

AUG 2026

FREE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 8

NYGREN NEWS

BUU 250 IS COMING

MOVE. CONNECT. CHALLENGE YOURSELF.



**HISTORIC \$407M INVESTMENT
BROADBAND + PUBLIC SAFETY**



**\$11.5M FOR 22 CHAPTERS
INVESTING IN PROJECTS ACROSS NAVAJO**



STAY IN THE KNOW WITH PRESIDENT BUU NYGREN





Navajo Nation Unveils \$3.58 Million Infrastructure Improvements at Four Corners Monument

Visitors to Four Corners Monument now have access to modern, fully operational restroom facilities, marking a major investment in one of the Navajo Nation's most iconic tourism destinations. Every year, travelers from around the world visit the only place in the United States where four states meet. These new facilities will provide a better experience for visitors while supporting local vendors, strengthening tourism, and creating lasting economic benefits for the Navajo Nation.

Division of Natural Resources Executive Director W. Mike Halona,, representing President Buu Nygren at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, shared the administration's vision of investing in tourism infrastructure that benefits communities across the Navajo Nation. He emphasized that every visitor who comes to Four Corners Monument supports local artisans, businesses, restaurants, hotels, and fuel stations, generating revenue that flows back into Navajo communities and helps strengthen the Nation's economy.

The new restroom complex includes eight women's restrooms, including one ADA-accessible unit, along with four urinals, three men's stalls, and one ADA-accessible men's restroom. The exterior also features artwork promoting other Navajo Nation Tribal Parks, encouraging visitors to explore even more of the Nation's breathtaking landscapes and cultural destinations.

This milestone follows years of planning and perseverance. After the previous restroom facility was determined to be structurally unsound and demolished, existing water and septic infrastructure were carefully evaluated and preserved, allowing construction of the new facility to move forward. The project also builds upon major infrastructure improvements that brought water service to Four Corners Monument in 2016 and power to the site in 2023, making long-term development possible.

The \$3.58 million investment included \$673,675 for the NTUA waterline project, \$1,000,957.79 for powerline construction, \$345,653.28 for demolition of the previous restroom facility, \$1,212,500 for the design and construction of the new restroom complex by Rock Gap Engineering and Construction, and \$343,500 for geotechnical services that will support future development across the monument.

Looking ahead, the Navajo Nation will continue building on this momentum through a comprehensive master plan for Four Corners Monument that will guide future improvements, including enhanced visitor amenities, improved signage, expanded infrastructure, and long-term site development. These investments reflect President Nygren's commitment to strengthening tourism, supporting local businesses, and ensuring one of the Navajo Nation's most recognizable landmarks continues to welcome visitors from around the world for generations to come.



**HISTORIC DINÉ LEADERS****HONORING CHIEF MANUELITO: A LEGACY OF COURAGE, RESILIENCE, AND DINÉ LEADERSHIP**

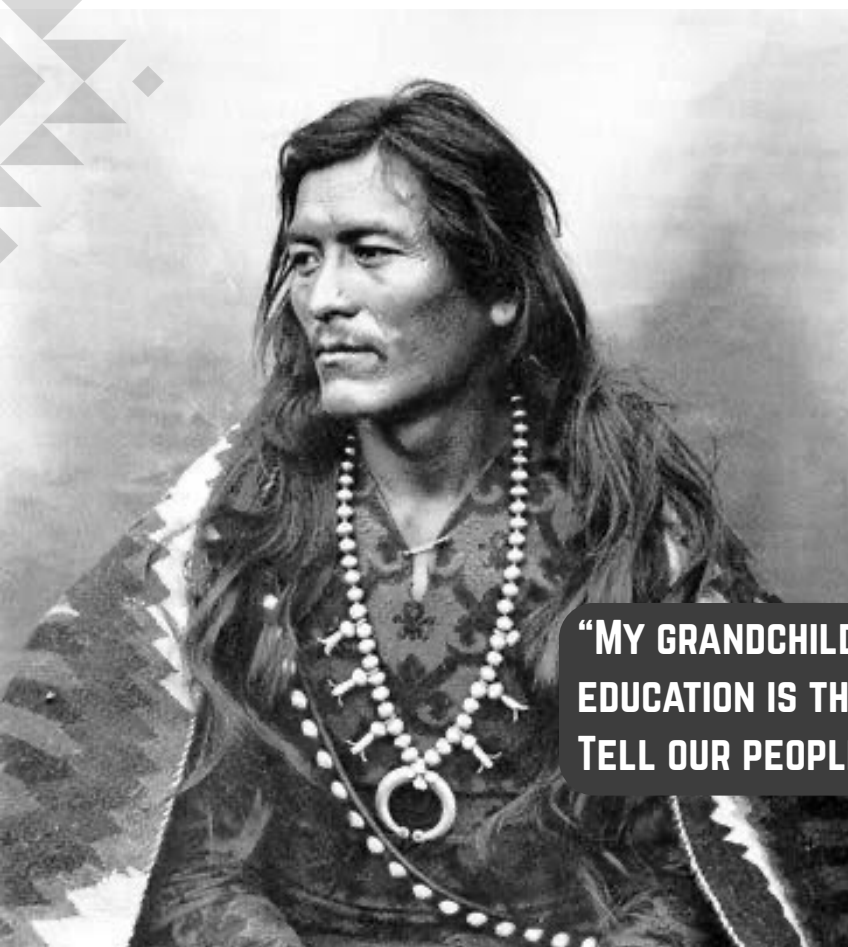
Manuelito (1818 to 1893) is remembered as one of the most influential leaders in Navajo history. Known for his courage, determination, and unwavering commitment to the Diné people, he led during one of the most challenging periods in the Nation's history.

During the Navajo Wars, Manuelito resisted efforts to remove the Diné from their homeland. Following the hardships of the Long Walk and the signing of the 1868 Treaty, he became a strong advocate for rebuilding the Navajo Nation. He encouraged future generations to pursue education while holding firmly to Diné values, believing that knowledge would strengthen the Nation for years to come.

Today, Manuelito's legacy lives on through his leadership, resilience, and vision for a stronger future.

