

APRIL 2026

FREE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

NYGREN NEWS



BUILDING THE FUTURE: INSIDE THE \$230M MANY FARMS HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT



PAVING THE FUTURE: N12 ROAD PROJECT BRINGS SAFETY TO WHEATFIELDS

STAY IN THE KNOW WITH PRESIDENT BUU NYGREN



A Lesson from the Horned Toad

Na'ashó'ii dich'ízhí bits'áá'déé' nanitin

By Diné Artist:

Phone:
(928) 326-6964
Email:
marykateharrison7@gmail.com
Address:
Post Office Box 3140
Chinle, Arizona 86503



“
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.

Mary-Kate Harrison

Navajo by Peter Thomas

Hai bił achoolzhiizh, diné kéyah yikáá' kééhat'inée náhii'naah. Yas altso nidáályíí, nilch'ih t'óó sizilí, dóó ch'il háadahiniséego nahasdzáan bikáá' bee hodootł'izh. Daanjí' ch'íhoolzhiizh, nahadzáan bikáá' hazhóó'ógo ná hoyoo'naal dóó kéyah ádil hanáádzol.

As Winter ended, the Navajo land began to wake. Snow melted, the air grew warmer, and small green plants pushed through the earth. It was early spring, the time when life slowly returns and the land breathes again.

At'éeyázhí hooghan nímaží yiyi'dóó ch'ínadááh, t'áá áhwíí' abini dibé yaa' áhályáago yik'i déez'íí'. Łah abinigo na'ashó'iił báhí léi' yiyiiltsá tsé yikáá' sití, t'áadoo 'iits'a'i, nit'éé' na'ashó'ii dich'ízhii 'át'éé lá. “Yá'át'ééh shicheii,” yilní t'áá hazhóó'ígo. Nashó'ii dich'ízhii t'áadoo hideesnáa' da, áádóó bimásání áninéeyénáanii', ha'hó'ní dóó il'íí' nashó'ii dich'ízhii yee na'nitin.

Near a small hogan, a young girl stepped outside each morning to watch the sheep. One morning, she saw a small horned toad resting quietly on a rock in the sun. “Hello, grandpa,” she said softly. The toad stayed still, and she remembered her grandmother said horned toads teach patience and respect.

T'áá' áhwííí yaa nádááh dóó t'áadoo iits'a'í sidáah leh. Nit'éé' tsidii ádaani, dibé yázhí deikááh, dóó ch'il látahózhóón hadahinisé yaa' áko niizíí'. T'áadoo iits'a'í sidáago, t'áá' altsohjigo yaa' ákonizin silíí'

Each day she returned and sat quietly. Soon she noticed birds singing, lambs walking, and small flowers blooming. By sitting still, she began to see more than she had before.

Łah abinigo áadi náánádzáa nit'éé', na'ashó'ii dich'ízhiiyęę doo ákqo da. Biniinaa t'óó doo bił haldin da, bimásání t'óó yidlohgo ábiłni, “niká' eelwod áko ninizíí'.” áádóó at'édeę t'áá' altsoh yaa' ákonizin, biniinaa hazhóó'ógo tádíghááh, kéyah k'é yó'ni dóó yikáá' hinání altsoh yił kééhat'íini k'éhgo yaa tsídeezkééz.

One morning, the horned toad was gone. She felt sad, but her grandmother smiled and said, “It helped you see.” From then on, the girl walked gently, gree=ng the land and all living things like family.

Learn More Diné Bizaad

Click Link:

<https://opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/dine-bizaad/>



PRESIDENT NYGREN & NTUA LEADERSHIP PURSUE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) General Manager Walter Haase met with U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy Policy, and Programs Director Eric Mahroun to discuss federal energy opportunities and strategies to reduce regulatory barriers impacting electrification efforts on the Navajo Nation.

They were joined by former Director and Deputy Director David Conrad.

“These permitting requirements often stand in the way of the Navajo Nation providing utility connections to rural families,” President Nygren said. “If we can overcome these challenges, we can connect more homes to electricity while putting more Navajo linemen and electricians to work.”

The leaders discussed the costly and lengthy permitting requirements associated with certain U.S. Department of Energy processes that have interrupted progress on the Navajo Nation’s “Light Up Navajo” initiative. Currently, more than one-quarter of NTUA’s cost to connect a single home to electricity goes toward federally required permitting and paperwork.

Depending on a home’s distance from an existing power line, the permitting process alone can take between six months and three years.

More than 13,000 families across the Navajo Nation still live without basic access to electricity and running water, representing approximately one-third of homes on the Nation.

Since its launch in 2019, the “Light Up Navajo” initiative in partnership with the American Public Power Association has brought electricity to more than 700 households.

Extending electrical lines across the Navajo Nation’s remote and rural terrain typically costs between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per household due to long distances from existing infrastructure. Through strategic partnerships and coordinated volunteer efforts, the “Light Up Navajo” initiative has reduced installation costs to under \$8,000 per home compared to traditional commercial installation rates.

Director Mahroun expressed his eagerness to collaborate with the Navajo Nation to expand energy development opportunities and support job creation within tribal communities. He indicated that his office will continue discussions with Navajo leadership regarding future energy initiatives.



NTUA General Manager Walter Haase and U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs Director Eric Mahroun





MEETING WITH NTUA & THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DOMINANCE TEAM TO ADVANCE TRIBAL ENERGY FINANCING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WASHINGTON D.C. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and leadership from the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) met with Shawn Fitzgerald, Special Advisor, and the U.S. Department of Energy- Energy Dominance Financing Team to explore financing opportunities through the Tribal Energy Finance Program aimed at strengthening critical infrastructure across the Navajo Nation.

During the meeting, Navajo leadership discussed ways NTUA could leverage the Tribal Energy Finance Program to implement essential infrastructure upgrades, including energy systems, wastewater treatment facilities, waterlines, and natural gas expansion. These investments are vital to improving living conditions, expanding economic opportunity, and modernizing utility services in rural communities.

“Programs like these will make large infrastructure differences across the Navajo Nation, but more importantly, they allow families to find local employment in the trades, turn on a light switch for the first time, or refrigerate necessary medication,” President Nygren said.

The Tribal Energy Finance Program supports tribal investment in energy-related projects by offering direct loans and loan guarantees to federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native villages, Tribal Energy Development Organizations (TEDOs), and Tribal corporations.

Under the Department of Energy’s Loan Programs Office Direct Loan Program, the agency may provide a 100 percent guarantee on a loan covering up to 80 percent of eligible project costs through the Federal Financing Bank (FFB). Projects supported under this structure must demonstrate sufficient cash flow to meet debt service requirements.

Through the Loan Guarantee Program, the Department of Energy may guarantee loans issued by eligible lenders and can consider, on a case-by-case basis, guarantees of up to 90 percent of a loan covering as much as 80 percent of eligible project costs.

NTUA remains one of the largest employers on the Navajo Nation, with more than 890 employees and an additional 200 to 600 contract personnel supporting its operations. Strategic use of federal financing tools could not only modernize infrastructure but also strengthen the local workforce and expand long-term economic stability for Navajo families.



**NTUA General Manager
Walter Haase**

Shawn Fitzgerald, Special Advisor



NAVAJO NATION BREAKS GROUND ON N12 ROAD PROJECT TO IMPROVE SAFETY IN WHEATFIELDS



WHEATFIELDS, Ariz. – On a brisk Monday morning, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined community leaders and partners to break ground on the Navajo Route 12 road project — a \$30 million investment to ensure safer travel for Navajo families.

Near the blue waters of Wheatfields Lake, the road is marked by cracks, worn edges, and potholes that tell stories of time and travel. The road carries the weight of families, children heading to school, and elders making their way home. But soon, this road will change and be reshaped into a safer path, where every mile reflects care for the people who travel it.

During a roadside gathering, President Nygren gave his remarks.

“Too many of our roads put our people at risk. We are building roads our families can depend on, roads that get our children to school safely and bring our elders home without fear.”

This 7.2-mile project from the Agency Line to Wheatfields will include:

- **Widened shoulders**
- **Improved drainage for safer winter travel**
- **New bridge construction at Whiskey Creek**
- **Parking improvements near Wheatfields Lake, and**
- **Installation of fencing and cattleguards**



This project is part of a larger effort to strengthen road safety across the Navajo Nation, including improvements along key corridors and community-serving routes.



