











Severe Weather Report: Tornado Touchdown on Navajo

It is rare for tornadoes to touch down across the topography and geography of the Navajo Nation, but in early September two reports occurred.

On September 12 around 11:15 a.m., according to Navajo Department of Emergency Management (NDEM), a funnel cloud was observed forming within the Window Rock area at 10:50 a.m., but it did not make ground contact.

However, on September 13 around 11:59 a.m., a tornado touched down north of Montezuma Creek near Highway 262 Mile Post 13, where the storm moved slowly north.

As a response, EMS were on standby, fire units were staged, shelters were established at Montezuma Creek Elementary gymnasium, and the Red Cross assisted with shelter and family services.

Navajo Nation Police Department provided an incident briefing with initial findings of the following:

- Utilities: NTUA crews actively worked on damaged power lines.
- Impacts: Three homes were demolished. No injuries were reported.
- Shelter: The local Chapter House coordinated hotel stays for displaced families.
- Support Services: American Red Cross information were provided to the three affected families who needed additional assistance.

Thank you to NDEM, NNPD, EMS, fire crews, for monitoring storm path, sending updates and maintaining fire and EMS readiness. Additionally, thank you to NTUA crew for working on damaged power lines and Red Cross for helping chapters and the Montezuma community with shelter assistance.



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.

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.

The October 2025 issue highlights several stories:

- The 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair comes to a close
- · Crowning of a new Miss Navajo Nation 2025-2026
- · Turn-key ceremonies held for new Diné homeowners
- · Federal meetings in Washington, D.C. a success
- · 'Just Move It' events bring together families

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



A Navajo Fair to Remember

Bééhániih Diné Neenih Náyiil'aah



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At a very young age I was diagnosed with autism. I grew up viewing the world in a very special way but it did not stop me from growing my passion in being an artist.

Many-Kate Harrison

Navajo by Peter Thomas

Shimá dóó shizhé'é nánihidiinil t'ahdii nidi tl'éé'. "Tị' nahgóó, kintah ha'diinééh nihiba'." Níigo shizhe'é yidlohgo. Chidí bikéé' adeez'áhí biyi' góne' adahee'na', chidi bii' sis beda'siitl'ó dóó beeldléí ak'ídadeediz honeenih baa na'aldeehgóó nil ya'iiltáál. Yá altso dinilchíí' silíí', áadi nizhonígo haz'áá léi'gi niikai niléídéé' jóhonaa'éí bee hadíídláád yílk'id bilááhdéé'.

The morning was still dark when Mom and Dad gently woke us up. "Let's go, the parade is waiting," Dad said with a smile. We climbed into the truck, buckled our seatbelts, and wrapped ourselves in blankets as we drove toward the fair. The sky slowly turned pink, and we found a perfect spot just as the sun peeked over the horizon.

Hodíína', dilní hadahosiists'áá', łíí' deildlóósh, bił hada'diinééh deiyígeeh nihííghah góne'. Dah nidadiilniih nihigaan łahjí nidanííłna', dóó ałkésdisí nídahiidlááh dloh nihigháago.

"T'áá' akwe'é téíyá," shima nihich'i' ání, nihíla' bee da'ahííníita'go. Diné t'óó' ahayóí áłah nilí dóó chidí ałná'át'í, baa' ákoniidzin ádaa'áháyá 'atisdii baa nitsáhákees.

Soon, the music began, horses trotted by, and floats rolled past. We waved until our arms were tired, and we laughed as we raced to pick up candy. "Stay close," Mom reminded us, holding our hands tightly. With so many people and so much traffic, we knew it was important to stay safe.

Kintah hadiinééh da'ííttso, k'ad nída'ííyéésgóó nááná. Dahdíníilghaazh daat'ees halchingo dashoogish. T'áadoo attsoh nihit nidaayiz da nidi, ahit honiidló, da'iidá, tádiikááh dóó dlohasin ithózhó bee danihighandóó yiikah. Nááhodoo'na'go na'ahóóhai baa na'aldeehjí náádadiilwosh, hastóí sáanii da'alzhishjí nááda'niitah, dóó ats'os bee azhish nihináát nááda'oozhiizh.

After the parade, we headed to the carnival. The smell of fry bread filled the air. Even if we didn't ride every ride, we were happy just being together, eating, walking, and laughing as a family. Later, we cheered at the rodeo, joined the elders at the song and dance, and watched the powwow dancers.

Neenih baa' ni'íldee', t'óó doo baa hózhóo da nááhaigo índa nááná dooleeł. Nihimásání dóó nihicheii ánihił ní, doo ałk'édisí dóó nída'íyéés t'éiyá da. Ahí'iildéé bee ahił 'ídlí, bił dahaghanii, ahił 'ídlí dóó ahaa 'iłhózhó díí yoołkáałji' bee ájít'é.

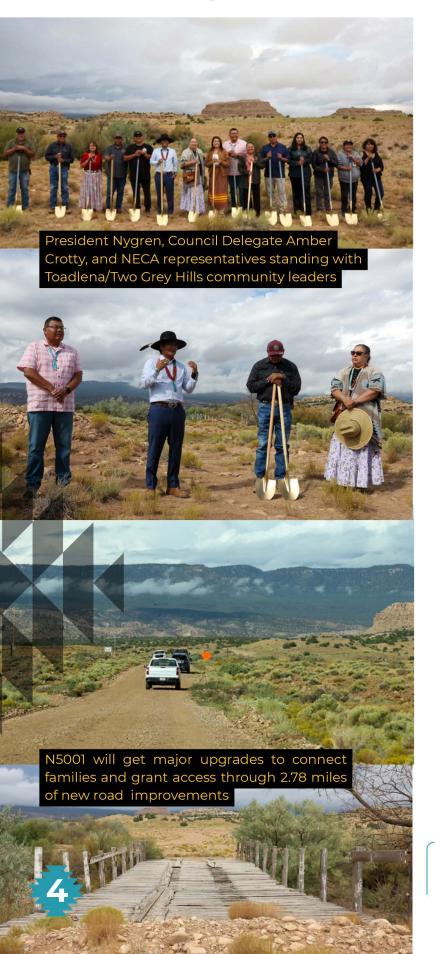
When the fair ended, we felt a little sad knowing we'd have to wait a whole year. But Grandma and Grandpa reminded us—the best part wasn't the candy or the rides. The best part was being together—family, love, and joy that lasts forever.







Navajo Nation Breaks Ground on \$14.6 Million N5001 Road Project in Toadlena & Two Grey Hills Communities



TOADLENA/TWO GREY HILLS, N.M. – Beneath the Chooshgai Mountains, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, and community members gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of road improvements to Navajo Route N5001.

The September 12 groundbreaking marks the start of a \$14.6 million project to reconstruct approximately 2.78 miles of roadway, connecting residents at the base of the mountains to U.S. Highway 491 in Newcomb, N.M.

"Today is not just a groundbreaking, but the fulfillment of years of community advocacy," said President Nygren. "This project represents hard work and persistence that will improve safety for our elders and children while connecting our people to economic opportunities."

Construction will be carried out by the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA), with design and engineering by Wilson & Company.

According to NDOT Principal Engineer Darryl Bradley, the project will replace washed-out bridges and deteriorated surfaces, making travel safer and more reliable.

Funding comes from a partnership between the Federal Highway Administration, which is covering 98% of the cost, and the Navajo Nation General Fund, which is contributing the remaining 2%.

Council Delegate Crotty, who sponsored legislation allocating \$341,178 from the General Fund, emphasized the project's importance to more than 70 families who rely on N5001.