Lasting Legacy

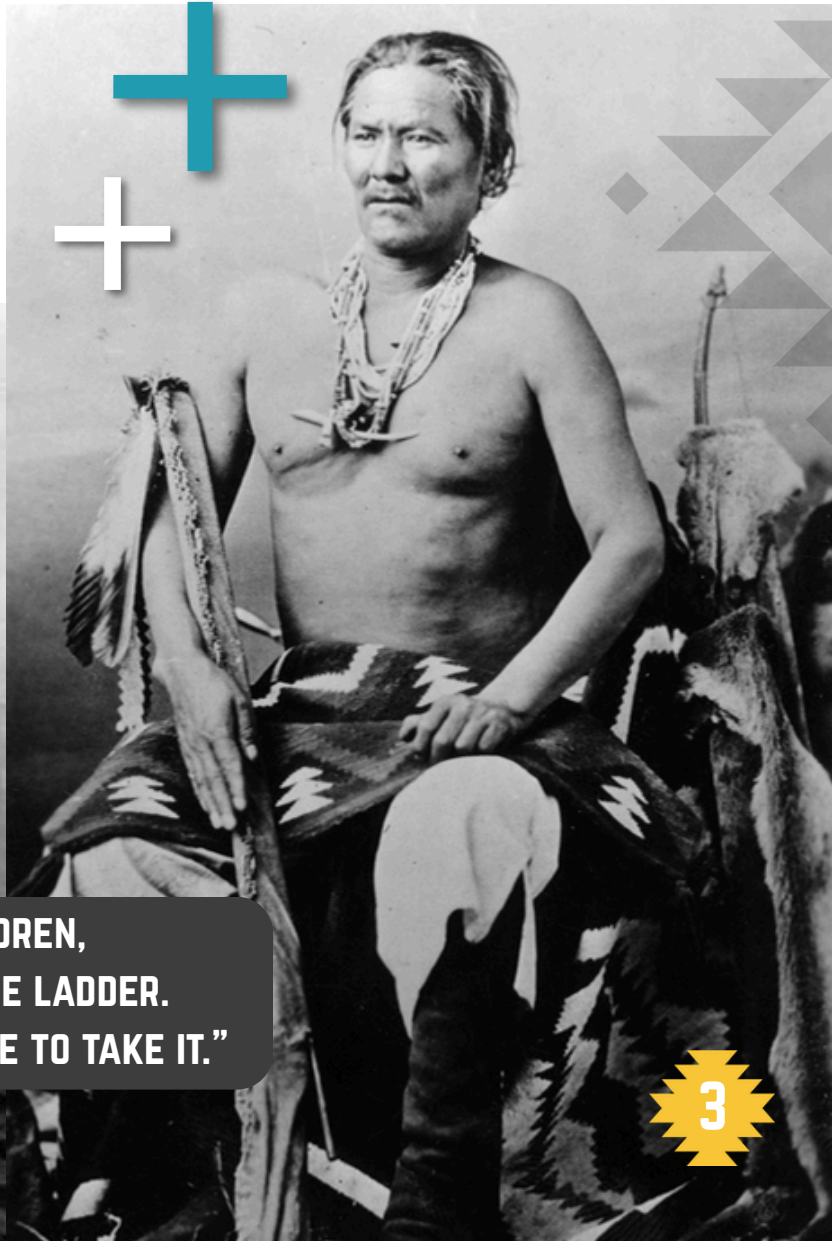
Manuelito is remembered not only for defending the Diné homeland during times of conflict, but also for recognizing that the future of the Navajo Nation would be strengthened through education, leadership, and unity. His life reflects both the resilience of the Diné people and the enduring commitment to protecting their culture and homeland.



**"MY GRANDCHILDREN,
EDUCATION IS THE LADDER.
TELL OUR PEOPLE TO TAKE IT."**

Did You Know?

- Manuelito was born near Bears Ears in what is now southeastern Utah.
- He played an important leadership role during the events leading up to and following the 1868 Treaty.
- He is widely remembered for encouraging Diné youth to pursue education while remaining proud of their heritage.
- His leadership helped inspire generations of Navajo leaders who followed.
- Schools, landmarks, and community programs across the Southwest continue to honor his name and legacy.





‘CLIMBING THE EDUCATIONAL LADDER’

183 GRADUATING SENIORS HONORED
AS 2026 CHIEF MANUELITO SCHOLARS



The Navajo Nation proudly celebrated the achievements of the 183 graduating seniors, who earned the prestigious 2026 Chief Manuelito Scholarship, one of the highest academic honors awarded by the Navajo Nation.

Named in honor of the revered Diné leader Chief Manuelito, the scholarship reflects his enduring belief that education is a pathway to opportunity while remaining grounded in Diné language, culture, and values. Recipients of this distinguished scholarship have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, perseverance, and a commitment to preserving the traditions that have guided the Navajo people for generations.

The Chief Manuelito Scholarship recognizes students who have excelled in the classroom while meeting rigorous academic standards and embracing their cultural identity. It serves not only as financial support for higher education but also as an investment in the future leaders of the Navajo Nation.

As these scholars begin the next chapter of their educational journeys, they carry with them the responsibility and opportunity to strengthen both their communities and the Navajo Nation. Whether they pursue careers in medicine, education, engineering, business, law, public service, science, or countless other professions, they represent a generation equipped to create meaningful and lasting change while honoring the values and traditions that define the Diné people.

Their accomplishments are a testament to years of dedication, late nights of studying, personal sacrifice, and the encouragement of those who believed in their potential. The Navajo Nation also extends its heartfelt appreciation to the parents, grandparents, educators, mentors, chapter communities, and families whose unwavering guidance, encouragement, and sacrifices helped these students reach this remarkable milestone.

Congratulations to the 2026 Chief Manuelito Scholars. Your achievements today are only the beginning of a future filled with opportunity, leadership, and service. As you continue your education and pursue your dreams, may you carry forward the legacy of Chief Manuelito by using your knowledge to uplift your communities, preserve the Diné way of life, and inspire future generations to follow in your footsteps.





HISTORIC PLACES OF DINÉ BIKÉYAH

CANYON DE CHELLY: A LIVING HOMELAND OF DINÉ HISTORY AND RESILIENCE



Carved over thousands of years by water and time, Canyon de Chelly is one of the most treasured places within the Navajo Nation. More than a breathtaking landscape, it is a living homeland where Diné families have farmed, raised livestock, and preserved traditions for generations.

The canyon is home to towering sandstone walls, ancient cliff dwellings, and iconic landmarks such as Spider Rock. Its rich history reflects centuries of resilience, culture, and connection to the land. Today, Canyon de Chelly continues to welcome visitors from around the world while remaining a place of deep cultural and spiritual importance to the Diné people.

Did You Know?



Canyon de Chelly has been continuously inhabited for nearly 5,000 years, making it one of the longest continuously inhabited landscapes in North America.



Spider Rock rises approximately 800 feet above the canyon floor and is tied to the Diné story of Spider Woman.



Many Navajo families continue to live, farm, and ranch within the canyon today.



Ancient cliff dwellings throughout the canyon were built by the Ancestral Puebloans more than 700 years ago.



Canyon de Chelly is one of the most visited destinations on the Navajo Nation, drawing visitors from around the world to experience its natural beauty and living history.



"Canyon de Chelly is more than a destination. It is a living reminder of the strength, history, and enduring spirit of the Diné people."



EVERY STEP BUILDS A HEALTHIER NAVAJO NATION



Movement is one of the greatest investments we can make in ourselves. It doesn't require expensive equipment or a perfect schedule. All it takes is a decision to get up and move.

Whether it's a morning walk through your neighborhood, a run on your favorite trail, a bike ride with family, time in the gym, or simply choosing the stairs instead of the elevator, every step counts. Physical activity strengthens the body, improves heart health, builds endurance, and increases energy. Just as importantly, it benefits the mind by reducing stress, improving focus, and boosting overall well-being.

Exercise isn't about being the fastest runner or lifting the heaviest weight. It's about becoming a healthier version of yourself, one day at a time. Progress comes from consistency, not perfection. Even 20 to 30 minutes of movement each day can make a meaningful difference over time.

Our communities are strongest when our people are healthy. Parents who stay active have more energy to spend with their children. Grandparents who keep moving maintain their independence longer. Young people who embrace an active lifestyle build habits that can benefit them for a lifetime.

Find an activity you enjoy. Walk with a friend. Ride your bike. Play basketball. Hike a trail. Lift weights. Dance. Swim. The best exercise is the one you'll continue doing.

Every journey begins with a single step, and every healthy habit begins with a single decision. Today is the perfect day to start. Move your body, challenge yourself, encourage those around you, and remember that every mile, every workout, and every step forward is an investment in a healthier future.

Keep moving. Your body, your mind, and your future will thank you.



“ **Strength isn't built in a single day. It's built by showing up every day. Walk. Run. Ride. Lift. Move. Together, we can build healthier communities and a stronger Navajo Nation.** ”



— President Buu Nygren





PRESIDENT NYGREN RUNS ALONGSIDE NATIVE YOUTH AT WINGS OF AMERICA FITNESS CAMP

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren joined participants at the free Wings of America Summer Running and Fitness Camp on July 15 held at Ganado High School, encouraging Native youth to embrace healthy living, fitness, and teamwork.