As construction continues, residents and visitors will see progress throughout the area. From roadwork to safety enhancements, this new road will be designed to protect drivers and livestock. The N12 project is expected to be completed by June 30, 2027, delivering a safer, more reliable roadway for generations to come.

President Nygren gave a special thanks to all the partners who helped move this work forward including the Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT), Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA), the Federal Highway Administration, Wilson & Company, Tsaille/Wheatfields/Blackrock Chapter officials, and the Navajo Forestry Department.





PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS AGREEMENT SUPPORTING SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT FOR OJO ENCINO FAMILIES

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement supporting a renewable energy project that will bring solar power to families in the Ojo Encino Chapter community in New Mexico.

The agreement provides \$201,218 in matching funds from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department to support a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy grant.

The funding will help install 50 grid-tied solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on residential homes in the Ojo Encino Chapter, expanding access to reliable and sustainable energy for Navajo families.

The project is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen infrastructure and improve energy security in Navajo communities while reducing long-term electricity costs for residents. The solar systems will be installed on homes throughout the Ojo Encino Chapter community as part of the chapter’s microgrid and powerline infrastructure project.

The project is supported through capital outlay funding authorized by the State of New Mexico to provide matching funds for federal tribal infrastructure grants. Installation of the solar systems is expected to benefit 50 community households and support the expansion of renewable energy development on the Navajo Nation.

The project began in July 2025 and is expected to be completed by June 30, 2026.



“This investment reflects the importance of strong partnerships in bringing modern infrastructure to our communities,” said President Nygren. “Renewable energy projects like this help our families access reliable power while also moving our Nation toward a more sustainable and resilient energy future.”



NAVAJO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSTS COMMUNITY PRAYER FOR SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — March 6. On a light snow-covered morning in Window Rock, the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration gathered veterans, families of active-duty service men and women, and community members for a special prayer service dedicated to Navajo and all service members serving during a time of global uncertainty and rising conflict.

Service flags waved gently in the cold morning air at Veterans Memorial Park as veterans, families, Gold Star families and community members made their way into the park. The air was filled with a familiar blend of coffee and smoke from the fire.

The chill of the early morning gave way to the bright sunlight rising above the red rock landscape of Window Rock, casting warmth across the gathering.

The event began with a statement of unity from Commander Ryan Sandoval. The Veterans Administration's Deputy Director Leann Roy offered the invocation, grounding the gathering in prayer and reflection. Executive Director Bobbie Ann Baldwin delivered the welcome address and later shared "Lines of Hope," offering words of encouragement for families and service members during these uncertain times.

Navajo President Buu Nygren, thanked those in attendance and spoke about the deep connection between Navajo families and military service.

"Thank you for coming together this morning as we gather in prayer for the men and women who serve in uniform, our veterans who have proudly served, and the families who stand beside them," said President Nygren.

President Nygren acknowledged that many Navajo families closely watch global events because their loved ones are stationed far from home.

"When tensions rise across the globe, those headlines become very personal for our communities," President Nygren said. "Right now, Navajo service members are stationed across the world—on bases, aboard ships at sea, and in regions where tensions are rising. When they serve, they carry the uniform of the United States, but they also carry the strength of the Navajo Nation, the teachings of our elders, and the prayers of our families back home."

The prayer ceremony was led by Navajo Nation Veteran Liaison Tim Johnson, providing insight and understanding with prayers of protection, strength, and blessings for service members and their families.

Additional words of encouragement were shared by Chinle VSO Paula Begay, honoring families who currently have loved ones serving in the armed forces. The gathering concluded with closing remarks from Vietnam combat veteran, Jimmy J. Arthur, reminding those present that the strength of community, tradition, and prayer continues to guide Navajo warriors and their families.

As the gathering came to a close, the prayer service stood as a reminder that the strength of a service member is carried not only by the individual in uniform, but also by the families, communities, and traditions that stand behind them.



\$230M MANY FARMS HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT MOVES FORWARD UNDER NYGREN ADMINISTRATION

MANY FARMS, Ariz. - Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren toured the construction site of the new Many Farms High School, highlighting a major investment in the future of Navajo Nation students. Located northeast of Canyon de Chelly, the residential high school serves students from surrounding communities across the region.

President Nygren observed ongoing progress and emphasized the importance of creating a modern learning environment that supports the next generation of Diné leaders. The project is funded through the Great American Outdoors Act Legacy Restoration Fund, representing a \$230 million investment to modernize educational facilities for both students and educators.

Once completed, the new campus will serve approximately 465 students in a single, energy-efficient facility, replacing several older buildings. The project is designed to enhance safety, improve accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and provide a more supportive learning environment, while reducing operational costs by an estimated \$626,000 annually.

During the visit, updates were provided on multiple phases of construction. Structural steel installation is underway for the South Addition, interior demolition continues in Area C, and foundation work is ongoing for the North Addition. Crews are also installing site utilities, including water and sanitary sewer lines, while dirt work has begun for a new dormitory area to support residential students.

President Nygren was joined by Many Farms High School Principal Louise Donald, representatives from TEPA Companies, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management for Indian Affairs Jason Bruno, Chief of Staff for the Office of Facilities Property and Safety Management Gabriel N. Draper, and Division Chief of Facilities Management and Construction Gary Mosesman.

The visit underscored the administration's continued commitment to strengthening education infrastructure across the Navajo Nation. Investments like the Many Farms High School project aim to provide safe, modern, and inspiring spaces where students can learn, grow, and prepare to lead their communities for generations to come.



Jason Bruno

Louise Donald

Gabriel N. Draper





PRESIDENT NYGREN APPROVES S-HILL SAND AND GRAVEL LEASE EXTENSION TO SUPPORT NAVAJO INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren has signed a letter granting consent for the extension of the S-Hill Sand and Gravel Lease operated by the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA), supporting continued infrastructure development and economic activity on the Navajo Nation.

The S-Hill Sand and Gravel pit is located within Tse Daa Kaan Chapter in San Juan County, New Mexico. The lease allows for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a sand and gravel pit, aggregate stockpile, and construction yard that supplies materials used in infrastructure and construction projects across the region.

The original lease was signed by the Navajo Nation on April 6, 2021, and later approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on June 29, 2021, for an initial five-year term. Under the lease terms and conditions, NECA may request renewal for additional five-year terms. NECA recently submitted its first request to renew the S-Hill Sand and Gravel Lease for another five-year period.

After review, the Navajo Nation Minerals Department concurred with the extension request, and President Nygren formally provided consent to move the process forward with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for approval.

Operations at the S-Hill site support the availability of locally sourced construction materials needed for roadwork, infrastructure improvements, and development projects across the Navajo Nation. Ensuring a reliable local supply of sand and gravel for infrastructure projects remains a top priority for President Nygren as the Nation continues expanding roads, housing, and community facilities.

The lease also requires NECA to comply with annual royalty payments to the Navajo Nation and follow approved mining and reclamation plans to ensure responsible land management.

This extension continues an important partnership that strengthens economic opportunity while supporting the infrastructure needs of Navajo communities.

The lease allows for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a sand and gravel pit, aggregate stockpile, and construction yard that supplies materials used in infrastructure and construction projects across the region.





10% OFF TUITION FOR ALL STUDENTS AT GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

PHOENIX — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren visited Grand Canyon University (GCU) to meet with Navajo and Native American students, strengthen partnerships in higher education, and sign an agreement expanding educational opportunities for Navajo Nation citizens.

During the visit, President Nygren met with Navajo and other Native American students attending Grand Canyon University for a roundtable discussion focused on student experiences, academic goals, and future opportunities.

Students introduced themselves, shared the communities they represent, outlined their fields of study, and engaged directly with the President on questions related to education, leadership, and career development.

Currently, approximately 450 Navajo students are enrolled at GCU through both online and on-campus programs, with many receiving support through the Navajo Nation Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance (ONNSFA).

The visit concluded with President Nygren signing an Educational Alliance Participant Agreement between the Navajo Nation and GCU. The agreement formalizes a partnership aimed at expanding educational access and workforce development opportunities for Navajo Nation members.