"We have some of the most isolated elders living in this community," Crotty said. "As a Navajo Nation government, it is our responsibility to provide resources that connect families from Highway 491 all the way up into the mountains."

Crotty added that she looks forward to continuing longterm planning for road improvements throughout her legislative district.

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President Nygren Announces long-awaited Salary Boost for Social Service Employees After Decades

WINDOW ROCK — After 30 years of waiting, tribal employees with the Navajo Division of Children and Family Services (NDCFS) will finally receive their long-overdue salary adjustments—an average increase of over 22.13%.

On Thursday, September 18, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and his cabinet members from NDCFS and the Navajo Department of Health signed a memo addressed to Reycita Toddy, division director of the Navajo Division of Human Resources, to implement the salary adjustments.

"Our goal is to achieve equitable, competitive salaries across all divisions and programs," said President Buu Nygren. "I pledge to prioritize creating a work environment where every employee feels valued, appreciated, and motivated to serve our community."

With 450 employees across six different programs, they will benefit from these salary adjustments. Many employees under NDCFS are federally funded and have waited years to receive their Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA).

Reaching this milestone involved more than two years of dedicated effort from NDCFS Director Thomas Cody and his team, who launched a campaign to bring COLA to tribal employees—a move aimed at improving morale through targeted salary increases.

Salary Increase Effective Dates of NDCFS Department/Program:

- October 1, 2024 Department of Child Care & Development
- July 1, 2025 Development Disabilities Program and Arizona Long Term Care Services
- October 1, 2025 Department of Family Services, Department for Self-Reliance, Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act Program, Navajo Treatment Center for Children & Their Families, Financial Assistance Unit

"Appropriate compensation for Navajo Nation employees is a priority of this administration, particularly as we compete to recruit, hire, and retain qualified professionals with competitive salaries and benefits," President Nygren said. "I am committed to ensuring the NDCFS remains staffed with qualified professionals who serve the most vulnerable members of the Navajo Nation."





CHUSKA CHALLENGE 2025: A Ride to Remember

BUFFALO PASS, Ariz. - On September 20, President Buu Nygren joined riders from across the Navajo Nation and beyond for the Chuska Challenge Mountain Bike Festival, held September 19-21, 2025, in the stunning Chooshgai Mountains.

The event took place at Buffalo Pass on N13, where crisp mountain air and sweeping high-country views set the stage for a weekend of endurance and community.

The Challenge featured a 20-mile course with roughly 1,900 feet of elevation gain. Riders navigated rolling mountain roads, rocky sections, and scenic ridgelines, climbing nearly 9,000 feet at the highest point. Along the way, participants experienced sheep camps, wildlife, and the first signs of fall.

Riders pushed through the challenge and were rewarded with stunning panoramic views that made every climb worth it, including the grueling, rocky climb to the legendary "Top of the World."

This year's festival also included a Kids Bike Race, giving young riders their own chance to join the fun and feel the excitement of mountain biking in the Choosghais.

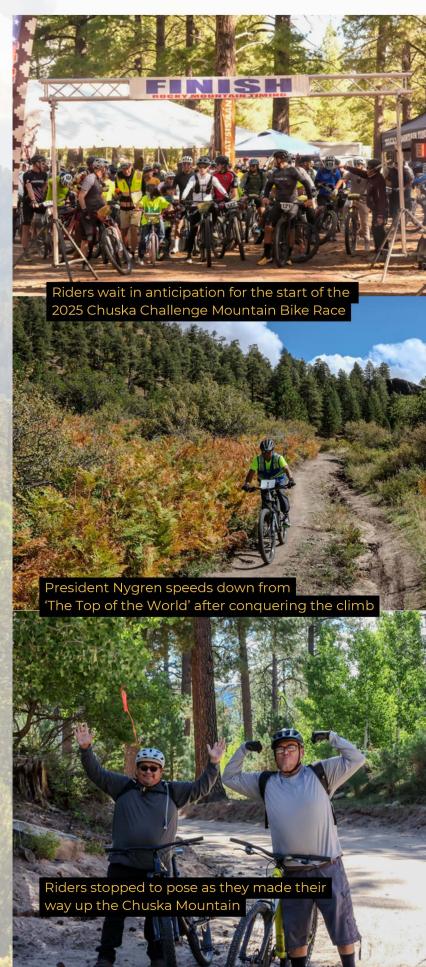
President Nygren proudly completed the 20-mile route in 2 hours and 40 minutes, conquering the climb, rolling hills, and rugged terrain alongside riders from across the Nation.

Special thanks to NavajoYES, a Navajo Nation-based nonprofit that organizes this event each year, the nonprofit Silver Stallion for its bike rentals for President Nygren and First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, and to every rider who came out to challenge themselves, enjoy the high country, and celebrate Diné Bikéyah.

Congratulations to everyone who raced, toured, and crossed the finish line. See you in 2026!

Riders pushed through the challenge and were rewarded with stunning panoramic views that made every climb worth it.







Navajo Nation Lifts Fire Restrictions Following Improved Conditions & Reduced Fire Danger

WINDOW ROCK - The strict fire restrictions - Stage 1 and Stage 2 - across the Navajo Nation have been lifted by Executive Order No. 05-2025. This allows Navajo residents to use chainsaws, obtain permits to harvest wood, and prepare for the fall and winter seasons to stay warm.

The decision follows the release of fuels and weather data from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region, Branch of Fire Management, which indicates cooler weather conditions and a decreased overall fire danger across the Navajo Nation.

Earlier this summer, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed both Stage 1 and Stage 2 fire restrictions due to an active fire season caused by a combination of inadequate precipitation, dry fuels, high winds, elevated temperatures, and low humidity.

The Navajo Nation experienced two significant wildland fires: the 11,000-acre Oak Ridge Fire in St. Michaels Chapter and the Bridge Creek Fire, which burned approximately 2,274 acres.

TO REPORT WILDFIRES:

BIA FIRE DISPATCH AT (928) 729-2307 NAVAJO FORESTRY DEPARTMENT AT (928) 729-4007



In regard to burning in forested and woodland areas, Navajo residents are encouraged to follow Navajo Nation EPA Open Burning Regulations and register their burns with the Navajo Nation EPA Air Quality at 928-729-4246. Fires at recreational campsites, however, do not require a burn permit according to the order.

On September 5, President Nygren, with the concurrence of Deborah Shirley, Navajo Regional Director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Colin Bradley, acting attorney general for the Navajo Nation, announced that the fire restrictions have been lifted.



President Nygren Discusses Support for Veterans, Economic Development, & Water Rights Settlements with Rep. Eli Crane & Senator Mark Kelly

WASHINGTON - On September 17th, President Buu Nygren met with both Congressman Eli Crane (R-AZ-2) and Senator Kelly (D-AZ). During his meeting with Congressman Crane, President Nygren expressed appreciation for the Congressman's ongoing support for the Navajo Code Talkers and veterans.

Congressman Crane reaffirmed his commitment to championing the Nation's interests on water and natural resources, including the Navajo Nation's position on Chaco Canyon.

The two also discussed several economic development initiatives for Navajo, with Congressman Crane praising President Nygren's steadfast resolve in creating economic opportunities for the people.

In his meeting with Senator Mark Kelly, President Nygren explored the possibility of a hearing on the Northern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act and discussed next steps for advancing the settlement.







World-Famous Sheep Butchering Competition tests the skillset of Miss Navajo Nation Contestants

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, September 1, the Navajo Nation Museum came alive with the sounds of knives being sharpened, the crowd cheering, and families gathering close for one of the most respected traditions of the Miss Navajo Nation pageant: the Butchering Contest.

