





# CHANGE-MAKER HIGHLIGHT

## NAVAJO BALLET DANCER HONORED, AUGUST 23 PROCLAIMED 'JOCK SOTO DAY'

Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya and I signed a proclamation declaring August 23 Jock Soto Day, honoring the extraordinary career of Jock Soto, a worldrenowned ballet dancer with the New York City Ballet.

At just five years old, Jock discovered his passion for ballet, which grew into a remarkable 24-year career as a principal dancer with one of the most prestigious ballet companies in the world. He was celebrated by the Lensic Performing Arts Center, the International Museum of Dance, and ChromaDiverse in Santa Fe with a sold-out performance, "An Evening with Jock Soto."

Born and raised in New Mexico, Jock is recognized as one of the most influential ballet dancers of his generation. Proceeds from the August 23 celebration will help launch the Jock Soto Scholarship Fund and expand his digital archive, preserving his legacy for future generations. With all he has accomplished, Jock stands as a role model for the Navajo people. The Navajo Nation is proud of our son and grateful for the way he continues to mentor and inspire dancers who follow in his footsteps.

Although I was unable to attend, Vice President Montoya, Miss Navajo Nation Ranisha Begay, and Council delegates Shawna Ann Claw and Dr. Andy Nez represented our Nation with pride at this special event.







# 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.

#### The September 2025 issue highlights several stories:

- 110 Chapter tour visits to Fort Defiance, Western, Northern and Central Navajo Agencies.
- Celebrating National Code Talker Day
- ToohBAA's Mission to Strengthen Communities Through Farming
- Bearsun visits Window Rock capital

The newsletter includes a special section by First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren.



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.



'A STRONG BUILDING IS ONLY AS STRONG AS THE PEOPLE INSIDE IT'

# \$87 MILLION ECHO CLIFFS HOUSING PROJECT BREAKS GROUND

COPPERMINE, Ariz. — Leila McCabe has called the Coppermine area home her entire life. As times changed, she knew her own community needed to change too, through education, health care, and economic growth.

On August 27, the Echo Cliffs Staff Housing project broke ground south of the Echo Cliffs Health Center along Coppermine Road. The \$87 million project, funded by the Indian Health Service, will provide 92 units for medical staff, including 60 apartments and 32 single-family homes with covered parking, driveways, and fenced yards. Modular construction began in June, with phased completion expected through December 2026.

McCabe, a local and one of 10 board members for the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation (TCRHCC), began her career in education and continues to work closely with schools. She recalled herding sheep as a child but recognized that Navajo families could no longer rely on that alone. The opening of Tsinaabaas Ha'bitiin Elementary School in 2004, she said, marked a turning point. Now, with the hospital rising nearby, she sees health care and education working together to create jobs, safety, and a sustainable economy.

"We want to develop our economy," McCabe said. "From this area down to Page, we encourage people to start their business because we have all this land that hasn't been used."

The staff housing is essential to the \$170 million Echo Cliffs Health Center, a 123,000-square-foot outpatient facility slated to open in fall 2026. The clinic will provide primary care, dental, eye care, pharmacy, EMS, and other services for Navajo, Hopi, and San Juan Southern Paiute families.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, who toured the facility earlier this summer, said "This isn't just about construction, it's about creating opportunity, ensuring quality health care, and building a future our people deserve."

"Today, the building of the healthcare facility that is so close to home is being realized," said Joette Walters, CEO of TCRHCC. "As we prepare for the health care center's opening, housing for the staff is a critical step."

This isn't just about construction, it's about creating opportunity, ensuring quality health care, and building a future our people deserve.







## **CELEBRATING COURAGE, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE ON CODE TALKERS DAY**



On August 14, the Navajo Nation observed National Navajo Code Talkers Day. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed August 14th as National Navajo Code Talkers Day. This is a special day to honor the bravery and sacrifice of our Navajo men who developed an unbreakable code using Diné Bizaad during World War II.

It's a day to celebrate their heroic contributions to U.S. military history and to educate others about their extraordinary legacy. Today, only two of these brave men—Thomas Begay and Peter McDonald—are still living.

I was honored to have been a part of the National Navajo Code Talkers Day event at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds in Window Rock, Ariz., and at the Navajo Nation Museum. I thank the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and all who gathered to honor our heroes.

We were blessed to have been joined by Joe Tohonnie, Jr. and the Apache Crown Dancers, who danced and shared their songs, and by Code Talkers from Laguna and Hopi, who continue to keep our legacy alive.

On behalf of our people, I welcomed the U.S. Department of Defense USMC Major General James B. Wellons – Commanding General, 3D Marine Aircraft Wing and U.S. Representative Eli Crane, who represents Arizona's Second Congressional District. Thank you for your journey to join us.

During World War II, over 400 Navajo men used our sacred language — Diné Bizaad — to develop an unbreakable code. Starting with 29 original Code Talkers at Camp Pendleton, they transmitted over 800 messages in battle, including words like "wol-a-chee" (ant) and "da-hetih-hi" (hummingbird). Their bravery helped secure victory in key battles such as Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima, changing history.

Our Navajo language remains a vital part of our living, evolving culture. As president, I am committed to supporting its use and passing it on—whether through schools, media, or daily conversation. I teach my daughters Navajo as their first language to ensure its future.

We also honor our remaining Code Talkers, including Thomas Begay and Peter McDonald, whose heroism and service embody the spirit of our Diné way of life. Their sacrifices secure a lasting legacy that we uphold today.



Story continues on Page 5



# CODE TALKERS DAY BRINGS COMMUNITY, STATE LEADERS TOGETHER

On the morning of August 14, I also had the honor of joining NavajoYES and over a hundred community members for a heart racing two-mile run and walk to begin our Navajo Code Talkers Day. As the sun peaked over the ridges by the Navajo Nation Museum, I witnessed generations of families, descendants and relatives of our legendary Code Talkers, walking side by side, sharing stories of courage, sacrifice and enduring legacy.

These moments remind us that our Code Talkers didn't just serve the United States, they served their families, their people, and the generations yet to come. Their strength remains in our footsteps.

I also had a productive meeting with Arizona Representative Eli Crane to discuss opportunities to grow the Navajo Nation's economy while addressing the urgent needs of our communities. Our focus was on attracting outside resources that can create sustainable jobs, generate tax revenue and provide direct benefits to our people, such as increasing access to fresh produce in areas where it is desperately needed.

We both recognize that economic growth must be tied to the well-being of our communities. By working with partners who respect our sovereignty and understand our vision, we can build a stronger economy that not only employs our people but nourishes them as well.

In addition to economic development, we discussed the importance of strengthening collaboration on the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlements. Too many of our families have lived without reliable access to clean water for far too long. The settlement is not just a legal agreement, once Congress approves, it will be a lifeline that will deliver water to Navajo communities, so our people can restore dignity to communities that have waited decades for this basic necessity.

I appreciate Representative Crane's openness to working with us on solutions that honor our priorities and respect our people. Moving forward, we will continue to seek partnerships that bring real, measurable improvements to Navajo lives, jobs in our communities, food on our tables, and clean water in our homes. Together, we can build a future where the Navajo Nation thrives economically, sustains its people, and protects its resources for generations to come.

Thank you to all that honored our heroes. May we always remember and uphold their legacy. May God bless you all, the Navajo Nation, and the United States of America.







# TOOHBAA'S MISSION TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES THROUGH FARMING: 'FEEDING OURSELVES IS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY'

SHIPROCK — On August 22, under the hot sun in Shiprock, community leaders, farmers, and families gathered for a historic signing ceremony with ToohBAA, a women-led farming organization rooted in the San Juan River Valley.