Throughout the morning, campers participated in warm-ups, running drills, and fitness activities led by Native American high school and college student-athletes through Wings of America, a nonprofit that has empowered Native youth and families with free running and fitness programs since 1988.

President Nygren ran alongside participants, accepted a friendly 100-meter sprint challenge, and shared words of encouragement about the importance of perseverance and staying active.

During the visit, President Nygren also honored two outstanding role models by presenting Navajo blankets and Certificates of Presidential Recognition, along with certificates from the Navajo Nation Department of Health, to elite marathon runner Hosava Kretzmann and Northern Arizona University distance runner Ford Washburn.

President Nygren thanked both athletes for inspiring Indigenous youth through their dedication, leadership, and commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, and expressed his appreciation to Wings of America for giving young people the opportunity to stay active and discover a passion for running.



“When our young people stay active, challenge themselves, and support one another, they build the strength and confidence to lead our communities into a healthier future.”





GET MOVING ACROSS DINÉ BIKÉYAH: EXPLORE, EXERCISE, AND STAY ACTIVE



The Navajo Nation is filled with incredible places to stay active while experiencing the beauty of Diné Bikéyah. Whether you're looking for a peaceful walk, a challenging hike, a scenic bike ride, or a place to work out, there are opportunities across the Nation to get moving and improve your health.

If you enjoy hiking, consider visiting Canyon de Chelly National Monument, where breathtaking overlooks and scenic trails showcase the rich history and natural beauty of the canyon. Window Rock Tribal Park offers walking paths and nearby trails, while Navajo National Monument features accessible hikes with spectacular views. Monument Valley and the surrounding areas also provide unforgettable landscapes for walking and exploring.

For those who enjoy running or biking, many chapter roads, community parks, and paved routes throughout communities such as Window Rock, Chinle, Shiprock, Tuba City, Kayenta, Crownpoint, and Fort Defiance provide excellent places to exercise while enjoying the outdoors.

Looking for indoor fitness? Recreation centers, community gyms, schools, wellness centers, and fitness facilities across the Navajo Nation offer opportunities for strength training, basketball, volleyball, cardio workouts, and group fitness activities. Many communities also host local fun runs, Just Move It events, wellness walks, and youth sports throughout the year.

The Navajo Nation is more than a place to live. It's a place to explore. Take advantage of the trails, parks, recreation facilities, and beautiful landscapes around you. Invite a friend, bring your family, and discover a new favorite place to be active. Every community has something to offer. Get outside, stay active, and experience the beauty of the Navajo Nation, one step at a time.



Exercise doesn't have to be complicated. A walk with family, a hike with friends, an evening bike ride, or a workout at your local gym can all make a difference. Staying active helps strengthen your heart, improve your mental health, increase energy, and build lifelong healthy habits.



RECA

Electronic Claims Portal is Available!

RECA provides compensation to individuals who became ill due to radiation exposure from the U.S. nuclear weapons program.

File Your RECA Claim Online



All RECA claims must be filed by December 31, 2027



Gather Documents: Medical Records, Proof of Employment, ID



Registering in the portal is **NOT the same as filing a claim**



VISIT: justice.gov/civil.reca



HONORING OUR ELDERS THROUGH CARE, CONNECTION AND KINSHIP

One visit. One phone call. One simple act of kindness can make a world of difference.

Earlier this year, the Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC), in partnership with the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Community Health Workers, provided coal to elders across the Navajo Nation to help keep their homes warm during the winter months. That effort represented much more than the delivery of fuel. It reflected the Diné values of compassion, respect, kinship, and our responsibility to care for one another.

Although the winter season has passed, the importance of checking on our elders remains. Their needs continue throughout the year, and even a small gesture can remind them that they are valued, respected, and never forgotten. Take time to visit or call the elders in your family and community. Ask whether they need food, water, firewood, transportation, help with household chores, assistance getting to an appointment, or simply someone to sit with and share a conversation. Encourage children and young people to join these visits so they can learn from the stories, language, and teachings our elders carry.

Our elders have guided generations, preserved our Diné language and culture, and carried our traditions through times of hardship and change. Caring for them is not only an act of kindness—it is a shared responsibility and a reflection of who we are as Diné people. Let us continue honoring those who came before us by reaching out, listening to their stories, lending a helping hand, and ensuring they feel supported throughout every season. When we care for our elders, we preserve the wisdom, strength, and traditions that will guide the Navajo Nation for generations to come.





HONORING THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR NAVAJO NATION FIREFIGHTERS

As we continue through another wildfire season, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to every Navajo Nation firefighter, Hotshot crew member, emergency responder, dispatcher, and support team member who has answered the call to serve.

On behalf of the Navajo Nation, ahéhee' for your unwavering courage, strength, and sacrifice. Your commitment to protecting our families, homes, livestock, natural resources, and sacred lands reflects the very best of who we are as Diné. Whether you are battling fires here at home or assisting neighboring communities, your dedication and professionalism inspire us all.

The long days, dangerous conditions, physical demands, and time spent away from your loved ones do not go unnoticed. We also recognize the families who support you, carry additional responsibilities at home, and wait for your safe return after every assignment.

Because of your selfless service, our communities are safer, and countless lives, homes, and resources have been protected. We are deeply grateful not only for the work you do, but also for the heart, discipline, and

determination you bring to it every day.

As wildfire threats continue, we ask everyone to remain vigilant, follow fire restrictions, avoid activities that could spark a fire, and report smoke or suspicious activity immediately. Preventing wildfires is a responsibility we all share. By working together and supporting those on the front lines, we can help protect Diné Bikéyah for our families and future generations.

“ Thank you for your service throughout this fire season. We pray for your continued safety, strength, and protection as you remain on the front lines. The Navajo Nation stands with you, is proud of you, and is forever grateful for your sacrifice. Ahéhee' for all that you do.

– President Buu Nygren





2026 PRESIDENTIAL MARATHON SERIES



250 MILES. 10 DAYS. 1 NAVAJO NATION

Beginning September 2, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will embark on BUU 250, a 10-day journey across the Navajo Nation covering more than 250 miles through a combination of running, biking, and rail biking.

But BUU 250 isn't about setting records. It's about bringing people together.

There is no competition, no pressure, and no finish time to beat. The goal is simple: get outside, move your body, have fun, and support one another.

Whether you want to walk ½ mile, run a 5K, ride your bike, rollerblade, or complete a marathon, everyone is invited to participate. Every mile moved is a step toward a healthier, stronger Navajo Nation.

Each day highlights a different theme that reflects the priorities of our Nation:

- Day 1: One Nation, One Future
- Day 2: Strong Families, Strong Communities
- Day 3: Jobs, Business & Opportunity
- Day 4: Honoring Our People
- Day 5: Building the Foundation
- Day 6: Education for Every Generation
- Day 7: Healing with Hope
- Day 8: Growing Our Future
- Day 9: Healthy Navajo, Healthy Future
- Day 10: Safe Communities, Stronger Nation

At each day's end location, communities will host Navajo Nation **Government Resource Fairs**, providing information, services, and opportunities while encouraging residents to come together through movement and fellowship.

There is no minimum distance and no maximum distance. Whether you join for a few minutes or several miles, your participation matters. Bring your family, friends, classmates, coworkers, and neighbors. Walk, run, bike, rollerblade, or move in whatever way works best for you.

No matter your age or fitness level, there is a place for you at BUU 250.