As the sun rose over Window Rock, candidates stepped forward to demonstrate not only their skills, but their cultural knowledge and respect for Diné culture and significance of sheep.

President Buu Nygren sat alongside First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren, Vice President Richelle Montoya, and members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, as they all watched the contest with the audience.

Each contestant carefully led the audience through the process of preparing a sheep, to butchering while explaining every step in Navajo. Judges observed closely watching their skill and taking their knowledge into consideration. They watched the ability of each candidate to honor the animal by ensuring nothing was wasted.

The contest was as much about teaching and cultural continuity as it was about competition. Elders nodded with approval, children leaned in to learn, and visitors witnessed the depth of knowledge that defines Miss Navajo Nation.

The aroma of fresh mutton filled the air, and the audience cheered as contestants completed their tasks just before the timer stopped, creating a sense of home and belonging. Families and supporters lined outside of the museum, taking in the early morning coolness as the contest became a living classroom on food sovereignty, language preservation, and the responsibilities of Navajo womanhood.

By the time the sun cast its full light over the museum, the trays were neatly arranged, portions wrapped for sharing, and the candidates had proven why this event remains the heartbeat of the Miss Navajo Nation pageant.

"These four young women showcased the values of Diné women and proudly represent their families," President Nygren said. "I am proud of the courage they have taken, especially in a role that represents tradition, culture and leadership."









Cody Jesus Fan Appreciation Bull Riding Invitational kicks-off the 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair

WINDOW ROCK - On Monday, September 1, the Cody Jesus Fan Appreciation Invitational Bull Riding kicked off at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds. The invitational drew a packed crowd in celebration of PBR bull rider Cody Jesus, honoring his accomplishments on the national circuit and his role as a positive example for Navajo youth.

From opening introductions to the final ride of the night, the event showcased some of the best bull riders in the sport.

Each rider displayed courage and grit as they matched strength against powerful bulls, cheered on by fans who honored the determination that defines rodeo culture.

President Buu Nygren praised Cody for his achievements and his ability to inspire the next generation.

"When Cody rides, he carries all of us with him," President Nygren said. "This invitational is proof that our people belong in the spotlight, competing with the best, and inspiring the next generation to dream big."

The rescheduled event, delayed earlier this summer due to the Oak Ridge Fire, became more than just a competition. It stood as a celebration of resilience, recovery, and community support for young athletes rising to the top.

When our young people compete, they carry forward Navajo teachings of caring for livestock and showing heart in everything they do. The rodeo momentum carried into Rodeo Night One at the Dean C. Jackson Arena, where fans gathered under umbrellas, raincoats, and blankets as showers blessed the grounds. Despite the rain, the stands were filled with energy and pride as cowboys and cowgirls competed in bull riding, barrel racing, bareback, saddle bronc, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, breakaway, and team roping.

The night roared with upbeat music, comedy, and entertainment, while fans cheered especially for Navajo contestants representing the Nation. For President Nygren, supporting rodeos is not only about entertainment, it is about preserving culture and uplifting youth.

"When our young people compete, they carry forward Navajo teachings of caring for livestock and showing heart in everything they do," President Nygren said.

Both events reminded the Nation that rodeo is more than sport, it is culturE and inspiration. With more rounds still to come, Navajo fans continue to cheer on their own, celebrating every ride and every victory as part of a shared spirit.







Ashkii Happy Kids Day: Good Medicine Event distributes 2,500+ Skateboards and 7,000 Shoes to Students

WINDOW ROCK — The 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair opened, as it does every year, with the joyful celebration of Ashkii Happy Kids Day.

This year, thousands of Diné children arrived by bus to take part in the festivities at Gorman Hall, where the Diné Skate Garden Project and its partners — including 4Kinship, Rolling Thunder, CORE, and the Office of the President and Vice President — brought "Good Medicine" to the community.

"I joined Diné youth, teachers, and their families to distribute 7,000 shoes, 2,000 skateboards, and diapers," said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren.

Additional partners included Baby2Baby, Chizh For Cheii, Make Life Skate Life, and the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project.

"We are here to create space for you and celebrate you today with 'Good Medicine,'" President Nygren told the youth as they lined up for skateboards and shoes. "I say, 'Good,' you say, 'Medicine."

Amy Denet Deal, fashion designer and founder of 4Kinship, has partnered with President Nygren on several of these giveaways at past fairs.

"We create these beautiful events to celebrate the children," Denet Deal said. "That's the heart of 'Good Medicine'—it comes through in so many ways, especially through the people who volunteer."

The goal of "Good Medicine," organizers said, is to work together as families and communities to invest in the next generation of professional skateboarders.

"My own journey with skateboarding has profoundly shaped who I am today," President Nygren said. "Growing up, skateboarding changed my life—it pointed me in the direction of becoming the President of the Navajo Nation. It taught me grit, determination, and the importance of perseverance."







Students from Pennsylvania visit the Navajo Nation during Gap Year to learn Diné Way of Life

WINDOW ROCK – Each visit to the Navajo Nation offers an opportunity to learn about the Diné people and their government. On September 12, a group of college-age students spending their gap year visited the tribal capital.

The students are part of the OneLife Institute, a ninemonth Christian gap year program that partners with Cairn University and other institutions. Through the program, participants engage in service learning across the Four Corners region.

"I'm always encouraged to welcome visitors to our great Navajo Nation," President Nygren said. "Meeting with the young minds of the OneLife Institute shows the strong interest from outside perspectives to learn about our Navajo people, culture, and language."

The students were amazed to see the Window Rock and get an insight of Navajo Nation communities, especially when it comes to community engagement and learning about Navajo culture.



President Nygren also shared how he has strengthened his own Navajo fluency by reading the New Testament in Diné Bizaad. He encouraged the students to practice the Navajo language through translation applications as a way to further connect with the culture.



Meeting with the young minds of the OneLife Institute shows the strong interest from outside perspectives to learn about our Navajo people, culture, and language.



President Nygren meets with Utah Valley University Students

WINDOW ROCK — President Buu Nygren welcomed students from Utah Valley University (UVU) during this year's Navajo Nation Fair, where the group came not only to enjoy the festivities but also to proudly walk in the annual parade. The visiting group included Native students from several different tribes, reflecting the diversity and strength of Indigenous nations coming together in pursuit of education and cultural pride.

During their visit, the students expressed that the resources, smaller class sizes, and community-focused learning environment at UVU have helped them thrive academically and personally. They emphasized how this supports not only strengthen their education but also prepare them to return home and serve their communities in meaningful ways.

President Nygren commended their commitment to education and reminded them that pursuing knowledge is one of the most powerful ways to strengthen Native nations. "One of the most powerful things we can carry with us is Ké, our kinship.

It reminds us that we are never alone, and that our success in education is also the success of our families and our Nation," Nygren said, encouraging the group to carry forward their heritage and experiences into future leadership roles.

These students came to showcase their college and embrace the culture around them. Their presence at the fair underscored the importance of cultural exchange and partnerships between universities and tribal nations. By participating in the fair and engaging directly with Navajo Nation leadership, the UVU group experienced firsthand the unity, resilience, and cultural pride that the Navajo Nation Fair represents. Their journey highlights how the kinship continues to guide the next generation of leaders tow





Nygren Administration hands over Keys to the Yazzie Family's new home in Standing Rock



With the handing over of keys, we are building hope for our people. STANDING ROCK, N.M. - On September 24, the Nugren Administration proudly handed over the keys to a new home for the Yazzie family in the Standing Rock Chapter, marking a monumental moment of hope, housing stability, and dignity.