Through the agreement, eligible Navajo Nation employees and members will receive a 10 percent tuition scholarship for GCU's online or evening bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs, while spouses and dependents will be eligible for a 5 percent tuition scholarship. The scholarship applies to many of GCU's academic programs and will remain available as long as the partnership agreement remains in effect.

“Higher education should feel within reach for our people, not out of reach,” said President Nygren. “This agreement is important because it creates a direct benefit for Navajo Nation employees and members through a 10 percent tuition scholarship, while also extending support to spouses and dependents. That means more opportunities for our people to earn degrees, build careers, and strengthen their future without having to carry the full burden of higher education costs alone.”

GCU, established in 1949, has developed strong partnerships with tribal communities across Arizona and supports Native American students through culturally responsive education, academic counseling, mentorship programs, and flexible learning options. Students can pursue their degrees online, on campus, or through evening classes, allowing many working professionals to continue their education.

GCU also provides academic tutoring, counseling services, workshops, and cultural programming that celebrates Native American traditions and identity while supporting student success.

The agreement was signed by GCU Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel Raymond Kaselonis and President Nygren, marking another step forward in strengthening education partnerships that support Navajo Nation students and families.

President Nygren thanked the university's leadership, staff, and students for their warm welcome and emphasized the importance of building partnerships that empower the next generation of Navajo leaders.



10

“This agreement is important because it creates a direct benefit for Navajo Nation employees and members through a 10 percent tuition scholarship,” said President Nygren.



RUNNING TOWARD WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY IN WINDOW ROCK

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – This past Saturday, our community gathered in the heart of the Navajo Nation for a unique event that blended fitness, storytelling, and celebration.

At the Window Rock Cinema, runners, families, and supporters came together for "The Cut Off" Trail Challenge and Movie Premiere, an event dedicated to promoting health, exercise, and entertainment while highlighting the inspiring journey of Diné runner Wynonna Curely-Fulgham.

The day began with the energy of runners arriving early as registration opened at 10 a.m. Against the backdrop of the iconic Window Rock landscape, participants prepared for two community-centered events: a 7-mile trail challenge and a community 5K walk/run. By 11:00 a.m., runners set off from the Window Rock Cinema, heading east on pavement before transitioning onto the rugged mesa trails that overlook our capital.

The course itself reflected the strength and resilience that running demands. Runners navigated a mix of pavement, dirt trail, and rocky terrain, climbing toward the mesa before reaching the main aid station and 5K turnaround point at mile 1.5. From there, 7-mile runners pushed deeper into the course, facing steady climbs, sweeping descents, and scenic views overlooking Window Rock. Each step on the trail served as a reminder of the beauty and endurance found across the Navajo Nation landscape.

After the race, participants and guests gathered inside the theater for the premiere of "The Cut Off," a film featuring Diné runner Wynonna Curely-Fulgham and her journey through running, perseverance, and identity.

Doors opened at 1 p.m., with the show beginning at 2 p.m. The screening was followed by a question-and-answer session and a raffle, giving attendees the chance to hear directly from the film's featured runner and reflect on the deeper meaning of the story.

Events like this demonstrate how physical activity, storytelling, and community connection can come together in powerful ways. By bringing together a trail challenge and a film premiere, we created a space where runners and families alike could celebrate health, culture, and inspiration.

"I want to thank the partners who helped make this event possible, including Aravaipa Running, the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Program, and the Navajo Department of Health. Their continued commitment to promoting wellness across our Nation helps ensure that opportunities like this reach our communities," said President Nygren.

As Navajo people, we know that movement is part of our tradition. Running has long been connected to discipline, balance, and resilience. Events like the "Cut Off" Trail Challenge remind us that caring for our health strengthens not only individuals, but the entire Nation.

"It was an honor to see our community come together in Window Rock to support wellness, celebrate Diné achievement, and share in a powerful story of endurance. I look forward to continuing to support initiatives that encourage our people to stay active, uplift one another, and move forward together," President Nygren added.



**Diné runner
Wynonna Curely-Fulgham**





NYGREN, NTUA LEADERSHIP PUSH FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT ON NAVAJO UTILITY AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) General Manager Walter Haas met with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service Assistant Administrator Christopher McLean to discuss financing opportunities for critical infrastructure improvements across the Navajo Nation’s rural communities.

The meeting focused on expanding access to funding through the USDA’s Rural Utilities Service, which provides financial assistance for water and wastewater systems, electric power, telecommunications, and broadband services. These programs are designed to expand economic opportunities, reduce utility costs for consumers, and improve the quality of life for rural families, farmers, and ranchers.

“These meetings in Washington, D.C. ensure that Navajo Nation projects and priorities remain at the forefront of federal funding discussions,” President Nygren said. “We are advocating for the resources necessary to build modern infrastructure that serves our people today and for generations to come.”

Under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the Electric Program offers direct loans, loan guarantees through the Federal Financing Bank (FFB), grants, and other energy project financing to electric utilities serving rural customers. These funding resources are essential to advancing the Navajo Nation’s “Light Up Navajo” initiative

Other resources under the Rural Utility Service can be used to pursue distance learning and telemedicine grants under their broadband arm and obtain technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water and waste disposal systems under water and environmental programs.

The ability to provide safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems is critical to protecting public health and ensuring sustainable community growth. Across the Navajo Nation, aging sewer lagoon infrastructure combined with population growth in rural communities makes the need for upgraded wastewater treatment facilities increasingly urgent.

The USDA expressed its commitment to working collaboratively with the Navajo Nation to plan and fund critical infrastructure projects. Continued investment in electrification and utility infrastructure not only improves living conditions but also creates long-lasting, well-paying jobs for Navajo workers.

The Navajo Nation remains committed to strengthening partnerships at the federal level to advance essential utility, water, and wastewater projects that support economic development and community well-being.



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service Assistant Administrator Christopher McLean

NTUA General Manager Walter Haas



PRESIDENT NYGREN URGES SWIFT PASSAGE OF WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT TO END GENERATIONAL WATER

WASHINGTON D.C. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren today called on Congress to pass S. 953, the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, emphasizing the urgent need to secure safe, reliable water for thousands of tribal families.

Speaking before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, President Nygren shared personal stories from his childhood, highlighting the human cost of the ongoing water crisis.

“Roughly a third of Navajo households still lack running water,” President Nygren said. “I grew up hauling five-gallon buckets with my mom and grandma. Today, thousands of our people still travel over 30 miles round trip to meet basic water needs. It costs on average \$600 a month per family—crippling for those living below the poverty line.”

S. 953 represents a historic and cost-effective investment, benefiting tribal communities and the American taxpayer. Under the settlement, tribes are waive claims to Colorado River Basin water in exchange for funding to improve infrastructure and enhance Lake Powell’s reserves, at roughly 25 percent lower cost per tribal member than previous Indian water settlements.

President Nygren noted that the Navajo Nation is uniquely positioned in both the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basin.

“Any tribal lease to the Lower Basin requires an act of Congress,” he explained adding that the settlement includes provisions to create a 17,050 acre-feet per year water savings pool in Lake Powell for 20 years, supporting critical infrastructure and benefiting all Upper Basin states.

President Nygren highlighted the economic impact of the Navajo Generating Station closure, explaining, “This is half of what was previously used for decades by the Navajo Generating Station, whose closure devastated the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe economically,” while some Upper Basin states have raised concerns about temporary water leasing under S. 953, the amount of water involved is relatively small.

“The revenue the tribes could generate by using their water rights to fund infrastructure is transformative,” President Nygren added, emphasizing that the settlement allows the Navajo Nation and its neighbors to rebuild economic opportunities and critical community resources lost after NGS’s closure.

Hopi Chairman Lamar Keevama highlighted the practical and cultural importance of the settlement for his people.

“This settlement brings certainty and stability to the Colorado River Basin by resolving longstanding claims through cooperation, not decades of litigation. Reliable water allows the Hopi people to continue living and practicing our way of life on our ancestral homeland,” Keevama added “Water is sacred—it supports our ceremonies, our culture, and our communities. This settlement is more than a legal agreement; it is a path forward.”