BUU 250 is an invitation to celebrate community, promote healthier lifestyles, and demonstrate what can be accomplished when people move forward together.

One Nation. One Future. One Journey. Every Step Counts.

(Stay tuned for the official schedule, including dates, daily start times, community locations, and information on where each walk, run, bike ride, and marathon will take place. We look forward to seeing you all!)





BRINGING COMFORT AND DIGNITY HOME

PRESIDENT NYGREN TOURS NEW MARIANO LAKE BATHROOM PROJECTS

BEFORE



AFTER



MARIANO LAKE, NM — During a visit to Mariano Lake, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren toured two home improvement projects aimed at improving sanitation and quality of life for Diné families—one bathroom addition and one bathroom renovation.

At the first home, President Nygren viewed a newly completed bathroom addition, part of ongoing efforts to bring running water and indoor plumbing to households that previously lacked full facilities. In this case, the homeowner had relied on an outhouse located roughly 20 feet from the home. Seeing the finished project firsthand, President Nygren expressed gratitude for the impact it brings to the family, noting the comfort and dignity that comes with having indoor facilities for the first time. Joking about the quality and layout of the new bathroom, he said, “Am I at Quality Inn?” highlighting just how modern and well-built the space felt.

While bathroom additions and renovations may seem like small projects on the surface, their impact is deeply meaningful. For many families, stepping into a newly built or upgraded bathroom represents a moment of relief and dignity—a clean, safe space that contrasts with long-standing housing challenges and brings a renewed sense of comfort inside the home. During both visits, President Nygren emphasized the importance of meeting families where they are and continuing to invest in essential infrastructure one home at a time.





PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS KEY DOCUMENTS ADVANCING EDUCATION, WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN RAMAH NAVAJO COMMUNITY

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren met with the Ramah Navajo School Board (RNSB) to sign two important documents that will help strengthen educational infrastructure and improve essential services for the Ramah Navajo community.

The first document expresses Presidential support for the Ramah Navajo School Board to serve as its own fiscal agent, allowing the organization to directly acquire and administer New Mexico Capital Outlay funding. By reducing administrative barriers, this action helps streamline the funding process and accelerates the delivery of critical infrastructure projects that benefit students and the surrounding community.

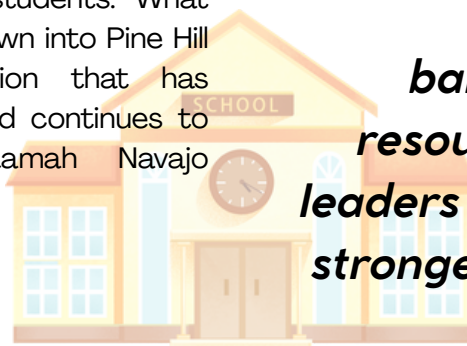
“Supporting local leadership and reducing unnecessary red tape allows important projects to move forward more efficiently. When we invest in education and infrastructure, we invest in the future of our Navajo children.”

President Nygren also signed a second letter addressed to the Navajo Nation Office of Management and Budget and the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development requesting an extension of the encumbrance deadline for Sihasin-funded drinking water system improvements. Extending the deadline will ensure the allocated funds remain available so the project can be completed without losing critical financial support.

Founded in 1970, the Ramah Navajo School Board is an independent nonprofit organization established by community leaders who worked tirelessly to create educational opportunities for Navajo students. What began with classes held in tents has grown into Pine Hill Schools, a fully accredited institution that has graduated more than 750 students and continues to serve families throughout the Ramah Navajo community.



“***The Ramah Navajo community built its schools through determination, sacrifice, and a belief in the potential of every Diné child. Today, we honor that legacy by removing barriers, protecting critical resources, and ensuring local leaders have the tools to build a stronger future for generations to come.***”





Just Move It





CELEBRATING OUR NAVAJO ATHLETES

One of the best parts of attending Nationals was seeing so many familiar faces and having the opportunity to support our Navajo athletes. We've had the privilege of cheering on many of these young players throughout their school basketball seasons, so it was especially exciting to watch them come together as teammates.

From our 3rd graders just beginning their basketball journey to athletes preparing for the next level of college basketball, it was inspiring to see so many of our Navajo youth representing their communities and chasing their dreams.

A special congratulations to all of the players, coaches, coordinators, and, especially, the parents who continue to make these opportunities possible through their time, encouragement, and support.

It was an honor and so much fun to support all of our Navajo teams. We are proud of each of you and wish you continued success both on and off the court!



+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

COMMUNITY FUN AT THE KAYENTA 4TH OF JULY RODEO AND POWWOW





PRESIDENT NYGREN ADVANCES \$11.5 MILLION FOR PROJECTS ACROSS 22 NAVAJO CHAPTERS

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren signed 24 Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department on July 16, securing more than \$11.5 million in funding for infrastructure and community development projects across 22 Navajo chapters in New Mexico.

The agreements, signed during the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department's Infrastructure Grants Session in Gallup, will help move long-awaited projects closer to construction and completion. The funding supports improvements such as HVAC upgrades at Crystal Chapter, bathroom construction in the Whitehorse Lake area, and the development of a Veterans Memorial Park at Two Grey Hills, along with several other community projects.

President Nygren said the agreements represent an important step toward delivering resources that Navajo communities have been waiting for. He emphasized that the partnership between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico has helped clear a backlog of agreements while creating new opportunities for infrastructure improvements and future economic development.

The event also brought together chapter officials, state leaders, and Navajo Nation representatives to discuss infrastructure funding, improve the IGA process, and provide assistance for ongoing projects. According to New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Secretary Josett Monette, the state has processed 30 agreements since January and continues working to streamline future approvals.

President Nygren thanked Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Secretary Monette, chapter officials, and community leaders for their continued collaboration. He noted that completing these agreements is only one step, adding that continued teamwork will ensure projects move forward efficiently and improve the quality of life for Navajo families throughout New Mexico.

“ This is about getting projects across the finish line for our chapters and making sure our communities receive the investments they have been waiting for. ”





PRESIDENT NYGREN APPROVES \$130.6 MILLION INDIAN HOUSING PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

Navajo Nation President Nygren signed and approved Resolution No. RDCJY-16-26, approving the Navajo Housing Authority's (NHA) Fiscal Year 2027 Indian Housing Plan and authorizing an estimated \$130.6 million in federal Indian Housing Block Grant funding to support housing operations, maintenance, construction, rehabilitation and infrastructure development across the Navajo Nation.

The FY 2027 Indian Housing Plan serves as NHA's annual strategy for administering federal housing funds and establishes priorities to address housing needs across Navajo communities.

The plan allocates approximately \$23.99 million for planning and administration, \$54.46 million for the operation, maintenance and modernization of existing housing units, and \$52.13 million to address housing needs throughout the Navajo Nation.