The three-bedroom, two-bath home, constructed by Homes Direct, was delivered on May 1 and has since been connected to water and electricity. With the final walkthrough complete, the Yazzie family officially received their keys, a heartfelt occasion that left many deeply moved.

Leonard Yazzie, who has devoted his life to service and family, and his loved ones had been living in an aging trailer home that no longer provided the comfort or safety they deserve.

Standing together as the family opened the door to their new home, the moment was more than symbolic; it was transformative. The home was designed with accessibility in mind, including a ramp that ensures comfort, mobility, and independence for years to come.

The key turn ceremony was celebrated by Division of Community Development (DCD) Director Candice Yazzie, CHID program staff, Department Manager Patrick Dalgai, the general contractor, and the construction manager, whose efforts reflect the teamwork and dedication behind every housing project.

This milestone in Standing Rock is part of a broader movement to bring the most vulnerable of the Navajo people. In addition to the Yazzie family, four additional families under the ARPA-funded CHID housing initiative also received their keys: two in the Nenahnezad Chapter and two in the San Juan Chapter.

Currently, 120 homes are in progress to connect to the electric grid and water access across the Navajo Nation in partnership with NTUA and other utility providers. Each home delivered is not just a structure, but an investment in Navajo families and communities.

"With the handing over of keys, we are building hope for our people," Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said. "Witnessing the Yazzie family move from an aged trailer into a safe, welcoming home is both heartwarming and monumental. This is the future we are working to create for all Navajo families under my 1,000 Home Initiative."

110 CHAPTER TOUR: CENTRAL AGENCY



President Nygren Engages Rough Rock Chapter in Productive Dialogue on Funding and Community Needs

ROUGH ROCK, Ariz. - When Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren sat in the Rough Rock Chapter meeting with chapter leaders, he began with a simple, powerful reminder that government funds need to be spent for chapters.

"The last thing we want is to let money sit unused," President Nygren said. "These dollars are meant to help you, now, not later. If there are issues getting payments processed, or if chapters are having problems getting projects moving, we have the right people here today to help fix it."

President Nygren visited Rough Rock to listen, respond, and act.

Community members spoke honestly about their challenges. They asked for help finishing stalled projects, fixing foundations on seven homes, and completing bathroom additions that were already started. They explained that some residents have waited decades for water lines that may still be years away and requested funding for standalone septic systems so they can at least have safe sanitation while hauling their own water.

Others spoke about how the \$500 in housing discretionary funds no longer stretches far enough with today's high material costs and urged that funding levels be updated. They also raised concerns about roads that remain ungraded because there are no certified operators, leaving seniors stranded and unable to attend chapter meetings.

President Nygren did not shy away from these concerns. He spoke about securing more dollars for septic tank cleaning and standalone systems, prioritizing roofing repairs and weatherization so families stay safe and dry, ensuring that bathroom additions already underway are completed or shifting funds if weatherization will help more families, and pushing for \$5–10 million for road improvements and emergency response so people aren't stranded after storms.

"If we can't give you an answer today, we will have one within the week," President Nygren said.

President Nygren left Rough Rock Chapter with a clear commitment: to fight for more funding, close out the ARPA projects, and bring Navajo Nation Council decisions back to the people.

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If chapters are having problems getting projects moving, we have the right people here today to help fix it.





110 CHAPTER TOUR: CENTRAL AGENCY



Lukachukai Chapter Voices Community Concerns and Need to Push Key Projects Forward

LUKACHUKAI, Ariz. – On Thursday, September 25, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with Lukachukai Chapter House to listen to the chapter's concerns and to provide solutions that will move projects forward by expending funds.

Historically, the rivers from the Buffalo Pass Gorge and Totsoh Gorge of the Lukachukai-Chuska Mountain range flowed into a large lake where the community now exists. Although the lake no longer exists, the rivers still run, and the mountains remain as a beautiful sight to see.

Paula Begay, chapter president for Lukachukai Chapter, led the meeting by providing an overview of issues that needed to be solved. These issues included a veteran's multi-purpose building, chapter fencing, road graveling of Navajo Route 131, N132, and N134, ARPA projects, chapter lagoon, and the community cemetery.

Begay also brought up concerns of illegal trash dumping at the old Lukachukai Community School and public safety concerns regarding bootlegging and the selling of drugs.

"We're going to fix these issues and move forward," said Begay.

As a response, the Indian Health Service's Environmental Health and Engineering office shared resources on who to contact regarding the illegal trash dumping and the chapter's lagoon, so it can be addressed expeditiously.

Navajo Department of Transportation officials were also present to explain to the chapter how to get their roads on their priority project lists.

Additionally, the chapter asked the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Office how to use funds for ARPA-funded projects that were pending, especially for the chapter's roof replacement and septic cleaning.

"We need to spend those dollars and move these projects forward," President Buu Nygren said. "Lukachukai remains a strong community that is rebuilding itself, and with great chapter leadership, I am confident in its future."





Lukachukai remains a strong community that is rebuilding itself, and with great chapter leadership, I am confident in its future.





110 CHAPTER TOUR: EASTERN AGENCY

President Nygren Meets with Tsayatoh Chapter Leaders to Address Housing, Infrastructure, and Education Needs

TSAYATOH, N.M. — On September 24, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with Tsayatoh Chapter leaders and community members to address decades of challenges in housing, infrastructure, and education.

Tsayatoh, a community of just over 900 residents located northwest of Gallup along Interstate 40 and Highway 264, has long faced barriers caused by its checkerboard land status, stalled agreements, and limited access to essential services.

Families spoke of waiting years for power and water connections, with some still hauling water nearly 40 miles several times a week. Others called for home repairs, streetlights, paved roads, and sewer improvements for families displaced by coal mining operations.

Chapter leaders said they need to accelerate stalled powerline and waterline projects so that homes can be connected without further delay. They also raised concerns about road safety, pointing to washed-out access roads, unfinished work on West Tsayatoh Road, and culverts that fail during heavy rains. These conditions make it difficult for families to travel safely and for children to get to school.

Education was also highlighted as a community priority. Chapter leaders emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Navajo language and history are taught by fluent speakers, thereby preserving cultural knowledge for future generations.

President Nygren pledged to press agencies and partners to cut through red tape and bring long-promised projects to completion.

"Tsayatoh families have waited far too long. We're going to make sure these projects get completed and this community receives the housing, infrastructure, and services they deserve," President Nygren said

Tsayatoh families have waited far too long. We're going to make sure these projects get completed and this community receives the housing, infrastructure, and services they deserve.





Miss Navajo Nation 2025–2026, Camille Uentillie



Congratulations to our newly crowned Miss Navajo Nation 2025–2026, Camille Uentillie of Kinłichíí, Arizona. She is Tsi'naajinii, born for Tł'ááshchíí. Her maternal grandparents are Tóáhání, and her paternal grandparents are Tódík'ózhí.



We are excited to see her step into this role, carrying with her the teachings of her family, community, and parents and the values she will now share with our Nation throughout her reign.

+ 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair +





Rough Rock Just Move It



+ Our Future of Agricuture

We had a handful of our Navajo kids proudly showing their animals at the Navajo County Jr. Livestock Show. It is so important that we continue to support all of our young people, especially when they are the minority in spaces like this.

Our people are natural ranchers and farmers, so it is only fitting that our children are stepping into all areas of agriculture. We are so proud of our youth who participated and hope each of them had a successful and memorable sale this year. Your hard work is noticed and it will continue to pay off in ways beyond the show ring.