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) said, “...To know that one in three households in Navajo do not have running water ... It is a challenge to the families. It's a challenge to your health status. And this is the United States of America in 2026, and I think the basic request to have access to clean, safe drinking water is not too much to ask in today's world for our people.”



“Securing safe, reliable water for our families is a historic opportunity. This settlement not only addresses immediate needs but also paves the way for a brighter future for the Navajo Nation,”





NATIVE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR



Native Scholarship Opportunities 2026-2027 Academic Year Applications

Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance

Available for Part or Full-time Undergraduate & Graduate Students

Application Opens: March 15, 2026

Deadline: June 25, 2026

<https://onnsfa.org/>

American Indian College Fund

Available for Certificate, Undergraduate, & Graduate Students

Application Opens: March 15, 2026

Deadline: May 31, 2026

<https://collegefund.org/students/scholarships/>

Cobell Scholarship

Available for Undergraduate, Graduate, Vocational, & Trade Students

- Undergrad & Grad Application Open: NOW
- Deadline: March 31, 2026
- Vocational: June 01 -May 15 (Year-Round)

<https://cobellscholar.org/>

Native Forward Scholars Fund

Funding Opportunities for Undergraduate & Graduate students for tuition, internships, fellowships, exams, etc.

Application Opens: Open NOW

Deadline: May 31, 2026

<https://www.nativeforward.org>

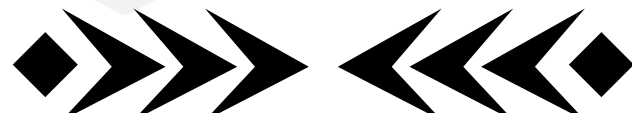
Graduating seniors, undergrads, grads, and vocational students—plan ahead for next year! College costs can be challenging, but these resources can help.

Check out these scholarships with upcoming application dates:

- Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance: Open Now! (Deadline June 25, 2026)

- American Indian College Fund: Open Now! (Deadline May 31, 2026)
- Cobell Scholarship: Undergrad/Grad Open Now!
- Vocational opens June 1st - May 31st (Year-Round)
- Native Forward Scholars Fund: Open Now! (Deadline May 31, 2026)

Be proactive: fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), review each scholarship's requirements, and start your applications early to meet all deadlines.





Táá' Góne' Awéé' Baa Hózhó Bil Hwiil'aah

Nihi'awéé'

Baa Nihił Dahózhó dóó Baa Ahééh Daniidzin

SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2026 | 9 AM SHIPROCK HIGH SCHOOL



REGISTER NOW: opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/welcome-baby



This event celebrates Navajo babies born from April 2025 to April 2026, including expecting Navajo mothers, offering valuable education and resources to help their babies grow into healthy, successful individuals.

This event will feature special guests, speakers, presentations, informational booths, and resources to support their baby's connection to the land and community.

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY, JASMINE BLACKWATER-NYGREN WHAT TO EXPECT PROJECT, HEIDI MURKOFF



WELCOMING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

This celebration began from a beautiful idea shared by my doula, one rooted in how other Native communities honor and welcome their newest babies. That inspiration has grown into something meaningful for our own families here on the Navajo Nation.

I want to invite and welcome all Navajo babies born from April 2025 to April 2026, including expecting Navajo mothers. The event will take place on April 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM in Shiprock, NM. We will offer valuable education and resources to help their babies grow into healthy and successful individuals.

Our goal is to ensure that every new parent feels supported and equipped with essential information, supplies, and community connections. We want every single Navajo baby set up for success. In addition to an agenda packed with guest speakers, panels, and entertainment honoring the babies, we are also informing families of the resources available to them as tribal members.

Please register with the QR code or at: opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/welcome-baby



MISS NAVAJO NATION'S EGGSTAVAGANZA CREATES COMMUNITY

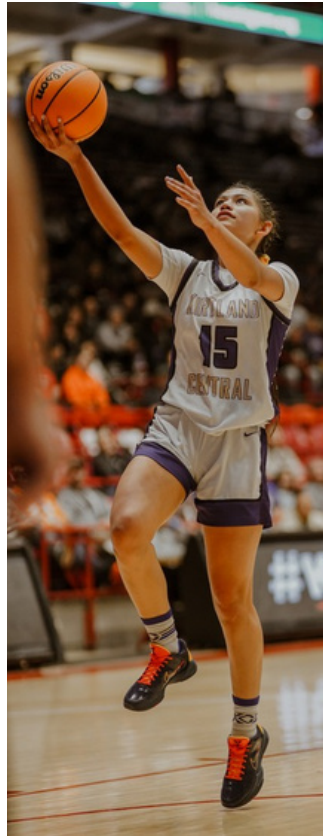
We spent the day at Miss Navajo's Eggstravaganza at the Navajo Nation Zoo. Miss Navajo can truly move mountains, bringing together so many community members and creating such a fun and meaningful event for our families. It was beautiful to see so many smiles!

As we celebrate Easter, we are reminded of renewal and new beginnings. I hope this Easter brought peace, joy, and a renewed spirit to you and your families.





2026 NEW MEXICO STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



She has reached one of life's greatest honors by seeing four living generations of her family. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren carry on her teachings across the country as students, service members, athletes, lawyers, and leaders.

One of her greatest lessons was simple but powerful: "Go out and get educated. It's up to you."

Daisy Joe is full of life, she loves sports, especially softball and basketball, worked hard as a sheep herder, and was always on the move. She was a gifted weaver, creating beautiful rugs through her own creativity and imagination.

She is known for her big heart, her laughter, and her love for nature. Her home was always open, and no one ever left without food and kindness.

Her strength, wisdom, and holistic way of living are a big reason she is still inspiring us today. It was an honor to be among the birthday girl and her family today.

Happy 100th Birthday, Daisy Joe. You are the foundation of so many lives and a true inspiration to us all.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAISY JOE





NAVAJO, HOPI, AND SAN JUAN PAIUTE LEADERS ADVANCE WATER SETTLEMENT TALKS WITH SENATOR KELLY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Crystallyne Curley joined San Juan Paiute Tribe and Hopi Tribal leaders on March 11th for a meeting with Senator Mark Kelly to discuss advancing the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement and securing funding for long-planned water infrastructure.

The discussion with Senator Kelly surrounded the importance of the settlement in providing long-term certainty for tribal water rights and for the Colorado River system. The proposed settlement would support drinking water systems, water treatment facilities, and related infrastructure serving communities across the region. President Nygren urged continued collaboration to move the agreement forward.

“We appreciated Senator Kelly’s engagement and encourage continued work with tribal leadership to identify a path to fund and advance this settlement,” said President Nygren. **“By bringing our teams together and working with the Upper Basin states, we can move forward in a way that allows our communities to finally use the water promised to them and strengthen other settlements across the region.”**

Senator Kelly acknowledged the scale of the investment, noting the roughly \$5.1 billion cost of the settlement equals about what the United States spends in the first two days of conflict in the Middle East. He reaffirmed the importance of working with tribal leadership and regional partners to identify funding strategies and maintain momentum toward passage.

Discussions also addressed infrastructure needs serving communities across northeastern Arizona, continued negotiations with Upper Basin states, and the importance of maintaining progress on water infrastructure projects such as the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.



Senator Mark Kelly





TRIBAL LEADERS MEET WITH CHAIRWOMAN MURKOWSKI FOLLOWING SENATE HEARING ON NORTHEASTERN ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENT



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Following the March 11 hearing with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined tribal leaders to speak directly with Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski about the progress made toward advancing the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act.

President Nygren was joined by Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Crystalyne Curley, Hopi Tribe Chairman Lamar Keevama, and San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe Vice President Johnny Lehi Jr. The leaders discussed the years of behind-the-scenes work required to bring the three tribes together around a shared agreement and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration as Congress considers the legislation.

President Nygren noted that the settlement reflects decades of effort by tribal leaders working to secure a stable future for their communities.

“I know this has been in the making for decades, and over the past three years the three tribes have come together because we realized that in order to be economically stable and plan for the future of our communities, we need reliable water,” Nygren said.

During the meeting, President Nygren also discussed the economic impacts tribes experienced following the early closure of the Navajo Generating Station. He noted that the investment requested through the settlement is significantly less than the economic losses associated with the plant’s closure. Tribal leaders agreed to provide additional figures to help further illustrate the impact as the legislation moves forward.