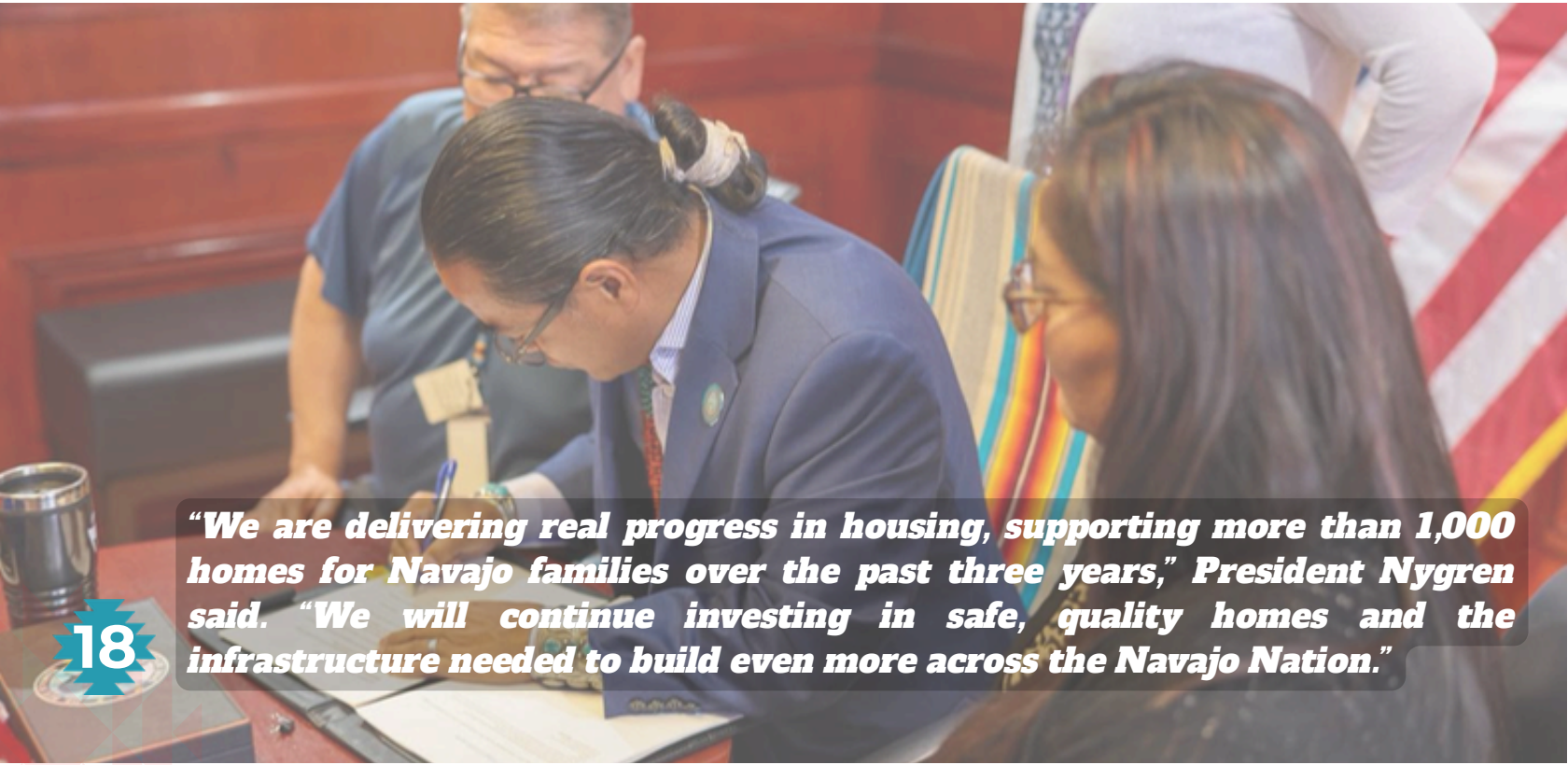
The housing needs allocation will support new public rental housing and homeownership opportunities, rehabilitation of existing homes, housing infrastructure, accessibility improvements for individuals with disabilities, housing services, crime prevention initiatives and rental assistance programs. These investments are intended to address overcrowding, expand affordable housing options and provide greater support for low-income Navajo families.

During a meeting with President Nygren, NHA Chief Administrative Officer Terrilynn Cook, Grants Manager Nellie Gilmore and Chief Operations Officer Ernest Franklin provided an overview of the Indian Housing Plan, its annual federal allocation process and NHA's housing priorities.

NHA leadership discussed efforts to address existing housing conditions through annual inspections and applications from families while continuing to invest in housing assistance, maintenance and new residential development. They also emphasized the importance of infrastructure development, including sewer, water and electrical systems, to support future housing projects and open more opportunities for residential construction.

Updates were also provided on ongoing projects, including the construction of new housing units in Chinle and Navajo and efforts to relocate families from older housing units with hazardous conditions. NHA is also working to expand housing development in other areas, including preliminary coordination with the Indian Health Service on infrastructure needs.

President Nygren thanked Cook, Gilmore, Franklin and the entire NHA team for their continued work and encouraged continued collaboration to expand housing opportunities throughout the Navajo Nation.



"We are delivering real progress in housing, supporting more than 1,000 homes for Navajo families over the past three years," President Nygren said. "We will continue investing in safe, quality homes and the infrastructure needed to build even more across the Navajo Nation."



PRESIDENT NYGREN JOINS ARIZONA RATTLEERS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE NIGHT

Navajo Nation President Nygren joined thousands of fans at Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale, Arizona on Saturday evening, July 11, to participate in the ceremonial coin toss before the Arizona Rattlers' Native American Heritage Night game. The Arizona Rattlers, a professional indoor American football team, hosted the special event celebrating the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Indigenous communities throughout Arizona.

President Nygren was joined on the field by Latasha Causey, President of Phoenix Raceway, for the honorary coin toss prior to kickoff between the Arizona Rattlers and the Tucson Sugar Skulls. The Rattlers went on to defeat the Sugar Skulls 41-25 in front of an energetic crowd.

"It was an honor to represent the Navajo Nation during Native American Heritage Night," President Nygren said. "I want to thank the Arizona Rattlers for recognizing and celebrating the Native American tribes of Arizona. With 22 federally recognized tribes across our state, evenings like this remind us of the importance of honoring our cultures, our history, and the many contributions Indigenous people continue to make every day."

Throughout the evening, Native culture was showcased for fans from across the region. The pregame festivities featured a performance by the Northern Avenue drum group alongside Native dancers, celebrating Indigenous culture through traditional song and dance before kickoff. During the National Anthem, the Pee-Posh Veterans Association proudly presented the colors, honoring the service and sacrifice of Native veterans. Northern Avenue also returned to the field during halftime, performing for a packed arena and adding to the celebration of Indigenous pride.

President Nygren also expressed his appreciation to Maurice Brown, who is Navajo and from Tuba City, Arizona, for his warm hospitality and for providing a behind-the-scenes tour of Desert Diamond Arena. Known throughout the organization as "Coach Mo," Brown serves as the Arizona Rattlers' Head Strength and Conditioning Coach and Director of Team Operations, overseeing the team's athletic performance programs while coordinating the organization's operational and logistical efforts.

"It was great to see another Navajo making such a meaningful impact within a professional sports organization," President Nygren said. "Maurice represents our people with excellence, and I appreciate the hospitality he extended throughout the evening."

President Nygren thanked the Arizona Rattlers organization for hosting Native American Heritage Night and creating an atmosphere that celebrated Indigenous traditions while bringing communities together through sports, culture, and entertainment.





BUILDING CONFIDENCE ONE RIDE AT A TIME: DINÉ YOUTH SHINE AT SKATE COMP

Navajo Nation President Nygren spent this morning with local youth at the Diné Youth Skate Comp, hosted by Diné Youth–Fort Defiance Agency, where skateboarders from across the community gathered for a day of competition, encouragement, and fun.

The event featured three competition divisions for ages 6–9, 10–13, and 14–18. Throughout the day, participants showcased their skills while families and supporters cheered them on.

“Every Diné youth deserves the opportunity to feel seen, encouraged, and proud of who they are,” said President Nygren.

Despite the summer heat, the event was filled with smiles, laughter, and high-energy moments as President Nygren visited with youth, watched the competition, and celebrated the positive impact of community events that encourage healthy recreation and youth engagement.