The day marked a new chapter in the movement for Navajo food sovereignty, where the work of farmers and the hopes of future generations came together in a powerful moment of unity.

The celebration highlighted the next phase of building the ToohBAA Agricultural Operations Center, made possible by a \$200,000 grant from the Navajo Nation's Agriculture Infrastructure Fund signed earlier this year by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. The 5.6-acre development will include fencing, a shop and office, produce processing facilities, a certified kitchen, a steamed corn station, and a seed bank.

More than bricks and steel, the center is envisioned as a place where culture and innovation meet to create food security, opportunity, and resilience among Navajo farmers for Navajo families.

Acknowledgements were given to ToohBAA members, farmer and activist Duane "Chili" Yazzie, the Center of Southwest Culture, Diné College, local nonprofits, and Vice President Richelle Montoya—partners whose support and dedication have carried this vision forward.

President Nygren reflected on the meaning of farming, noting that "each speaker reminded the crowd that farming is not easy work; it requires humility, sweat, and determination beneath the sun, but it is also sacred work that nourishes families and restores balance to the land."

President Nygren then made three heartfelt commitments: to stand with farmers and ranchers by ensuring they have the resources to keep the land productive; to advance food sovereignty by investing in projects like ToohBAA that blend tradition with innovation; and to strengthen local economies so that community-led initiatives create jobs, businesses, and opportunities at home.

"We are building a future where every community deserves to eat nutritional foods grown within our own communities," President Nygren said.







# STATE, LOCAL LEADERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF CHURCH ROCK BRIDGE

CHURCH ROCK, NM — Before the ribbon cutting ceremony began, the Cha'Be'Tu Sweethearts and the Apache Crown Dancers danced in prayer. The rain clouds shaded the land for a moment, reflecting those prayers of rain and blessings as guests gathered to celebrate the completed NM 566 bridge on July 31 in Church Rock, NM.

In celebration of this significant event, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined New Mexico Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham and the community of Church Rock in the ribbon cutting ceremony of the completed \$24 million NM 566 bridge project. Also in attendance were NM Department of Transportation, NM State Senator George Muñoz, NM Representative Wonda Johnson, and Church Rock Chapter officials.

This completed project replaces the existing bridge that covers the Puerco River and BNSF railway. The reconstruction included 3,000 feet of roadway, adding retaining walls, turnouts, drainage improvements, street lighting and signage. The design work was completed by NV5 and construction was completed by FBF Construction.

Thanks to NM Governor Lujan Grisham's and the state of NM's efforts, this bridge will improve safety, traffic flow, and infrastructure resilience, especially with the wider shoulders and a multi-use trail. This contributes to the continued collaboration with the Navajo Nation, local agencies, BNSF and other partnerships through the Federal Highway Administration Bridge Program.

"This work is never ending," Lujan Grisham said. "I committed to doing as much as we can to take and replace every old, antiquated piece of road infrastructure right out of McKinley County."

She also recognized the significance of this project and when it rains, all the runoffs will safely flow directly under the bridge to avoid hazards.

President Nygren shared his appreciation for the state of NM and excitement for the new bridge.

"I appreciate the commitment that the state of New Mexico and the surrounding communities have for the Navajo Nation and all tribal nations," President Nygren said. "Your commitment to ensuring that you bring as much resources to our communities that really need it, thank you for not forgetting about us."



New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham speaking to the community of Church Rock, N.M. on the road completion.







I appreciate the commitment that the State of New Mexico and the surrounding communities have for the Navajo Nation and all tribal nations.





# NTUA CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF NEW DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING TO BETTER SERVE ITS EMPLOYEES AND NAVAJO CUSTOMERS

FORT DEFIANCE —The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) celebrated the grand opening of its new District Office on August 22 in Fort Defiance.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Miss Navajo Nation Ranisha Begay, local community members and NTUA staff joined together to celebrate this significant step towards community development.

This new building will be home to NTUA crew members and staff, providing a dedicated workspace and resources needed to deliver essential utility services to the Navajo people and their communities.

As a self-sustaining, tribally owned enterprise, NTUA manages infrastructure for electricity, water, gas, and communications, while also investing in renewable energy and supporting projects like the Light Up Navajo Initiative, all of which contribute to local job creation and economic uplift.

The previous building has been used since the 1970s and measured around 5,000 square-feet stationing only 26 employees. This has been a long-awaited project, and this new building measures 14,000 square-feet, increasing to 40 employees.

Construction began in June 2024 and completed in July 2025. The contractor was Land Corporation, and the design work was by Dyron Murphy Architects.

"I remember visiting the old building, paying a utility bill before I became president," President Nygren said. "I'm excited to see the new building become a reality, knowing how NTUA continues to serve as a vital economic engine for the Navajo Nation."





This new building will be home to NTUA crew members and staff, providing a dedicated workspace and resources needed to deliver essential utility services to the Navajo people and their communities.

### DINÉ BINANT'A'Í HANE' BINAALTSOOS



# AFTER MORE THAN 13 WEEKS, LIGHT UP NAVAJO SIX INITIATIVE HAS REACHED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION

With the help of 44 visiting utility crews from 21 different states, the homes of 200 Navajo families were connected to the electric grid for the very first time.

These 251 visiting line workers left their families, homes and communities to work alongside NTUA electric crews to extend powerlines throughout the region. Families expressed heartfelt gratitude, saying how life is much easier with electric connection. Now they not only have reliable lighting and refrigeration, they can also plan for other services such as running water and broadband connection.

NTUA is now accepting applications for the next round — Light Up Navajo Seven. Now is the time to get your paperwork in order — your homesite lease and other required paperwork. If you don't have electricity — or may have relatives or friends who don't have electric power - encourage them to sign up.

Each NTUA office has applications for you to fill out. Once you get the paperwork started --- keep checking up on it. Next year — the goal is to connect more than 200 homes. Outside utilities are already signing up to return to help our NTUA crews.

On July 31, I also had the honor of joining the Fort Defiance District at an appreciation dinner to celebrate the incredible impact of Light Up Navajo Six. Just days earlier, I stood alongside linemen in Cameron as they worked under the hot sun, raising power poles, knowing that each connection would bring more than electricity. It would bring light, dignity, and hope.

Thanks to 45 utility partners from 20 states, families in dozens of communities across the Navajo Nation, some for the very first time after waiting nearly 30 years. During the appreciation dinner, I had the privilege of meeting members of the Gunnison County Electric Association, a four-person crew who helped connect homes in Fort Defiance. NTUA honored them with plaques to show our deep gratitude.

That moment reminded us, this work isn't just about providing power, it's about dignity, opportunity, and restoring what was long overdue. One family shared they had gone over 10 years without electricity. Their youngest child, just six-years-old, has only known the hum of a generator, until now. Now, they can simply flip a switch.

Together with NTUA, we're committed to reaching every Navajo home. Every family deserves light. And we won't stop until that vision is real.













# **AUGUST PROCLAIMED 'CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH'**

WINDOW ROCK — With a pen and the presence of community members, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed a proclamation declaring the month of August as Child Support Awareness Month across the Navajo Nation. This act symbolizes a commitment to recognizing the vital role that supporting children and families plays in strengthening the entire community.

The signing of the proclamation was more than a formal statement; it was a powerful moment to reflect on the importance of family bonds, cultural values, and community support. It served as a reminder of the sacred connection between children, parents, and the community at large.

