING NAVAJO RANCHERS' LIVELIHOOD AT THE NAHATA'DZIIL 14R RANCH AT PADRES MESA DEMONSTRATION RANCH

NAHATA' DZIIL, Ariz. — On June 24, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR) Range Office to learn about their livestock management program and to tour the Nahata'Dziil 14R Ranch, located on the Padre Mesa Ranch which includes the Range House and Sale Barn.

In his visit to the 14R Ranch, President Nygren learned about how a successful ranch operation works and how it supplies meat to the regional beef market.

Padres Mesa Ranch spans about 62,000 acres and operates two primary herds: a spring-calving herd and a fall-calving herd. These herds are ear-tagged with electronic identification chips to ensure every animal's

lifecycle, feed intake, medical treatment, and movement are tracked.

The Nahata' Dziil 14R Ranch demonstrated that it is more than a ranching operation; it is an opportunity for innovation, education, and agricultural sovereignty. This allows Navajo ranchers and youth to receive hands-on instruction about vaccine schedules, animal handling, and health protocols.

"This visit served as a critical way to support Navajo ranchers, especially those who undergo Navajo agricultural operations while addressing agricultural issues and finding solutions to preserve these practices," said President Nygren.



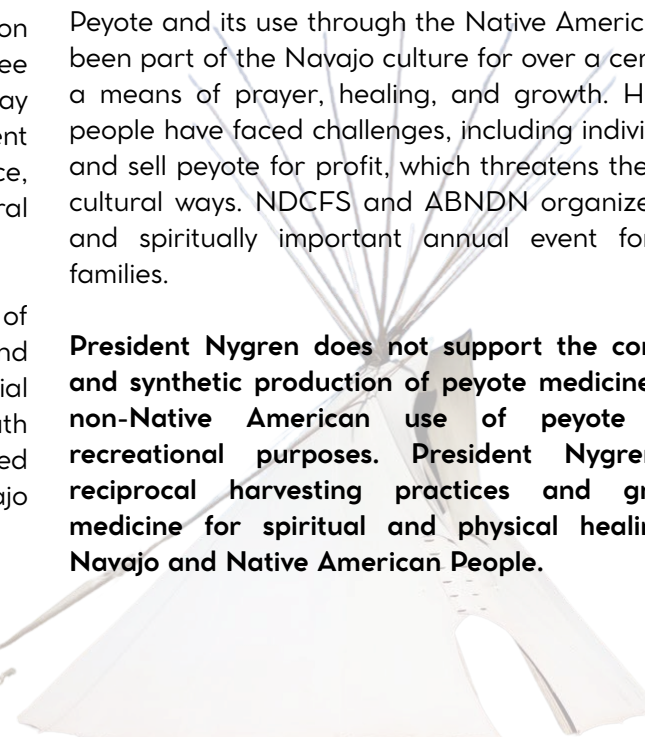
EMPOWERING NAVAJO YOUTH THROUGH BOOKS AND PRAYERS AT THE 59TH ABNDN YOUTH DAY CONVENTION

CHINLE, Ariz. — On Friday, June 20, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren attended the 59th Annual Azee' Bee Nahagha' of Diné Nation (ABNDN) Convention Youth Day at the Chinle Spiritual Site. During the event, President Nygren gifted books to the Navajo children in attendance, encouraging them to learn more about their cultural spirituality.

Through books and this initiative, the Navajo Department of Children and Family Services aims to support and strengthen Diné children and families facing many social challenges. Over the two days the event lasts, the youth immersed themselves in sheep butchering which was guided by First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren and Miss Navajo Nation Ranisha Begay.

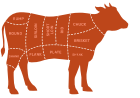
Peyote and its use through the Native American Church have been part of the Navajo culture for over a century, serving as a means of prayer, healing, and growth. However, Navajo people have faced challenges, including individuals who grow and sell peyote for profit, which threatens the integrity of the cultural ways. NDCFS and ABNDN organized the culturally and spiritually important annual event for children and families.

President Nygren does not support the commercialization and synthetic production of peyote medicine. He is against non-Native American use of peyote medicine for recreational purposes. President Nygren believes in reciprocal harvesting practices and growing peyote medicine for spiritual and physical healing among the Navajo and Native American People.





PRESIDENT NYGREN AND LABATT FOOD SERVICE WORK TO KEEP THE NAVAJO BEEF PROGRAM ALIVE AT PADRES MESA RANCH



SAN ANTONIO, TX — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren visited the headquarters of Labatt Food Service on June 9 to learn how Labatt sources Navajo beef from Navajo Nation ranch lands and markets Navajo beef as a niche beef product served in Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise (NNGE) casinos.

According to Blair Labatt, President and CEO of Labatt Food Service (Labatt), this niche market is unique for Navajo beef producers who graze their cattle at Padres Mesa Ranch, located in the Nahata Dzil Chapter.

"We focused on the Padres Mesa Ranch, which is a valuable educational resource for the Nation," said Blair Labatt. "We believe that in future years Padres Mesa can be a hub and an incubator for teaching the most effective methods of raising cattle throughout the entire Nation."

Through Labatt Food Service, ranches such as 14R Corporation in Nahata Dzil and tribal ranches in Eastern Navajo sell their cattle, which are raised utilizing improved genetics and ethical land conservation practices.

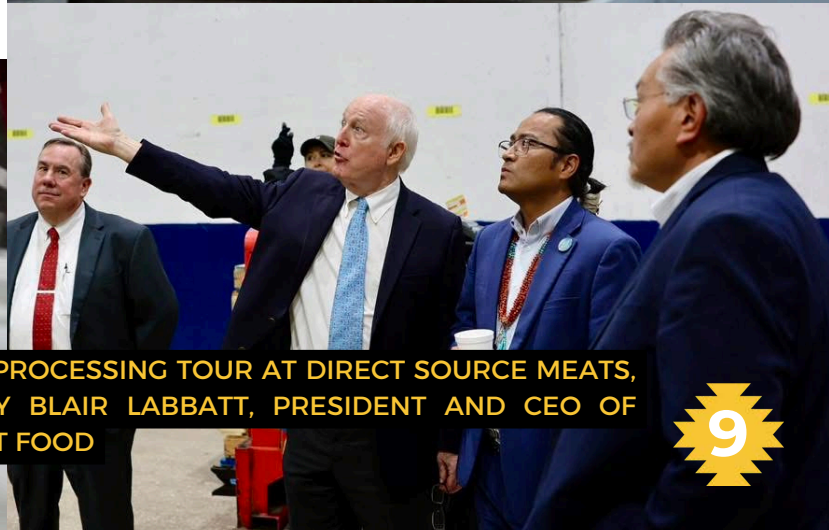
Derrick Watchman, current NNGE board member, noted the partnership with Labatt and the Navajo Beef program began during his tenure and has since developed into a replicable model for the entire Navajo Nation. Navajo ranchers who are not in the program are encouraged to join the program.

"Preserving this ranch allows Navajo cattle growers to maintain their livelihoods, boost economic development, and create jobs," President Nygren said. "That's why I encouraged the friends of the Padres Mesa to propose plans for the long-term future of the Ranch as an asset to the Nation."

LABATT FOOD SERVICE WAREHOUSE TOUR IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



MEAT PROCESSING TOUR AT DIRECT SOURCE MEATS, LED BY BLAIR LABBATT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF LABATT FOOD





PRESIDENT NYGREN TEAMS UP WITH EPA ADMINISTRATOR ZELDIN AND CONGRESS TO SLASH ENERGY COSTS FOR FAMILIES



WASHINGTON, D.C. — On June 11, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Administrator, Lee Zeldin, Senator Kevin Cramer, and United States Representatives Brett Guthrie, Troy Balderson, Carol Miller, Dan Meuser, Riley Moore, Rob Breshnahan, and Michael Rulli, to share the impact of the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan 2.0 rules.

President Nygren noted in his remarks that he is committed to avoiding what happened to the Navajo Generating Station happen to the Four Corners Generating Station and that the rescission of the Clean Power Plan 2.0 would provide greater clarity and optimism for the future of the Four Corners Generating Station, thereby preserving hundreds of Navajo jobs.

