

JUNE 2026

FREE



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

NYGREN NEWS

STAY IN THE KNOW WITH THE PRESIDENT



STAY IN THE KNOW WITH PRESIDENT BUU NYGREN



A SEASON OF COMMUNITY & PROGRESS

STRENGTHENING OUR NATION, HONORING OUR PEOPLE, BUILDING OUR FUTURE



**+ HONORING OUR HEROES
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
SALUTES OUR VETERANS**



**+ BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES
NEW HOUSING PROJECTS BRING
HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY**

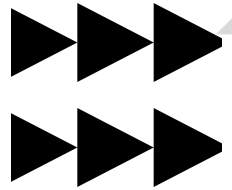
SHIPROCK MARATHON MEMORIES + YOUTH PROGRAMS + INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES + AND MORE



Running Through the Summer

Shí biyi'góne' náá'oolwoł

Navajo
by
Peter
Thomas



Diné kééhat'íigi shí bee baa náá'oolzhiizh. Nízaadgóó ní'dít'ááh, jóhonaa'éi áyoo bits'á níldoi dóo ółta'í bił baa dahoneeni doo da'ółta'góó. T'áá akwííjí t'ahdóó ha'a'aahgóó, diné tséłkéi Jalen wolyéego ké bee ná'iiltihí yéé' áłł'óóh dóo łeeshtah atiin góyaa bighan bíighahgóó dah nidiilwo'.

Summer had arrived on Navajo Land. The days were long, the sun was hot, and many students were enjoying their break. But each morning before sunrise, a Navajo boy named Jalen quietly tied his running shoes and headed down the dusty roads near his home.

Ánínáá da'íniilta'go naakits'áadah yi'íniilta', íinízin ná'iiltih biniiyé hasht'e' ádishnééh dooleeł. Łahda abínigo bił hóyéé' leh. Bijáád t'óó nidaaz, t'áá' ashxoshgo hodidoonaal nizin. ákonidi bizhé'é, ánií naaghááda' néiltih nit'éé', ábíhí, "t'áá hó'ajít'éego t'éi ádooníł, azhá doo íiznizin da nidi."

Next year would be his senior year, and he wanted to be ready for cross-country season. Some mornings were difficult. His legs felt heavy, and sometimes he wanted to stay in bed. But his father, who had once been a great runner himself, often reminded him, "Discipline is doing what needs to be done, even when you don't feel like doing it."

Díi saad Jalen t'áá akwííjí yił yigáál. Deiyíłk'id bitahgóó yilwołgo dóo abínigo níłch'i sik'áází bee ních'ih biyi'góne' yilwołgo, yaa' ákoniiizí'ı' ła' hooníł bee áhoodoolníł, ádaalts'íisigo bee dootł'ı'ı' t'áadoo diniitłóhí.

Jalen carried those words with him every day. As he ran across the mesas and through the cool morning air, he learned that success is built little by little through consistent effort.

Shí bił ayííłká, Jalen!t'áá násigo náádíneesá. Na'nitin bohóneedzı' yaa ákonáaniidzı'ı': bee ó'oolníłhí bee ąą' ádahalne', ákonidi t'áá hó'ajít'éegi bee biyi' oodáál lá. Á daalts'íisigo ákwiilníł bee nitsaago ła' dahooníł lá.

When summer ended, Jalen was stronger than before. He realized an important lesson: talent may open a door, but discipline is what helps you walk through it. The small choices we make each day can lead to our biggest achievements.

Read More Diné Bizaad

Click Link:

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



"Every Month, I bring you a story in Diné Bizaad. Take time to read & speak Navajo – it's how we keep our language strong." ~ President Nygren



NAZLINI COMMUNITY HONORS FALLEN WARRIORS; PRESIDENT NYGREN JOINS MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

NAZLINI Ariz. – The Nazlini Veterans Organization hosted its annual Memorial Day Ceremony under the theme, “Our Nazlini Heroes Are Never Forgotten – Remembering Those Who Served.” Held at the Nazlini Chapter, the event brought together veterans, families, and community members to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States.

“Across every generation, Navajo men and women have answered the call to serve,” President Nygren said. “They left their homes, families, and communities to defend freedoms that many would never fully understand. Some returned home to continue serving their people. Others made the ultimate sacrifice and never came back.”

President Nygren noted that Native Americans continue to serve in the military at the highest per-capita rate of any ethnic group in the nation and highlighted the approximately 8,000 veterans who call the Navajo Nation home.

“Memorial Day is a sacred time for reflection,” he said. “We honor those warriors whose names are etched into our hearts and whose sacrifices made our way of life possible. Their courage reminds us that freedom is never free, and that service to others remains one of the highest values we can carry as Diné people.”

During his remarks, President Nygren emphasized the Navajo Nation’s ongoing commitment to supporting veterans. More than 100 veteran homes are currently under construction, while over 150 housing improvement projects have been completed or are underway for veterans, spouses, and Gold Star families. Nearly 200 Navajo veterans have also received assistance securing federal benefits, resulting in more than \$730,000 in retroactive disability payments.

“These are not simply numbers,” President Nygren said. “They represent food on the table, utilities paid, homes repaired, and peace of mind for those who sacrificed for us.”

The ceremony also recognized local veteran leaders and honored Purple Heart recipients as Nazlini continues its leadership as a designated Purple Heart Community.



PRESIDENT NYGREN PROCLAIMS MAY 2026 AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren has officially proclaimed May 2026 as Older Americans Month on the Navajo Nation, recognizing the invaluable contributions, wisdom, and sacrifices of Diné elders who continue to strengthen families, communities, and future generations.

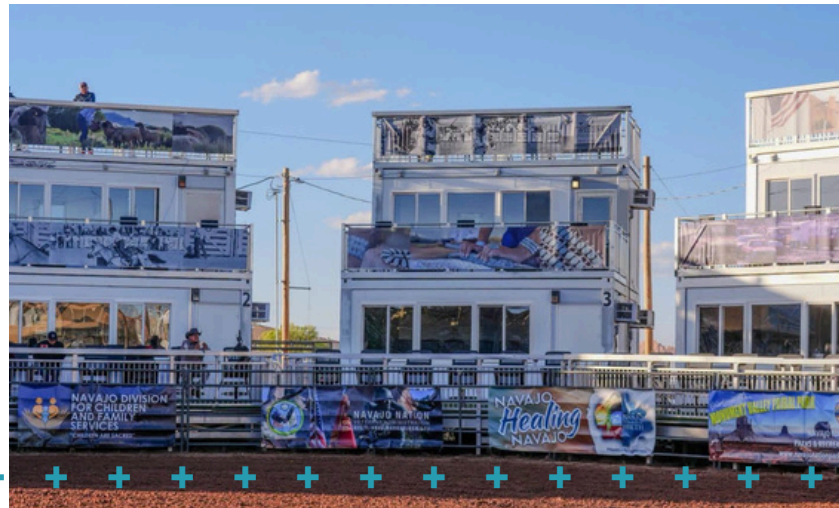
Older Americans Month is a nationwide observance that honors older adults and highlights the importance of supporting healthy aging, independence, and community engagement. Across the Navajo Nation, elders serve as cultural knowledge keepers, language speakers, caregivers, mentors, and leaders whose guidance helps preserve Diné values, traditions, and identity.