President Nygren was joined by families, frontline workers, tribal leaders, and community members. In his speech, he emphasized the deep cultural and spiritual significance of raising children within Diné society. "Our children are sacred," he said. "They are the heart of our prayers, our homes, and our future. When our children are supported, our Nation grows stronger."

The proclamation also honors the dedicated work of the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS), led by Program Manager Judy Platero. Their efforts help families establish paternity, secure financial support, and foster healing and understanding between parents. President Nygren expressed gratitude toward regional case managers, court staff, attorneys, and state partners from Arizona and New Mexico who assist families with compassion and care.

What touched many was the recognition of parents—both custodial and non-custodial—who show up for their children

each day. From navigating legal systems to reading bedtime stories, their acts of love and commitment make a difference.



President Nygren shared personal stories, including reading Navajo stories to his daughters, reminding everyone that support extends beyond finances—it's emotional, spiritual, and cultural. The proclamation reflects the Navajo Nation's ongoing dedication to celebrating and protecting its youngest members. From the "Week of the Young Child" to community events, the focus remains on ensuring children grow up knowing they are loved and valued.

## DINÉ BINANT'A'Í HANE' BINAALTSOOS





#### 110 Chapter Tour: Northern Navajo

# PUSHING PROJECTS FORWARD IN NORTHERN AGENCY

FRUITLAND, NM — As one of the first stops in Northern A Division of Community Development representative Agency, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with Nenahnezad chapter leaders on August 29. Nenahnezad is one of the first Chapters to have a Navajo name. Nenahnezad means a long incline where historically the road led to the river to the upper mesa of the community.

The chapter addressed key issues relating to ARPA/RRR funds to accommodate housing and utilities, and roads. These were addressed by President Nygren, Tom Platero, Director of Department of Transportation, and chapter representatives. The meeting was led by Tony Skrelunas, Director of Economic Development.

Attendees were President Nygren, Nenahnezad chapter officials, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, and division directors from Division of Natural Resources, Navajo Nation Broadband Office, Division of Transportation, Navajo Department of Health, Division of Economic Development, Division of Children and Family Services, Division of Community Development and Fiscal Recovery Fund Office.

Nenahnezad Chapter President Norman C. Begaye and Andrea Lope, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer both took turns with explaining issues in detail and included topics like CHID housing, land withdrawals and crime.

With ARPA/RRR funds, CHID housing was a concern and the chapter questioned the use of these funds and how to use them for utilities and bathroom additions.

provided information that the chapter can use to better understand this topic.

Additionally, grazing permits were another concern and the chapter wants to rehabilitate land and have it fully given back to Nenghnezad from outside sources.

Within this community, there were reports of stolen equipment from the chapter and from Fish and Wildlife. The equipment was returned but the chapter asked for recommendations on how to prevent it from happening again.

Lastly, a recent flood affected Nenahnezad and San Juan chapters, where the rain flooded all irrigation systems, clogged and overflowed irrigation pipes that went into farms and roads. The chapter expressed safety concerns and high need for road infrastructure.

"These chapter visits aren't just meetings, I want to make sure we support our chapters by working together," President Nygren said. "I will do what I can to support you and make sure Nenahnezad is very successful in pushing projects forward."

> These chapter visits aren't just meetings, I want to make sure we support our chapters by working together.





#### 110 Chapter Tour: Fort Defiance Agency

## **GRASSROOTS VISION HIGHLIGHTED AT FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY CHAPTERS**



Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren spent August 25–26 meeting with community leaders from Sawmill, Jeddito, and Indian Wells, where they shared their visions, challenges, and priorities for the future. Across all three chapters, themes of infrastructure, housing, and cultural preservation emerged, underscoring the importance of local leadership in shaping long-term development.

In **Sawmill**, community leaders shared their dream of creating an Intergenerational Learning Facility where elders and youth can come together to preserve language, stories, and traditions. Larry Foster, CLUPC President for Sawmill Chapter, emphasized the community's enduring strength: land.

Foster pointed to opportunities for economic growth rooted in the chapter's timber history. Leaders outlined additional priorities, including a permanent regional landfill, a Navajo DOT road maintenance yard, a 30-acre veterans' cemetery, and even the possibility of hosting a Navajo Police Academy and rehabilitation center. Elders remain at the center of Sawmill's plans. While awaiting a new senior center, the chapter will dedicate \$50,000 to maintain services until the groundbreaking of the intergenerational facility. Yet, challenges persist—residents continue to navigate rugged roads like White Clay and Blue Canyon and struggle with illegal dumping.

Similar concerns were voiced in **Jeddito and Indian Wells**. Jeddito leaders raised issues about protecting their cemetery with fencing and signage, as well as the urgent need for housing repairs like roof replacements. Road improvements dominated the discussion, with four NDOT and BIA routes each requiring major upgrades, from bridges and culverts to graveling and stabilization.

Indian Wells chapter officials pushed for action on the long-delayed \$3.9 million Convenience Store project, vital for local access to goods and services. Other priorities included road repairs on Navajo Routes 6 and 15, broadband expansion, utility extensions, a new warehouse, and emergency services. Leaders also stressed the need for housing programs to serve families not covered by incomebased programs and raised cultural concerns such as protecting eagle nesting areas.

President Nygren emphasized that his administration will work closely with chapters to move projects forward, noting that every investment in roads, housing, or community facilities is more than just a repair, it is a commitment to standing side by side with the people.

# 110 Chapter Tour: Central Agency

## **HELPING COMMUNITIES BUILD A BETTER FUTURE WITHIN CENTRAL NAVAJO**

As part of Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's efforts to meet with most of Navajo Nation Chapters, he visited Central Agency, which included Many Farms chapter, Pinon chapter and Nazlini chapter houses to discuss solutions with local leadership.

Each chapter has their own set questions of priority items that needed to be addressed, where the common items of discussion were roads, housing, public safety and economic needs.

For **Many Farms chapter**, some of the conversations centered around issues related to ARPA projects, road projects, NHA housing, senior centers, public safety, and chapter deficiencies. There were at least 22 action items, and only 16 were covered with local leadership. The team committed to work with the chapter officials to ensure progress.

With **Pinon**, a community that is constantly growing every day, public safety and road infrastructure were concerns that the chapter expressed to President Nygren. Daryl Bradley, principal civil engineer with the Navajo Department of Transportation, broke down the costs and explained the process of how cultural resources can delay projects. Additionally, Council Delegate Germaine Simonson also explained that it's safer to have access properly excavated with the correct soils to ensure this road lasts and is preserved for a long time.

The chapter asked for recommendations that could potentially help with the recurring violence and bootlegging. Michael Henderson, division director for the Navajo Division of Public Safety, and Deputy Police Chief Leonard Williams shared that there is a need for a housing station for Navajo police officers to respond to these incidents promptly.

Lastly, with **Nazlini chapter**, President Nygren told chapter leaders that major upgrades will require close coordination with the Navajo Nation Council. Residents also outlined their vision for a youth complex, where President Nygren pointed to examples in Chinle and encouraged early land identification to speed planning and funding. Economic development was another focus, with calls for a convenience store and multipurpose building.

"You have big projects here that can uplift your community now and for the future," Nygren said. "We've got to change the mindset and invest in our own communities. Build something we'll be proud of."





## 110 Chapter Tour: Eastern Navajo

# PRESIDENT NYGREN COMMITTED TO DEVELOPMENT, RESILIENCE

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Crownpoint and Littlewater chapters on August 21, where I saw firsthand the dedication of our communities and leaders to improving lives and building a brighter future. Working with local leadership is critical to elevating the voice and needs of our people.