Administrator Zeldin noted in his remarks that the goal of the proposed rescission — which will still go through public comment — is to create affordable energy for Americans while protecting the environment; and that under the rescission that power plants would not be allowed to emit any more greenhouse gases.

After the event, President Nygren joined Administrator Zeldin to discuss the urgency of cleaning up abandoned uranium mines in the Nation, getting water to Navajo families, and developing a solid waste program in the Nation.

President Nygren reminded the Administrator that, “there are 523 abandoned uranium mines on the Nation that are still harmful to our people. While some progress has been made, it is not enough. We need USEPA to act swiftly.”



There are 523 abandoned uranium mines on the Nation that still are harmful to our people. While some progress has been made, it is not enough. We need USEPA to act swiftly.

Administrator Zeldin appreciated President Nygren’s comments throughout the day and promised President Nygren that USEPA’s leadership team would work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA to find answers and hopefully solutions to the concerns raised by President Nygren.

President Nygren was joined by the Navajo Nation Washington Office (NNWO) Executive Director, Vince Redhouse, and the NNWO Summer Intern, Aubrey Granger.

PRESIDENT NYGREN SPEAKS ON URANIUM MATTER





PRESIDENT NYGREN COLLABORATES WITH SENATOR JOSH HAWLEY TO STRENGTHEN RECA PROVISIONS



PRESIDENT NYGREN WALKS WITH URANIUM VICTIMS TO SPREAD AWARENESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On June 25, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) to discuss the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) and the joint efforts to reauthorize and expand the program.

The Senate Judiciary Committee—which Sen. Hawley sits on—included a provision in the pending reconciliation budget bill to reauthorize the RECA program and make additional amendments for the first time since 2000. The Committee released its draft text on June 12 for the Reconciliation Mega Bill, also known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” currently making its way through Congress.

The RECA program expired on June 10, 2024. The RECA provisions would reauthorize the program through December 2028, expand coverage to Post-71 miners, and expand coverage to downwinders across Northern Arizona and New Mexico. Coverage would also be expanded to include more diseases now known to be linked to radiation exposure such as renal cancer and chronic kidney disease.

Sen. Hawley hailed the RECA provisions as “generational legislation (that is) long overdue.” President Nygren thanked Sen. Hawley and his staff and the Navajo Nation Washington Office for their tireless work to see RECA reauthorized.

The RECA provisions in the budget reconciliation bill were approved by the Senate Parliamentarian and the Senate voted on the bill. The bill now moves to the House. Nygren News is going to publication before we know the outcome of the House vote.



A CALL TO ACTION: OPERATION DINE' SCHOOL SAFETY ACROSS THE NAVAJO NATION

GALLUP, NM — On June 26, Gallup High School hosted the 2025 School and Community Safety Summit. Over two days, participants engaged in breakout sessions focused on response plans and protocols to improve school safety.

This summit is crucial as we work to protect our children and communities. Since the launch of Operation Diné School Safety (ODSS) in October 2024, our mission has been dedicated to ensuring the safety of our Navajo children. ODSS also promotes violence prevention and mitigation by collaborating with local schools, law enforcement, and community members.

Under my administration, school safety remains a top priority. We are continually working to develop solutions, ensuring our schools and students are prepared to respond swiftly to emergencies.

Keeping our schools and communities safe means protecting not just the physical, but also the spiritual and cultural well-being of our people. It's not a matter of if an incident will happen, but when. This summit helps us formulate for that moment.

Every voice matters. If you see or sense something is wrong, speak up. Your awareness and action could save lives.

Thank you to the Department of Diné Education, the Navajo Department of Health, the Division of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Emergency Management, and our other trusted partners. Together, we are building a stronger, safer Navajo Nation.

Let us continue to stand together to protect the emotional and spiritual health of our communities—especially safeguarding the futures of our children.

To report a concern, visit operationdineschoolsafety.com or call 844-431-7233 (SAFE).



PRESIDENT NYGREN AND STUDENT SPEAKERS AT SAFETY SUMMIT



CATTLE RUSTLING CASE: AZ SUPERIOR COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF NAVAJO CATTLE OWNERS

TUCSON, Ariz. — Thirteen Navajo cattle ranchers did not get their cattle back from Jared Tee, but they did get paid a lofty sale price of \$50,995.26 following a June 9 ruling by a Pima County Superior Court Judge. In *Arizona Department of Agriculture vs. Jared Tee*, Judge Kyle Bryson ruled that Mr. Tee, who transported 58 head of cattle from Navajo County to the Marana Stockyard in Marana, Ariz., has no ownership of the head of cattle that belonged to various ranchers. .

Tee told the court he owned the cattle or had permission to sell them. However, multiple people testified that their livestock went missing from Navajo Nation which they identified specific cattle as theirs. Since two animals died while waiting for a hearing, all parties agreed to sell the cattle early. The court held disbursement of money from the sale until it determined rightful ownership.

The judge ruled that every claimant, except Tee, successfully proved ownership and would receive the net proceeds from the animals they identified. Tee's claims were denied. Proceeds from the cattle that went unclaimed were forfeited to the state, as required by law. The ranchers had to provide evidence—such as brand records or eyewitness accounts—to prove their claims.

"This ruling affirms the integrity of our ranchers and sends a message that theft will not go unchecked," said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. "We will continue to work with state and federal entities to protect the livelihood and property of the people, and this case sets a precedent of accountability to any cattle rustlers and also the responsibility of our ranchers."

“**This ruling affirms the integrity of our ranchers and sends a message that theft will not go unchecked...**”

CATTLE THEFT AWARENESS: KNOW THE STEPS, KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



WINDOW ROCK — Cattle theft is a growing concern across the Navajo Nation, especially as beef prices rise and law enforcement resources remain limited. For many families, livestock is not only a source of income but a cultural tradition. Thieves often target remote areas, making it crucial for owners to keep detailed records, report missing animals immediately, and work with local authorities and grazing officials. Protecting livestock means protecting a way of life—stay alert, report suspicious activity, and help safeguard your herd and your neighbors'.

How to Protect Your Livestock

If you suspect theft, report immediately to your local grazing official, livestock inspector, or Navajo Nation Police.

- Be ready to provide details such as:
 - Description of the livestock
 - Brand marks
 - Last known location
 - Evidence like tire tracks or broken fencing
 - Quick reporting can help recover stolen animals and speed up investigations.

What Happens After Reporting?

Livestock inspectors may interview witnesses, verify ownership records, and work with law enforcement. Inspectors near places like Indian Wells are more active, helping to recover stolen animals. If recovered, owners may qualify for compensation or be reunited with their livestock, provided they have proper branding and documentation.

Need Help?

For assistance or more information, contact your local grazing district or the Department of Agriculture.

The people's vigilance helps protect their herds and supports ranching across the Navajo Nation.





CHAMPIONING WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT: PAVING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR WATER ACCESS ON THE NAVAJO NATION



PRESIDENT NYGREN AND HOPI CHAIRMAN
TIMOTHY NUVANGYAOMA



PRESIDENT NYGREN MEETS WITH SCOTT
CAMERON



BOULDER, Colo. — On June 5, President Nygren met with Hopi Chairman Nuvangyaoma and Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, to discuss how to pave a path that will push the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (NAIWRSA) through to a Congressional vote. Also in attendance were representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, the Solicitor's Office, and Attorney General Heather Clah.

"This is one of the topics that we really all truly care about," said President Nygren. "It's an honor to be in a good circle to chat about how do we pave a path forward for our water in Arizona."

President Nygren shared with the Acting Assistant Secretary how the Nation had received rainfall within the last couple of days and what it means for the Navajo people. He also recognized the need for solutions to be made to address the water challenges and benefits of the Navajo Nation.

On the remarks of recent rainfall, Hopi Chairman Timothy Nuvangyaoma shared insight on a Hopi ceremony that occurred over the weekend that yielded moisture to the land.

"What was brought forward in a time of extreme drought, heat, and those conditions we are dealing with, it takes a lot of people to make those kinds of blessings happen," said Chairman Nuvangyaoma.