“Our elders are the foundation of our Nation,” President Nygren said. “Their resilience, wisdom, and lifelong contributions have helped shape who we are as Diné people. We honor them not only during Older Americans Month, but every day for the lessons they teach, the stories they share, and the strength they continue to provide to our families and communities.”

The proclamation also recognizes the vital work of the Navajo Nation Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support (DALTCS), which provides services and resources that promote the health, safety, dignity, and well-being of older adults. Through caregiver support, home and community-based services, wellness programs, and efforts to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, DALTCS continues to adapt its services to meet the evolving needs of Navajo elders.

The proclamation encourages all Navajo Nation residents to celebrate and honor elders, caregivers, and those dedicated to serving older adults. It also highlights the importance of fostering opportunities for older adults to remain active, connected, and engaged within their communities.

President Nygren signed the proclamation on May 29, 2026, at the Dean C. Jackson Memorial Arena in Window Rock prior to the opening of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo, reaffirming the Navajo Nation’s commitment to supporting elders and ensuring their wisdom and contributions continue to guide future generations.





CAPITOL VUE APARTMENTS REPRESENT A NEW VISION FOR HOUSING ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren toured the nearly completed Capitol Vue Apartments in Window Rock alongside Navajo Housing Authority officials, project managers, and construction partners to review progress on one of the Navajo Nation’s newest housing developments.

The Capitol Vue Apartment Complex, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act and The Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) funding, is expected to be completed in July 2026. The project was developed to help address the growing housing demand across the Navajo Nation, including housing needs for working families, young professionals, students, elders, and essential employees serving Navajo communities.

During the visit, President Nygren toured multiple units and reviewed future development concepts that could expand employee and workforce housing in the area. Discussions also focused on long-term infrastructure needs, including water storage capacity, utility connections, and future expansion opportunities on nearby administrative land.

“This is the type of housing our Navajo Nation needs more of;” President Nygren said. “Projects like Capitol Vue show what is possible when we invest in modern, quality housing that supports families, employees, and the future growth of our Nation.”

The approximately \$37 million project features modern apartment amenities including balconies, patios, recessed lighting, washer and dryer connections, larger hallways, central air conditioning, outdoor gathering spaces, and ADA-accessible units.

Construction crews continue work on utilities, roads, sidewalks, and finishing details across the site. According to project leaders, the development is designed to serve as a model for future apartment-style housing developments across the Navajo Nation.

“This really raises the standard for housing on the Navajo Nation,” President Nygren said during the tour. “We need to keep building opportunities like this for our people.”



APPROXIMATELY \$37 MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT





SUPPORTING HEALTHIER FUTURES: PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS PROCLAMATION FOR NAVAJO YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The future strength of the Navajo Nation depends on the health, well-being, and success of its youth. Recognizing the importance of understanding the challenges facing young people today, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed a proclamation on May 29, 2026, supporting school participation in the Navajo Youth Risk Behavior Survey (NYRBS).

“Our youth are one of our greatest priorities,” President Nygren said. **“We need to know what they are facing so we can provide the right resources, support, and prevention programs. This survey helps us make data-driven decisions that protect our young people and prepare them for strong, healthy futures.”**



The survey is voluntary, anonymous, and confidential, using CDC-approved methods to gather information on topics such as nutrition, physical activity, substance use, injury prevention, mental health, and sexual behavior. The data helps schools, tribal programs, public health leaders, and community partners identify trends, strengthen prevention efforts, guide funding decisions, and develop policies that support Navajo students.

Health educators and principal investigators emphasized that greater student participation leads to stronger and more accurate information about the experiences of Navajo youth. They also highlighted participation challenges in some Arizona public schools due to active parental consent requirements and requested support in encouraging schools with significant Navajo student enrollment to participate.



The Navajo Department of Health and Navajo Health Education Program have supported youth health surveys since the 1990s. Today, health educators serve communities across the Navajo Nation through schools, chapters, senior centers, correctional facilities, worksites, and outreach events, reaching nearly 10,000 students and working with more than 90 schools.

President Nygren thanked health education staff for their dedication, calling them “boots on the ground” who help improve lives through education and prevention.

“If we don’t set them up for success, give them support, or provide the resources they need, we’re going to have an even bigger problem in the next 50 years,” said President Nygren.



A NEW STOP OF OPPORTUNITY IS RISING IN INDIAN WELLS



INDIAN WELLS, Ariz. – At the busy junction of Indian Route 15 and Arizona Highway 77, steel, concrete, and years of determination are coming together to create something much bigger than a convenience store. For many in Indian Wells, this project represents decades of planning, prayer, persistence, and belief in the future of the community.

The new Indian Wells C-Store, Gas Station, and Post Office is expected to bring new services, local jobs, and economic growth to the area while improving convenience for travelers, school buses, truck drivers, and families passing through the region each day.

The nearly 5,000-square-foot development includes a convenience store, fuel station, food service area, public restrooms, and a relocated U.S. Post Office. Plans also include high-flow diesel pumps for commercial vehicles, a 24-hour ice machine, and the potential for future electric vehicle charging stations.

Construction is expected to be completed by September 2026. The project is being developed through a 25-year Navajo Nation Business Site Lease and is expected to employ 10 to 15 local Navajo workers once operational.

During a recent construction tour and project update meeting, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined chapter officials, community members, Red Mesa Trading Company, Keyah Construction, NTUA representatives, and project partners to recognize the progress being made.

“This community has wanted a store like this for a long time,” President Nygren said. “It’s exciting to see it finally coming together after many years of hard work from chapter officials, community members, and everyone involved.”

President Nygren also commended Red Mesa Trading Company for investing in Navajo communities and understanding the needs of the Navajo people.

Indian Wells Chapter officials shared that the project has been in development for nearly two decades and represents a major step forward for local economic development and future community growth.





NAVAJO NATION EXECUTIVE BRANCH ADVANCES HISTORIC COMPENSATION STUDY TO IMPLEMENT \$14.70 EMPLOYEE MINIMUM WAGE

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Division of Human Resources Director Reycita Toddy announced May 26 the implementation of a \$14.70 per hour wage minimum wage for all Navajo Nation offices.