President Nygren also recognized the sponsors and partners whose generosity helped make the event possible by donating skateboards, prizes, snacks, and other giveaways, including Seven Layer Army, Enchantment Skate Shop, Sports World, Dead Pawn Skateboards, and the Office of the President and Vice President.





CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES, PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE

PRESIDENT NYGREN SIGNS HISTORIC \$407 MILLION INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND AND PUBLIC SAFETY

On Tuesday, July 14, Navajo Nation President Nygren signed Resolution No. CJY-33-26, approving more than \$407 million in investments that will significantly expand broadband infrastructure and strengthen public safety services across the Navajo Nation.

The legislation advances a four-year, \$244.6 million Broadband Infrastructure Projects Expenditure Plan while providing \$162.7 million for two major public safety facilities through the Capital Development Financing Act and the Capital Development Financing Fund.

"This legislation represents an investment in our future," President Nygren said. "Reliable internet is no longer a luxury—it is essential for education, healthcare, emergency response, economic opportunity, and keeping our communities connected. At the same time, investing in modern public safety facilities ensures our police officers, dispatchers, corrections staff, prosecutors, and judicial employees have the resources they need to better serve our people."

The broadband initiative will fund the construction of 45 new communications tower sites, upgrades to existing infrastructure, and more than 700 miles of new fiber, with the goal of providing 5G wireless coverage to 88 percent of the Navajo Nation by 2028.

President Nygren recognized Division of Broadband Office Executive Director Sonia Nez for her leadership and dedication in advancing the Nation's broadband vision.

"In the years ahead, children growing up in communities across the Navajo Nation will be able to connect to opportunities from their own homes because of the work being done today," President Nygren said. "Many may never know the people who made that possible, so I want to thank Sonia Nez and her team for their commitment and their vision for future generations."

The legislation also provides financing for two long-awaited public safety projects: the Shiprock Judicial Public Safety Complex and the Dilkon Public Safety Building. These facilities will provide modern workspaces for law enforcement, corrections, prosecutors, and judicial personnel while improving services for victims, families, and communities.

President Nygren was joined for the signing by representatives from the Navajo Nation Broadband Office, Division of Public Safety, Navajo Nation Police Department, Criminal Investigations Services, Department of Corrections, prosecutors, chapter leadership, and other partners who have helped advance broadband expansion and public safety initiatives across the Navajo Nation.





MORE THAN A CROWN

PRESIDENT NYGREN ENCOURAGES 74TH MISS NAVAJO NATION CONTESTANTS TO LEAD, SERVE AND INSPIRE

Navajo Nation President Nygren welcomed the three contestants competing for the 74th Miss Navajo Nation title to the Office of the President and Vice President on Friday. Representing communities across the Navajo Nation, the contestants shared their personal stories, aspirations, and commitment to serving the Navajo people as they prepare for the prestigious Miss Navajo Nation pageant.

President Nygren spoke about the significance of carrying the Miss Navajo Nation title, emphasizing that it represents far more than a competition. He encouraged each contestant to embrace the opportunity to serve as a cultural ambassador, lead with humility, and inspire future generations through the preservation of Diné language, culture, and traditions.

As part of the visit, President Nygren presented each contestant with a copy of Diné Bicheeké' Yishleeh (Becoming Miss Navajo) by Jolyana Begay-Kroupa. He read a page from the book aloud, encouraging the contestants to take time to read it as they prepare for the pageant.

"The Miss Navajo Nation title represents leadership, service, and the strength of our Diné women," said President Nygren. "Each of you has stepped forward to serve something greater than yourselves by helping preserve our language, culture, and traditions. Continue speaking our language, continue learning, and know that there are people and resources here to support you every step of the way."

The Office of Miss Navajo Nation's mission is to preserve and promote Navajo culture by selecting a Goodwill Ambassador who exemplifies the qualities of First Woman, White Shell Woman, and Changing Woman. Miss Navajo Nation represents womanhood while serving as a leader, teacher, counselor, advisor, and friend to the Navajo people. In accordance with the Navajo Nation's commitment to preserving Diné culture, the office encourages every Navajo citizen to help protect and strengthen the language, traditions, and values that define the Nation.

For updates on the contestants and more information about the Office of Miss Navajo Nation, follow the Office of Miss Navajo Nation on Facebook or visit the Office of Miss Navajo Nation website: <https://omnn.navajo-nsn.gov/>



Contestant #1 — Rochelle Francisco
Valley Store, Arizona



Contestant #2 — Tonana Ben
Chilchinbeto, Arizona



Contestant #3 — JoAnni Begay
Pinedale, New Mexico



FROM SACRIFICE TO SECURITY

NAVAJO VIETNAM VETERAN RECEIVES SAFE, MODERN HOME IN HOGBACK

TSE DAA KAAN (HOGBACK), NM — Navajo Nation President Nygren joined the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA), project partners, and family members on Tuesday, July 8, to celebrate the completion and key turnover of a newly constructed home for a Navajo U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, recognizing another important milestone in the Navajo Nation's commitment to honoring those who have served.

The veteran received a new modular home through the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Housing Program, funded by the Veterans Trust Fund and constructed by The Sparrow Group. The project replaced a severely deteriorated home that had faulty electrical wiring and substandard water and wastewater lines, providing the veteran with a safe, modern, and energy-efficient place to call home.

"This home represents far more than a new building—it represents our gratitude, our responsibility, and our commitment to the men and women who have sacrificed for our country," said President Nygren. "Our veterans deserve to live with dignity, comfort, and peace of mind. Every home we deliver is an investment in their future and a reflection of the respect they have earned through their service."

The newly constructed home includes energy-efficient construction, well-insulated flooring, central air, lever-style door handles, dual outlet controllers, an energy-efficient refrigerator, a spacious walk-in shower, and other accessibility features designed to promote long-term comfort and independence. Officials also highlighted the home's durable foundation, waterproofing measures, and quality construction, emphasizing the use of union labor throughout the foundation work.

President Nygren thanked the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration team, contractors, and all partners involved for their dedication to serving Navajo veterans and acknowledged the patience shown by veterans and their families throughout the construction process.

For additional information about the NNVA Housing Program or other veterans services, visit nnva.navajo-nsn.gov. Veterans may contact the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Housing Program or their regional Veterans Service Office.





RIDING WITH PURPOSE:

CODY JESUS INVITATIONAL CELEBRATES RESILIENCE, YOUTH, AND NAVAJO PRIDE

Navajo Nation President Nygren joined hundreds of community members on Saturday, July 4, at the Dean C. Jackson Memorial Arena for the Cody Jesus Invitational Fan Appreciation Bull Riding 2026, celebrating an evening of world-class rodeo, youth empowerment, and Navajo pride.

The event transformed the arena into a celebration of resilience and culture as families from across the Navajo Nation filled the stands to cheer on talented riders competing in junior bulls, mini bulls, and the evening's thrilling bull riding competition. The packed arena reflected the strong support for Navajo rodeo athletes and the growing enthusiasm for events that bring communities together.

Earlier in the day, the CJI '26 Youth Resilience Camp was held at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds in partnership with the Navajo Division for Children and Family Services – Preserving Families Initiative. The free event welcomed children and their families for a day of mentorship, encouragement, and hands-on learning with professional bull riders. Participants had the opportunity to meet rodeo athletes while taking part in activities focused on building confidence, resilience, leadership, and strong cultural values.

Many Navajo rodeo athletes competed throughout the evening, proudly representing their communities and inspiring the next generation of competitors.