Both remarks shared the significance of rain and the central role that water plays for both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe in our cultures and lives. Making a clear statement on why this water settlement needs to happen and how both tribes and the Seven Basin States can work together to ensure that Congress acts on NAIWRSA.

Scott Cameron shared his appreciation for the knowledge and stated that he is willing to provide support in finding a solution that works for the people who live in the Seven Basin States.

Cameron noted questions relating to how these discussions will impact tribes, the different types of water situations, and the ongoing meetings and current water agreements.

"I want to find a path where you can help us, and we can help you," Cameron said to both tribal leaders.



It's an honor to be in this circle of dedicated leaders to discuss how to pave a path forward for our water in Arizona.



\$377K BURNT CORN ROAD PROJECT SET TO BEGIN IN IYANBITO, NM



“This project represents our commitment to improving everyday life for our people,” President Nygren said. “Reliable roads are essential for access to healthcare, education and economic opportunity.”

IYANBITO, N.M. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed a \$377,838.09 road maintenance contract with DJOE Construction to improve a key community road known as Burnt Corn Road, located just south of the Iyanbito Chapter. Funded through two New Mexico Capital Outlay appropriations, the project will cover two miles of the vital roadway. Construction is expected to begin shortly after a contract number is issued.

“This project represents our commitment to improving everyday life for our people,” said President Nygren. “Reliable roads are essential for access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunity.”

Burnt Corn Road plays a critical role in daily transportation for 1,500 residents in the Iyanbito community. The route also serves as an alternate pathway when Interstate 40 is closed, making it a crucial emergency connection.

During construction, residents can expect minor traffic delays. One lane will remain open throughout the project, with a possible detour along Dakota Loop to help maintain traffic flow and minimize disruptions.

The road improvement is part of the Nygren administration's larger push to enhance infrastructure across the Navajo Nation, reflecting a growing focus on strengthening transportation networks that directly support the health, safety, and well-being of tribal communities.



BRIDGE CREEK FIRE GROWS TO 2,588 ACRES: AS OF JULY 1

NAVAJO MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — On June 13, smoke was first seen covering the northwest side of the 10,348-foot Navajo Mountain, also known as Naatsis'áán and as of July 1, smoke intensifies once more.

The Bridge Creek Fire expanded to 2,588 acres over two weeks and continues to burn. The BIA posted their an update on July 1 citing “This afternoon fire managers took a reconnaissance flight over the fire area where significant heat and smoke were observed”. Fire managers continue to monitor fire behavior and potential.

“Our number one priority is the safety of our people,” said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management and fire crews remain vigilant in monitoring the Bridge Creek Fire



HELICOPTER VIEW OF BRIDGE CREEK FIRE



CARING FOR OUR ELDERS' WELLBEING: \$6 MILLION RENOVATES ST. MICHAELS SENIOR CENTER

ST. MICHAELS, Ariz. — After years of closure, the St. Michaels Senior Center held a soft reopening on Wednesday, June 18, welcoming elders from the St. Michaels community and nearby centers with open arms, fresh paint, and renewed purpose.

Originally closed in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the center remained shut for years due to staffing shortages. In the interim, the Fort Defiance Senior Center stepped up to provide vital services, including meals and transportation to local elders.

Now, thanks to a \$6 million renovation and a new team, including a kitchen cook and a transportation driver, the center is once again a place where elders can receive meals, socialize, and access transportation services. Alongside its in-house offerings, the center will now also transport elders to medical appointments, grocery stores, and, for those who qualify, offer home meal deliveries.

Minor updates, such as fresh paint on the walls, new doorknobs, and cleaned floors, marked the reopening, with more major renovations still underway.

"We haven't been operational here for a long time, and it was important to make sure that we have an opportunity to feed senior citizens," said Gabriel Freeman, President-Elect of the St. Michaels Chapter.

The center will now serve lunch from Monday to Friday starting at 11 a.m., and all seniors aged 60 and older are welcome.

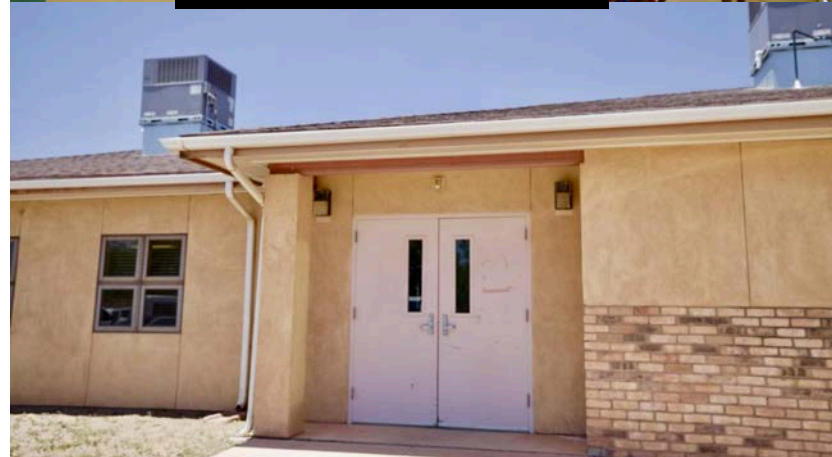
Lesita Desiderio, Program Supervisor II for the Fort Defiance Agency's Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support (DALTCS), shared her enthusiasm: "I want my elders in each community to be able to get the service that DALTCS has to offer. That's my goal, and it makes me happy when I open one more center."

Gratitude was expressed to the DALTCS staff, Fort Defiance Senior Center, Lupton Senior Center, and the broader St. Michaels community for coming together to restore a space dedicated to the care and dignity of elders.

The reopening of the St. Michaels Senior Center not only restores a vital resource but also symbolizes the enduring strength and value of community care for elders across the Navajo Nation.



ST. MICHAELS SENIOR CENTER



HOT LUNCHES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ELDERS



The importance of senior centers, especially for our elders, strengthens our communities with their wisdom and life experience.



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION THROUGH FFA

FFA has been a huge part of my life, and I owe many of my successes to the skills, values, and tools this program instilled in me. From leadership training to public speaking, from community service to agricultural knowledge, FFA laid a strong foundation that continues to guide me today.

This year, my husband, President Nygren, and I received the Honorary State FFA Degree at the State FFA Leadership Conference in Tucson, AZ. It was a perfect full-circle moment and especially meaningful because I remember attending this very conference as a student. I can still recall learning the Creed, competing in Career Development Events, and eventually traveling to nationals. Those early experiences showed me the lifelong impact FFA can have.

I had the pleasure of meeting Azalia Harvey-Leo, the current Arizona FFA State Vice President. She is an inspiring leader and a reminder of how deeply FFA continues to shape lives. FFA is a gateway to leadership, career development, and higher education. For our Navajo students, it builds on the strong connection and respect we already have with agriculture, livestock, and the land. It helps develop public speaking skills and leadership qualities and prepares students for careers in agribusiness, environmental science, and many other fields.

I want to thank every FFA chapter, educator, and program in the Navajo Nation that continues to offer these transformative opportunities for our youth. This program opens doors to college, careers, and community service.



NOURISHING NAVAJO FUTURES AT STANFORD



One of the greatest comforts of home is food and what better way to bring a sense of home to students preparing for finals than with a warm bowl of mutton stew and fresh blue corn frybread.

This university played a powerful role in shaping who I am today. Whenever I attend graduations, from preschool to high school, I often think about the dreams carried by each young person. I wonder what moments or words will ignite their paths and where their journeys will take them. One of my deepest hopes is that more of our Navajo youth will take up space in institutions like this one.

I am incredibly proud of the Diné Club at Stanford. I'm so grateful we were able to share a meal as they prepare to finish the semester strong.



◀ NURTURING MINDS AT THE NAVAJO NATION LIBRARY

I highly encourage you to get your Navajo Nation Library card.

I stopped by as Diné artist Khalid Honie and the Navajo Nation Library hosted Holistic Healing Through Art. It was the perfect space for children to paint, create, and express themselves freely.

Reading and creative expression are powerful for wellness and healing. I encourage everyone to seek out events and spaces that inspire imagination and connection.