“Our chapter houses are at the heart of delivering services to the Navajo Nation,” President Buu Nygren said. **“Yet many employees continue to try to make a living on a minimum wage of \$7.25. No one can do that. That federal minimum rate keeps our families below the poverty line, and that’s wrong.”**

The President said a minimum pay raise was long overdue that the Navajo Nation gets its budgets to reflect competitive wages. Without better pay for the Nation’s minimum wage jobs to fill open positions, it will similarly be unable to attract police officers, EMTs, office staff, lawyers, engineers, biologists, accountants and the numerous educated professionals who can move critical projects forward faster and more efficiently.

As soon as he entered office in 2023, President Nygren initiated the Navajo Nation Compensation Study. The Division of Human Resources contracted REDW, a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm. REDW completed the compensation study in January 2025.

REDW compared Navajo Nation positions with comparable local and regional market positions to ensure competitive salaries, address pay inequities and to improve recruitment and employee retention. Its objective was to analyze data to make the Navajo Nation a leading employer for Navajo Nation workers and professionals.

“More than 1,200 personnel action forms have already been processed under the new salary schedules,” Director Toddy said. **“For years, our employees voiced serious and often emotional concerns about low their pay was. My staff deals with the daily difficulty of retaining qualified workers. They’re the first to tell me that the wages we pay our people needs to reflect increased costs of everything we all buy.”**

The study is the first step to address income inequalities for Navajo Nation residents who are now facing disproportionately higher gas and diesel prices at the pump, inflated food costs at the supermarket, and higher bills for everything because of their remote locations.

“My administration made this promise to the Navajo people,” President Nygren said. **“They remember me saying we had to ensure there would be a wage increase to pay for grandma’s medicine, so moms and dads could feed their families and buy clothes for their kids, and that they could have just enough left over to continue their traditional lives of farming and ranching, which costs so much more today.”**

This is the first step of a continuing process, the President said. Next, he and Director Toddy will work to raise wages across the Navajo Nation, and to increase compensation for Navajo Nation retirees.





PRESIDENT NYGREN VISITS NASCHITTI AND NIZHONI ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR BILINGUAL READ-ALoud EVENT



Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren visited students at Naschitti Elementary School and Nizhoni Elementary School for a special bilingual read-aloud event focused on literacy, culture, and student engagement.

During the visits, President Nygren read portions of the Navajo-English children's book "Jóhonaa'ei: Bringer of Dawn" by Veronica Tsinajinnie. President Nygren encouraged students to participate in the Navajo language throughout the reading sessions.

The events were coordinated in partnership with Save the Children and brought together students, educators, school staff, and families in support of youth education and Navajo language literacy. Students also received book bags and reading materials to encourage learning and family reading at home.



Throughout the program, students practiced Navajo vocabulary and participated in interactive reading activities that highlighted the importance of preserving and strengthening the Navajo language for future generations.

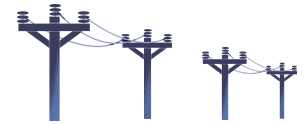
Naschitti Elementary School welcomed approximately 79 PreK-6th grade students, while Nizhoni Elementary School hosted approximately 229 K-6th grade students during the day's activities.

The Office of the President and Vice President extends appreciation to the schools, educators, Save the Children, and community members who helped make the visits possible.





LIGHT UP NAVAJO BRINGS HOPE TO A KLAGETOH FAMILY



KLAGETOH, Ariz. – On Tuesday, May 19, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren traveled to Klagetoh, Arizona, to meet with linemen working on the Light Up Navajo initiative and personally thank the Delta Montrose Electric Association from Colorado for their service and partnership in helping bring electricity to Navajo families. The seven-member crew joined the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority in continuing efforts to connect homes across the Navajo Nation.

During the visit, President Nygren met a family of six whose home received electricity for the very first time. One resident, a disabled Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veteran and father of four, had been waiting for services since applying in 2022.

For many families, electricity is something often taken for granted. But for thousands of Navajo families, living without power means going without reliable heat, refrigeration, running water, and other everyday necessities. Today, more than 13,000 families across the Navajo Nation are still living without electricity. That means nearly 75% of all homes in the United States that do not have power are located on the Navajo Nation.

Seeing the impact firsthand left a lasting impression on President Nygren.

“This is what it’s all about,” President Nygren said. “Being here in person, seeing the smiles on the family’s faces, and watching a home finally receive electricity after years of waiting is something that truly touches your heart. It reminds me why we continue to work so hard every day for our people. Moments like this give me hope and inspire me to keep advancing projects that improve lives across the Navajo Nation.”

President Nygren expressed gratitude to NTUA, utility crews, and all partners involved in the Light Up Navajo initiative for their continued dedication and compassion toward Navajo communities.

The Navajo Nation and NTUA will continue pursuing additional funding opportunities to expand electrification efforts and connect as many homes as possible, bringing hope and opportunity to families throughout the Navajo Nation.





PRESIDENT NYGREN JOINS MEMORIAL DAY “MURPH” CHALLENGE TO HONOR FALLEN WARRIORS



DILKON, Ariz. — It was a cool, cloud-covered Memorial Day morning in Dilkon as veterans, families, runners, and community members gathered at the Dilkon Chapter House for the Dilkon Veterans Organization’s first official “Murph” Challenge on the Navajo Nation. More than a fitness event, the gathering served as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by the nation’s fallen service members and the importance of keeping their memory alive through community, reflection, and action.

The “Murph” Challenge is named after Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, a U.S. Navy SEAL killed in action during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005.

President Nygren joined participants throughout the morning’s ceremonies and workout activities, which included prayer, a raising of the flag at half-staff, a final roll call honoring local fallen veterans, and the Murph workout itself — a one-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats, and a final one-mile run.

The event organizer, Kyle Lewis, emphasized that the event was never about recognition or celebration, but remembrance.

“We don’t have T-shirts, medals, or a big ceremony,” Kyle shared during opening remarks. “We just have a pretty tough workout. This day belongs exclusively to the men and women who went to war and never came home.”



President Nygren praised the veterans and organizers for bringing the event to the Navajo Nation and spoke about the resilience of Navajo people and veterans alike.

“As Navajo people, we are resilient, tough, and we don’t quit,” President Nygren said. “Today was about honoring those who sacrificed everything and reminding ourselves of the strength that runs through our communities. Even through the pain and challenge of the workout, we remember the warriors who never made it home.”



President Nygren also thanked Navajo veterans for their continued leadership and presence within their communities, saying their service continues to inspire and protect future generations.





SAN JUAN COLLEGE CLASS OF 2026 CELEBRATED IN FARMINGTON

FARMINGTON, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren attended the San Juan College Graduation Ceremony on May 16, joining graduates, families, faculty, and community members in celebrating the success of the Class of 2026.

More than 500 graduates crossed the stage during the ceremony as supporters filled the venue to recognize the hard work and determination that led students to this milestone. The morning began warm, with temperatures continuing to rise throughout the day as graduates celebrated alongside their loved ones.

President Nygren congratulated the graduates and recognized the commitment it took to reach this achievement.