Chairwoman Murkowski spoke about the cooperation demonstrated by the tribes in reaching the agreement and reflected on the cultural importance of natural resources for Indigenous communities. She noted that Alaska Native communities often speak about ice in the same way Southwestern tribes speak about water, recognizing both as essential to sustaining culture, communities, and future generations.





LADY BRONCOS CLAIM 22ND STATE TITLE AS NAVAJO ATHLETES SHINE IN NEW MEXICO



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Kirtland Central Lady Broncos captured the 2026 Nusenda Credit Union Class 4A Girls State Championship with a 52–33 victory over the Gallup Lady Bengals at The Pit.

The matchup renewed one of New Mexico’s top rivalries, with Gallup entering as the defending champion. The game opened with both teams trading baskets in a defensive first quarter, with Gallup holding a narrow 9–8 lead.

Kirtland found its rhythm in the second quarter, using strong rebounding, free throw shooting, and back-to-back three-pointers to take control. The Lady Broncos carried a 24–17 lead into halftime and never looked back.

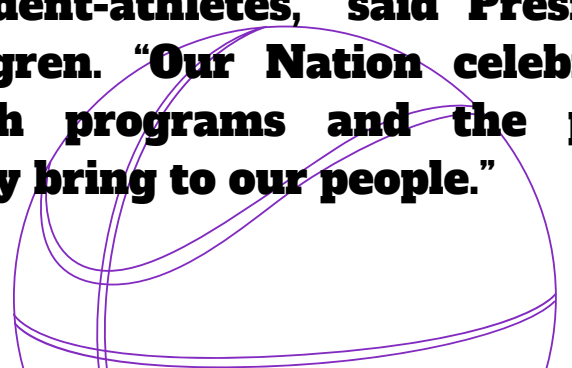
In the second half, Kirtland’s defensive pressure and fast-paced play created separation. The Lady Broncos extended their lead in the third quarter and sealed the win in the fourth with balanced scoring, outside shooting, and consistent defensive stops.

With the victory, Kirtland Central secured its 22nd state championship, the most in New Mexico history. The program has now made 37 championship appearances in 48 seasons, solidifying its place among the nation’s most successful high school girls basketball programs. The Lady Broncos finished the season 28–3 overall and 10–0 in district play.

The Gallup Lady Bengals concluded a strong season at 27–4 overall and 8–2 in district, once again competing at the highest level.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren congratulated both teams for their performance and representation.

“The dedication, discipline, and heart shown by both teams represent the very best of our student-athletes,” said President Nygren. “Our Nation celebrates both programs and the pride they bring to our people.”



LADY BRAVES TRIUMPH: SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL WINS 2026 3A NM STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Santa Fe Indian School Lady Braves claimed the 2026 Nusenda Credit Union Class 3A Girls State Championship with a 43–35 victory over the Navajo Prep Lady Eagles at The Pit.

The matchup featured a competitive, defense-driven battle from start to finish. Navajo Prep opened strong, setting the tone early and taking a 10–8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Santa Fe Indian School responded in the second quarter, finding its offensive rhythm and edging ahead during a series of back-and-forth possessions. The Lady Braves carried a narrow 17–15 lead into halftime as both teams continued to contest every possession.

In the third quarter, SFIS extended its lead with timely scoring and defensive stops, moving ahead 25–21. Navajo Prep remained within reach, setting up a high-energy final period.

The fourth quarter brought momentum swings as Navajo Prep mounted a comeback, briefly taking the lead behind key three-point shots. With the game tied late, SFIS capitalized on critical possessions and free throws in the final minutes to secure the 43–35 win.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren congratulated both teams for their performance and leadership.

“Congratulations to the Santa Fe Indian School Lady Braves on winning the 2026 Class 3A State Championship,” said **President Nygren.** **“Your teamwork, resilience, and dedication led to a well-earned victory.”**

President Nygren also recognized the Navajo Prep Lady Eagles for an outstanding season, finishing 26–3 overall and 12–0 in district play.

“The Navajo Prep Lady Eagles showed tremendous heart and competitiveness throughout the season. Reaching the state championship is a major accomplishment, and our Nation is proud of their effort.”



Lady Braves celebrate the 2026 Class 3A State Championship





PRESIDENT NYGREN VISITS FAMILIES AT CHID HOMES, HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS AND REMAINING NEEDS

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren recently visited families participating in the Navajo Nation’s Community Housing and Infrastructure Development (CHID) Program, meeting directly with residents to hear firsthand about their progress, challenges, and hopes as they work toward moving into newly constructed homes.

During the visits, President Nygren spoke with families who have been waiting months for final steps before they can move in. In some cases, construction delays, utility coordination, and pending administrative paperwork have slowed the process.

One resident shared that she expected to receive the keys to her home in November but is still waiting as final details are resolved. President Nygren emphasized the importance of follow-up between housing officials, technicians, and program administrators to ensure families can move into their homes as soon as possible.

“We want families to know we hear their concerns,” said President Nygren. “These homes represent stability, opportunity, and a better future. Our responsibility is to make sure the process works for the people.”

A central focus of the visits was the critical infrastructure supporting these homes, particularly the work of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA). Through an ARPA-funded program, NTUA is connecting homes to water systems and installing meters, septic tanks, and drain fields designed to support multi-bedroom households.

Families located within one mile of existing water lines receive direct connections, while homes in more remote areas are supported through cistern systems that rely on electricity—either through the grid or solar solutions. These systems ensure that households not only receive water and septic services but also the power needed to make those systems work safely and reliably.

The visits also highlighted the extensive planning behind the infrastructure installation, including feasibility assessments, environmental clearances, and system design prior to construction. While the Navajo Nation funded the installation of these systems, homeowners will maintain the infrastructure and water meters moving forward.

One homeowner shared her emotional journey renovating her late father’s home, describing it as a five-year effort that required persistence through legal, financial, and personal challenges.

“These visits remind us that housing is about more than buildings,” Nygren said. “It’s about keeping families rooted in their communities and creating opportunities for the next generation.”

The CHID program continues working with families to resolve remaining repairs, schedule inspections, and finalize utility connections so residents can fully transition into their homes and begin the next chapter for their families.



NAVAJO NATION CONTINUES COORDINATION WITH SENATOR LUJÁN ON WATER SETTLEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Crystalayne Curley met with Senator Ben Ray Luján on March 11 to discuss the Navajo Nation's priorities, including water settlements across the Colorado River Basin and ongoing conversations surrounding protection of the Chaco landscape.

During the meeting, President Nygren acknowledged Senator Luján's continued leadership in supporting Navajo water rights, including his behind-the-scenes efforts to ensure tribal priorities remain part of ongoing federal discussions. Navajo leaders thanked the Senator and his staff for helping keep the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement among congressional priorities while also continuing support for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

The discussion highlighted the importance of securing a durable path forward that delivers reliable water infrastructure to Navajo communities while upholding federal treaty and trust obligations tied to tribal water rights.

“We’re looking forward to moving this forward and remain hopeful that we can find a path that delivers water to our communities,” said President Nygren. “Expanding our water supply is critical to the future of our Nation, and I’m optimistic about where this effort is heading.”

The meeting also included discussion about community perspectives on land protections near Chaco Canyon. Speaker Curley emphasized the importance of engaging Navajo families and allottee communities whose ties to the land span generations, noting the need for respectful consultation and ensuring that local voices help guide decisions affecting culturally significant areas.

President Nygren thanked Senator Luján for his continued engagement with Navajo Nation leadership on both water and cultural protection issues, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between tribal governments, Congress, and surrounding states to move these priorities forward.



Director Redhouse

Speaker, Crystalayne Curley

Senator Ben Ray Luján





PRESIDENT NYGREN MEETS WITH CONGRESSWOMAN HAGEMAN, SENATOR MULLIN TO DISCUSS NAVAJO HEALTH PRIORITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with Harriet Hageman and Markwayne Mullin to discuss key priorities for the Navajo Nation, focusing on strengthening federal support for tribal healthcare programs and addressing critical infrastructure needs within the Indian Health System.