The Navajo Nation Library has several exciting programs planned for the summer, so be sure to visit their website and stay updated:

<https://library.navajo-nsn.gov>



+ T'AA HWO' AJI T'EEGO +

I was so happy to catch a Just Move It event! I love seeing the community come together and be active. Just Move It is a collective commitment to health and empowerment within Navajo Nation.

In our busy lives, taking time to engage in physical activity can reduce stress, prevent chronic illnesses, and promote a balanced lifestyle. Health is a shared journey and seeing community members of all ages out on the trail was a reminder of that.

Thank you to Tséhootsooí Medical Center for getting us up and moving! It was great to be part of the energy, and we hope to see you all at the next JMI event. Whether it's summer sports like basketball, softball, rodeo, or taking a simple stroll in your own backyard, let's keep choosing movement, choosing health, and choosing ourselves.



SHEEP BUTCHERING DEMONSTRATION - HANDS-ON TRADITION

This year's Sheep Butchering Demonstration at the 59th Annual Aze'e Bee Nahághá in Chinle brought back memories of learning from my grandmother, lessons not just in technique but in patience, respect, and care. Butchering is a time for family and community to come together, share stories, and pass down knowledge that connects us to our culture and the land.

It was heartwarming to see the youth so engaged, curious, eager, and ready to learn. Their participation reminded me that the teachings live on through hands-on experiences like this. These moments are where our language, values, and identity are strengthened.

Miss Navajo Nation's presence made the event even more special. She helped with the butchering and shared the Navajo names for the parts of the sheep, continuing her role in preserving and sharing our language with grace and intention.

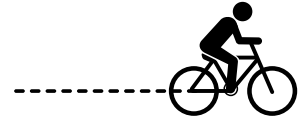
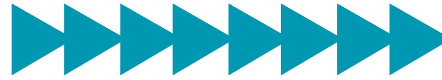
As a gift to the children, we shared Navajo language books to help them continue practicing and speaking our language at home.

May all who shared in the harvest be blessed with nourishment and good health. It is always our prayer that our culture endures and that our traditions, stories, and language continue to thrive in the next generation. Days like this give me so much hope that they will.





EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: SILVER STALLION'S MISSION ON TWO WHEELS



GALLUP, N.M. — On June 26, President Nygren visited the Silver Stallion, which is a nonprofit bike shop located in a local neighborhood near rocky, dirt terrain riding trails in Gallup, NM. Silver Stallion's mission is to educate and empower youth and young adults in bicycle mechanics.

President Nygren was greeted by Scott Nydam, founder of Silver Stallion. This visit included a tour of the shop where racks of bikes were in the process of being fixed, and bikes that are used for their biking program.

"Silver Stallion's vision is for children and adults across the Navajo Nation to realize the transformative power and freedom of riding a bike and learning bike mechanics. Our goal is to cultivate healthy mountain biking communities and give people the tools to move themselves forward, both on the trail and in life," said Nydam. Most of the bikes that are received are donated and can be repaired to give away at a low cost and to continue public service.

President Nygren advised generating a list of bike supplies as an effort to connect with proper vendors, like NavajoYES, and partner with the Navajo Department of Health to help with donations to ensure the program receives the best quality supplies to keep the program running.

The Silver Stallion also has a partnership with Tailwind Nutrition that President Nygren tried for the first time to fuel in preparation for his bike ride with the crew. The crew also presented President Nygren with his bike that he had repaired.

Mountain biking is not a common sport in the Navajo Nation, and neither are bike shops. This led Scott Nydam, a retired pro cyclist, to drive innovation that allows him to provide bike mechanical services, education, and love for the sport across Navajo.

As a nonprofit that started in 2018, Silver Stallion has established after-school mountain bike clubs and race teams among Gallup McKinley County Schools.

"This organization is used to help promote mental health and physical well-being for our youth," President Nygren said. "They are doing important work, and I support it."



PRESIDENT NYGREN TAKES A BIKE RIDE WITH BIKE CREW



PRESIDENT NYGREN WITH SCOTT NYDAM



PRESIDENT NYGREN WITH SILVER STALLION BIKE CREW

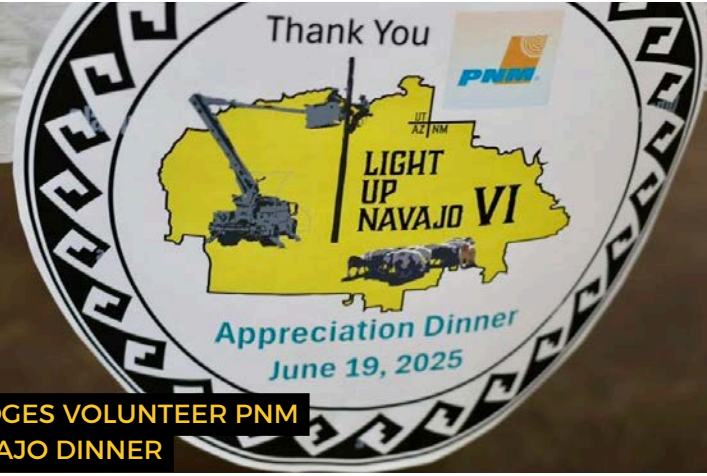




EXPANDING ELECTRICITY ACROSS THE NAVAJO NATION: APPRECIATING LIGHT UP NAVAJO VI



**PRESIDENT NYGREN ACKNOWLEDGES VOLUNTEER PNM
CREW AT LIGHT UP NAVAJO DINNER**



NENAHNEZAD, N.M. — In a heartfelt celebration of progress and partnership, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined families, utility crews, and community members on June 19 to honor the transformative work of the Light Up Navajo VI initiative.

This appreciation dinner was a celebration of community, partnership, and progress. Everyone gathered to honor the incredible crews who have traveled far distances to help bridge the gap between households that don't have access to electricity in the Navajo Nation.

The Light Up Navajo initiative is a joint effort between the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) and the American Public Power Association (APPA), designed to bring electricity to thousands of Navajo homes that still live without power. Many of these homes have waited decades and are located far from utility lines within remote areas.

So far, the initiative has successfully energized 107 homes across the Navajo Nation that previously had no access to power. With over six weeks remaining in the initiative, Light Up Navajo VI remains on track to reach its goal of powering at least 175 homes by the end of the summer.

In the Shiprock region, the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) crew was made up of a group of 8 linemen who came from Albuquerque and Santa Fe, NM. Just recently, these linemen volunteered to get one family connected this week.

President Nygren emphasized that this is not just about infrastructure it's about transformation.

"Electricity means food can be kept fresh, children can study at night, and elders can live with comfort and dignity. This is life-changing," he said.

Also in attendance was PNM Board Member Cathy Newby, who was recognized for her leadership and ongoing support for the partnership.

"To our partners at PNM, your crews have been working side-by-side with NTUA and local teams, helping us reach families who have waited for years," President Nygren said.



"Electricity means food can be kept fresh, children can study at night, and elders can live with comfort and dignity. This is life-changing."





2026 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN TO BRING \$132 MILLION NEW HOUSING AND PUBLIC RENTAL UNITS TO WINDOW ROCK

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Every time I think of housing for our people, that correlates with improved health and economic returns for our people.

Through the submission of the Navajo Housing Authority's 2026 Indian Housing Plan (IHP) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we will bring more housing access, which means our people will have shelter with running water and electricity.

On June 19, I signed the \$132 million Indian Housing Plan on behalf of the Navajo Nation. This plan was vetted through NHA CEO Levon Henry and its Board of Commissioners, as well as the Navajo Nation Council's Resources and Development Committee.

Through the 2026 Indian Housing Plan, which is an annual process, construction toward new public housing units and new home ownership units will meet our growing affordable housing demand.

\$79.9 million of the plan is focuses on housing and includes the following projects:

- **Fencing projects in Tohajilee, N.M., and streetlights in Round Rock Ariz., for crime prevention and security for a total of 28 homes.**
- **Rental assistance for 96 units in Jeddito and Section 8 Rental Assistance**
- **New construction of public rental units in Rock Springs, N.M. including LIDAR floodplain mapping.**
- **Demolition and rebuild of 40 homeownership units in Many Farms and Whippoorwill, Ariz.**

These housing projects align with my Administration's 1,000 Home Initiative. My initiative is plain and simple - get shelter to our relatives.