“Your education is something nobody can ever take away from you,” President Nygren said. **“Use what you’ve learned to create opportunities for yourselves, your families, and your communities.”**

The Office of the President extends congratulations to the San Juan College Class of 2026 and wishes every graduate continued success in their future endeavors.



WINDOW ROCK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The spirit of pride, perseverance, and hope filled the air as families, teachers, and community members gathered to celebrate the Window Rock High School Class of 2026 graduation ceremony, where graduates were honored for reaching an important milestone in their lives and beginning a new chapter toward the future.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren attended the ceremony alongside students, parents, educators, and supporters, celebrating the accomplishments of the graduating class.

The ceremony was filled with heartfelt reflections, laughter, emotion, and inspiration as graduates walked across the stage surrounded by cheers from loved ones. Many students were recognized not only for academic achievement, but for their resilience, leadership, and determination to overcome challenges while pursuing their goals.

Throughout the ceremony, the pride and tradition of Window Rock High School remained at the center of the celebration, reminding graduates that no matter where life takes them, they will always carry the spirit of their school and community with them.





PRESIDENT NYGREN HIGHLIGHTS NAVAJO ECONOMIC GROWTH AT AMERICAN INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ARIZONA

PHOENIX, Ariz – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Arizona for its monthly luncheon, where the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development shared opportunities for businesses, contractors, entrepreneurs, and partners interested in working with the Navajo Nation.

The discussion focused on business registration, business site leases, tourism development, infrastructure investments, and the shared goal of keeping more dollars circulating within Navajo communities.

“Economic development is where true tribal sovereignty happens,” President Nygren said. **“The stronger the Navajo Nation becomes, the stronger our communities become. Every business, every project, and every investment creates opportunities for Navajo workers, entrepreneurs, families, and future generations.”**

Sharlene Platero, Division Director for the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development, encouraged business owners to register with the Nation, get on the source list, and work directly with the division on leasing and development opportunities.

“We are here to help the business community create jobs for our Navajo people,” Platero said. **“We want to keep more Navajo dollars on Navajo land, and that takes partnership, investment, and businesses willing to grow with our communities.”**

President Nygren also highlighted ongoing efforts to expand financing for Navajo businesses, pursue major tourism corridor investments, develop multi-use housing and retail spaces, and complete critical wastewater treatment infrastructure in larger Navajo communities.

The luncheon brought together tribal business leaders, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, and community partners for continued networking and collaboration.





T'ÁÁ HWÓ' AJÍ T'ÉEGO: JUST MOVE IT

I had the honor of joining community members in Tonalea for the Just Move It run at Slim Horse Race Track. It was a beautiful evening to spend time with our people and get some good miles in together.

I always enjoy participating in Just Move It because these events bring our communities together through health, encouragement, and wellness. It was inspiring to see so many families, runners, walkers, and community members supporting one another throughout the evening. Opportunities like this remind us how important it is to stay active, connected, and committed to healthy living.

I want to sincerely thank the workers, volunteers, and organizers who helped make the event possible. From passing out fruit and water to cheering on participants along the route, your efforts continue to make a positive impact in our communities and encourage healthier lifestyles across the Navajo Nation.

Just Move It continues to be an important pillar for health and fitness for our people. T'áá Hwó' Ají T'éego!

The Just Move It series continues throughout 2026. Upcoming JMI events:

- May 26 — Klagetoh Chapter & Hidden Springs
- May 27 — Tooh Haltsooi Chapter
- May 28 — Winslow Indian Healthcare Center

Ahéhee' to everyone who came out to Tonalea last night. I'm already looking forward to the next run.



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2026



HOME OF THE NAVAJO PRCA RODEO

Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo. Home of some of the greatest cowboys and cowgirls around. We had so much fun cheering on our professional Navajo athletes and our rising cowgirls who had the opportunity to compete alongside the women they look up to. Being able to share the arena with their idols inspires dreams and reminds them that anything is possible!

Thank you to all of the contestants, fans, stock contractors, volunteers, sponsors, and everyone who works behind the scenes to make this rodeo possible this year.

Thank you to all the professional athletes who made a stop at our Home, you inspire our youth and it means so much to our communities. We wish each of you a safe and successful rodeo season as you continue down the road.





PRESIDENT NYGREN JOINS NMSU GRANTS CLASS OF 2026 IN CELEBRATION OF GRADUATION

GRANTS, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren attended the New Mexico State University Grants graduation ceremony on May 15 to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 alongside families, faculty, students, and supporters gathered for the occasion.

The ceremony honored graduates for their resilience, determination, and commitment throughout their academic journey while encouraging them to continue building strong communities and pursuing their purpose beyond the classroom.

President Nygren congratulated the graduates and reflected on the dedication required to reach such a major milestone.

“Graduation represents more than earning a degree,” President Nygren said. “It represents sacrifice, discipline, and the determination to keep moving forward even when challenges arise. Our students are proving that hard work and perseverance continue to open doors for future generations.”

President Nygren also spoke about the importance of education, leadership, and carrying Navajo values into every career path and opportunity ahead.

“Wherever life takes you next, never forget where you come from,” President Nygren said. “Your education is not only an achievement for yourselves, but also for your families, your communities, and the future of the Navajo Nation. Continue learning, continue growing, and continue uplifting others along the way.”

During the event, graduates were recognized before family members, friends, and university leadership as the Class of 2026 officially concluded its academic journey at NMSU Grants. The celebration also included opportunities for graduates and attendees to gather for photos and celebrate together following the ceremony.

President Nygren spent time meeting with students, families, and community members throughout the event, where many attendees expressed appreciation for the graduates and their accomplishments.

The Office of the President extends congratulations to the NMSU Grants Class of 2026 and wishes every graduate continued success in their future careers, education, and endeavors.





PRESIDENT NYGREN CELEBRATES NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2026



CROWNPOINT, N.M. — Families, faculty, community leaders, and supporters gathered Friday at the Navajo Technical University Wellness Center to celebrate the achievements of the NTU Spring Class of 2026, recognizing graduates who earned degrees and certificates across multiple fields of study.

During the ceremony, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren congratulated graduates for the perseverance and dedication that carried them to this milestone. President Nygren encouraged students to continue believing in their abilities and to use their education to strengthen Navajo communities and create opportunities for future generations.

“To every graduate here today, there is no limit to what you can accomplish,” President Nygren said. **“You stayed committed when things became difficult. You continued moving forward when life demanded so much from you. Your family is proud of you. Your community is proud of you. The Navajo Nation is proud of you.”**

President Nygren also reflected on the importance of education and cultural identity, emphasizing the role graduates will play in shaping the future of the Navajo Nation.

“Every commencement ceremony reminds me that our students believe in the future of the Navajo Nation,” President Nygren said. **“You chose to pursue an education while remaining connected to your roots. You chose to invest your talents into your people and your communities. That deserves recognition and respect.”**

The ceremony included remarks and participation from NTU President Dr. Elmer J. Guy, commencement speaker Dr. Tom Davis, Jason Arviso, Rose Graham of the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship, and Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalayne Curley.