In **Crownpoint**, Vice President Richelle Montoya and I discussed the importance of Crownpoint's integral role as a regional service hub for over 31 chapters in the Eastern Navajo Agency. With a population of around 3,300 residents during the day—and more at night—Crownpoint is striving to advance several key projects. These include the proposed \$16 million Crownpoint hotel, a new convenience store, laundromat, and the Eastern Agency Office Complex. Despite challenges, I am committed to turning these plans into reality, knowing they will benefit our community's economic growth and access to services.

At **Littlewater**, I met with community leaders to address urgent issues affecting its 2,000 residents. We discussed infrastructure needs, public safety concerns, land management, and broadband expansion. A major focus was securing \$495,000 in state funds to complete bathroom additions for ten households—an effort that has been stalled due to staffing changes. The community has also expressed worries about gang activity and traffic violations, and I am pleased to see progress in rural addressing and the development of better law enforcement agreements.

Both communities face challenges related to land leases, utility access, road conditions, and communication infrastructure. We are working to resolve these issues, especially to support our younger residents and improve safety and connectivity.

Throughout these visits, I am reminded of the resilience and pride that define our communities. Our roots in family, culture, and self-sufficiency drive us to advocate for the resources and accountability needed to build a sustainable future. I remain dedicated to collaborating with our leaders and residents in Crownpoint, Littlewater, and throughout the Eastern Navajo Agency. Together, we will continue working toward projects and initiatives that uplift our communities and ensure we all thrive.

To to

Together, we will continue working toward projects and initiatives that uplift our communities and ensure we all thrive.



#### 110 Chapter Tour: Western Navajo

## FROM NAVAJO MOUNTAIN TO COALMINE, COMMUNITIES CALL FOR CHANGE

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren continued his mission to visit all 110 chapters with recent stops at Navajo Mountain, Inscription House, and Coalmine Canyon, three communities in the Western Agency that have faced decades of infrastructure challenges.

At **Navajo Mountain**, residents described daily struggles caused by isolation and underfunding. The chapter, home to about 1,300 people near one of the Nation's sacred mountains, faces roads so rough that a 12-mile trip can take two hours, delaying children from getting to school and families from accessing medical care. Waterlines often stop short of homes, and with only one crew assigned to dozens of wells and dams, repairs are slow. Housing is also scarce, forcing some families to live in temporary trailers, while feral horses add to the strain on limited resources.

"I want our people in Navajo Mountain to know they will not be forgotten," President Nygren said. "They deserve safe roads, water, and housing."

At Inscription House, also known as Ts'ah Bii Kin, the focus turned to road safety and water access. Residents said earthen dams in need of repair threaten community safety during monsoon season, and cut off school bus and medical access. Natural Resources Director Mike Halona shared efforts to improve wells and windmills for livestock water access during droughts. The community also called for new communications infrastructure, citing dead zones that hinder emergency response and widen the digital divide.

President Nygren acknowledged the urgency and said he would work with chapter officials, delegates, and the Navajo Division of Transportation to begin addressing the issues.

At **Coalmine Canyon**, decades of delay compounded by the Bennett Freeze and relocation policies have left the community without basic infrastructure. Leaders said the chapter still lacks a permanent chapter house, schools, a senior center, or emergency services such as police and fire. Roads remain unpaved and unsafe, with residents warning that the Kerley Valley bridge is near collapse.

Housing was another critical concern. Families wait years for approvals through the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department, while many relocation-built homes already show cracks or lack water and power. Veterans remain underserved, leaders said.

"Every chapter deserves safe roads, reliable housing, and the ability to grow its economy," President Nygren said.



"I'm here because I care about communities like Coalmine Canyon that have waited too long for fairness and opportunity."

Across all three chapters, residents emphasized the need for better coordination with Navajo Nation divisions and federal partners. President Nygren said the visits reaffirm his administration's commitment to long-overdue investments in Western Agency communities.

"These are not just chapter visits," President Nygren said.
"They are promises to our people that we will listen, respond, and move projects forward."



# +

# AHEHEE' MISS NAVAJO NATION 2024-2025, RANISHA BEGAY

+

I want to shed a special light on the outgoing Miss Navajo Nation, Ranisha Begay. She is of the Nat'oh Dine'é Tachii'nii (Red Running into the Water) clan, born into the Ta'neeszahnii (Tangle People) clan. Her maternal grandfather is from the Kinyaa'áani (Towering House) clan, and her paternal grandfather is from the Yé'ii Dine'é Tachii'nii (Red Running into the Water) clan.

She is everything I imagine a strong and genuine Diné Asdzáán to be. Since we met her as a contestant last year, she has brought nothing but positivity, kindness, and her contagious smile, a refreshing presence for our Nation. Her family and the community of Rock Point, AZ, deserve so much credit for nurturing her traditional knowledge and helping her represent our language and culture so beautifully.

I have been blessed to spend personal time with Ranisha, and although she is young she holds so much wisdom, I have learned so much from her. Whether it was running at Just Move It events, butchering alongside her at our home, reading to children at the library and Hogan Hozhoni, attending Kinaaldá ceremonies, or simply being out in the community with her, every moment showed her deep love for our people.

Through her grace and example, she reminds them that they are beautiful exactly as they are, that their voices matter, their culture is powerful, and their identity is sacred. She shows them that self-love is not selfish but essential, that they should walk confidently in their moccasins and take pride in where they come from. She encourages every young Diné to honor themselves, to know they are worthy, strong, and capable of carrying our traditions into the future with pride.

We are so excited to see all the heights Ranisha will reach and wish her well in this next chapter of her life.

66

Though the crown may pass, but her heart for her people and her light as a strong Navajo woman will always inspire us all to embrace who we truly are. Ahéhee' nitsxáago,

Miss Navajo Nation!





# BUILDING COMMUNITY AT THE FAIR

Fairs have always been a place to come together. Families and friends gather to celebrate culture, talent, tradition, and the joy of being with each other.

Fairs give us a chance to slow down and create memories with the ones we love. Whether it's cheering on the rodeo, tasting local foods, watching young people show their hard work in livestock or arts, or just enjoying yourselves, these moments remind us of the beauty of community.

I encourage you to take care of yourselves and each other. Simple steps like staying hydrated, wearing sunscreen, checking in on elders and little ones, and keeping an eye out for one another make sure the celebration is safe for everyone. This season let's support our local participants and enjoy time with each other.



# **SUPPORTING OUR FALL** STUDENT ATHLETES

As football, flag football, volleyball, and cross-country meets fill our calendars. I want to wish all our Navajo teams a safe and successful season.

I had the pleasure of attending the football scrimmage at Monument Valley High School as they hosted Kirtland Central, Miyamura, and Navajo Prep. It was exciting to cheer on our student-athletes and see their hard work in action. Let's continue to show up with pride, support, and good sportsmanship. I hope to see you at the next game!









# + KEEPING THE MOMENTUM GOING +

The crisp fall air and refreshing monsoon rains have arrived giving us perfect weather to get outdoors and take care of ourselves. I'm so grateful to our community outreach programs and volunteers who work behind the scenes to organize these events, maintain our trails, and making sure everyone can participate safely.

This season, I've had the joy of joining several events: Just Move It at Diné College, Just Move It in Chinle, the Navajo Code Talker Run, the Tséhootsooi Medical Center Fun Run. the Ride and Strides Duathlon, and I even ran a couple of miles alongside Bear Sun! Each event showed me how powerful it is when we come together to make health a priority. Let's keep this momentum going. I hope to see you out on the trails, walking, running, biking, or simply enjoying the beauty of our land and community.