While I know that many of our people live in overcrowded living conditions and no housing, this plan addresses affordable, accessible, and culturally appropriate housing for the well-being of our Navajo people and their economic stability.

Through this plan, we are submitting an IHP that is crucial for securing federal support, effective housing development, and improving the quality of life for Navajo communities.



PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS INDIAN HOUSING PLAN



PRESIDENT NYGREN ADDRESSES HOUSING NEEDS



My initiative is plain and simple- get shelter to our relatives.



\$12.5M APARTMENT COMPLEX BREAKS GROUND FOR STAFF AT NAHATA'DZIIL HEALTH CENTER

NAHATA DZIIL, Ariz. — On June 24, the Fort Defiance Indian Health Board, Inc., broke ground in Nahata Dziil on a \$12.5 million apartment complex. This marks a significant next step forward in addressing the housing needs across the Navajo Nation. My administration is committed to expanding and improving housing options for our Navajo workers and community members.

Greenberg Construction is responsible for building three apartment buildings. The 21,000-square-foot apartment complex will be occupied by staff from the Nahata'Dziil Health Center. Within each of the buildings, there will be four units for a total of 12 units. Once constructed, our healthcare workers who travel far distances to serve our Navajo people with primary healthcare services will no longer have to travel long distances for housing.

At the groundbreaking, a traditional song was sung by Anderson Hoskie, Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board (FDIHB) Traditional Practitioner. As he provided this song and offering, he also explained the purpose behind its intent, which is issued for all living things and the Holy People who live in the area. "Please make way for us, we're giving you an offering," said Hoskie.

I thank the FDIHB Veterans Group for the posting of colors, FDIHB staff, Nahata'Dziil Health Center staff, and all visitors for gathering and showing support for this important milestone in the Nahata Dziil Community. Also, thank you to those who made this project possible. This will not only improve our staff's quality of life, but it will also strengthen our ability to retain highly qualified healthcare professionals to serve our Navajo community.



TRADITIONAL SONG OFFERED BY ANDERSON HOSKIE



FORT DEFIANCE INDIAN BOARD INC. STAFF MEMBERS



PLANNED FINISHED PRODUCT



My administration is committed to expanding and improving housing options for our Navajo workers and community members.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY



BROADBAND FOR EVERY HOME, EVERY CHAPTER, EVERY PHONE

Why is Strong Broadband Essential for Navajo?

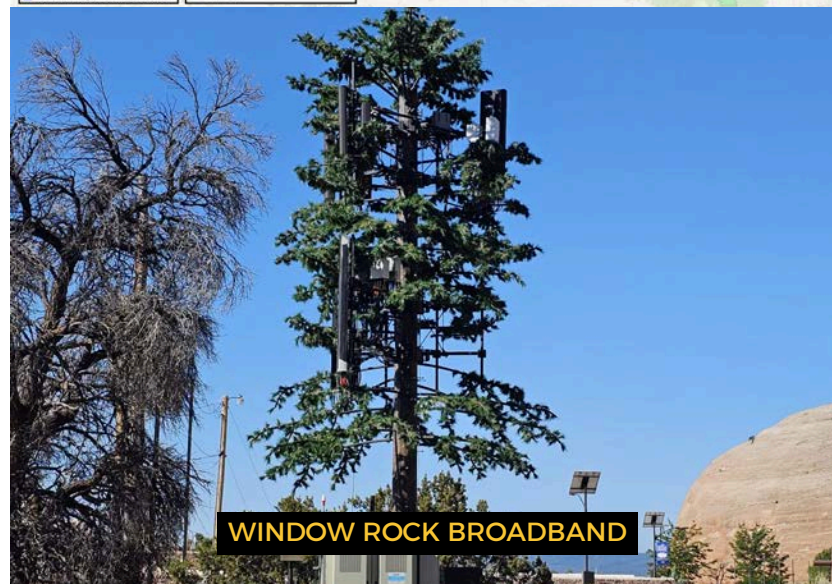
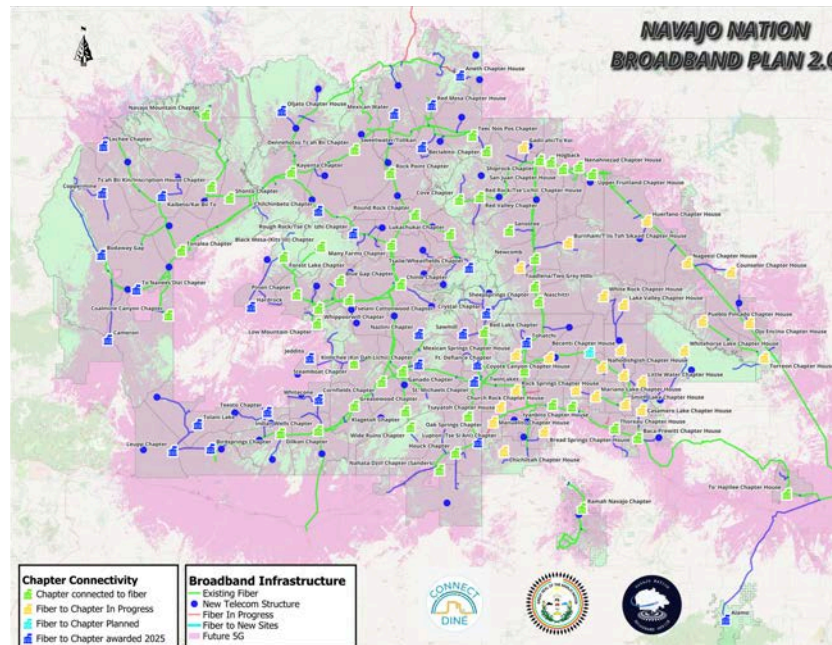
Reliable broadband access is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity. From telehealth and education to workforce development and emergency response, high-speed internet plays a critical role in everyday life. For the Navajo Nation, closing the digital divide means advancing sovereignty, opportunity, and quality of life.

Major milestones: In preparation for more widespread 5G implementation, Navajo Nation Broadband Office (NNBO) has worked with Smith Bagley, Inc. to upgrade cellular service to LTE speeds at 40 sites across the Navajo Nation. Also, over 400 homes in Ramah, N.M., have been successfully connected to fiber internet by OSO Internet Solutions. The result: more families now have the tools to access online healthcare, attend virtual classes, and stay connected to loved ones, right from their homes. All of this progress is part of a larger vision outlined in Navajo Nation Broadband Plan 2.0.

Connecting Diné—5G Expansion & Lower Costs Ahead

The next phase prioritizes immediate Chapter-level connectivity while investing in long-term mobile infrastructure. Dozens of unserved Chapters are now slated for satellite and fixed wireless solutions, bridging the gap until fiber construction is complete. Looking ahead, new 5G towers and fiber-to-tower builds—supported by reallocated American Rescue Plan Act funds—will lay the groundwork for enhanced mobile services across the Nation. These improvements not only boost access and performance but also help lower monthly internet costs by inviting greater competition among providers.

Broadband is more than cables and towers—it's a lifeline for students, elders, and entire communities. Through collaborative efforts, smart strategy, and tribal-led leadership, NNBO and its partners are bringing the future home. Stay connected with progress updates at: www.connectdine.com



**For the Navajo Nation,
closing the digital divide
means advancing
sovereignty, opportunity,
and quality of life.**



LIGHTING THE PATH: HONORING LIGHT UP NAVAJO AT AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION 2025



NEW ORLEANS, La. — At the 2025 American Public Power Association (APPA) Conference in New Orleans, *Light Up Navajo* was honored as a national model of mutual aid and partnership. NTUA presented handcrafted shadow boxes featuring white and yellow corn to utility companies from across the United States, recognizing their support in bringing electricity to Navajo families.

