



Naat'áji Nahat'á Hane'
Legislative Branch News
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
FALL COUNCIL SESSION - OCTOBER 2017

Delegates walk with Grandma Emma in support of domestic violence awareness

By Jared Touchin

Following the adjournment of the Fall Council Session, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) and several other members of the Navajo Nation Council showed their support for Emma Thompson, also known as "Grandma Emma" from the community of Tohatchi, as she made her way on foot to the capital of the Navajo Nation on Oct. 19 to bring

awareness to victims of domestic violence on the Navajo Nation.

Speaker Bates, Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta), and Council Delegate Steven Begay (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahast'l'a'a) walked with Grandma Emma as she made her way into Window Rock on Thursday morning, after beginning her

journey on Wednesday from the city of Gallup to raise awareness for domestic violence.

A few family members who carried signs drawing attention to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is recognized during the month of October each year, also joined Grandma Emma who wore a sign that read, "Trish, please forgive me my daughter - we didn't do enough to keep you alive and healthy. We love you

See "GRANDMA EMMA", Page 2

Navajo Nation Council approves the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund Income Act

By Jolene Holgate

On Oct. 17, the Navajo Nation Council convened for the second day of the 2017 Fall Council Session, in which they considered Legislation No. 0343-17. The bill seeks approval for the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund Income Act that would amend Navajo Nation Code Title 12 Chapter 10 Section 1171 (A) and 1175 (A)(B).

principal would consist of all supplemental appropriations, and the trust fund income would consist of all earnings such as interest, dividends, other related earnings generated by the principal income of the fund, as well as annual set-asides by the Navajo Nation Council.

Primary sponsor for the legislation Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock) said the legislation is to amend and clarify existing definitions contained within



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. welcomes the Ft. Defiance Agency and Central Navajo Agency veterans during the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 18, 2017.

See "VETERANS FUND", Page 3

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GRANDMA EMMA / cont. from Page 1

my daughter," in honor and remembrance of the life of her daughter who died three years ago due to domestic violence.

The group arrived to the Council Chamber just before noon on Thursday, where Council members, staff, local media, and others welcomed them. Grandma Emma addressed the crowd as she made an emotionally plea for the public and the Nation's leaders to focus more attention to social problems that often lead to domestic violence and other problems.

She was joined by several other Council members outside the Council Chamber, including Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi) and Council Del-

egate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa'tsis'Áán, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin), who both offered words of encouragement and condolences to Thompson and all other victims of domestic violence, while acknowledging that more needs to be done to help victims.

Speaker Bates thanked Grandma Emma for taking the initiative to begin her walk and for reminding the Nation's leadership of the problems associated with domestic violence. He also pointed out that through the Council's Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee, the Council is making progress to amend laws to help deter several offenses including domestic violence.

Arizona State Rep. Wenona Benally (D – Dist.

7) also participated in the walk and spoke in support of victims while providing information in regards to the large increase in phone calls from victims of domestic violence. She stated that the Navajo Nation has received nearly double the number of crisis calls from victims within the last three years, rising from over 3,300 calls to over 6,400.

On Friday, Grandma Emma will continue her journey to raise awareness for domestic violence victims, as she continues her walk to the community of Chinle, which located nearly 70-miles from Window Rock.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Steven Begay, Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, and Speaker LoRenzo Bates walk along with Grandma Emma in Window Rock, Ariz. on October 19, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Emma Thompson, also known as "Grandma Emma" in Window Rock, Ariz. on October 19, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Steven Begay, Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, and Speaker LoRenzo Bates arrive to the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on October 19, 2017.

Council declares the second Friday in May as "Navajo Police Officer Day"

By Crystalyne Curley

On the second day of the 2017 Fall Council Session, the Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0244-17 with a vote of 14-0, declaring the second Friday in May as "Navajo Police Office Day" on the Navajo Nation.

Law and Order Committee chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau), who sponsored the legislation, requested the support of his Council colleagues emphasizing the need to recognize Navajo law enforcement.

"The Nation's police officers work intensive hours everyday to protect the people, families, and communities and they deserve to be acknowledged. The declaration will honor and express the Nation's appreciation for all their hard work and sacrifice," said Delegate Yazzie.

He added that the Navajo Nation Police Department is comprised of seven police districts that cover 27,000 square-miles, and consists of approximately

239 police officers, who work 24-hours a day and seven days a week to provide public safety services.