During the event, the World Indigenous University Honorarium Doctoral Degree was conferred upon Dr. Tom Davis. One of the ceremony’s featured moments also included Ashley Joe of Sheep Springs, N.M., receiving her Master of Arts in Diné Culture, Language, and Leadership after being formally hooded by Dr. Casmir Agbaragji, Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

The Office of the President extends congratulations to the Navajo Technical University Class of 2026 and wishes each graduate continued success in their careers, education, and future endeavors.



PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 17TH- 23RD AS NAVAJO NATION EMS WEEK

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Across the Navajo Nation, EMS professionals are often the first to respond during moments of crisis, bringing lifesaving care, calm, and hope to families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. From remote communities to major public events, emergency responders work long hours under intense pressure to protect the health and safety of the Navajo people.

“That’s what I think about when I think about EMS,” stated President Nygren. “You are always there when people need you most.”

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren officially proclaimed May 17–23, 2026, as Navajo Nation Emergency Medical Services Week, recognizing the dedication, courage, and sacrifice of EMS personnel serving communities across the Navajo Nation.

This year’s theme, “Improving Outcomes, Together,” honors EMT recruits, Emergency Medical Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, paramedics, instructors, supervisors, support staff, and administrators who work around the clock to provide emergency medical care.

“You guys are there during the most critical times in people’s lives,” President Nygren said. “A lot of people do not understand the stress, trauma, and responsibility you carry every single day. But regardless of the situation, Navajo people always rise to the occasion. That’s exactly what our EMS teams represent.”

EMS leadership Dr. Delores Greyeyes, NDPS, Chris Kescoli, Department Manager and Ramone Yazzie, Sr., Training Manager highlighted the continued evolution of emergency medical services across the Navajo Nation, including advancements in training, technology, patient care, and safety.

These advancements strengthen frontline services, expand workforce capacity, and ensure communities, including elders, and veterans receive timely and companionate emergency response.

Leaders also recognized the growing challenges EMS personnel face in the field and the importance of supporting first responders and their families.

President Nygren emphasized the importance of ensuring EMS personnel remain supported spiritually and emotionally while continuing their service to communities across the Nation.

“You are the first resort and sometimes the last resort for our people,” President Nygren said. “You are heroes every single day.”

The proclamation also recognizes the families of EMS personnel whose support and sacrifice make it possible for responders to answer the call at all hours of the day and night.

President Nygren encourages all Navajo Nation communities to observe EMS Week in honor of the emergency responders who continue to serve the Navajo people with professionalism, compassion, and courage.

For more information on Navajo Nation Emergency Medical Services (EMS) visit www.navajoems.org





NAVAJO NATION CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS AND NAVAJO GRADUATES AT ASU AMERICAN INDIAN CELEBRATION



TEMPE, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation proudly recognizes and celebrates the students honored during the American Indian Celebration Program hosted by Arizona State University on May 15, 2026.

Hosted by American Indian Student Support Services (AISSS) and the American Indian Celebration Committee, the annual celebration brought together students, families, alumni, faculty, tribal leaders, and supporters to recognize the accomplishments of Indigenous graduates and celebrate their academic success.

The event featured blessings, cultural performances, graduate recognition, and remarks from Indigenous leaders, alumni, and students, creating a meaningful celebration centered on education, identity, and community. Graduates were also honored with commemorative stoles, continuing a tradition that recognizes perseverance, leadership, and achievement.

Many Navajo students were recognized during the celebration, representing their families, communities, and the Navajo Nation through their hard work and dedication. Their accomplishments reflected the growing number of Navajo students continuing to pursue higher education while carrying their culture, language, and teachings with them throughout their academic journeys.

American Indian Student Support Services continues to provide support and resources for Indigenous students across Arizona State University, creating welcoming spaces that help students succeed academically while staying connected to their cultures and communities.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, who is also an Arizona State University alumnus, congratulated the graduates and shared words of encouragement as they begin the next chapter of their journeys.

“We are proud of all of our Indigenous students who continue to work hard and achieve their goals,” said President Nygren. “Your accomplishments reflect the strength of your families, your communities, and the future of our people. Continue believing in yourselves and carry your teachings with you wherever you go.”

The celebration also highlighted the importance of Indigenous-centered spaces in higher education, where students are supported academically, culturally, and personally throughout their educational journeys.



NAVAJO NATION HONORS FALLEN HEROES DURING MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN WINDOW ROCK



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation gathered today at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park to honor and remember fallen officers of the Navajo Police Department during the annual Navajo Police Department Fallen Officers Memorial held in observance of National Police Week.

The memorial ceremony brought together law enforcement, government leadership, families, and community members in a solemn tribute recognizing the officers who gave their lives in service to the Navajo people. The program included the posting of colors, prayers, remarks from leadership, the reading of fallen officers' names, moments of silence, and closing prayers.

The memorial represented a powerful moment of remembrance, unity, and gratitude for those who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting Navajo communities. It served as a reminder that the safety and well-being of the Navajo Nation has long depended on officers willing to answer difficult calls, serve in dangerous situations, and dedicate their lives to protecting others.

Throughout the ceremony, speakers reflected on the courage, sacrifice, and lasting legacy of Navajo law enforcement officers who dedicated their lives to protecting communities across the Navajo Nation. The event also recognized the families, friends, and fellow officers who continue to carry the memory of their loved ones with strength.

“Let us remember not only how these officers died, but more importantly how they lived—with integrity, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the Navajo people,” said Sgt. Marwin Joe. **“To serve our people was their calling; to remember them is our duty.”**

Sharen Sandoval, Chief of Staff for the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, also addressed attendees, emphasizing unity, remembrance, and continued support for officers and their families.

“Today is not only about loss—it’s also about unity,” Sandoval shared. **“Even in sorrow we find purpose, and even in loss we find strength. To our fallen officers, we thank you, we honor you, and we will carry your legacy forward.”**

President Nygren continues to support Navajo law enforcement officers and remains committed to strengthening public safety across the Navajo Nation through continued investment, support, and advocacy for the officers who serve communities every day.



ST. MICHAEL INDIAN SCHOOL CELEBRATES NEW GYMNASIUM DEDICATION AND RIBBON CUTTING



ST. MICHAELS, Ariz. – St. Michael Indian School celebrated the dedication and ribbon cutting of its new gymnasium with students, staff, alumni, community members, and leadership gathering to mark a major milestone for the school and surrounding community.

The event began with a ribbon cutting ceremony outside the new gymnasium followed by a traditional blessing and benediction.

During the ceremony, speakers highlighted the importance of athletics, leadership, education, and community connection. Sharen Sandoval, Chief of Staff for the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, spoke on behalf of Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and emphasized the positive role team sports play in youth development and leadership.