Since 2019, *Light Up Navajo* has connected thousands of homes, many receiving power for the very first time. NTUA's unique partnership model where utilities cover their crew's travel and labor while NTUA provides materials has made this possible.

A highlight of the conference included a fireside chat with Super Bowl Champion Jerry Rice, underscoring the spirit of teamwork behind this life-changing effort.

Despite the progress, around 10,000 families still lack electricity. The call to action is clear: expand partnerships, build on success, and continue lighting homes and futures across the Navajo Nation.

As of May 24th, 2025, a total of 97 homes have successfully been connected to the grid in the latest round of *Light Up Navajo*. The homes are connected through the construction of both shortline extensions and community power lines.

Thank you to NTUA CEO Wally Haase, NTUA staff, and all utility partners for powering hope and showing what's possible when we work together.



Together, we're powering hope and building a better future for Navajo families.



PRESIDENT NYGREN AT LIGHT UP NAVAJO CONFERENCE



NTUA AND HONORED GUEST JERRY RICE



KAYENTA BUILDS FOR THE FUTURE: \$50 MILLION WASTEWATER PROJECT FUELS COMMUNITY GROWTH



KAYENTA, Ariz. — On June 30, President Nygren visited the Kayenta Wastewater Treatment Plant —a \$50 million infrastructure project that is more than halfway complete. With its anticipated completion, the facility is poised to transform how Kayenta addresses wastewater, supports population growth, and strengthens its role as a regional hub for tourism and development.

The upgraded treatment plant—currently 56% complete—is the result of coordinated efforts between Kayenta Chapter, Kayenta Township, the Navajo Nation, and multiple federal agencies. It is funded primarily through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with additional contributions from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). The plant's opening is expected in the second quarter of 2026.

Kayenta sits at the crossroads of major tourism routes, drawing over 2 million visitors annually as the gateway to Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon, Horseshoe Bend, and other iconic destinations. Yet despite its high profile and growing demand, the community has long faced outdated infrastructure that fails to meet the needs of residents or visitors. Households reliant on septic systems must currently haul their waste to far-off sites in Chinle or Page—costing as much as \$700 per service.

Once completed, the new wastewater facility will provide a local septic disposal site and an RV waste dumping station, helping to accommodate the large number of tourists. In addition to easing the financial burden on local families, the new facility will support planned development projects across Kayenta, including the recently announced \$9 million Northland Pioneer College campus, affordable apartment complexes, the Navajo Nation E911 Center, and the future judicial complex.

Kayenta Township Manager Jarvis Williams highlighted the sustainability aspect of the project, noting that treated water will be returned to local streams to support ecosystems and natural flow.

The wastewater upgrade comes at a time of renewed optimism in Kayenta. After years of population decline due to mine closures and the COVID-19 pandemic, the community is rebounding.

As Kayenta looks ahead, the wastewater project will help unlock new housing capacity, boost tourism revenue, protect local waterways, and reduce costs for everyday families—all while signaling to investors and tribal members alike that Kayenta is a place building for sustainable growth.





PRESIDENT NYGREN ENGAGES WITH K'AI'BII'TO' CHAPTER ON SOLUTIONS DURING WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY TOUR



PRESIDENT NYGREN AND HIS STAFF MEET WITH K'AI'BII'TO' CHAPTER OFFICIALS

KAIBETO, Ariz. — On June 13, I met with local leaders from K'ai'bii'to' Chapter to address and hear their concerns related to infrastructure, housing, and community development priorities. During this tour, we discussed solutions to assist with their needs.

I included Division Directors from across the Navajo Nation government to join me in meeting with the K'ai'bii'to' Chapter officials to address how my administration can help the Chapter's issues. The agenda included nine issues.

One of the top issues discussed was the need to pave Navajo Route N21A, a critical connector for school buses and healthcare access. Chapter officials reported how unsafe and deteriorating road conditions pose daily risks to students and residents.

For housing, the chapter requested support in demolishing 32 old BIE housing units, many of which are fire-damaged, unsafe, and have structural and utility issues. I advised the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) to assess these concerns and seek funding for necessary repairs.

With community development projects, the chapter is moving forward with plans for a new senior center and has already secured over \$4.2 million in Sihasin Funds for its planning and construction. Officials also requested updates on the Multi-Purpose Building project, where infrastructure is near-ready, but progress has been stalled by permitting and design issues.

K'ai'bii'to' also reviewed its ARPA-funded projects, and some projects are delayed due to procurement or specification issues. Another issue was environmental and cultural



PRESIDENT NYGREN SPEAKS WITH A CONSTITUENT

“

In my attempt to visit as many of our chapters in the next year, I acknowledged K'ai'bii'to's strong advocacy and proactive planning to move things forward for its community.

concerns where the chapter asked for assistance in identifying a more appropriate site for a public cemetery.

I encouraged the chapter to collaborate with its Community Land Use Planning Committee and grazing permit holders to identify a burial site that is both respectful and accessible to the community.

In my attempt to visit as many of our chapters in the next year, I acknowledged K'ai'bii'to's strong advocacy and proactive planning to move things forward for its community. Thank you, K'ai'bii'to' Chapter, for your hospitality and partnership, I look forward to resolving these issues for a brighter future.

TAKING ACTION, GETTING RESULTS AND HONORING OUR NAVAJO VETERANS

The Nygren Administration shares these accomplishments made on behalf of our Navajo Veterans.

HOUSING

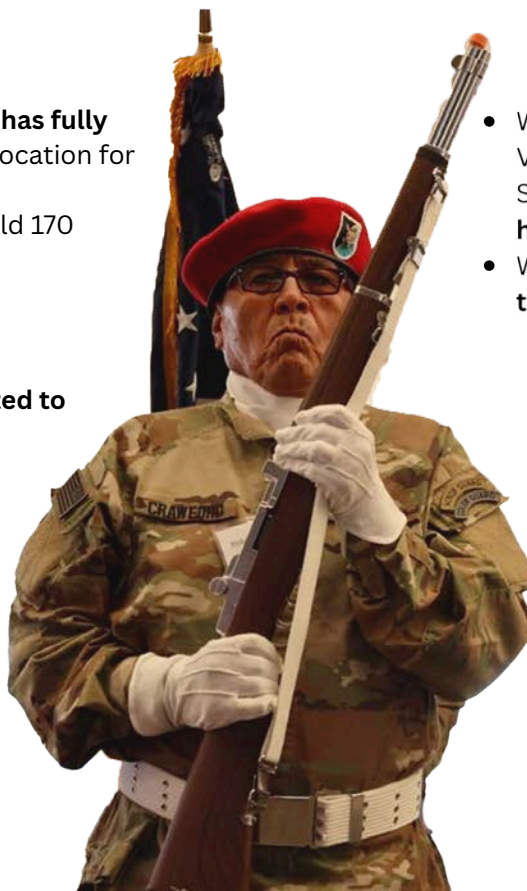
Delivering, Remodeling Homes

The Navajo Veterans Administration has fully encumbered its \$50 million ARPA allocation for new housing construction.

- We have contracts secured to build 170 homes.
- Completed projects:
 - 14 homes have been built
 - 4 renovations completed.
 - 9 homes will soon be connected to utilities
- In Progress:
 - 86 homes are under construction
 - 1 renovation

Before his passing, we remodeled the home of the late Navajo Code Talker John Kinsel.

Housing Assistance Fund: We identified \$4.2 million to improve housing conditions for 75 Navajo veterans this year.



HEALTHCARE

- We partnered with the Northern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System to **reopen veteran clinics at IHS hospitals in Chinle and Kayenta.**
- We secured a \$24,000 grant to fund traditional healing ceremonies.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

The Navajo Nation VA delivered

- Over \$20,000 in **burial assistance** to honor veterans and their families,
- \$15,000 for **honor guard details** to commemorate their service,
- \$5,609,283 million from the **Veterans Trust Fund** directly supported veterans, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Mothers
- Helped over 80 veterans **secure disability compensation**, providing monthly benefits of \$4,000–\$5,000 based on individual needs

Major Projects We are Working On

Navajo Warriors Nursing Home

The “Warrior Home” is a proposed nursing home for veterans to be located in Central Agency. I fully support this project. On April 10, 2023, I signed a \$29,000,000 Navajo Nation grant for the proponent to construct the nursing home. I also sent a letter to the Indian Health Service supporting a proponent of the nursing home. My letter supports the proponent’s efforts to obtain Public Law 93-638 status. By obtaining 638, the proponent may have access to federal funds to construct the nursing home.