“These conversations are critical to ensuring that the Navajo people receive the healthcare resources and infrastructure they deserve,” said President Nygren. “We appreciate the engagement from our federal partners as we work together to strengthen health systems for our communities across the Navajo Nation.”

During the meetings, President Nygren emphasized the importance of maintaining advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service through the proposed Indian Programs Advance Appropriations Act of 2025. Advance appropriations provide stability and predictability for tribal healthcare systems, helping ensure that lifesaving services continue uninterrupted despite potential delays in the federal appropriations process.

President Nygren thanked Senator Mullin for cosponsoring the Senate version of the legislation and encouraged Representative Hageman to support the House bill. The proposal would also extend advance appropriations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, strengthening critical programs that serve tribal communities.

The discussions also focused on reauthorizing the Special Diabetes Program for Indians Reauthorization Act of 2025. President Nygren highlighted that diabetes continues to disproportionately affect Native communities, including the Navajo Nation, with rates more than double the national average. The program funds culturally grounded prevention, treatment, and wellness initiatives that have significantly improved health outcomes across tribal communities.

President Nygren encouraged Senator Mullin to consider supporting the House version of the legislation to provide stable multi-year funding and asked Representative Hageman to cosponsor the measure.

In addition, President Nygren discussed the Stronger Engagement for Indian Health Needs Act, which would elevate the Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health within the Department of Health and Human Services. The change would give tribal nations a stronger voice at the highest levels of federal health policy and help address ongoing challenges such as healthcare staffing shortages in Indian Country.

President Nygren also raised concerns about the recent redistribution of funds originally designated for the Gallup Indian Medical Center project. The facility is the oldest and one of the largest Indian Health Service hospitals in the region, serving the Navajo Nation as well as neighboring tribes. He noted that the Nation is currently working with the Administration to resolve the issue but may seek congressional support if necessary.



Congresswoman Harriet Hageman

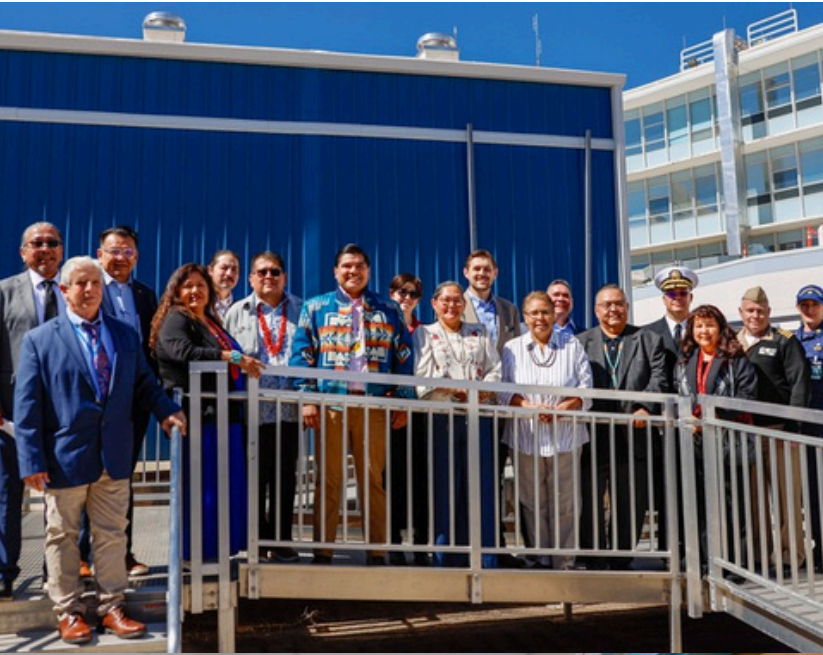


NDOH Director Sherylene Yazzie

Senator Markwayne Mullin



LEADERS TOUR FUTURE SITE OF NEW GALLUP INDIAN MEDICAL CENTER



GALLUP, N.M. — A new chapter in healthcare for the Navajo Nation is on the horizon.

Tribal and federal leaders recently toured the newly selected 570-acre Gamerco site, set to become the future home of the Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC).

Once complete, the facility will be one of the largest Tribal hospital campuses in the United States, bringing modern, comprehensive care to thousands of Navajo families and neighboring Tribal Nations across Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

On March 13, the Office of the Navajo Nation President and the Department of Health hosted officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Service for a federal site visit, underscoring the urgent need to restore \$60 million in federal planning funds previously reallocated to other Indian Country initiatives. Securing this funding will allow final site evaluation and launch the design and construction phases, marking a pivotal step in transforming healthcare delivery for the region.



“The Navajo Nation operates more than 17 healthcare centers, with GIMC serving as the critical referral hub,” said NDOH Director Sherylene Yazzie. “Our communities urgently need a modern hospital capable of meeting the healthcare demands of a growing population.”

President Nygren has emphasized that replacing the aging GIMC remains the Nation’s top healthcare infrastructure priority.

“Restoring the \$60 million originally intended for this project is essential to begin the planning and design work that will move this hospital replacement forward,” he said.

The new GIMC campus will offer expanded services, including behavioral health, long-term care, wellness, childcare facilities, retail options, and staff housing. The Gamerco site was chosen over the previous Rehoboth location for its infrastructure readiness, cultural considerations, and access to water, sewer, and highways.

Navajo Nation leaders, council members, and community partners—including the City of Gallup and McKinley County—are united in supporting this transformational project.





PRESIDENT NYGREN TESTIFIES ON FY2027 PRIORITIES BEFORE HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren testified before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

He thanked Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID-2), Ranking Member Chellie Pingree (D-ME-1), and members of the Committee for the opportunity to present the Navajo Nation's FY2027 federal priorities. In his testimony, he spoke to the fact that many of these priorities are rooted in the Treaty of 1868 and the federal government's trust responsibility to tribal nations.

President Nygren highlighted the need to strengthen Indian Health Service funding, noting advance appropriations allow for better planning and efficient use of resources. He urged Congress to extend and expand advance appropriations across the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education while moving toward mandatory funding.

federal IHS spending remains around \$4,000 per person, less than half of other federal health programs, and raised concerns about the \$60 million removed from the Gallup Indian Medical Center rebuild.

He also addressed major gaps in education and public safety. President Nygren noted that BIE schools face a \$1 billion deferred maintenance backlog and an estimated \$6 billion shortfall for replacement and construction.