Chinle Chapter NAPI Food Distribution



Setting Up for Greatness: Navajo Nation Volleyball





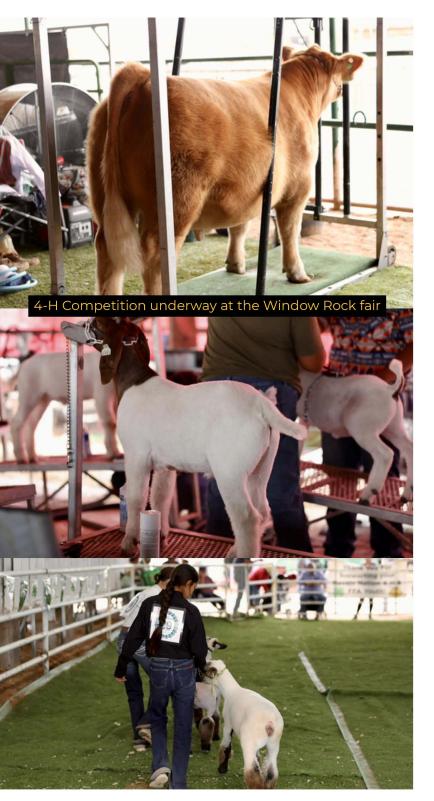








4-H and FFA Youth Shine at Navajo Nation Fair with Showcases of Agriculture Leadership & Culture



WINDOW ROCK — At the heart of the Navajo Nation Fair, the Navajo Nation Junior Livestock Show brought together families, elders, and community members to celebrate the next generation of Diné leaders of 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Youth.

For many, the event was more than just a competition or an exhibit, it was a reflection of culture, responsibility, and the values carried forward through our youth.

It shows the hard work the youth of 4-H and FFA put towards the countless hours of learning, early mornings feeding animals, and months of steady commitment that reflect true responsibility and discipline. Their hard work not only builds skills for the future, but also honors the values and teachings as Navajo farmers.

Dozens of 4-H participants proudly presented their livestock, which consisted sheep, goats, cattle and pigs.

Parents, grandparents, and community members filled the stands, offering cheers and encouragement as the youth showcased their animals with pride.

For many families, it was not just about ribbons or awards, but about the lessons learned, responsibility, respect for animals, and the importance of carrying on the practices of land stewardship.

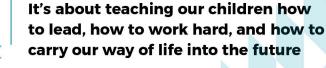
The 4-H event also highlighted the importance of mentorship. Leaders, volunteers, and extension agents guided participants throughout the year, helping them learn how to raise healthy animals, speak with confidence, plan ahead, and build character.

"4-H is about more than presenting livestock," said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. "It's about teaching our children how to lead, how to work hard, and how to carry our way of life into the future."

This year's showcase stood as a heartfelt reminder that investing in youth is investing in the strength of the Navajo Nation

It is a reflection of President Nygren's support towards Navajo farmers, especially when he signed the FFA Proclamation that recognizes February 21 as Navajo Nation Future Farmers of America Day.









Honoring Navajo Women: "The Power of She"

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya invited the community to join a historic celebration: The Power of She: Diné Asdzáán Honoring Night on Wednesday, September 3.

This special gathering was dedicated to honor the strength, resilience, and wisdom of Navajo women, the lifeblood of Navajo families, communities, and the Nation.

The celebration took place at Navajo Square, located at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds, where the space transformed into a place of recognition, reflection, and pride. The evening celebrated Diné women who have carried forward Navajo culture, inspired future leaders, and stood as protectors of Navajo people.

Honorees include trailblazers across fields of leadership, culture, education, and advocacy:

- · Ryneldi Becenti
- · Senator Shannon Pinto
- Reycita Billy
- Berny Sandoval
- · Willhemnia Yazzie
- · Chief Erin Pablo
- Karen Badonie
- · Bazhnibah Kawano
- Talibah Begay
- Rita Gilmore
- · Senator Theresa Hatathlie
- Nicco Montano
- MaryAnn Bullhead
- Cassandra Morgan
- · Lene Bitsuie

Hosted by Vice President Montoya, she recognized these women as they represented courage, sacrifice, and the living spirit of Diné Asdzáán. President Buu Nygren stood alongside her and acknowledged her role in the Executive Branch.

"As the first woman ever elected to the Executive Office of the Navajo Nation, Vice President Richelle Montoya not only breaks a centuries-old barrier, but she also embodies the strength, resilience, and vision of generations of Diné matriarchs," President Nygren said. "Her election is a historic turning point that affirms women's leadership as the foundation to our sovereignty, our values, and our future."

With heartfelt moments, honorees and guests wore their finest attire as they came together to celebrate not only individual accomplishments, but also the collective strength of Diné women everywhere. They hold the generations of Navajo women who have paved the way to carry Navajo voices forward.

This night was more than a ceremony. It served as a reminder of stories, matrilineal teachings and values, and the unshakable foundation Navajo womanhood.





This special gathering was dedicated to honor the strength, resilience, and wisdom of Navajo women, the lifeblood of Navajo families, communities, and the Nation.



President Nygren honors Wisdom & Resilience of grandmas & grandpas at Navajo Nation Elder Fest

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined elders, families, and community members on September 4 at the Annie Wauneka Song and Dance Arena to celebrate Elder Fest, one of the most cherished traditions of the 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair.

The all-day event was held from 9am to 3pm, and was dedicated to honoring Navajo elders, the keepers of language, culture, and resilience, with activities of recognition, entertainment, and community.

President Nygren's office also handed out free kitchen essentials that included paper towels, foil trays, dish soap, sandwich bags, coffee filters, and foil as a gift of gratitude for those who nourished us.

Highlights of the program included the Elder King and Queen Coronation, lively social songs and dances led by Little Boy Blue, and a free luncheon sponsored by the Division of Natural Resources, which served about 4,006 hot trays.

The celebration also welcomed the Cibecue Crown Dancers, whose performance brought cultural blessings and spirit to the arena. Additional activities included door prizes, a best dressed contest, games, and community giveaways that added joy and laughter to the day.

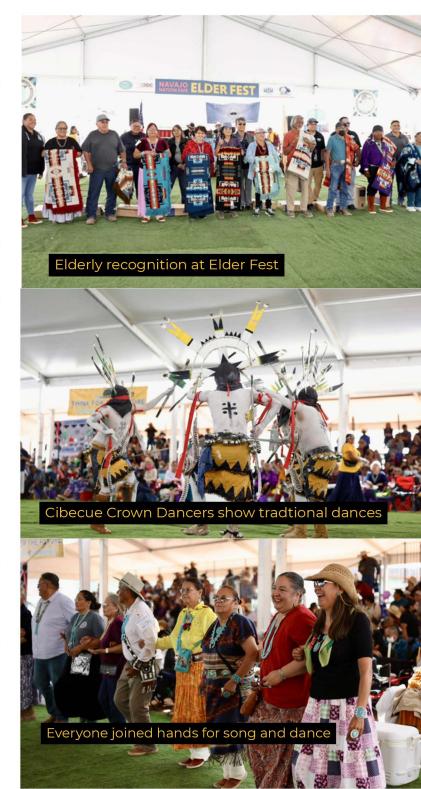
President Nygren expressed his gratitude to the elders, emphasizing their importance as the foundation of Navajo families and governance. By attending Elder Fest, he reaffirmed his administration's commitment to investing in elder services, from supporting senior centers to ensuring programs that protect and uplift Navajo elders.

"Elder Fest is more than a celebration," President Nygren said. "It is our chance to honor the wisdom, strength, and love of our elders, the very people who carried us through hardship and continue to guide our Nation forward."