Trust Fund Increase

Veterans have requested that the Veterans Trust Fund be increased from a 4% set aside to a 12%. for their Trust Fund. Currently, Delegate Andy Nez is working on legislation to increase the percentage. President Nygren looks forward to receiving the legislation from the Navajo Nation Council.

Amend the Veterans Trust Fund Policy

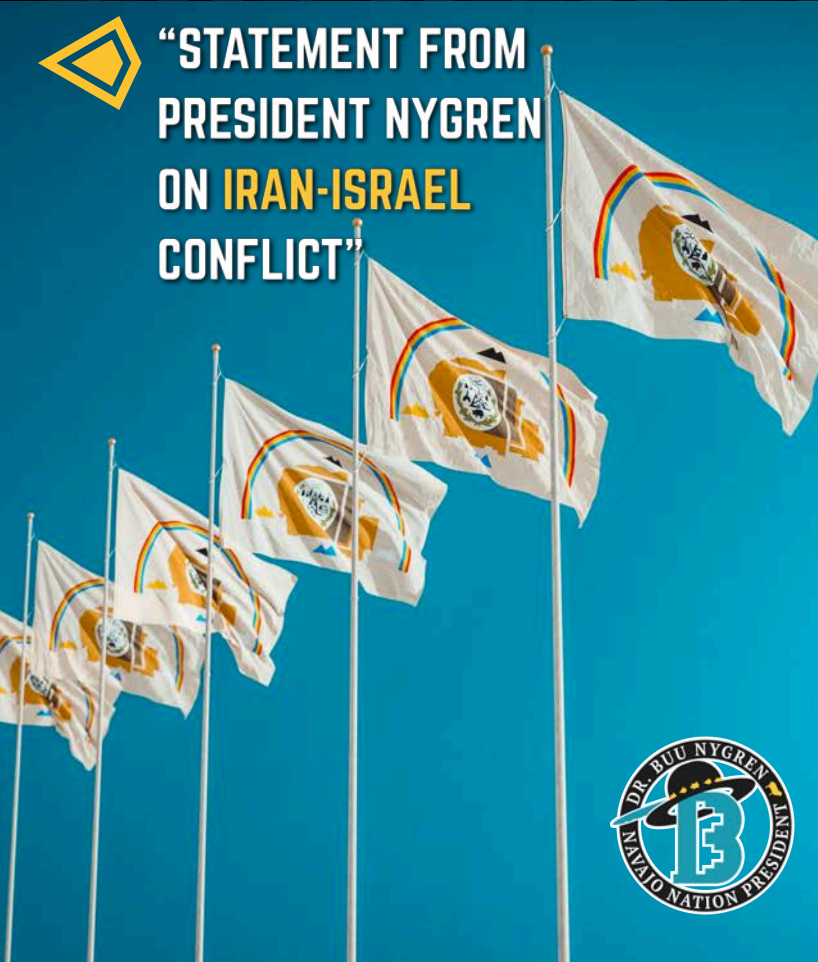
The Navajo VA is currently working with the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council and all Chapter Veteran Organization Commanders to obtain their input on how to amend the Veterans Trust Fund Policy to best meet the needs of our veterans, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Mothers.

Trust Fund Carry-Over

Veterans have requested that any unspent annual trust funds be carried over to the next fiscal year to benefit chapter veteran organizations, rather than being recaptured and reinvested into the Veterans Trust Fund. Delegate George Tolth is working on legislation that accomplishes this. President Nygren looks forward to reviewing the legislation.



"STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT NYGREN ON IRAN-ISRAEL CONFLICT"



The Navajo Nation acknowledges the recent bombings and the escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, and the United States' involvement. **During these challenging times, we pray for the safety and protection of all affected civilians and military personnel alike.**

We understand that many within our communities are feeling fearful and uncertain, and we stand with them in prayer, hope, and support. I encourage everyone to take care of themselves and each other. **We must remain respectful and compassionate, honoring the values that bind us, especially as fear and tension rises.**

We must remember that there is still so much we do not fully understand about this complex history and situation.

Let us pray for peace—for calm in our hearts, for safety across all nations, and for wise leadership that seeks peaceful resolutions. We hold in our thoughts those who may be called into this conflict, praying for their protection and well-being.

In these difficult moments, I call upon all Navajo people to come together with kindness, patience, and respect. **Together, through prayer and unity, we hope for a future where peace prevails for all peoples.**



NAVAJO LEADERS MEET WITH INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE IN D.C. TO PRIORITIZE CANCER PREVENTION, ELDER CARE, AND TRADITIONAL HEALING

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and 25th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Germaine Simonson hosted senior leadership from the Indian Health Service (IHS) at the Navajo Nation Washington Office to discuss the Nation's health care needs and budget priorities.

The IHS leadership featured Acting Director Ben Smith (Navajo), as well as the Acting Deputy Director, Acting Deputy Director for Management Operations, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs, Deputy Director for Quality Healthcare and Enterprise Risk Management, Deputy Directors for Field Operations, and more.

During the meeting, President Nygren emphasized the need for better and more preventative care for those at risk for cancer or facing alcoholism-related health concerns.

President also engaged the IHS on how they can better serve Navajo elders through the Community Health program, the importance of fully staffing the Sanitation Deficiency System Construction Program. During the meeting, Delegate Simonson also discussed the need to expand the Traditional Healing program.

The IHS acknowledged the importance of continuing to work closely with the Navajo Nation to provide the best health care for our citizens and will be in contact with the President on several initiatives, including a potential pilot program for cancer screenings.

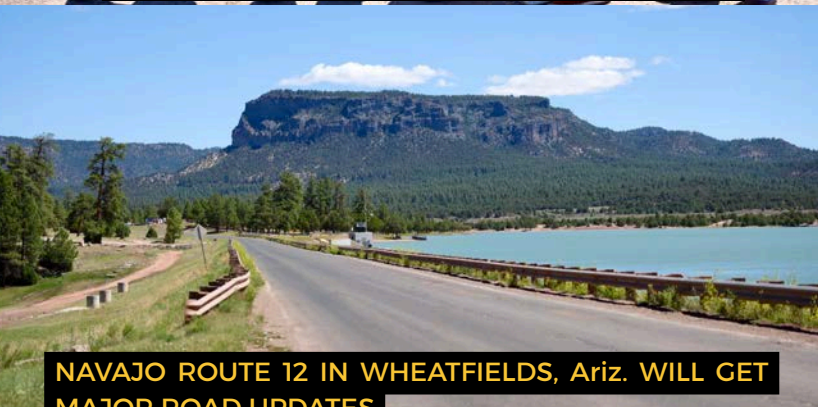


President Nygren emphasized the need for better and more preventative care for those at risk...





\$30 MILLION INVESTMENT ENHANCES SAFETY FOR TRAVELERS ON NAVAJO ROUTE 12



WHEATFIELDS, Ariz. — The potholes on Navajo Route 12, near Wheatfields Lake, will soon be fixed with new pavement. On June 25, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed a \$30 million contract between the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority to improve a 7.2-mile stretch of Navajo Route 12 from the Whiskey Creek Bridge to Wheatfields Lake. This scenic highway is called the Dinétah Scenic Byway and is important for travel and recreation.

"This signing is a step forward in building a transportation system that creates opportunities, connections, and progress for our people," President Nygren said. "Together, we will build a road made by and for Navajo people."

Navajo Route 12 is a busy road that runs along the Arizona-New Mexico border and passes through forested mountains. It connects to places like Wheatfields Lake, Red Lake, and the Bowl Canyon Recreation Area. The road is both a way to get around and a gateway to outdoor activities. The project will make the road safer and better by widening lanes, repaving, and adding new features. These include drainage systems, fencing, guardrails, cattle guards, and a new bridge over Whiskey Creek.