According to the legislation, "Navajo Police Officer Day," would be an observed holiday to recognize all Navajo and fallen police officers.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé a'naóz't'í), who co-sponsored the legislation, stated that the observed holiday would also help to address public safety issues and concerns on the Nation.

"Setting aside a day for Navajo law enforcement gives the Nation the opportunity to address and prioritize public safety. The Nation needs to recognize that our police officers need special attention and assistance. Stress levels from the workload impacts the officers' lives and their families and we must find ways to help them," said Delegate Crotty, "The Nation also needs to find ways to support families and colleagues of fallen officers."

The legislation also states that the observed holiday would acknowledge fallen Navajo officers and recommends establishing a fund account to assist the families of fallen officers.

Delegate Yazzie said that all the fallen Navajo police officers should be recognized, respected, and honored on their own tribal homelands.

"At the national level, May 15th is recognized as 'Peace Officers Memorial Day' and the week as 'Police Week' where tens of thousands of law enforcement around the world gather at the national capitol to honor and recognize police officers and fallen officers. This legislation would allow us to honor and recognize our officers on the Navajo Nation," said Delegate Yazzie.

The observed holiday will become effective upon certification of the Speaker of the Council.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd greets the Ft. Defiance Agency and Central Navajo Agency veterans during the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 18, 2017.

the establishment of the Veterans Trust Fund to provide additional funds for the benefit of Navajo veterans.

Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh), to draft a long-term plan

"Amending the definition of the trust fund income allows the annual allocation to veterans services to increase, and that's the aim of what we are trying to do. We want to improve services for our veterans and this is one option that we believe will be successful in doing that," said Delegate Chee.

Delegate Chee said he worked closely with Navajo veterans as well as the chair for the Budget and Finance Committee, Council Delegate

that would sustain improved services for veterans for years to come.

Legislation co-sponsor Delegate Damon clarified that the "principal" and "interest income" are two separate resources, and said that the funding utilized is derived from the interest income that is generated each year, not the principal amount which continues to grow each year.

"We are trying to avoid a one-time supplemental funding for services that Navajo veterans use. We are planning for the long-term, as well as providing additional funding for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration by including interest and earnings as another source of funding," said Delegate Damon.

Council members voted 13-0 to approve Legislation No. 0343-17, and the President will have ten calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

Speaker Bates highlights Council's progress in report on opening day of Fall Council Session

By Jared Touchin

During the opening day of the 2017 Fall Council Session, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council voted 13-0 to accept a report from Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

In his report to the Council, Speaker Bates highlighted the successful use of funds from the Nation's \$554 million settlement with the federal government in 2014, for major water projects that began to break ground recently.

"Many of our people have asked, 'Where did the \$554 million settlement funds go?' In late September, Diné citizens finally began to see the real results of the Navajo Nation Council's investments using the \$554 million settlement funds that the Navajo Nation received from the federal government in 2014," stated Speaker Bates.

The report referenced the "Ganado, Lower Greasewood, and Dilkon Water Improvement Project," which is one of several major bulk water projects that was supported in January 2015, when the Council adopted legislation that approved \$180 million from the settlement dollars to be used for the water projects. Since then, the Office of the Speaker has worked diligently with the Water Management Branch, Navajo

Tribal Utility Authority, and IHS to plan and implement the projects.

The \$9.1 million project will double the current water capacity for several communities including Ganado, Cornfields, Lower Greasewood, Dilkon, Indian Wells, Bida-hochie, and Teesto, by improving current water well capacities and constructing an additional water well.

NTUA will use \$1.2 million of the settlement funds for the project through a loan agreement with the Nation, which means NTUA will eventually repay the funds to the Nation.

An additional \$4.5 million from the settlement funds was used, along with funding from the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, to construct a public safety and first responder facility near the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort. The facility will provide services to the gaming facility as well as the surrounding communities of Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii, and Dilkon.

"This project is also a sign of self-determination for the Navajo Nation and shows that we are more

than capable of providing for our people and our communities," stated Speaker Bates.

During the presentation, Council Delegate



PHOTO (above): Speaker LoRenzo Bates (left) provides his report to the Navajo Nation Council on the opening day of the Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 16, 2017.

Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreón, Whitehorse Lake) commended Speaker Bates for the recent success of Council's efforts to resolve issues for Navajo elderly people in the state of New Mexico who

See "SPEAKERS REPORT", Page 6

Picture Highlights of the 2017 Fall Council Session



PHOTO (above): Tohatchi Veterans Organization posted the colors during the opening day of the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): 2017-2018 Miss Northern Navajo Ariana Rose Young and Miss Chinle Region Bich'eeke' Yazhi Tishawna Kai Williams sang the National Anthem at the start of the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown recognizes and extends his appreciation to Diné Urban Voices of the Phoenix Indian Center for delivering a Navajo prayer song during the opening day of the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. recognizes and honors the work and service of the late Tommy Tsosie, who was a community leader at LeChee Chapter and a Council Delegate on the 20th and 21st Navajo Nation Council, during the opening day of the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Steven Begay recognizes Bobbie A. Baldwin and Kyle L. Rockbridge for their outstanding dedication and service to assist Navajo veterans throughout the Ft. Defiance Agency during the opening day of the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 16, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown recognizes Larry Tuni for his outstanding dedication and service to coach and mentor Navajo youth through the sport of wrestling during the opening day of the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 16, 2017.

Navajo Nation Council supports increased accountability of Navajo programs

By Jolene Holgate

During the 2017 Fall Council Session, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0101-17, which amends the Navajo Nation Preference in Employment Act to provide for the addition of program managers of the executive branch as a class of employees exempt from the "Just Cause" provisions of the act.

According to the legislation, program managers are defined as "anyone who has the authority to hire, terminate, discipline, or otherwise initiate personnel action." The "Just Cause" provisions currently only apply to regular status employees, and states, "employers shall not penalize, discipline, discharge nor take any adverse action against any Navajo employee without just cause."

It goes on to state that "program managers of the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation perform a

crucial role in the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the programs of the Navajo Nation in a manner that [ensures] a positive benefit to the Navajo people."

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinõn, Whippoorwill) said that in order to hold program managers within each division accountable for the performance within their respective programs, they would need to be classified as "at-will" employees, similar to division directors.

"The purpose is to be able to hold our employees and supervisors more accountable to carry out the work and the many needs of the nation. Many of these programs provide direct services to our Navajo people and when a program is failing, the person managing the program needs to be held accountable. We want all

our Navajo programs to be successful, that's our goal," said Delegate Witherspoon.

Delegate Witherspoon added that in recent talks with the Office of the President and Vice President, they expressed their support for the amendment to the NNPEA.

If program managers are classified as at-will employees, it would mean their supervisors can discharge the program manager for any reason at all or no reason at all, with or without notice. However, the program manager can resign at any time for any or no reason at all, with or without notice, states the legislation.

Members of the Navajo Nation Council voted 8-7 to approve Legislation No. 0101-17. The President will have ten calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

Council to seek a different avenue to increase funding for Navajo Nation senior citizens needs

By Jolene Holgate

On Oct. 17, the second day of the 2017 Fall Council Session, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council considered Legislation No. 0020-17, which sought to adopt a Sihasin Fund Senior Citizens Expenditure Plan. The legislation aimed to allocate approximately \$10 million from the Sihasin Fund to the Navajo Nation Trust Fund for senior citizen services.

According to the legislation, the \$10 million would be deposited into the Navajo Nation Trust Fund for senior citizen services in a segregated account, which would not "mingle" with the actual trust fund dollars. Since the funding would be derived from the Sihasin Fund it must follow the guidelines of Resolution No. CD-68-14, which established the Sihasin Fund with settlement funds that the Navajo Nation received from the federal government in 2014.

The bill goes on to state that only the earned interest would be utilized from the allocation and would go toward planning and development of regional infrastructure supporting economic and community development, including housing for senior citizens.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáz't'í) worked with the Navajo Area Agency on Aging to develop the expenditure plan to specifically target renovations and the replacement of

several dilapidated senior citizen centers that provide services such as programming, activities, support, and meals.

"What I bring before my colleagues is not just an individual approach to dealing with our senior citizens' quality of life," said Delegate Crotty. "This isn't dumping money on the problem or moving money around. It is funds targeting infrastructure, housing, and economic development. We sent out a comprehensive report regarding the state of buildings of the senior centers."

Delegate Crotty said that the assessments were conducted in accordance with a Condition of Appropriation that was issued to the Navajo Nation Facilities Maintenance Department. The department then partnered with a Navajo-owned design and architecture firm to aid with the building assessments and cost analysis.