Elder Fest welcomed hundreds of participants from across the Navajo Nation, creating an atmosphere of unity and cultural pride.

The event remains a cornerstone of the Navajo Nation Fair, reminding younger generations of the responsibility to respect and care for those who came before them.

It is our chance to honor the wisdom, strength, and love of our elders, the very people who carried us through hardship and continue to guide our Nation forward.







Tribes Speak & Interior Department Listens: Advancing the Historic Arizona Water Rights Agreement

WINDOW ROCK — In a historic moment of unity, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined leaders of the Hopi Tribe, the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, members of the Navajo Nation Council, and officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior on September 4 to discuss next steps on the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. The agreement is considered the largest Indian water rights settlement in terms of cost, while also being the least expensive on a per tribal member basis.

Meeting in the State Room at the Office of the President and Vice President, President Nygren explained how past discussions in Washington with the Trump Administration, along with collaboration from tribal leadership, helped build momentum. He noted that moving the settlement through Congress now requires formal sign-off from the federal Office of Management and Budget.

"This is the largest water rights settlement that will serve the most amount of people," President Nygren said. "Leasing water is an important part of the deal, including leasing water intra-state by providing stability to the Navajo Nation and to the basin."

The Department of the Interior delegation included Scott Cameron, acting assistant secretary for water and science; Janel Broderick, principal deputy assistant secretary; Sarah LeFlore, acting director of the DOI's Indian Water Rights Office; David Palumbo, acting commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation; and Nate Watson.

Hopi Chairman Timothy Nuvangyaoma stressed how vital the settlement is for his people, especially in addressing longstanding water quality challenges.

"I can't express enough from the Hopi Tribe how important it is that this water settlement gets done through this Congress," Chairman Nuvangyaoma said. "We have three tribes coming to a settlement on this and it is the least expensive settlement we are bringing to the table."

San Juan Southern Paiute President Carlene Yellowhair also shared the importance of moving the legislation forward, noting that reliable access to clean water is essential for the survival and sovereignty of her people while creating a permanent homeland for the San Juan Southern Paiutes.

This is the largest water rights settlement that will serve the most amount of people

Speaker Crystalynne Curley and Navajo Nation Council Delegates Brenda Jesus, Otto Tso, Casey Allen Johnson, Vince James, Carl Slater, Germaine Simonson, Helena Nez Begay, Curtis Yanito, Cherilyn Yazzie were also in attendance to advocate for continued support of the settlement on behalf of various Navajo communities in Arizona.

According to the settlement, the Navajo Nation would secure 44,700 acre-feet per year (AFY) of Arizona's Upper Basin Colorado River allocation, 3,600 AFY of fourth-priority Lower Basin Colorado River water, all Little Colorado River flows that reach the Nation, and recognized rights to the Navajo and Coconino aquifers.





September is Navajo Nation Recovery and Suicide Prevention Month 2025

WINDOW ROCK – Before "The Band Perry" performed, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, along with the Navajo Department of Health and Navajo Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services (DBMHS), proclaimed on September 6 that the entire month of September is Navajo Nation Recovery and Suicide Prevention Month.

Through this proclamation, all Navajo Nation executive branch agencies and the Navajo public are encouraged to promote awareness and education about opioid and suicide prevention. The proclamation also encourages the Navajo people to participate in National Recovery Day and National Suicide Prevention Month activities.

"Suicide prevention is a necessary public health and mental health campaign that is a priority of the Nygren Administration," President Nygren said. "Every Navajo life matters, particularly our mental health. From our government, we offer resources to help our people recover and heal from their traumatic experiences."

This is what the Navajo Department of Health calls "Navajos Healing Navajos." Navajo Division of Children and Family Services also stood alongside this signing and helped hand out t-shirts to the audience.

Throughout the entire month of September, the Navajo Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services will continue its work to bring awareness about various substances and educational material and public service announcements regarding the use of Naloxone/Narcan kits for opioids prevention.

Along with this effort, DBMHS offers cultural healing services which integrates cultural practices and beliefs into their programming.

"This whole month, and every day, the Nygren Administration is committed to healing our Navajo people with critical government resources," President Nygren said.

From Global Contracts to Local Impact: DDC returns \$700,000 dividend check to the Navajo Nation

WINDOW ROCK – On Friday, September 5, during the rodeo of the 77th Annual Navajo Nation Fair, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren accepted a \$700,000 dividend from the Diné Development Corporation (DDC).

The dividend from DDC means that the funds will be deposited into the Navajo Nation's general fund to support the services communities and Navajo people need directly from their government.

"DDC is proving that the Navajo work ethic can compete on the world stage through federal contracting, and tonight they're bringing that success home to you, the people," President Nygren said on September 5.



DDC is proving that the Navajo work ethic can compete on the world stage through federal contracting, and tonight they're bringing that success home to you, the people DDC, led by CEO Austin Tsosie, is a Navajo enterprise that provides services in areas like information technology, environmental services, construction and professional staffing across the U.S. and internationally.

The check presentation began with video prayer of corn pollen and included Vice President Richelle Montoya in honor of this year's theme: "Strength and Resilience: Celebrating the Spirit of Navajo Women."

Jocelyn Billy-Upshaw, tribal events and business relations professional for DDC, said that the \$700,000 dividend represents the seeds of former leaders who established the company in 2004 and today is the harvest and rewards of that investment. DDC represents over 600 employees across the world, Billy-Upshaw said.







Navajo Nation Fair honors Women & Community Spirit as thousands attend the iconic parade

WINDOW ROCK - The 77th Navajo Nation Fair Parade filled U.S. Highway 264 with music, color, and community pride as thousands of families lined the streets. Children eagerly gathered candy, elders waved from shaded chairs, and laughter carried through the morning air.

On Saturday, September 7, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined the parade celebration, walked among the crowd and greeted families along the parade route. His presence underscored the day's spirit of unity, which showed that the fair is for the entire Navajo Nation.

This year's fair theme, "Strength and Resilience: Celebrating the Spirit of Navajo Women," was brought to life by the Grand Marshals—four trailblazing Diné women whose achievements continue to inspire: designer Virginia Yazzie-Ballenger, finance leader Alta A. Bowman, educator and former Miss Navajo Nation Dolly Manson, and world champion breakaway roper Danielle Lowman. Their recognition drew cheers as the crowd celebrated their accomplishments.

Floats from local chapters, the rhythm of marching bands, veterans carrying flags, and children darting for candy turned the parade into more than a procession—it became a gathering of generations.

"Our annual parade was more than floats and candy, it was a reminder of how powerful it is when our people come together," President Nygren said. "It gives families, veterans, elders, and youth a chance to celebrate side by side, honoring our leaders and culture while creating new memories. Events like this strengthen our spirit, connect our generations, and remind us that the Navajo Nation is strongest when we celebrate as one."

It gives families, veterans, elders, and youth a chance to celebrate side by side, honoring our leaders and culture while

creating new memories.







Endurance & Remembrance: 10K Run pays tribute to Navajo Code Talkers



Every stride honors the courage of our Code Talkers and strengthens the unity of our people.

WINDOW ROCK — On Sunday, September 7th, President Buu Nygren and First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren rose early Sunday morning to join runners at the Navajo Code Talker 10k race at the Navajo Nation Museum.

As the sun peaked over the rock formations that surround the museum, runners gathered at the start line and waited for their 6.2 mile race to begin.

This also marked Camille Uentillie's first event as the 2025-2026 Miss Navajo Nation, where she shared a few words of encouragement to the runners and did the race countdown.