The signing ceremony recognized the support from the Tsale/Wheatfields Chapter, including Chapter President Herbert Clark, Vice President Rosita Tsosie, Secretary/Treasurer Devon Begay, Accounts Maintenance Specialist Cassandra Begay, and Council Delegate Carl Slater.

The N12 Road Improvement Project is an example of how community voices, local leaders, and the government working together can create positive change.



**It's not just about fixing the road,
but about investing in safety,
access, and opportunities for all
Navajo people.**





PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON PANEL WITH TRIBAL LEADERS



NAVAJO NATION IS LEADING THE CHARGE FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

DENVER, Colo. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren attended the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Indian Energy Resource Summit in Denver, Colorado this month. The DOI hosts the summit to collaborate with tribal leadership to discuss national energy goals.

Leadership from the Navajo Nation attended including Council Delegates Rickie Nez and Shawna Ann Claw. Attendees recognized the power of Indian Country in U.S. energy policy. Tribal leaders know that U.S. energy independence starts with respecting tribal sovereignty.

In a panel titled "Tribal Energy Sovereignty and Economic Empowerment" President Nygren communicated to the DOI and Bureau of Indian Affairs that the Navajo Nation is open for responsible energy development because it means jobs for Navajo people and the protection of our land. The panel was made up of tribal leaders like Scott Davis, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs for DOI, Crow Nation Chairman Frank White Clay, and Southern Ute Chairman Melvin Baker, among other leaders,

Under the Nygren Administration, the Navajo Nation is exploring utility-scale solar, hydrogen, and transition plans for legacy fossil fuel sites (e.g. Kayenta, NGS). The Nygren Administration is also working with the Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) on NTEC's NavEnergy vision, which includes coal with carbon capture, natural gas, and renewable energy.

The Nygren Administration is embracing an "all of the above" energy development strategy, meaning priorities are balanced and risks are assessed for many types of energy projects; this approach has been reflected in the Energy Policy since at least 2013.

President Nygren called on the federal government to respect tribal laws, listen to tribal communities, and exclude uranium from any future designations or incentive programs related to critical mineral development.

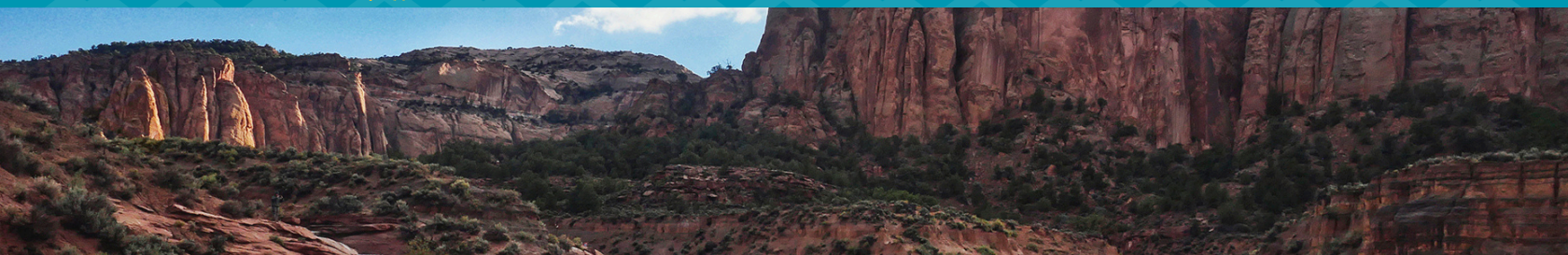
Uranium extraction is banned on Navajo lands because of the generational harm it caused—sickened miners, contaminated water, abandoned mines, and broken federal promises to clean them up.

With strong leadership and a commitment to respecting tribal sovereignty, the Navajo Nation stands at the forefront of a sustainable energy future.

By embracing renewable resources and advocating for responsible development, our community can achieve energy independence while safeguarding our lands for future generations.

The journey toward national energy independence is a shared effort, and the Navajo Nation is proud to lead the way, reinforcing our sovereignty, creating economic opportunities, and protecting the sacred land that sustains us all.





HEALING AND RESTORING THE LANDS OF TSEGI AND SUMAC CANYONS WITH TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

KAYENTA, Ariz. — With rising temperatures and lands drying up due to the ongoing drought, climate solutions like traditional ecological knowledge are now restoring and healing our lands.

In Tsegi Canyon, one family has opened their land to researchers in hopes of restoring the lands. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed an agreement on June 13 with the landowner, Navajo Nation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Now Fred Phillips Consulting will now officially create a sustainable future. In Taegu and Sumac Canyons, livestock numbers have long exceeded the land's carrying capacity. In Tsegi Canyon alone, over 850 sheep units are currently grazing in the area.

To address this impact, the Navajo Nation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Catena Foundation, and Fred Phillips Consulting, launched a restoration effort in 2018 beginning with the Upper Keet Seel Restoration Project.

That work has since protected over 1,000 acres with fencing, livestock removal, and native plant restoration.

The next phase of the restoration project will focus on Sumac Canyon, and include erosion control structures, native revegetation, and stabilization of gullies.

Project outcomes will include restoring habitats, protecting cultural resources, and promoting long-term land sustainability.

"This project is about protecting more than just land—it's about restoring balance to our environment, safeguarding our sacred sites, and honoring the connection our people have to these canyons," said President Buu Nygren.



MOVIEGOERS CELEBRATE REOPENING OF THEATERS IN KAYENTA, TUBA CITY

KAYENTA/TUBA CITY — On June 13, the Black Mesa Twin Cinema in Kayenta, AZ and its sister cinema in Tuba City, welcomed back moviegoers on its opening day. The reopening was marked by a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and business owner Logan Tsinigine, who aims to provide accessible entertainment that keeps revenue within the community.

President Nygren emphasized the importance of businesses like Corn Pollen Theaters, LLC in driving economic growth across the Navajo Nation.

"This project shows aspiring entrepreneurs that their dreams are achievable," said Jarvis Williams, administrator for Kayenta Township.

The Tuba City Chapter President, Myra Begay, noted that the sales tax from local businesses helps fund scholarships and community programs. "Our theaters, including Tuba City Twin Cinemas, are crucial for storytelling and cultural preservation," Nygren said, congratulating Tsinigine on his investment in the local film and entertainment industry.

The cinema is now open Wednesday through Sunday, with showings at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., featuring films like *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Mission: Impossible*. Tickets are priced at \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and seniors, and \$7 for veterans.



This project shows aspiring entrepreneurs that their dreams are achievable...





KAYENTA SECURES A \$9 MILLION BUSINESS SITE LEASE FOR NEW NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE FACILITY



KAYENTA, Ariz. — On June 30, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with Northland Pioneer College's (NPC) board members and Kayenta Township to sign a business site lease agreement for the \$9 million project of a new facility. This agreement allows Navajo students to pursue higher education in Kayenta, AZ.

This facility will be built on Navajo Nation trust land, bringing a dedicated college campus to the Kayenta area and increasing access to post-secondary education to the area.

It will include classrooms, science and health science laboratories, a library, student and community spaces, and infrastructure to support long-term academic services.

A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned to officially mark the start of the development phase. The new facility will be constructed on 2.38 acres.

"Thank you for allowing us to share visions with your young people, dreams of education and opportunity that they can give back to this great community," said Von Lawson, NPC President.

Construction is expected to be completed by June 1, 2027. The agreement includes a 25-year term with options to extend for two additional 25-year periods.

Funding for the project was awarded through the Arizona Commerce Authority to support communities affected by the closure of Peabody Coal, which was allocated by Richard Chanick, Workforce and Economic Development for NPC.

"We must continue to advocate and make sure these leases continue to happen to make sure we bring a beautiful campus here to the Navajo Nation," President Nygren said. "Thank you for all the work you've done that has taken years to accomplish.

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The project allows the Navajo people to receive an education close to home.



CURRENT NPC KAYENTA CENTER



BUSINESS SITE LEASE SIGNING



PRESIDENT NYGREN WITH VON LAWSON, NPC PRESIDENT



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