## PRESIDENT NYGREN APPOINTS COLIN BRADLEY AS ACTING AG

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren celebrates a true homecoming as he proudly announces his Attorney General appointment — Colin Bradley, a Diné with roots in Flagstaff, AZ.

This selection of Bradley comes after the Navajo Nation Council acted on August 6, 2025 to remove Heather Clah, who was confirmed two weeks after her removal by the Council.

Bradley was a current partner at the Zwillinger Wulkan law firm in Phoenix. His practice focuses on Indian law and civil litigation. Colin has vast litigation experience before state, federal, and tribal courts. Bradley was recently selected as a recipient of the prestigious "Native American 40 Under 40" award for 2025 by the The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

Bradley is Bilagáana, born for the Nakai. His maternal grandfather is Bilagáana and his paternal grandfather is Kiyaa'áanii. He is from Flagstaff, Arizona, and proudly shares that his Navajo family comes from Kayenta, AZ. Bradley also graduated with his bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University in 2011 and from Arizona State University in 2014 with his Juris Doctorate.

Upon graduating, Colin worked for the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (NNDOJ) in both the Natural Resources Unit and the Litigation Unit. While at NNDOJ, Colin represented entities of the Navajo Nation with a wide variety of legal issues ranging from uranium claims to Navajo Preference in Employment Act cases. After leaving NNDOJ, Colin started a solo practice that focused on Indian law and civil litigation.



Colin has decided
to come home for
the right reasons –
to serve our
Navajo people and
that's what our
Nation needs right
now

Colin Bradley of Flagstaff, Ariz.

"While this decision by the Council is disappointing, my administration remains committed to ensuring stability and continuity in our justice system," said President Nygren. "Colin Bradley represents a new chapter for the Navajo Nation's legal leadership.

President Nygren said Bradley brings a calm and focused leadership style at a time when consistency is needed most. Bradley has experience with tribal law with admission into several tribal courts including the Navajo Nation and U.S District Courts including the U.S Ninth Circuit of Appeals.

His appointment signals a renewed focus on collaboration between branches and a long-term investment in the strength of the Nation's legal framework.

"Colin has decided to come home for the right reasons — to serve our Navajo people and that's what our Nation needs right now," said President Nygren. "I am honored that Mr. Bradley has accepted this very important appointment."

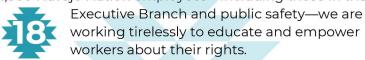


# UNION MEMBERS KICK OFF 'IT'S BETTER IN THE UNION' CAMPAIGN

As President of the Navajo Nation, I am proud to support the rights and well-being of our workers through the United Mine Workers Association (UMWA) and the AFL-CIO's "It's Better in the Union" campaign.

This initiative highlights the vital role of union representation in improving workplace conditions, securing fair treatment, and amplifying workers' voices across our community.

With the support of Justin Tsosie, our International Representative, and the participation of approximately 1,500 Navajo Nation employees—including those in the





Over the past year, we've focused on increasing access to information and support, with many employees signing petitions in strong backing of union recognition. I remain committed to strengthening unions, ensuring contracts are fully implemented, and fostering a fair, self-reliant Navajo Nation where workers are valued and protected.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS, NAVAJO NATION FOCUS ON COMMUNITY PRESENCE, CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND ENHANCED SAFETY

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing public safety across the Navajo Nation during a community meeting held on August 16.

President Nygren highlighted the importance of a visible law enforcement presence, cultural sensitivity, and strong collaboration between federal and Navajo authorities. He emphasized that these efforts are vital for creating safer communities, which in turn support economic growth and prosperity.

"When people see law enforcement officers patrolling their communities, it reassures them that their safety is a priority," Nygren said. "Having the FBI involved helps to bring order and deterrence. I want to send a clear message: Always be visible." He explained that a consistent and noticeable police presence can significantly prevent crimes, encouraging residents and visitors to feel secure.

President Nygren met with FBI special agents Heith R. Janke, Matthew J. Schaeffer, and Tyler Woods from the Phoenix Field Office. Alongside them, Navajo Division of Public Safety officials—including Michael Henderson, Malcolm Leslie, and Leonard Williams—participated in the discussion. The meeting underscored the unity and cooperation between federal and Navajo law enforcement agencies, working together to confront complex safety issues.

The group also addressed the importance of cultural awareness during investigations.

"We don't joke about owls and snakes," said Tyler Woods, who grew up in Page, Arizona. Woods emphasized that FBI agents working on Navajo lands are trained to respect Navajo traditions. For example, in serious cases like homicides, the FBI pays particular attention to Navajo grieving and burial customs. This approach helps foster trust between law enforcement and the community, showing respect for Navajo cultural values.

Additionally, Nygren pointed out that partnerships like these are essential to combat serious crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and bootlegging. These illicit activities threaten community safety and economic stability. The collaboration allows for sharing resources, intelligence, and local knowledge, making responses more effective.

"Knowing that the FBI partners with us shows that the Navajo Nation is a safe place to be," Nygren said.

This partnership not only encourages safety but also promotes tourism, investment, and overall economic development. The meeting ended with a pledge to continue working together and respecting Navajo traditions while strengthening community safety.









# **CENTRAL AGENCY FAIR CELEBRATES HERITAGE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS**

In the community of Chinle known as Chi'ini'ii meaning "where the water flows" in reference to Canyon De Chelly the Central Agency Fair brought families, elders and youth together for a weekend of unity and celebration.

President Nygren had the honor to attend the 39th Annual Central Agency Fair, carrying the theme "Honoring Our Colorful Horses with the Empowerment of Diné Language, Culture and Tradition." The Nygren-Montoya Administration joined the parade to celebrate horses as timeless symbols of resilience and healing. Horses carried our ancestors, and today they continue to carry our stories and way of life. The fair showed the administration's dedication to preserving heritage, strengthening language, and honoring community pride.

On August 13, the focus turned to the future during Kids Day. The grounds filled with laughter and excitement as children took part in rodeos, parades, and pageantry that reflected the values of the Diné people. President Nygren reaffirmed his commitment to youth by declaring August as Child Support Awareness Month and by signing an executive order that protects the free use of Diné Bizaad. He also announced new investments in youth spaces, including a future complex in Chinle, where children will have safe places to learn, grow and thrive.

August 15 was set aside to honor the wisdom of the past with Elder Day. Seniors from Chinle and surrounding areas gathered for presentations, contests and entertainment by James June. They enjoyed a warm meal and the company of friends and family. Elders remain the root of our families and the carriers of knowledge that guides us through life. Their care is our responsibility and efforts such as new senior centers and expanded transportation show that commitment. Programs supported by DALTCS, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Division of Children and Family Services continue to bring love and respect to those who gave us so much.

From the strength of our elders to the dreams of our children the Central Agency Fair became a true celebration of Diné identity. It reminded us that we are rooted in tradition, resilient in spirit and always moving forward in Hózhó.

As the fair came to a close the sounds of laughter lingered and the spirit of togetherness carried on. Children held onto memories of parades and games while elders shared stories



that will live for generations. Horses moved gracefully across the arena reminding everyone of the strength and beauty of Diné tradition.





The Central Agency Fair was more than an event, it was a reminder that when our people gather with love and purpose the future feels brighter and the path ahead more hopeful.

# **⟨**0 (

#### **WALKING WITH OUR PEOPLE**

### CELEBRATING LANGUAGE, TRADITION AND COMMUNITY AT NAVAJO PARADES

This summer, I had the honor of kicking off fair season with the 30th Annual Ramah Navajo Fair and Rodeo, the 39th Annual Central Agency Fair, and the 103rd Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Parade. Each celebration reminded me of the strength of our Nation when we come together to honor family, tradition and community pride.