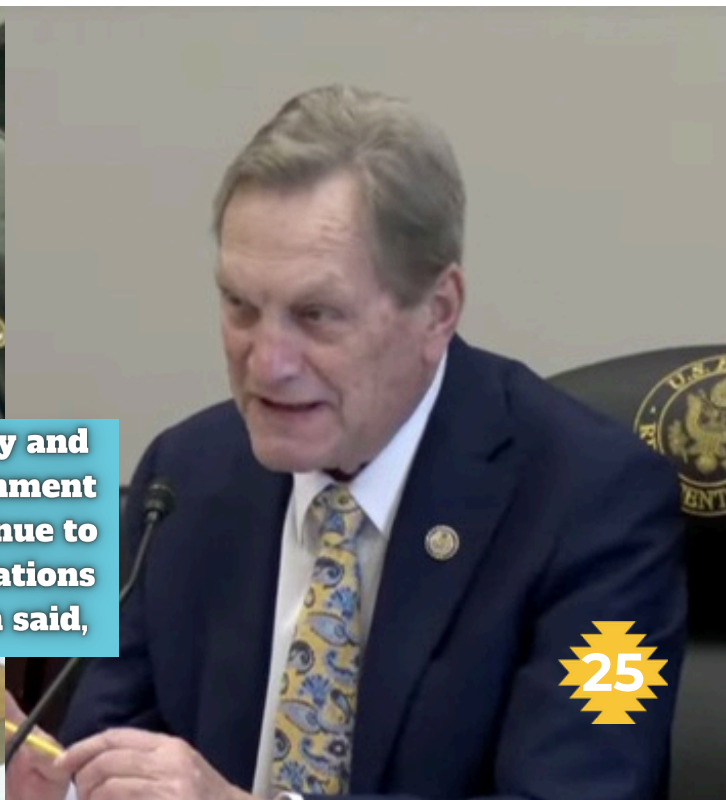
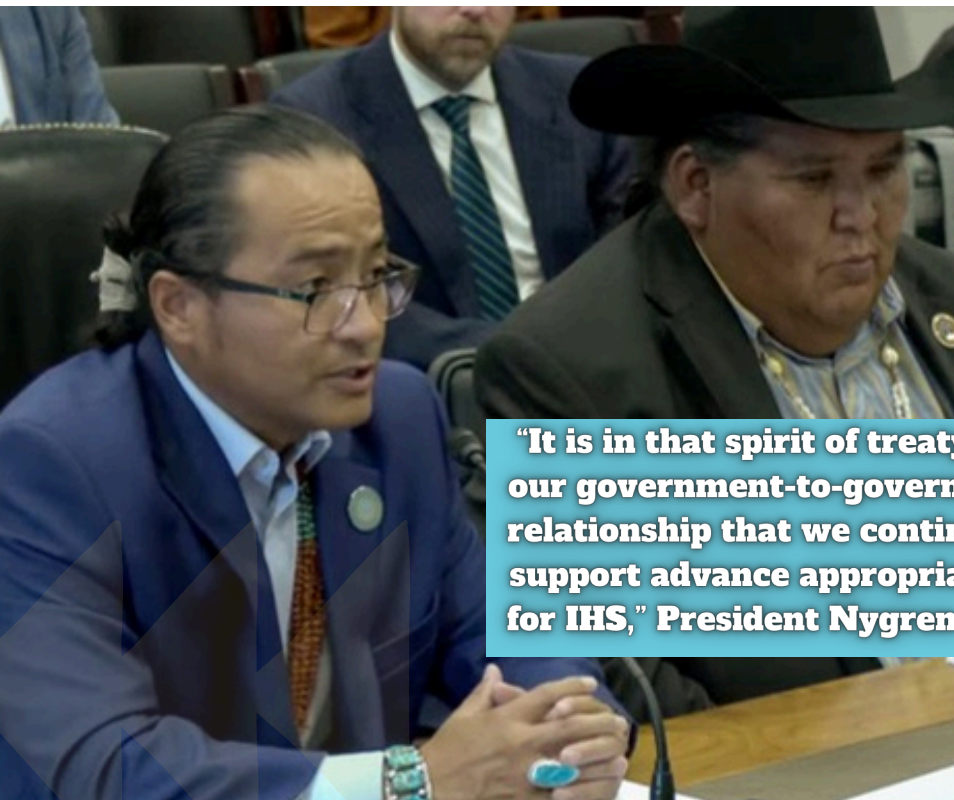
On public safety, he emphasized that Navajo Nation officers respond to more than 200,000 calls annually across vast distances, with staffing levels at roughly one quarter of recommended standards, while nationwide needs exceed \$3.1 billion each year.

In his testimony, President Nygren further called for action to reduce the probate backlog, strengthen support for Native children and families, and provide dedicated funding for emergency medical services.

He noted that the ICWA program faces a \$6 million shortfall for the Navajo Nation and urged full funding at the national level. He also stressed the importance of fulfilling long-standing federal obligations through the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, where at least 40 families are still awaiting promised homes.

Members of the Committee acknowledged several of these challenges. Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID-2) reflected on the condition of roads across the Navajo Nation, sharing that during a visit he "got 20,000 steps just riding in the van," illustrating the need for improved infrastructure. Water access across the West was also discussed as a continuing concern.

President Nygren reaffirmed the Navajo Nation's commitment to working with Congress to secure the resources needed to uphold these obligations and support the long-term well-being of Navajo communities.



"It is in that spirit of treaty and our government-to-government relationship that we continue to support advance appropriations for IHS," President Nygren said,

CHINLE RECOVERY CENTER OPENS: A NEW PATH OF HEALING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



CHINLE, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined community members, recovery advocates, and partners in Chinle to celebrate the opening of the Day At A Time Club Chinle Recovery Center, marking a significant milestone in restoring critical recovery services for the community.

The Day At A Time Club has served the Navajo Nation since 1978 and remains the longest-running recovery provider on the Nation. Following the loss of the Talbot House facility in 2018, the Chinle community worked persistently to bring these essential services back.

Through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, the Navajo Nation invested in expanding recovery services. In 2023, President Nygren signed a \$780,000 contract with Day At A Time Club to strengthen alcohol and substance abuse counseling programs, helping lay the foundation for the newly opened center.

The administration also recognized the contribution of Dr. Joe Shirley Jr., Apache County District I Supervisor, and his team for donating the building that will house the recovery center.

The opening of the Chinle Recovery Center reflects ongoing efforts to address the need for accessible recovery services across the Navajo Nation. Leaders emphasized the resilience of the Diné people and the importance of providing pathways for healing and long-term sobriety.

The center will offer a range of services, including 12-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Family Groups, and Wellbriety Talking Circles. Cultural healing practices, including Sweat Lodge ceremonies, will be integrated alongside telehealth counseling services through community partnerships, supporting holistic healing of the mind, body, and spirit.

The new facility represents a renewed commitment to supporting individuals and families facing substance use challenges, providing a dedicated space for healing and recovery within the community.

The grand opening marks a new beginning for Chinle and surrounding communities, with leaders expressing optimism that the center will continue to bring healing, strength, and hope for generations to come.





NAVAJO NATION HONORS SERVICE AND STRENGTH AT NAVAJO WOMEN WARRIOR RECOGNITION DAY



TWIN ARROWS, Ariz. — Navajo women veterans from across the Navajo Nation gathered on March 19 at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort for the second annual Navajo Women Warriors Day of Recognition and Women Veterans Conference.

Hosted by the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, the event honored the service, sacrifice, and resilience of Navajo women who have served in the United States Armed Forces while providing direct access to essential support services.

Now in its second year, the conference continues to grow as a space for recognition, healing, and connection. Designed as a “one-stop shop,” the event offered VA disability claims assistance, medical exams, benefits counseling, and access to a wide range of veteran resources, helping reduce barriers to care.

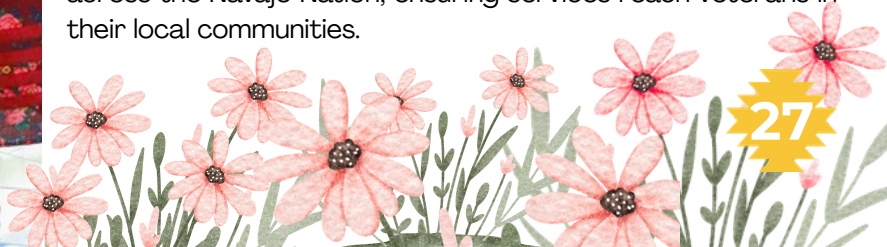
A key focus of the gathering was creating a safe, women-centered environment where participants could openly share experiences and reconnect across generations, from Vietnam-era veterans to those who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Gulf War.

The conference also highlighted strong partnerships with organizations including the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans, and the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, helping expand access to care and long-term support.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren shared a video message expressing appreciation for Navajo women veterans and reaffirming his commitment to strengthening services across the Navajo Nation.

Throughout the day, attendees participated in networking sessions, breakout discussions, cultural programming, and recognition ceremonies that celebrated both their service and their continued leadership in their communities.

Organizers plan to expand the conference to each agency across the Navajo Nation, ensuring services reach veterans in their local communities.





NAVAJO NATION MARKS \$8.32 MILLION MILESTONE FROM FOREST CARBON PROJECT

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation reached a major milestone on March 19, receiving its first return from the Navajo Forest Carbon Project with an \$8.32 million payment from Anew Climate, representing initial revenues from carbon credit sales.

The milestone reflects years of planning, partnership, and long-term vision centered on stewardship, sovereignty, and sustainable economic development. Through the project, more than 500,000 acres of forestland across Arizona and New Mexico continue to support environmental health while generating new revenue for the Nation.

By prioritizing forest health and carbon sequestration, the Navajo Nation is creating verified climate benefits while establishing a sustainable source of funding to support essential services, including education, public safety, infrastructure, water projects, and cultural preservation.