Hosted by NavajoYES, this race is known for its challenging uphill first miler that loops around the flat, rocky trails that transitions into sand near the Window Rock.

Additionally, a two mile course was also offered for runners to participate in the Navajo Code Talker run. Altogether for all race categories, there were over 500 runners and over 80 veterans that participated, who also received a medal.

Throughout the event, songs were sung by Talibah Begay, Skoolboykook and the Forest Lake Singers.

Not only did runners receive medals, but they received posters of Navajo Code Talkers, which were designed by artist Alwyn Shorthair. He also presented an original painting to the family of the late Code Talker Tom Gorman, which was an honorary portrait of Gorman.

The family shared their appreciation for the painting and shared a few words about Gorman and their family that lives in his honor.

A big thank you to Tom Riggenbach, NavajoYES, sponsors and volunteers for hosting a successful 10k event. Running series like this promotes fitness and support in the sport of running while offering challenging courses across Navajo.

"We gathered here today for the Navajo Code Talker 10K, but not just to run, but to remember," President Nygren said. "Every stride honors the courage of our Code Talkers and strengthens the unity of our people."

DINÉ BINANT'A'Í HANE' BINAALTSOOS



President Nygren calls for federal partnership on new Gallup Indian Medical Center

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Mass. - On September 23, President Buu Nygren called on federal leaders to prioritize funding and action for a new Gallup Indian Medical Center (GMIC), describing it as one of the most urgent healthcare needs on Native land.

President Nygren met with federal officials to emphasize the deterioration of the current GMIC facility, and the Navajo Nation's readiness to build a \$3 billion Center for Healing in Gallup, N.M.

The existing GMIC, built in the mid-20th century, serves more than 138,000 people across Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Pueblo, Apache, and Southern San Paiute communities. It was licensed for over 100 beds but can only staff about 74 due to workforce shortages.

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This new Gallup Indian Medical Center is a \$3 billion vision. It is ready to go. But it cannot happen without federal leadership.

In 2024, the hospital was forced to shut down during a water contamination crisis, leaving thousands without safe and reliable healthcare access.

The Navajo Nation has already completed more than 10 predevelopment reports, a master site plan, a workforce study, and architectural renderings for a replacement facility.

The proposed medical campus would include 400 inpatient beds, a trauma center, and a Behavioral Health Center of Excellence. Beyond healthcare, it would expand into housing, senior living, a VA center, job training, and retail opportunities, creating 1,600 healthcare jobs and more than 4,500 jobs across the region.

Congress previously appropriated \$66 million to launch the project, but those funds were later retracted by the Indian Health Service and redirected elsewhere.

President Nygren urged federal leaders to reinstate the funding and provide clear guidance on accessing the broader pool of Congressional appropriations.

"This new Gallup Indian Medical Center is a \$3 billion vision. It is ready to go. But it cannot happen without federal leadership," President Nygren said.



U.S. Department of Education Invests \$108 Million in Tribally Controlled Colleges, Marking 109% Increase



WASHINGTON - Following President Buu Nygren's previous meeting with the U.S. Department of Education Secretary Linda McMahon, the Department announced on September 15th that it is investing \$500 million in higher education, with Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) receiving over \$108 million in fiscal year 2025, representing a 109% increase.

The funding will support programs, services, and operations at these institutions, which provide education while maintaining Native languages, histories, and traditions.

Secretary Linda McMahon stated that the investment is intended to improve outcomes, emphasize merit and excellence, and expand opportunity. TCCUs are expected to utilize these resources to enhance their role in serving students and supporting tribal communities.

The Navajo Nation expressed its appreciation of this historical investment in Indian Country and looks forward to continue building its partnership with the U.S. Department of Education.





Upper Colorado River Commission & Navajo Nation continue the Upper Basin States Dialogue with Tribes



OLJATO, Utah - The Navajo Nation hosted the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC), Upper Division States, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Ute Indian Tribe as part of the ongoing Tribes-States Dialogue at Goulding's Lodge.

In 2023, President Nygren signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the sister tribes to ensure that the Navajo Nation engages in meaningful dialogue with the state representative to the Upper Colorado River Commission and the sister tribes.

The states of Utah, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Colorado make up the UCRC Upper Division States.

President Nygren met with Commissioner Rebecca Mitchell of Colorado to discuss a wide range of topics, including the importance of water and water infrastructure to the Navajo Nation people.

President Nygren invited Mitchell to attend the 112th Northern Navajo Fair as an opportunity to witness firsthand the resiliency of the Navajo People and the need for water infrastructure.



All flags ordered to fly at Half-Staff in honor of former Navajo Nation Council Speaker Nelson Gorman, Jr.

WINDOW ROCK – The late Nelson Gorman, Jr., the first Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, has passed away at the age of 91, according to his family, who reported that he departed into the spiritual world on September 4.

In honor of the late Speaker Gorman, President Buu Nygren signed a proclamation ordering that Navajo Nation flags be flown at half-staff from September 12 to 15 to honor his life and legacy.

"The Navajo Nation extends its deepest condolences, thoughts, and prayers to his family, friends, and community during this time of mourning," added President Nygren. The late Speaker Gorman represented the community of Chinle on the Navajo Nation Council from 1983 to 1995.



The Navajo Nation honors Honorable Gorman for his invaluable service, contributions, and legacy in uplifting communities.







Whether chasing tornadoes in San Juan County, Utah, or controlling wildland fires across the Navajo Nation, Sharen Sandoval exemplifies leadership and resilience.

Since July 1, 2024, Sandoval has served as the Executive Director of the Navajo Department of Emergency Management (NDEM). Though she stepped down on September 19, her impact during her tenure has been significant.

Under her leadership, NDEM faced and responded to multiple crises, including two major wildland fires: the 11,000-acre Oak Ridge Fire in St. Michaels Chapter and the approximately 2,274-acre Bridge Creek Fire in Naatsis'áán, Utah. Just two months into her role, she and her team responded decisively to the Shiprock Floods, which prompted FEMA recovery assessments across the region. Adding to her list of accomplishments, she led efforts responding to a tornado touchdown in Montezuma Creek, which destroyed homes, livestock structures, and vital equipment.

Sandoval's background is as diverse as her work is impactful. With nearly 15 years of military and homeland security experience in the U.S. Air Force—11 years active duty and 4 years in reserves—she has worked all over the world.



Sandoval attributes her return to the Navajo Nation to listening to her intuition—a calling to serve her people. This desire prompted her to apply for the director role at NDEM, where she combined her extensive military training with her dedication to community safety.

"I am extremely proud to have led the Department of Emergency Management during my tenure," Sandoval said. "Together, we supported countless families, departments, and elected officials across the Navajo Nation. My sincere hope is that emergency management continues to remain a priority for all—young and old, constituents and leaders alike."



President Nygren joins Rough Rock Community for 'Just Move It' event to promote Health and Wellness

ROUGH ROCK, Ariz. - On September 18, 2025, President Buu Nygren participated in Rough Rock Chapter's Just Move It (JMI) event as part of the 2025 Ké-Munity series across Central Agency.

The event brought together runners, walkers, families, and youth to promote wellness, community connection, and the Diné teaching of T'áá hwó' ají t'éego, the belief that "it is only up to you."

President Nygren joined participants on the route, leading by example when it comes to health and well-being.

The Rough Rock JMI was the final stop in a series of community runs held at Cottonwood, Many Farms, Chinle, and Nazlini Chapters throughout the summer.

A special highlight of the event was when students from Tséch'izhi Diné Bi'ólta' happily greeted President Nygren along the route. Their excitement and smiles created a heartwarming moment, showing the importance of inspiring the next generation through perseverance and encouragement.