One of the night's most memorable moments came when Cody Jesus returned to the arena after recovering from multiple injuries and surgeries. With determination and unwavering perseverance, Jesus completed an inspiring eight-second ride, earning enthusiastic cheers from the crowd and reminding everyone why resilience is one of the greatest strengths of both rodeo and the Navajo people.

"Cody isn't just an exceptional athlete—he's an outstanding role model," said President Nygren. "He understands that success means lifting others up along the way. By making this event free, investing in our youth, and creating opportunities for Navajo families to come together, he's showing our young people what leadership, humility, and giving back truly look like. We're proud of him for representing the Navajo Nation both inside and outside of the arena."

President Nygren also recognized the importance of supporting Navajo athletes who continue to excel while remaining connected to their communities. He noted that events like the Cody Jesus Invitational not only celebrate athletic excellence but also strengthen families, encourage healthy lifestyles, and inspire young people to pursue their goals with confidence and determination.

The evening concluded with an astonishing fireworks display sponsored by Navajo Fizz, lighting up the Window Rock sky as spectators celebrated a successful day of rodeo and community. Families then gathered for a community dance featuring the Diné Boys and the Bryon Ramone Band, bringing the celebration to a memorable close.





PRESIDENT NYGREN ATTENDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR TÓKQ'Í TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Navajo Nation President Nygren joined community members, chapter officials, NTUA, Choice Wireless, and project partners on Monday, July 6, to celebrate the official ribbon cutting of the new Tó kq'í Telecommunications Tower, marking another milestone in the Navajo Nation's continued investment in broadband infrastructure and digital connectivity.

With the iconic Shiprock as the backdrop, the ceremony celebrated the completion of the 180-foot telecommunications tower, now fully operational and providing reliable fixed wireless broadband service to families in the Gadi'ahí/Tó kq'í area and surrounding communities.

Funded through a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) broadband grant, the Tó kq'í Tower represents an investment of approximately \$808,282 as part of a larger \$50.8 million broadband initiative administered through NTUA and its project partners.

According to the NTIA application, the site is expected to provide broadband coverage to more than 1,900 homes, helping bridge the digital divide across the Navajo Nation.

The success of these projects reflects the strong partnership between the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Broadband Office, NTUA, Choice Wireless, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The Broadband Office has led planning, grant administration, and project coordination, while NTUA has provided the engineering expertise, fiber infrastructure, and utility support necessary to deliver broadband service to underserved communities.

"Every new mile of fiber, every new telecommunications tower, and every new broadband connection moves us closer to ensuring every Navajo family has access to the same opportunities," President Nygren said. "Our work continues through strategic investments that combine federal funding with Navajo Nation resources, allowing us to reach communities that have historically been overlooked while building a network that will serve future generations."

President Nygren thanked NTUA, Choice Wireless, the Navajo Broadband Office, federal funding partners, chapter officials, and local residents for their continued commitment to expanding broadband access across the Navajo Nation.





Actor Ryan Begay Brings Indigenous History to the Big Screen in 'Young Washington' film



Navajo actor, filmmaker, and U.S. Air Force veteran Ryan Begay continues to elevate Indigenous representation on the big screen with his portrayal of Tanacharison, also known as the “Half King,” in the Angel Studios feature *Young Washington*. Directed by Jon Erwin, the film explores the early years of George Washington during the French and Indian War while highlighting the influential role Indigenous leaders played in shaping American history.

A proud member of the Navajo Nation, Begay has built a career dedicated to authentic Native storytelling. His acting credits include *Longmire*, *Breaking Bad*, *Rezbali*, *Frybread Face and Me*, and other acclaimed productions. He is also an award-winning filmmaker, earning a Gold Telly Award for his documentary *Honor Song* and an Emmy nomination for the Navajo-language short film *Cleaning's a Cakewalk*.

Before the film's nationwide release over the Fourth of July weekend, Begay was honored during a special red carpet premiere and VIP community event on July 3 at Flix Brewhouse in Albuquerque, where family, friends, fellow filmmakers, and community members gathered to celebrate his latest achievement and the growing presence of Indigenous voices in film.



“For me, portraying Tanacharison was an opportunity to honor an Indigenous leader whose story deserves to be known.

I hope audiences leave with a deeper appreciation for the Native leaders who helped shape history and continue to inspire future generations.”

-Ryan Begay





BREAKING RECORDS:

ALI UPSHAW BREAKS 39-YEAR-OLD WOMENS 10K RECORD AT NARBONA PASS CLASSIC

For nearly four decades, one remarkable performance stood alone in the history of the Narbona Pass Classic.

In 1987, Angela Chalmers, an Indigenous runner from Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, set the women's 10-kilometer course record with a time of 40:50. Chalmers would later represent Canada at the 1992 Summer Olympics.

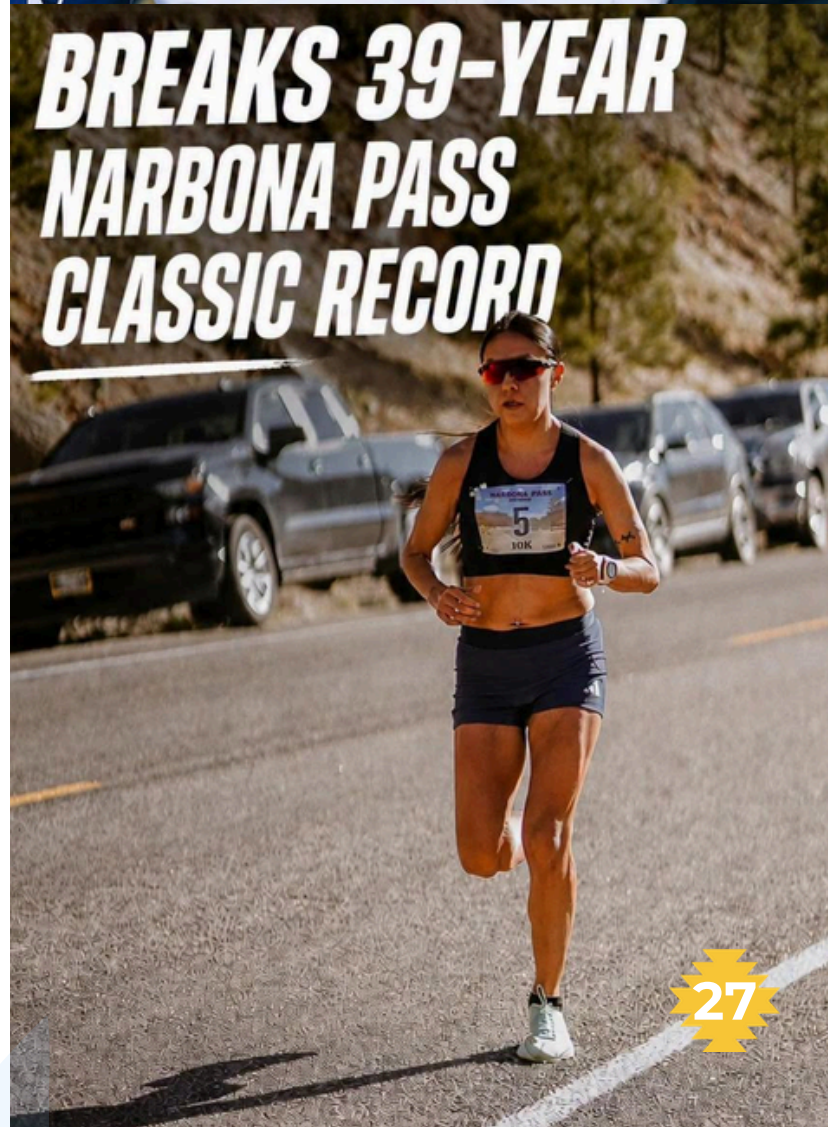
On Sunday, July 5, Ali Upshaw, a Navajo from Fort Defiance, Arizona, completed the Narbona Pass Classic in 40:38, breaking the longest-standing women's course record in race history while finishing fifth overall among all competitors in the 10K.