At Ramah, under the theme "United We Stand: Protect Our Rights, Preserving Our Culture," Vice President Richelle Montoya and I stood alongside Ramah Navajo relatives and our Zuni Pueblo neighbors. Families gathered for rodeo action, livestock shows, traditional dances, and pageants that honored the leadership of our young women. Community favorites like frybread contests and basketball tournaments returned, while new attractions like the first-ever chainsaw contest were introduced. I want to thank the coordinators, committees, volunteers, and sponsors who made the fair possible, it showed the power of unity and community spirit.

In Central Agency, the theme "Honoring our Colorful Horses with the Empowerment of Diné Language, Culture, and Tradition" highlighted the important role horses have always played in our history. Horses carried our ancestors, sustained our families, and today remain symbols of healing, resourcefulness, and cultural identity. The community's energy was uplifting, and their commitment to preserving our language and traditions ensures these values thrive for future generations.

At the Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Parade, I saw thousands of relatives who welcomed us with gratitude, support, and important questions. Many asked about the \$24 million, and I want to be clear, the funds remain safely in our tribal treasury. Transparency and accountability are essential, and parades give me the chance to speak directly to our people, to answer tough questions, and to share the progress we are making together. In the last two years, we have advanced road improvements, Chapter renovations, wastewater projects, and new community buildings across Navajo land. Please be safe this fair season as we celebrate culture, language, and tradition.











## WINDOW ROCK CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW FOOTBALL STADIUM

On Friday, August 22, the people of Window Rock gathered in the rain beneath newly lit stadium lights to celebrate a milestone that will be remembered for generations. As the Window Rock Scouts took the field against the Hopi Bruins, the crowd of students, parents, alumni, and elders knew they were witnessing more than just the first football game of the season. They were stepping into a new chapter of community history.

The brand-new football field is the product of years of planning, advocacy, and community patience. For many families, seeing the lights come on for the very first time was an emotional moment, proof that perseverance pays off. "This brand-new stadium symbolizes opportunity, unity, and an investment in the future of Navajo and Native youth," said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, who stood alongside families to cheer on the Scouts despite the rain. His words echoed a shared pride: the stadium is not simply a school facility, but a gift to the entire community.

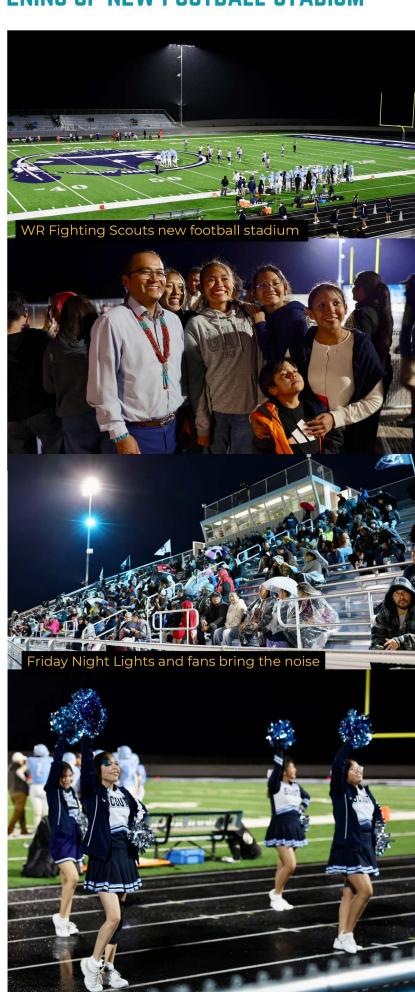
For Window Rock High School, the turf field is a promise. It gives athletes a safe and modern space to play, one that matches their determination and hard work. Coaches hope it will inspire the next generation of leaders, teaching discipline, teamwork, and resilience. Teachers and administrators see it as an extension of the classroom, where lessons of commitment and unity play out under the lights.

For the community, the field is a gathering place, a hub where traditions old and new can flourish. Families imagine graduations, cultural events, tournaments, and celebrations filling the stands. Elders speak of the pride in seeing their grandchildren run across a field that once seemed like a distant dream. Local businesses look ahead to the energy such events will bring, knowing that a thriving school facility strengthens the whole town.

The stadium's first night proved that even in pouring rain, spirits cannot be dampened. The stands were full, the cheers were loud, and the heart of the Navajo Nation's capital was on full display. Friday night football is more than a game here; it's a tradition that ties families together, lifts young people onto a bigger stage, and reinforces the community's strength and resilience.

The Window Rock Scouts' stadium now stands as a beacon: a place where challenges are met with courage, where dreams for youth are endured, and where the community comes together under the glow of the lights. Rain or shine, it

will remind generations to come that progress is possible when people believe, work together, and cheer.



## DINÉ BINANT'A'Í HANE' BINAALTSOOS





First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren and I rose before the sun and ran the 5k Sun Run together, hosted by Nihi Dine'é Bá Wellness Center on August 28. Running at sunrise is more than just a run, it is ceremony, prayer, and a way of living in balance and harmony. With each step, we honor our ancestors who taught us that running strengthens not only the body, but also the spirit and the mind.

Running in the morning is how we greet the new day with gratitude, resilience, and purpose. It is how we remind ourselves that every day is a gift, and every step is a prayer for our people.

On August 22, I also joined the Smith Lake community for its Just Move It (JMI), a Navajo Nation health and fitness initiative that continues to inspire families to walk, run, and embrace healthier lifestyles. This year's JMI was the first for President Nygren, who ran the 5k course while encouraging youth, elders, and families to maintain their physical health.

JMI is more than just exercise, it is a movement toward wellness, balance, and community strength.

On August 13, I joined the community for the Chinle Chapter for their JMI 5k. Even with the summer heat beating down, I felt the determination of every runner and walker who showed up. I ran the full three miles and I was proud to see our First Lady participating alongside our people.

Running in the morning is how we greet the new day with gratitude, resilience, and purpose. It is how we remind ourselves that every day is a gift, and every step is a prayer for

our people.



On August 14, I had the honor of joining Navajo YES and over a hundred community members for a heart racing two-mile run and walk to begin our Navajo Code Talkers Day commemorations. As the sun peaked over the ridges by the Navajo Nation Museum, I witnessed generations of families, descendants and relatives of our legendary Code Talkers, walking side by side, sharing stories of courage, sacrifice and enduring legacy. These moments remind us that our Code Talkers didn't just serve the United States, they served their families, their people, and the generations yet to come. Their strength remains in our footsteps.

From Veterans to family members, Code Talker

Day started with a run



### **ADVOCATING FOR THE NAVAJO FY 2027 BUDGET PRIORITIES**



WASHINGTON— Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with the Associate Director of Natural Resources, Energy, Science, and Water, Stuart Levenbach, at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to advocate for key budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2027.

The meeting focused on securing increased federal support for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), both of which face significant funding threats under the Trump administration's proposed FY 2026 budget. President Nygren also raised the need for additional support for wildfire prevention and response efforts. President Nygren emphasized the critical need for more resources for BIA law enforcement and BIE schools, citing persistent challenges in public safety and education across the Navajo Nation. He shared that President Trump's

proposed budget cuts in his FY 2027 budget would have seriously impacted already underfunded programs and delayed progress in strengthening tribal communities.