The effort represents coordinated work across Navajo Nation leadership, including the Division of Natural Resources, Forestry Department, Department of Justice, the Resources and Development Committee, Council Delegate Rickie Nez, and partners at Anew Climate.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren emphasized the broader significance of the project, highlighting its role in strengthening sovereignty and creating long-term opportunity.

“This milestone reflects our commitment to protecting our land while creating sustainable opportunities for our people,” said President Nygren. “Through this work, we are building a future that honors our responsibility to care for Diné lands while investing in generations to come.”

The project also supports workforce development for Navajo forestry professionals and represents a transition toward innovative, Nation-led economic solutions following the closure of the Navajo Generating Station.

The \$8.32 million return marks the beginning of ongoing revenue that will continue to benefit the Navajo Nation for years to come.





PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH 2026 'AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH'



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed a proclamation on March 16 recognizing March 2026 as American Red Cross Month, joined by Edgar R. Olivo, Regional CEO for Arizona and New Mexico, along with Red Cross and Navajo Nation leadership.

The proclamation highlights the longstanding partnership between the Navajo Nation and the American Red Cross, particularly through the Division of Public Safety. Across the Navajo Nation, Red Cross volunteers are often among the first to respond to home fires and other emergencies, providing immediate relief, recovery support, and critical resources to families in need.

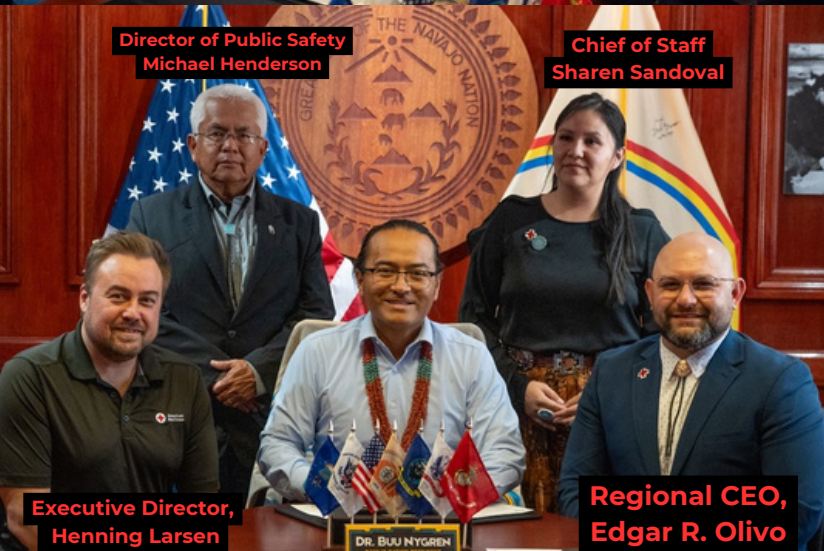
More than 150 Red Cross volunteers serve communities across the Navajo Nation, supporting disaster response efforts, fire safety education, blood donation initiatives, and emergency preparedness training. Their work reflects a shared commitment to service, compassion, and community care.

The recognition also honors the organization's 145 years of humanitarian service, as well as the many local volunteers who dedicate their time to helping others.

During the meeting, leaders discussed strengthening collaboration through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to expand disaster preparedness training, enhance emergency response coordination at chapter houses, and increase training opportunities for community health representatives. Additional discussions included adapting the Red Cross "Prepare with Pedro" fire safety program into a culturally relevant version for Navajo students.

President Nygren emphasized the importance of continued partnership in building stronger and more resilient communities.

"We are grateful for the American Red Cross and the volunteers who stand ready to support our communities in times of need," said President Nygren. "This partnership helps ensure our people have the resources, training, and support to stay safe and prepared."



Director of Public Safety
Michael Henderson

Chief of Staff
Sharen Sandoval

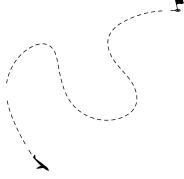
Executive Director,
Henning Larsen

Regional CEO,
Edgar R. Olivo





PRESIDENT NYGREN VISITS SPRING YOUTH RUNNING CAMP AT CANYON DE CHELLY



CANYON DE CHELLY, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren visited the Spring Youth Running Camp at Canyon de Chelly National Monument on March 20, joining youth participants on the final day of a weeklong program focused on running, wellness, and personal growth.

The camp brought together youth ages 12 to 18 for afternoon sessions that emphasized physical fitness, healthy living, and leadership development. Set within one of the Navajo Nation’s most culturally significant landscapes, the program offered participants an opportunity to strengthen both body and spirit while reconnecting with the land.

President Nygren and his staff hiked into the canyon alongside participants, experiencing firsthand the environment that continues to shape and inspire young runners. Surrounded by towering sandstone cliffs and the deep history of the canyon, the visit highlighted the importance of creating meaningful spaces where youth can grow in confidence and identity.

Programs like the Spring Youth Running Camp play a vital role in supporting the next generation of Navajo leaders by promoting discipline, resilience, and cultural connection. By engaging with the land, participants deepen their understanding of Diné values and carry those teachings forward.

President Nygren expressed appreciation for the National Park Service, Diné Youth, and all partners who helped make the camp possible.

“When our young people are out on the land, they are building more than strength—they are building purpose and connection,” said President Nygren. **“Canyon de Chelly holds our history and identity, and programs like this help our youth carry that strength into their future.”**

The visit underscored the Navajo Nation’s continued commitment to investing in youth development through programs that support health, culture, and leadership.





Navajo Nation Celebrates Grand Opening of New Academic Building at NTU

CROWNPOINT, N.M. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined students, educators, and community leaders on March 27, 2026, to celebrate the opening of a new academic building at Navajo Technical University, recognizing the moment as a meaningful investment in the future of the Navajo Nation.

The new \$12 million facility reflects a shared commitment to creating greater opportunities for Diné students. Designed with 14 classrooms, a computer lab, faculty offices, and collaborative learning spaces, the building will support student success while strengthening pathways into careers that serve Navajo communities.

NTU continues to serve more than 2,000 students each year, many of whom pursue higher education while remaining close to home, family, and culture.

President Nygren expressed deep appreciation for the many hands and partnerships that brought the project to life, emphasizing that the building represents more than physical growth—it reflects belief in Navajo students and their potential.

“This moment is about our students and the futures they are working toward,” said President Nygren. “When we invest in spaces like this, we are showing our young people that they are valued, that their education matters, and that they can succeed right here at home. I am grateful to everyone who helped make this possible.”

He also extended appreciation to New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the State of New Mexico for their support, as well as to NTU leadership including NTU President Dr. Elmer Guy, the Board of Regents, faculty, and staff whose dedication carried the project forward.

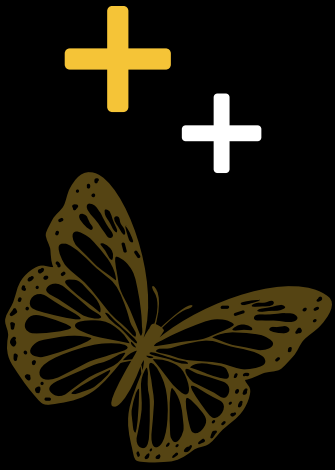
The celebration included a traditional blessing, student and leadership remarks, and a shared meal prepared by NTU’s Culinary Arts Program. Attendees were invited to walk through the new building, experiencing firsthand the environment that will serve current and future students.

Grounded in the values of sovereignty and self-determination, NTU continues to be a cornerstone of higher education for the Navajo Nation. The new academic building stands as a reflection of that mission—creating space for learning, growth, and the continued strengthening of Diné identity.



As we look ahead, this building reminds us of what is possible when we come together for our people,” President Nygren said. “Our students carry our future, and it is our responsibility to support them every step of the way.”





Tune-In Thursdays @ 8 AM, 1 PM, & 5:30 PM

KNDN 96.0 AM | KTNN 66.0 AM | KGAK 133.0 AM
Diné College 92.1 FM | NTU 107.3 FM

Listen to your local Navajo radio station to hear weekly updates given in Diné Bizaad by President Buu Nygren

Post Office Box 7440
Window Rock, AZ 86515
opvp.navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 871-7000

STAY IN THE KNOW



WITH NYGREN NEWS

LISTEN ON  Spotify



Listen on
Apple Podcasts