Nearly 40 years separated the two performances, but together they represent an extraordinary legacy of Indigenous excellence in distance running.

“Ali Upshaw’s accomplishment is a proud moment for the Navajo Nation,” Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said. “Young Navajo athletes now have another role model who has shown we can compete and succeed at the very highest levels.”

The Narbona Pass Classic has celebrated running and community since the Carl family founded the race in 1979. Over the past 46 years, interrupted only once during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become one of the Southwest’s premier road races.

With a new course record now in the books, This race served as another reminder that the next generation of Indigenous runners continues to raise the bar while inspiring those who will follow.



**BREAKS 39-YEAR
NARBONA PASS
CLASSIC RECORD**



PRESIDENT NYGREN JOINS NAHATA'DZIIL COMMUNITY FOR GRAND OPENING OF FUEL CENTER AND SONIC

Navajo Nation President Nygren joined community members on July 2 to celebrate the grand opening of the new NahataDziil Marathon Fuel Center and Sonic, recognizing the Navajo-owned development as another major investment in economic growth, local job creation, and long-term prosperity for the Sanders community.

Developed by the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise (NNHE), the 5,500-square-foot convenience store features a Marathon-branded fuel station with an attached Sonic restaurant. The approximately \$8 million project was designed and constructed by Onsite Development Inc. and funded by NNHE as part of its ongoing commitment to expanding Navajo-owned businesses and strengthening the Nation's economy.

Located near Interstate 40 on Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement property, the business is strategically positioned to serve both local residents and travelers while generating fuel excise taxes, sales tax revenue, and increased economic activity for the Navajo Nation. Most importantly, the facility has created 33 new jobs, providing meaningful employment opportunities for Navajo families and allowing more people to work closer to home.

During the celebration, President Nygren reflected on returning to the site less than a year after its groundbreaking, noting how a vision has become a thriving business that will benefit the community for generations.

He encouraged community members to continue supporting Navajo-owned businesses and working together to build an even stronger future, noting that the grand opening reflects the Navajo Nation's continued commitment to creating jobs, strengthening local economies, and expanding opportunities that allow Diné families and future generations to thrive.

“

"Progress is not measured by buildings—it is measured by people, by the opportunities we create for our families, and by the hope we give the next generation."





GROWING SKILLS, SERVING COMMUNITY: MARIANO LAKE YOUTH WORK TODAY TO BUILD A STRONGER TOMORROW

Navajo Nation President Nygren recently visited the Mariano Lake Chapter Youth Summer Employment Program, where he met with young workers, supervisors, and chapter staff to recognize the importance of providing meaningful work opportunities for Navajo youth while investing in the future of their communities.

The Mariano Lake Chapter's program offers temporary employment opportunities for youth beginning at age 14 through adulthood, giving participants valuable hands-on work experience while serving their local community. Unlike many traditional programs, the chapter adjusts its budget each year to accommodate the number of students who apply, ensuring as many young people as possible have the opportunity to participate. Youth rotate through one- to two-week work assignments, allowing more students to gain valuable job experience throughout the summer.

Participants complete a variety of projects that directly benefit the chapter and surrounding community. From removing and replanting trees to maintaining chapter facilities and assisting with labor projects under the guidance of a construction supervisor, students gain practical skills while learning the value of teamwork, responsibility, and community service.

During the visit, President Nygren also toured the chapter's greenhouse, provided through Navajo Technical University, where youth help care for crops including lettuce, squash, and other vegetables. The greenhouse gives participants hands-on experience in agriculture while promoting food sustainability and healthy living within the community.

President Nygren praised the students for their strong work ethic and thanked the supervisors and chapter staff who dedicate their time to mentoring the next generation.

"It's always exciting to see our young people building new skills and gaining valuable work experience," said President Nygren. "Thank you to the supervisors who invest their time in mentoring these students. I was honored to see so many hardworking young people out in the heat, working with their hands and their minds, without complaining. These experiences teach practical skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives."

The visit also highlighted the Navajo Nation's continued commitment to expanding employment opportunities for young people. Recent increases to the Navajo Nation minimum wage are helping provide greater financial opportunities for workers while strengthening workforce development across the Nation.

Programs like Mariano Lake's Youth Summer Employment Program not only prepare young people for future careers but also instill a sense of pride, responsibility, and service by giving back to the communities they call home. Through opportunities like these, the Navajo Nation continues investing in the next generation of leaders, workers, and community builders.





FROM UNCERTAINTY TO STABILITY: NEW HOMES BRING HOPE TO MARIANO LAKE FAMILIES

On June 26, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren visited two families in the Mariano Lake Chapter who recently received homes through the Community Housing and Infrastructure Department (CHID), celebrating an important milestone and witnessing firsthand the life-changing impact that safe, quality housing is having on Navajo families.

During the visits, President Nygren met with each family inside their new homes, listening as they shared their journeys to homeownership and the significance of finally having a place to call their own.

The Mariano Lake Chapter played a vital role throughout the housing process by conducting housing assessments, assisting with homesite leases, identifying families with the greatest needs, and prioritizing applicants.

The chapter worked closely with its Community Land Use Planning Committee, local officials, and the CHID ARPA housing project to help make these homes a reality.

One of the families, a household of six, had been doing everything they could to get by while living in a deteriorated trailer. Despite difficult circumstances and limited employment opportunities in the area, they remained committed to providing for their family while waiting for the opportunity to receive permanent housing.

"They were trying to do what they could do for themselves as a family," said Mariano Lake Chapter Coordinator Leandra James. "It's tough out here because there aren't many jobs, but this home will make a tremendous difference for their health, safety, and overall well-being."

Under the Nygren Administration, more than \$100 million has been allocated through CHID and the Housing Improvement Program to increase housing opportunities for Navajo families. The administration continues working alongside NTUA, NECA, contractors, local chapters, and community partners to complete utility connections and ensure families can fully move into safe, modern homes.





STRONGER WITH EVERY STEP: WINGS OF AMERICA EMPOWERS TOHATCHI YOUTH



Around 40 young athletes gathered in Tohatchi this summer to participate in the Wings of America Running and Fitness Camp, a program focused on promoting healthy lifestyles, leadership, and cultural pride among Native youth.

The camp, held through a partnership between Wings of America and the Navajo Department of Health, introduced participants to fitness, nutrition, teamwork, and the rich tradition of Native running. Youth ages 6 to 18 learned proper exercise techniques while building confidence through mentorship from Native student-athletes.

Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren praised the partnership, saying programs like this help create opportunities for young people to stay active, develop leadership skills, and connect with mentors who understand their experiences.

The collaboration began after Wings of America Chief Visionary Officer Dustin Martin approached President Nygren during the New Mexico State Track and Field Championships to discuss expanding opportunities for Native youth. Their conversation led to a series of running camps being offered across the Navajo Nation this summer.

During the event, the Navajo Department of Health recognized Martin, Esther Beck, and Glen Allen for their dedication to mentoring Native youth through athletics and education. Martin was honored with a Pendleton blanket for his leadership and commitment to the program.

The Tohatchi camp is one of ten running camps taking place across the Navajo Nation this summer. Organizers hope the program will inspire young people to build lifelong healthy habits while strengthening their confidence, cultural identity, and commitment to their communities.





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
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



LISTEN ON  **Spotify**



Listen on
Apple Podcasts