“This building will create opportunities for students to grow as leaders, teammates, and community members,” Sandoval said. “Facilities like this help keep communities connected while creating safe spaces for future generations.”

Sandoval also highlighted ongoing efforts under President Nygren’s administration to expand educational opportunities through increased scholarships and broadband initiatives across the Navajo Nation.



Several speakers reflected on the years of planning, prayer, and community support that made the project possible, while recognizing the contributions of construction crews, heavy equipment operators, painters, school leadership, and supporters who helped bring the new facility to life.

School leadership shared excitement about the future of the gymnasium, including plans to host regional volleyball and basketball events while working toward bringing more home games back to campus in the years ahead.

The ceremony concluded with community members touring the new facility and celebrating a project many described as a long-awaited blessing for students, families, and future generations.





PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2026 NAVAJO GRANDMA & GRANDPA MONTH AT OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH CELEBRATION



TWIN LAKES, NM. – Navajo Nation President Nygren joined Diné elders, families, caregivers, and community members today at the Division of Aging & Long-Term Care Support (DALTCS) Older Americans' Month Celebration in Twin Lakes, New Mexico, where he signed an official proclamation declaring May 2026 as "Navajo Grandma & Grandpa Month."

Hosted in honor of Older Americans' Month, the celebration recognized the lifelong contributions, teachings, and sacrifices of Diné elders whose leadership and wisdom continue to strengthen Navajo communities and preserve Diné culture for future generations. The event included a grand entry, cultural songs and dancing, community performances, and remarks from Navajo Nation leaders and elders.

In the proclamation, President Nygren recognized Diné elders as the keepers of language, stories, traditions, and values that continue to guide the Navajo people. The proclamation also reaffirmed the Navajo Nation's commitment to supporting older adults through programs and services that promote dignity, independence, wellness, and community engagement.

During his remarks, President Nygren spoke directly to elders and emphasized that supporting Diné seniors remains a personal and governmental priority.

During his remarks, President Nygren spoke about the Navajo Nation's continued efforts to expand and strengthen services for Diné elders. These efforts include the development of additional senior centers, improvements to meal programs and home-delivery services, support for eyeglasses and hearing aids, infrastructure assistance such as windmill repairs, utility assistance programs, and resources for home repairs and mortgage support. He encouraged elders and families to continue reaching out and sharing concerns so services can continue improving.

He further recognized the dedication of senior center employees and caregivers who work daily to serve and transport elders, acknowledging their important role in supporting the wellbeing of Diné seniors throughout the Navajo Nation.

The DALTCS Older Americans' Month Celebration brought together elders from across the Navajo Nation for a day centered on honoring culture, community, wellness, and the enduring strength of Diné grandparents.

"Ahe'hee' to our elders for all you have given to our people," President Nygren said. "We will continue working every day to honor your sacrifices and build the services and support you deserve."



"You are the keepers of our language, our songs, our stories, and our way of life," said President Nygren. "Everything we do as leaders is rooted in respect for what you have taught us and for the sacrifices you have made so our children and grandchildren can have a stronger future."



PRESIDENT NYGREN REAFFIRMS NAVAJO NATION'S POSITION ON CHACO BUFFER ZONE

FARMINGTON, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with the Bureau of Land Management for a government-to-government consultation regarding Public Land Order No. 7923 and the 10-mile buffer zone around Chaco Culture National Historical Park. Council Delegate Danny Simpson was also in attendance during the consultation.

President Nygren reaffirmed the Navajo Nation's position supporting a zero-mile buffer zone, emphasizing that any decision affecting Navajo allottees, families, grazing users, and local communities must include true consultation with the people who live there.

“The Navajo people have protected Chaco for generations,” President Nygren said. “My position is clear: leave it alone. Zero buffer zone is my stance. Everything was good before this started, and the local chapters and communities deserve to be respected.”

During the consultation, Navajo Nation leaders noted that cultural resources are already protected through existing tribal and federal laws, including the Navajo Nation Cultural Resource Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other federal protections. Leaders also emphasized that Navajo families in the area rely on these lands for their livelihood and should not be left out of decisions that directly impact them.

The BLM is currently reviewing three alternatives: no action, a five-mile buffer, or removal of the 10-mile buffer. A draft environmental assessment is expected to be released for a 14-day public comment period before the decision package moves forward.

President Nygren will continue advocating for Navajo sovereignty, local chapter input, and meaningful consultation that respects Navajo families, sacred sites, and generations of stewardship in the Chaco region.





HONORING TRADITION AND COMMUNITY AT DASH FOR CASH 2026



TEEC NOS POS, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren was honored to return home to Teec Nos Pos this past weekend to attend the 2026 Dash for Cash Authentic Horse Race, an event that continues to celebrate Diné culture, horsemanship, and the enduring strength of community.

Over the past four years, President Nygren has had the privilege of supporting and attending the Dash for Cash, a gathering that brings together families, elders, youth, riders, and visitors from across the Navajo Nation. More than a race, the event serves as a living expression of Diné identity, carrying forward traditions that have been passed down through generations.

This year's 32-plus-mile endurance relay featured 18 riders who demonstrated determination, discipline, and teamwork throughout the challenging course. Each exchange, every mile traveled, and every finish represented the commitment and perseverance that have long been part of Navajo horsemanship and culture. The event highlighted not only athletic ability, but also the respect, responsibility, and connection to the land that horses and riding continue to represent for many Diné families.

President Nygren congratulated this year's top finishers: Dinebito Racing for earning first place with a time of 1:47:05, Zia Gachupin for securing second place at 1:48:32, and Johnson Boys Racing for finishing third with a time of 1:58:23.

While the competition showcased outstanding performances, President Nygren noted that the true significance of the event extends beyond the finish line. Families gathered along the route, elders watched with pride, and young people witnessed the importance of carrying traditions forward. Events like Dash for Cash strengthen community bonds and provide opportunities for future generations to connect with their culture and heritage.

President Nygren expressed his appreciation to the organizers, riders, volunteers, sponsors, and families who continue to make the Dash for Cash possible each year. Their dedication helps preserve an important tradition and serves as a reminder that the strength of the Navajo Nation comes from its people, its culture, and its connection to home.



"Dash for Cash celebrates our Diné identity, where tradition, horsemanship, and community come together to remind us who we are and where we come from."





NAVAJO NATION CELEBRATES INDIGENOUS EXCELLENCE AT NAU'S 31ST ANNUAL INDIGENOUS CELEBRATION



FLAGSTAFF, AZ – Navajo Nation President Nygren joined students, families, and tribal leaders at Northern Arizona University in recognition of the 31st Annual Indigenous Celebration, honoring the achievements of Indigenous graduates as many have now walked the stage and completed this important milestone.