"Our communities cannot afford another year of underinvestment," President Nygren said. "We need more officers on the ground to protect our families, and we need well-funded schools that give our children the future they deserve. I'm here to make sure the voices of the Navajo people are heard at the highest level."

In addition to budget priorities, President Nygren highlighted the importance of passing the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, a once-in-a-generation opportunity. The historic legislation, if enacted, would represent the largest Indian water rights settlement in U.S. history, securing long-term access to clean water and unlocking critical economic development opportunities for Navajo communities.

President Nygren and the Associate Director also discussed plans for future meetings and ways for the Nation to continue to elevate its priorities across the White House.

President Nygren's visit to the White House marks a continued effort by his administration to advocate for tribal sovereignty, infrastructure, and the well-being of Navajo families through strategic federal partnerships.



## PRES. NYGREN, U.S. TREASURER ADDRESS FEDERAL SPENDING BARRIERS



WASHINGTON— Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with U.S. Treasurer Brandon Beach to discuss how federal economic tools, permitting processes, and funding timelines have impacted the Navajo Nation. This marks the second U.S. Treasurer President Nygren has met with during his presidency, continuing his focus on high-level federal engagement to unlock opportunities for Navajo families.



A major focus of the conversation was plans for the \$2.1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funding that the Navajo Nation has struggled to spend due to federal red tape and overlapping permitting processes. President Nygren explained how these slow and complex requirements on trust lands have delayed many infrastructure projects, forcing contractors to adjust resources plans due to inflation on material costs and missed timelines. Both leaders agreed that reforms are needed to help large tribal nations and entities across the United states to deploy funds more efficiently.

The two also discussed how upcoming federal budgets and administrative rules will shape infrastructure and economic development on tribal lands. President Nygren shared examples of how ARPA funds are being used for water treatment plants, housing, broadband, and job-creating tourism ventures, but noted that long-term progress depends on clear timelines and streamlined approvals.

The Treasurer also voiced support for the idea of designating the entire Navajo Nation as an Opportunity Zone to attract more private investment.



# NYGREN PLEDGES TO CLEAR BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES, DELIVERS WATER PROJECTS AT SAN JUAN RIVER FARM BOARD MEETING

NENAHNEZAD, N.M. - With harvest season in full swing, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met August 8, with the San Juan River Farm Board, chapter leaders, and local farmers to address urgent challenges — from broken infrastructure and safety risks to stalled water projects threatening crops.

One pressing issue is the Nation's Stage 2 Fire Restrictions, which ban open pit burning — a key method for steaming corn. Navajo Nation EPA officials advised farmers to use cultural/traditional burn permits for steaming and agricultural burn permits for field clearing, but many urged quick action to avoid disrupting harvest schedules.

Farmers also called for clearing the irrigation canal from Upper Fruitland to Hogback, where debris blocks water flow, and for better coordination between the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) and local chapters. Safety concerns included aggressive guard animals, "No Trespassing" signs, and property hostility, prompting recommendations to avoid certain areas without arrangements.

Other needs include trimming branches near power lines, clearing blocked drainages, and managing overgrown brush near bus routes. The long-delayed pumping station project — now pushed to fall 2026 due to lack of funding — remains a top priority, along with improved irrigation, more manpower, and insurance coverage for chapter crews.

Broader policy issues discussed included converting land use permits to leases, expediting probate cases, and ensuring timely fund delivery. President Nygren pledged a comprehensive follow-up report with DNR and Department of Agriculture leaders to complete pending projects and break through bureaucratic delays.

"This meeting showed how much our farmers care about their land, their water, and their future," Nygren said. "It's our job to break through the red tape and get them the resources they need, on time and in full."

This meeting showed how much our farmers care about their land, their water, and their future.





# NAVAJO NATION RECLAIMS 2,211 ACRES OF MINE LAND, PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE PROJECTS



NENAHNEZAD, N.M. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, along with Navajo Transitional Energy Company, Inc., announced on August 8 the historic return of reclaimed mine land to the Navajo Nation under current reclamation standards.

As the third-largest coal producer in the U.S., the Navajo Nation and NTEC have achieved a milestone by returning 2,211 acres of land to its original stewards, the Navajo People. This effort, driven by Nenahnezad Chapter, NTEC and NTUA, required collaboration, funding, and time, marking a significant achievement in environmental restoration and community development.

President Nygren, and Navajo Nation Council members Brenda Jesus, Casey Allen Johnson, and Rickie Nez, along with the Nenahnezad Chapter, celebrated this milestone, calling it "Naasgó Néenlljí Hózhó Náhásdlíí"."

"This is more than just a land return; it's a milestone that reflects our sovereignty, commitment to land stewardship, and pursuit of a sustainable future," President Nygren

**26** 

stated. "The land's return symbolizes our ongoing efforts to transform our resources into opportunities for the Navajo people."



I am confident that BIA will act swiftly to transfer the land," President Nygren said. "Our goal is to create sustainable jobs, improve local infrastructure, and foster long-term prosperity for our people.

According to NTEC Communications Director Erny Zah, Utah International Inc. was the company that began mining operations in 1957. Mining activities were particularly intense from the 1960s to the 1970s. The reclamation of these parcels—known as Area 1 and Area 2—was completed in 2004, following the Nenahnezad Chapter's request for their surrender and return.

Arthur Bavaro, community service coordinator for Nenahnezad Chapter, shared that the local government has plans to develop a large-scale solar project in partnership with NTUA. This project aims to generate 250-300 megawatts—enough to power twice the Navajo Nation.

This initiative also supports advanced energy manufacturing, such as Navajo Sun Hydrox Generator Manufacturing and a NTUA joint venture for solar cell and solar module assembly manufacturing, which could create thousands of full-time jobs and economic opportunities.

While this celebration marks a significant milestone, one final step remains: authorization from the BIA to officially release the land back to the Navajo Nation.



# 57th Annual Ééhániih Day Celebrates History and Perseverance of Naatsis'áán

It was truly an honor to be part of the 57th Annual Ééhániih Day on August 1. This was my second time attending this event. Located at the base of the sacred Navajo Mountain, also known as Naatsis'áán, it is a place that holds deep meaning for all of us as Diné citizens.

During the era of the Long Walk, the 10,348-foot Naatsis'áán remained our home and protector to our people. It kept some of our people safe. And today, Naatsis'áán continues to watch over us. With the strength and sacrifice of our ancestors and elders, we are still here, still speaking our language, still living our way of life.

What touched me most was seeing our elders and our young people together, laughing, sharing stories, walking the trails, and being a family. I was so happy to meet with so many of you, hear your voices, and feel the deep love and pride we have for this sacred area of Navajo land. My office was proud to serve free hot dogs, but what truly filled my heart was the joy of seeing community in its fullest form.

To our young people, this mountain is your classroom. Ask questions. Listen to your elders. Walk with pride. Your journey begins here. To our elders, ahéhee'. Thank you for never letting us forget who we are. Ééhániih Day is more than a celebration. It's a homecoming. It's a reminder that our strength comes from the land and one another.

The day was filled with three-legged races, watermelon contests, and horse-riding races that brought out the smiles and laughter of our people. Ahéhee' to everyone who made the two-day event special.

Ééhániih Day is more than a celebration. It's a homecoming. It's a reminder that our strength comes from the land and one another.





BECLABITO, N.M. — With New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham joining by phone, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren on August 28 reaffirmed his administration's partnership with the state to improve highways that cross the

Before taking office, President Nygren pledg<mark>ed to improve</mark> U.S. Highways 64 and 264 in collaborati<mark>on with Gov. Lujan</mark>





# TRIBAL, STATE LEADERS AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATE \$59 MILLION HIGHWAY UPGRADES IN BECLABITO

Navajo Nation.