Indigenous Design Studio + Architecture, LLC was tasked with assessing existing senior citizen center facilities on the Navajo Nation and providing recommendations for renovation and construction. The report stated that the average age of the centers are about 27-years old, and that overall, senior center buildings are maintained and cared for satisfactorily considering the low budgets that are allocated annually for maintenance.

Additionally, the company assessed over 80

senior citizen centers, and using a national rating system for building structure integrity the firm determined that nearly 60 senior centers were deemed to be in "poor" condition. The common trend of issues with senior centers included lack of drainage control or planning, lack of compliance with the standards of the American Disabilities Act in the interior and exterior of the facilities, a need for electrical upgrades, a need for HVAC upgrades, and roof repairs.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsaya-toh) said he supported the efforts of Delegate Crotty, however, he felt that the interest income from the \$10 million would take years to generate and would not be enough to renovate and replace senior center facilities.

"I would like to ask if we can redo this legislation. We are only getting roughly \$300,000 per year, and that's about \$3,000 allocated to each senior center each year. The initiative should do a direct investment of these dollars, and utilize a loan type of program and fix all these senior citizens centers across the Navajo Nation. I know I initially said I supported this legislation, but I thought it was going after the principle or a \$3 million bond, or investment loan to fix the centers," said Delegate Damon.

Delegate Damon offered to work with Delegate Crotty and the Navajo Area Agency on Aging to

See "SENIOR CITIZENS", Page 6

NTUA Emergency Reserve Fund and Replacement Reserve Fund supported by the Council

By Jared Touchin

During the Fall Council Session, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0136-17, amending Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code § 620 of the Navajo Nation Sales Tax to allow the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to establish an emergency reserve fund and a replacement reserve fund. The bill would also amend the Navajo Nation tax code to set aside tax revenue to fund the emergency and replacement reserve funds, if signed into law.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) was joined by NTUA deputy general manager Rex Kontz, NTUA general counsel Arash N. Moalemi, and Water Management Branch manager Jason John as he requested the Council's support to create the two funds in order to help NTUA respond to emergency situations such as winter weather conditions, and to help the Nation meet its obligations under the New Mexico water rights settlement, which was finalized in 2005.

Moalemi stated that NTUA has over 5,800 miles of water lines and over 100 water systems throughout the Navajo Nation. He added that when the Navajo Nation negotiated the water settlement there was language included that requires the Nation to establish an emergency reserve fund and a replacement reserve fund in order to transfer the operation, maintenance, and repair of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project to the Navajo Nation in the coming years.

He also added that the replacement reserve fund would provide financing for NTUA to repair and/or replace existing deteriorating water lines and water systems that serve over 130,000 people across the Nation.

Delegate Shepherd recalled that in 2012 the Navajo Nation commenced "Operation Winter Freeze" as a result of extreme freezing temperatures that froze many water lines and left many families without running water for weeks. He said the emergency reserve fund would provide readily available funds for NTUA to re-

spond to such emergencies.

"We're asking for your leadership to start putting some of these plans together so that over time this 23rd Navajo Nation Council will leave that legacy moving forward to have these funds in place for years down the road," stated Delegate Shepherd.

The legislation states that 60-percent of the revenue collected from the sales tax revenue associated with the construction of public water and wastewater systems shall be deposited into the NTUA emergency reserve fund and the NTUA replacement reserve fund, in accordance with a fund management plan approved by the Council's Budget and Finance Committee.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Navajo Nation Council voted 11-3 to approve Legislation No. 0136-17. The President will have 10 calendar days to consider the resolution once it is delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President.

SPEAKERS REPORT/ cont. from Page 3

have encountered problems with obtaining driver's licenses that comply with federal standards in accordance with the Real ID Act.

On Oct. 13, the Council hosted a town hall meeting in Crownpoint after several New Mexico delegates received numerous requests for help from constituents who could not obtain driver's licenses because they either did not have a birth certificate or could not prove their residency because they either live in very rural areas or do not have a formal address.

As a result of Council meeting with New Mexico state officials in recent months, the New Mexico MVD announced that they would begin accepting a Certificate of Indian Blood and affidavits of birth in lieu of other required documents. In addition, they are also now accepting billing statements from Navajo Tribal Utility Authority as proof of residency to obtain a driv-

er's license.