Held at NAU's Ardrey Memorial Auditorium, the annual celebration highlighted the dedication, resilience, and academic success of Indigenous students preparing for graduation. Families, parents, tribal leaders, university staff, and students gathered in support, as Indigenous faculty and leadership recognized graduates for their accomplishments and the journeys that brought them to this moment.

The program included a land acknowledgment honoring the ancestral homelands at the base of the San Francisco Peaks, sacred to Indigenous Nations throughout the region, recognizing the past, present, and future generations who have called the land home.

During the visit, President Nygren connected with students and attendees, congratulating graduates and acknowledging the strong presence of Navajo Nation students among those being honored.

“Education opens doors, but it is your determination, sacrifice, and resilience that carried you through them,” President Nygren said. **“Today, we celebrate not only your academic achievements, but the strength of your families, communities, and culture that helped guide you to this moment. As you begin the next chapter of your journey, carry your Diné values with pride and use your knowledge to make a difference for future generations.”**

As commencement ceremonies conclude, the Navajo Nation proudly celebrates these graduates, recognizing not only their academic achievements, but the strength, culture, and determination they carry forward. The Navajo Nation extends its congratulations to all graduates and looks ahead with pride to the impact they will make for generations to come.



PRESIDENT NYGREN JOINS TO'HAJILEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

TO'HAJILEE, N.M. – Originally built in 1935, the current To'hajilee community school campus has served generations of students but continues to face infrastructure and flooding challenges due to its location within a flood zone. The new school will be constructed on approximately 42 acres near the Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Center, creating a safer and more resilient learning environment for students from Pre-K through 12th grade.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren attended the groundbreaking ceremony this morning for the To'Hajilee Community School Bureau of Indian Education Replacement School Project, marking a major milestone for students, families, and future generations in the community.

“This project is about investing in our children, our future, and the long-term strength of our communities,” said President Nygren. “Our students deserve modern schools that support learning, preserve culture and language, and create opportunities for generations to come.”

President Nygren joined Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, New Mexico State Representative Michelle Paulene Abeyta, Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley, and representatives from the Bureau of Indian Education during today's ceremony recognizing years of collaboration and advocacy to move the long-awaited project forward.

The new replacement campus represents decades of advocacy and collaboration between tribal leadership, federal agencies, Congress, school officials, and community members working together to modernize educational infrastructure for Diné students.

Congress appropriated funding for the project in December 2022, with approximately \$90.4 million awarded in August 2023. The project is currently in the design and pre-construction phase, with Bradbury Stamm Construction leading design development, planning, and pre-construction services.

The new facility is expected to improve student safety, expand academic opportunities, and support long-term cultural and language preservation efforts while also creating economic opportunities for Navajo-owned businesses, subcontractors, and local workforce participation throughout construction.





PRESIDENT NYGREN REFLECTED ON INSPIRING WEEKEND AT SHIPROCK MARATHON



SHIPROCK, N.M. – President Buu Nygren joined runners, families, elders, veterans, volunteers, and visitors from across the country during the annual Shiprock Marathon weekend, one of the oldest and largest running events on the Navajo Nation. The gathering served as a powerful reminder of what can happen when communities come together to encourage one another and pursue personal growth.

For President Nygren, the weekend marked the completion of his first full marathon. One year earlier, while standing at the same finish line, he had shared his goal of returning to run the marathon in 2026. At the time, he acknowledged he was not prepared to take on the challenge. Returning a year later to complete all 26.2 miles made the accomplishment especially meaningful.

Throughout the weekend, the spirit of community was evident along the course. Families cheered on participants, volunteers staffed hydration and safety stations, and runners encouraged one another from start to finish. Participants of all ages took part in the marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K, youth races, and Elder Run, each contributing to the positive energy and inspiration that defined the event.

President Nygren expressed his appreciation to NavajoYES organizers, veterans, volunteers, supporters, and everyone who traveled to the Navajo Nation to participate. The event showcased the strength, resilience, and unity of the Navajo people and left a lasting impression on all who attended.

“Completing my first marathon at Shiprock was about much more than crossing a finish line. One year ago, I made a promise to return and run all 26.2 miles, and this weekend I was grateful to fulfill that goal. Along the course, I witnessed the strength, encouragement, and unity that make our Navajo Nation so special. Seeing families, elders, veterans, volunteers, and runners supporting one another was a powerful reminder that we can accomplish great things when we move forward together.”



MORE JOBS, MORE TOURISM, MORE GROWTH: PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS HISTORIC SHONTO HOTEL LEASE

SHONTO, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation and the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise (NNHE) formalized a landmark business site lease on April 27, 2026, supporting the operation and long-term management of a \$17 million, 83-room hotel in the Shonto Chapter area. The agreement marks a major step forward in strengthening Navajo-owned tourism and economic development.

“This project reflects our commitment to building a stronger, self-sustaining Navajo economy,” said President Nygren. **“By investing in Navajo-owned enterprises and expanding our tourism footprint, we are creating jobs, generating revenue, and keeping opportunity within our communities.”**

The agreement establishes a 25-year lease, with two additional 25-year renewal options, for a 5.91-acre site located at the junction of U.S. Highway 160 and State Route 98. The project includes a La Quinta Inn & Suites featuring a fitness center, outdoor pool, breakfast services, and retail and tourism-related offerings.

President Buu Nygren joined Division of Economic Development leadership, NNHE executives and board members, Shonto Chapter officials, and Delegate Rickie Nez, Delegate Herman Daniels, and Delegate Otto Tso to commemorate the signing.

“I want to thank President Nez and his administration for helping kick off this project and laying the foundation to move it forward,” President Nygren said. **“I also want to thank everyone in the current administration for helping get this project across the finish line. Projects like this happen because many leaders, employees, and community members stayed united behind a shared vision. Thank you to everyone who played a role over the years to make this possible. It’s going to be amazing to see this project finally open this month.”**

The development is expected to serve as a gateway for visitors traveling through the region while driving local economic activity. Community interest has already proven strong, with more than 200 applicants competing for 32 anticipated positions.

This milestone reflects a broader vision to expand Navajo-owned infrastructure, create jobs, strengthen tourism, and generate long-term economic opportunity for Navajo communities.





LOW MOUNTAIN SOUTH TOWER BRINGS NEW CONNECTIVITY TO DINÉ COMMUNITIES



LOW MOUNTAIN, Arizona. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren attends the Low Mountain South Tower ribbon cutting, marking a major step forward in expanding broadband and cellular access for Diné families.

“Low Mountain South Tower shows what it takes to deliver real connectivity to our communities. This project faced delays, redesign, and rising costs, but we stayed committed and finished what was promised. This tower now connects our people to education, healthcare, emergency services, and economic opportunity, and it is part of a larger effort to make sure every Navajo family has access to reliable internet.”

The project begins under a CARES Act grant on November 12, 2020, pauses in December 2020, and is successfully reinitiated in 2022 through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Despite delays, design changes, and rising costs, the project moves forward and reaches completion.