"Events like JMI highlight the strength of our communities," President Nygren said, following the run. "When we come together in the spirit of health and K'é, we carry forward teachings that benefit not only ourselves but the next generation."

The Rough Rock JMI wrapped up the 5k run/walk series with strong community participation, reinforcing the Navajo Nation's commitment to health, culture, and unity through movement.





Inspiring Youth to be Team Players: Big Baller Brand Collection brings Basketball Camp to the Navajo Nation



PAGE, Ariz. - On Friday, September 19, President Buu Nygren visited Page High School to meet with youth at the Navajo Nation x Big Brand collaboration presented by Triple B's Cares Foundation.

The Sand Devil gymnasium was filled with youth participants shooting basketballs, playing defense, and making half-court shots.

This event included a guest appearance by LaVar Ball, a song performance by Nataanii Means, a guided walkthrough by Miss Navajo Arts and Crafts, Tribal College Head Coach Shaun Little Horn and live music from DJ Jermatic. Additionally, homemade street tacos were catered by Bubba's Tacos.

This was a powerful event to see families come together to watch their kids learn basketball skills, make new friends and receive inspiration for the sport.

President Nygren made a few basketball goals with the youth who asked to practice with them. He encouraged every participant to get to know one another and play as a team. There were at least over 130 participants on Friday with 150 registered for the next day on Saturday, September 20.

Events like this serve as a reminder that when culture, sports, and community join together, people shine the brightest.

President Nygren shared how proud he is of the partnerships that continue to build and is grateful for everyone who made this possible for the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Division of Children and Family Services also helped contributed to this effort, which led to a successful turn out of fun and inspiration.

"Work hard, be a team player, always believe in yourself and know that you have good people that surround you all the time," President Nygren said.

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Work hard, be a team player, always believe in yourself and know that you have good people that surround you all the time.



Navajo Nation secures landmark Broadband **Funding to Close the Digital Divide**

WINDOW ROCK - The Navajo Nation Broadband Office Once NTIA confirms the awards, the Navajo Nation will not (NNBO) and the ConnectDiné team announced on September 11, a historic milestone in bringing high-speed internet to Navajo homes and communities.

The Nation has been preliminarily awarded \$111 million in New Mexico and \$148 million in Arizona under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. These represent the largest individual awards from the states' BEAD allocations.

These preliminary awards are part of the final proposals submitted by the state broadband offices of Arizona and New Mexico to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). NTIA will conduct a federal review before making final approvals.

"This is the largest single investment in broadband infrastructure for the Navajo people," said President Buu Nygren. "It is the next big step in closing the digital divide across our Nation."

serve as the broadband provider. Instead, NNBO will issue competitive bids or establish partnerships to experienced regional and national providers. This ensures accountability, timely construction, and reliable services.

While challenges remain, this BEAD investment marks the greatest opportunity yet to deliver reliable, affordable, highspeed internet to Navajo families, schools, businesses, and institutions.





Navajo Nation invests in Survivor Support through new \$250,000 Partnership

WINDOW ROCK - To better protect survivors, the Navajo Nation has entered into a \$250,000 contract with Utah Navajo Health Systems, Inc. to strengthen victim advocacy and expand sexual assault response services across the Nation. The agreement was effective July 1, 2024 through August 30, 2025, and was signed by President Buu Nygren and is administered through the Division of Children and Family Services.

The contract establishes a broad scope of work focused on prevention, intervention, and response. Survivors will have access to crisis intervention, case management, court emotional support. hearing assistance. transportation, temporary housing, and mobile advocacy. These services are designed to ensure immediate protection while also supporting long-term recovery for individuals and families.

In addition to direct services, the agreement provides for training and technical assistance to strengthen local sexual assault crisis centers, tribal advocacy groups, and culturally specific programs.

This includes assessing program capacity, updating emergency operations, and ensuring continuity of services during public health emergencies. The goal is to sustain and expand community-based networks that address the needs of underserved populations.

This \$250,000 investment represents a targeted effort to enhance public safety, provide culturally grounded care, and expand access to advocacy resources. By formalizing this partnership, the Navajo Nation is reinforcing its commitment to protecting survivors of sexual assault and ensuring they have access to comprehensive, consistent, and accountable support services.









Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) delivers historic \$3.15 million Dividend Check to the Navajo People

One of the largest dividends ever received from any tribally-owned enterprise.

NENAHNEZAD, N.M. - The Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) has delivered a record-setting \$3.15 million dividend to the Navajo Nation, one of the largest dividend checks ever received from a tribally owned enterprise.

This milestone reflects NTEC's strong operational results and exceptional reclamation performance, reaffirming the company's vital role in supporting the Navajo Nation's economy.

Each year, NTEC contributes to the Navajo Nation with more than \$128 million through taxes, royalties, wages, and charitable giving. With today's dividend, the company's total annual economic impact on the Navajo community now exceeds \$130 million.

Established by the Navajo Nation in a pioneering effort to reassert sovereignty over its natural resources and energy policy, NTEC has grown to become the thirdlargest coal producer in the United States. Its dedicated contributions extend far beyond the Navajo Mine.

The \$3.15 million dividend is generated from all NTEC's consolidated operations, including mines in Wyoming and Montana.

The dividend represents a historic return on the Nation's investment and vision in creating NTEC, demonstrating how tribally owned enterprises can achieve both economic

success and sovereignty.

"NTEC's success is evidence of the far-reaching benefits of Navajo ownership and leadership in energy development," said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. "As President, I am anti-poverty and remain determined to preserve jobs for Navajo Nation employees and support NTEC's efforts to continue driving economic development. I congratulate the company and its employees for their successful, safe operations and thank them for their dedication."

NTEC's contributions are more than financial. The company has consistently prioritized safe operations, workforce opportunities, and community support through charitable giving and outreach. Its recordbreaking \$3.15 million dividend is the culmination of years of hard work by employees, leadership, and the Navajo Nation's commitment to self-sufficiency.

With this historic dividend, NTEC reaffirms its mandate: to provide long-term economic benefit to the Navajo people while safeguarding resources and advancing sovereignty for generations to come.



NTEC's success is evidence of the far-reaching benefits of Navajo ownership and leadership in energy development.





BUILDING THE FUTURE: President Nygren discusses Growth and Governance on Building Buzz Podcast



PHOENIX - President Buu Nygren was recently a featured guest on Building Buzz, a biweekly podcast produced by Small Giants in partnership with the Phoenix Business Journal. Building Buzz highlights trends, projects, and leaders shaping one of the most dynamic commercial real estate markets in the nation.

In this episode, President Nygren shared an in-depth look at the duties and responsibilities that come with leading the largest tribal nation in the United States. He discussed the wide scope of his office, from overseeing government operations and ensuring essential services to advancing economic development and championing infrastructure improvements that benefit Navajo citizens.

He spoke about housing development, job creation, economic growth, his upbringing, self-determination, life on the Navajo Nation, and much more.

The conversation offered listeners a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing tribal governments and how collaborative efforts with local, state, and federal partners can drive meaningful progress.

By appearing on Building Buzz, President Nygren helped bring Navajo Nation priorities into a broader regional conversation about growth and investment. The episode is an insightful listen for those interested in leadership, public policy, and the intersection of government and economic development.

You can listen to the full episode of Building Buzz on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.



REACH A COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE IN YOUR AGENCY

The Nygren Administration has Community Representatives serving in each of the (5) five Navajo Agencies. For immediate assistance, please reach out to your respective representatives.

CONTACT US: (928) 871-7000