Grisham.





"As someone who often travels this very route, I know firsthand how vital this highway is for our community," President Nygren said. "This roadway connects us to schools, jobs, medical services, and shopping in Shiprock, Farmington, and beyond."

The project delivered paving, widening, and safety upgrades. U.S. Highway 64 now has 12-foot lanes, five- to eight-foot paved shoulders, rumble strips, and improved signage. Lighting, pedestrian crossings, and turn lanes were added near the chapter house. The Red Wash Bridge—historically prone to flooding—was replaced along with three other bridges. About 50 culverts were reconstructed for improved drainage.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Chapter Vice President Larry L. Jack, who also serves as a pastor, blessed the road with anointing oil and prayed for the safety and wellbeing of community members and travelers.

Rep. Joseph Hernandez highlighted the importance of collaboration: "Projects like this require partnership between sovereigns—in this case, the Navajo Nation and New Mexico. When we work together, we get work done together."

President Nygren also encouraged contractors, including Mountain States Contractors, to bid on Navajo Nation projects, which cover roughly 14,000 miles of roads.

"We have reduced our contract payout time down to 30 days," President Nygren said. "With this new contracting amendment, we can finally push for more roads to be completed under the Nygren-Montoya Administration."



cutting of U.S. Highway 64 upgrades







## **NAVAJO NATION WELCOMES BEARSUN TO TRIBAL CAPITAL**

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren welcomed endurance runner, Bearsun (Jesse Larios) on August 29, as he completed a powerful stretch of his journey through the Navajo Nation from Flagstaff, Ariz. to Window Rock.

Running in his iconic bear suit, Bearsun's visit drew families, children, and elders to the U.S. Highway 264 roadside to cheer him on.

Many community members walked or ran alongside him for short distances, including First Lady, showing solidarity with his mission to raise awareness for mental health, veterans, autism, and other pressing challenges facing communities across the country.

"Bearsun's run through our Nation is more than a physical challenge; it is a message of resilience and unity," said President Nygren.

From children who ran alongside him, to elders who shared words of support in Navajo, his presence inspired moments of hope and pride.

His arrival in Window Rock was met with applause, honks of support, and gratitude for his efforts to bring attention to causes that affect so many.

"Our people know the importance of endurance and carrying a purpose with every step," said President Nygren. "By running to Window Rock, he not only honored his own mission, but also connected with our Diné families and reminded us that healing and strength come from moving forward together."

President Nygren extended his appreciation to Bearsun for including the Navajo Nation in his run and emphasized the importance of continuing conversations about community needs across the Nation.

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation, I thank Bearsun for carrying these causes in such a unique and heartfelt way," President Nygren said. "His journey shows us that every step, no matter how difficult, can inspire healing and unity."



Bearsun's run through our Nation is more than a physical challenge; it is a message of resilience and unity.







## \$2.3M LEASE SIGNED TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS FOR NAVAJO

WINDOW ROCK — Since taking office, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren has prioritized supporting small businesses, especially if it increases access to government services through leasing office space from local entrepreneurs.

One particular business, H.T.E. Realty LLC, a Diné womanowned company based in Window Rock, has benefited from this approach. On August 5, President Nygren signed a \$2.3 million lease agreement with H.T.E. Realty, LLC and Patty Dimitriou to provide office space for employees working with the Department of Retirement Services and Navajo Head Start. The contract ensures that department staff have suitable facilities to serve Navajo citizens efficiently.

In total, President Nygren has approved approximately \$7.1 million in rental contracts between the Navajo Nation and H.T.E. Realty LLC. These agreements include leasing space for various government offices, such as the Prosecutor's Office, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, Navajo Head Start and modular buildings used for administrative functions.

H.T.E. Realty LLC owns several buildings in the area, and its owners say they are proud to support the Navajo Nation by providing vital office space. They emphasize their commitment to serving the community through their business ventures.



"Having accessible government office space is critical so that our Navajo people can receive the services they need directly from their government," President Nygren said. "Supporting our local entrepreneurs is also a priority. We want to ensure that our taxpayers' dollars stay within the Navajo Nation and help create economic opportunities for our community."

President Nygren added that this strategy aligns with his administration's goal of strengthening the Navajo economy while improving government infrastructure. He stressed that supporting Diné-owned businesses helps build a more sustainable future for the Navajo people.



## 103 YEARS OF CULTURE, LEGACY CELEBRATED AT GALLUP CEREMONIAL

GALLUP, N.M.— For nearly a century, the Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial has been a space where Native communities gather to share tradition, art, song and dance. "Protected By Nature" was this year's theme, emphasizing the sacred bond between Indigenous cultures and the environment.

It highlights the importance of respecting, preserving, and nurturing Mother Earth for future generations. At the center of this celebration stands one of its most cherished honors, the crowning of Miss Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial Queen. Congratulations to new 2025-26 Miss Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial Queen, Tewakeedah Martin!

"The ceremonial queen pageant is not a contest, it is a cultural responsibility," said President Nygren.

"It is an opportunity to serve as cultural ambassadors for the next year, representing

the people, languages and the sacred teachings passed down from elders."

Following these events, President Nygren and First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren danced alongside Navajo elders during the Song and Dance event at Red Rock Park on August 9. The Church Rock community was filled with traditional songs, dancing and rodeo events where locals and visitors came together to celebrate the 103rd Gallup Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonial.

President Nygren was filled with joy seeing Navajo youth, young adults and elders dancing together in unity. After Song and Dance, First Lady and President Nygren watched the talented cowboys and cowgirls participate during the rodeo events at the main arena. Events such as team roping, barrel racing and bull riding were performed as the youth continue to keep rodeo culture alive.



# \$21 MILLION WATER INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO SUPPORT NAVAJO COMMUNITIES IN CHURCH ROCK AND IYANBITO



CHURCH ROCK, N.M. - Beneath the sandstone cliffs of the iconic Church Rock and Pyramid Rock, a new water tank is being constructed to supply water lines to the communities of lyanbito and Church Rock.

Part of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, this initiative aims to provide a long-term, sustainable water supply for approximately 1,200 residents in Church Rock.

The construction includes a booster station with a  $66\odot, \odot\odot\odot$ -gallon water tank and  $5,6\odot\odot$  linear feet of  $1\odot$ -inch water line connecting residents to a dependable water source. In lyanbito, another booster station is under construction, featuring a  $5\odot8, \odot\odot\odot$ -gallon tank and  $42,4\odot\odot$  linear feet of 12-inch water main.

The estimated cost is about \$21 million to fund Church Rock (Project Z89) and Iyanbito (Project Z90).

"To fully complete the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, we need additional funding from Congress," said President Nygren.

On Thursday, August 28, President Nygren toured the Church Rock site with officials from the Indian Health Service and Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority. This collaborative effort exemplifies an innovative strategy by the Bureau of Reclamation to work closely with local entities to reach more homes.

"IHS and NECA know how to work together to build water lines and improve water access in our communities," President Nygren said. "This also demonstrates to Congress that the Navajo Nation is creative in bringing water solutions to its people."

The new water tanks and lines will improve water access for eastern Navajo communities like Thoreau, which currently relies on groundwater as its primary water source.



This also demonstrates to Congress that the Navajo Nation is creative in bringing water solutions to its people

#### REACH A COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE IN YOUR AGENCY

The Nygren Administration has Community Representatives serving in each of the five Navajo Agencies. For assistance, please reach out to your respective representatives.

CALL US at (928) 871-7000