More than \$1 million in core infrastructure is invested through three key components: \$830,000 for the tower, \$54,000 for power, and \$153,000 for transport. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority completes construction in December 2025, with tower, power, and transport finalized within days of each other. NTUA Wireless adds broadband and cellular equipment through a \$390,000 investment, completing the site on April 16, 2026.

This tower is part of a larger, multi-phase effort backed by approximately \$50 million in NTIA funding to close the digital divide across the Navajo Nation. It is designed for co-location, allowing multiple carriers such as Choice Wireless, AT&T, and Verizon to expand service and improve coverage.

The impact is immediate and practical. Students gain reliable internet access for school, families connect to telehealth services, first responders benefit from stronger communication, and small businesses reach broader markets.

This work builds on ongoing efforts across the Nation. Since 2010, nearly 600 miles of fiber have been installed and more than 140 towers constructed. Additional sites at Black Rock and Oak Springs are already in progress, with systems in place and equipment under testing.

The Low Mountain South Tower represents continued progress to deliver reliable, modern connectivity to communities that have waited far too long.



CELEBRATING CONNECTIVITY: 602 RAMAH FAMILIES CONNECTED TO FIBER BROADBAND

RAMAH, N.M. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined residents of the Ramah Navajo community to celebrate a major milestone: the completion of fiber optic connections bringing high-speed internet service to 602 locations.

The Fiber Optic Community Celebration recognized the partnerships, leadership, and community determination that helped make reliable broadband a reality. Speakers highlighted the contributions of Oso Internet Solutions, chapter leadership past and present, the Ramah School Board, Bureau of Indian Affairs officials, and local advocates who worked together to move the project forward.

Funded through a combination of federal, state, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources, the project positions Ramah as a leader in broadband expansion across the Navajo Nation. Community leaders noted that Ramah may now have one of the highest numbers of fiber-connected locations among Navajo chapters.

During the event, Oso Internet Solutions provided a demonstration explaining how fiber optic technology delivers fast and reliable internet service to homes and businesses. The presentation helped residents better understand the infrastructure supporting their new connections.

The greatest impact, however, was reflected in the stories shared by community members. One mother described how broadband now allows her to monitor her child's Type 1 diabetes in real time while at school, providing peace of mind and improving responsiveness during emergencies. Elders also benefit from improved access to communication services and critical support when needed.

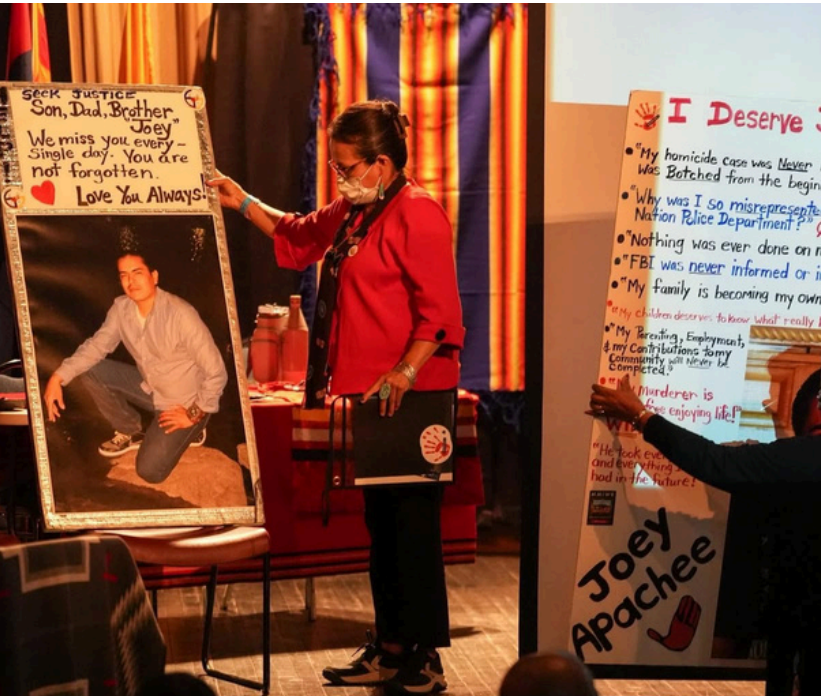
Broadband is transforming education by allowing students to attend virtual classes, access learning resources, and stay connected with teachers. It is also creating new economic opportunities as residents pursue higher education online, launch small businesses, sell handmade goods through digital marketplaces, and work remotely from their communities.

“Broadband is an essential utility that is incredibly important for a healthy, educated, and financially stable life,” said President Nygren. “With that effort, we’re going to ensure that we bring fiber, satellite technology, fixed wireless technology, and make sure that we have 5G across the Navajo Nation.”

The celebration served as a reminder that broadband is more than technology. It is a pathway to opportunity, connection, and a stronger future for the Ramah Navajo community.



HONORING OUR MISSING, SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES. PRESIDENT NYGREN ATTENDS MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVES SYMPOSIUM



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined families, advocates, and community members at the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Symposium held at the Navajo Nation Museum, honoring those lost and reinforcing the Nation’s commitment to protecting its people. The event was hosted by the Navajo Division of Behavioral & Mental Health Services.

May 5 marks the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives, also known as Red Dress Day. This day honors those taken, those still missing, and the families who continue to search for answers.

The event builds on actions taken by the administration in 2024. At Ama Doo Alchini Bighan, a 24-hour healing shelter, President Nygren signed a proclamation declaring May as MMDR Awareness Month, recognizing the frontline work being done to support families impacted by violence and loss. He later joined community members in an awareness walk, standing in solidarity with families and raising visibility across the community.

Across the United States, Native communities face disproportionate levels of violence. More than four out of five Native women experience violence in their lifetime, and in some regions, Native women face murder rates up to ten times the national average. On the Navajo Nation, 241 missing persons cases have been identified, including 128 males, with an average age of 35. These are not just statistics. They are relatives whose absence is felt every day.

We remember Ashlynn Mike, a young girl whose life was taken in a way no family should endure. We remember Ella Mae Begay, who disappeared from her home and has not returned. We remember Maleeka “Mullie” Boone and Zachariah Shorty, whose families continue to carry grief and unanswered questions.

In response, the Navajo Nation has taken action to better support families and strengthen systems. A dedicated Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives liaison within the Office of the President ensures families receive guidance and communication. The Navajo Nation Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Initiative is building a data system in partnership with Navajo Technical University to improve real-time alerts and close data gaps.

“This work requires all of us,” Nygren said. “We will continue strengthening our systems, supporting our families, and holding those who cause harm accountable.”



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

KNDN 960 AM | KTNN 660 AM | KGAK 1330 AM

Diné College 92.1 FM | NTU 107.3 FM

*Listen to your local Navajo radio station to hear
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