MVD officials also announced that at least 50 people were able to obtain their driver's license after the MVD deployed a mobile unit to the community of Crownpoint last week after consultation with members of the Council.

Other items covered in Speaker's report include the renovation of the Council Chamber, Navajo Generating Station, Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, progress of the Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee, Highway 264 road improvements, transportation priorities, and reports on the Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah state legislatures. To view the full report from Speaker Bates, please visit the Navajo Nation Council's website at www.navajonationcouncil.org.



PHOTO (above): Speaker LoRenzo Bates with Miss Chinle Region Bich'eeke' Yazhi Tishawna Kai Williams during the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 16, 2017.

SENIOR CITIZENS/ cont. from Page 5

draft a new plan to increase funding for not only the renovation and replacement of senior centers, but could contribute to the overall services for elders such as assistance, meal programs, and necessities such as

eyeglasses and dentures.

Council voted 11-11 to disapprove Legislation No. 0020-17. Although the legislation failed, Delegate Crotty said she would continue to work with the

Navajo Area Agency on Aging and Council to develop a new plan to increase funding for Navajo elders.

Council confirms the appointments of probationary and permanent Navajo Nation Judges

By Crystalyne Curley

During the 2017 Fall Council Session, the Navajo Nation Council considered Legislation No. 0266-17 and Legislation No. 0271-17, confirming the probationary appointment of Tina Tsinigine as a Navajo Nation District Court judge and confirming the permanent appointment of Malcolm P. Begay as a Navajo Nation District Court judge.

Law and Order Committee chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau), who sponsored both legislations, stated that the two appointments are greatly needed due to the lack of judges in every judicial district.

"The Nation's courts are overwhelmed with high loads of pending cases and the lack of judges to address violent crimes raises many concerns within the justice system. The two appointments would help the cause to address justice," said Delegate Yazzie.

Tsinigine's is Tł'ízí Łání (Many Goats Clan) born for Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House People). Her maternal grandfather is Bjih Bitoo'nii and her paternal grandfather is Tsé Deeshgiizhnii. She is originally from Coppermine, Ariz.

According to the Judicial Branch, Tsinigine has worked nine years as a staff attorney at the Tuba City Judicial District and is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and the Arizona State Bar Association. She received her bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from Arizona State University, master of arts degree in Indigenous Nations Studies from the University of Kansas, and juris doctor degree from the University of

New Mexico School of Law.

Resolution No. LOCJN-05-17 found that Tsinigine met the qualifications to serve as a probationary district court judge. Pursuant to Title 7 section 355(B), Tsinigine will be appointed for a probationary period of two years. Council approved Legislation No. 0266-17 on Tuesday with a 12-1 vote.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood), who co-sponsored Legislation No. 0271-17, commended the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch for collaborating with the LOC to strengthen the judicial system by recommending the appointment of Malcolm P. Begay as a permanent district court judge.

"The appointment of a permanent district court judge, Chief Justice, or associated justices is a lengthy process. Malcolm Begay has completed the process and he was highly recommended by the former acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan. The LOC appreciates the completed work to confirm Begay as a judge," said Delegate Begay.

Begay's maternal clan is Tsi'naajinii (Black-Streaked-Wood People) and his paternal clan is Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House People). His maternal grandfather is Tsénijikini and his paternal grandfather is Tsé Deeshgiizhnii. He is originally from the community of Steamboat, Ariz.

According to the legislation, Judge Begay served his two-year probationary term as a district court judge at the Kayenta District Court. On March 3, acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan determined that Judge Begay had satisfactorily completed his probationary term. Before becoming a judge, Begay was a staff attorney for the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, worked with the Office of the Prosecutor and was honorably discharged from the United States Marines Corps.

Begay graduated from Holbrook High School and obtained his bachelor of science degree from Western International University and juris doctor degree from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College.

On April 26, the LOC approved legislation recommending the permanent appoint-



PHOTO (above): Malcolm P. Begay takes the oath of office administered by acting Navajo Nation Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate after being confirmed as a permanent judge by the Navajo Nation Council, during the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 18, 2017.

ment of Judge Begay, which was sent to President Russell Begay, however, no action was taken.

Pursuant to Title 2 section 601(B)(11), it is authorized to present directly to the Navajo Nation Council the issue of permanent appointment of any probationary justice and judges, whom the LOC and the Chief Justice have recommended for permanent appointment and which recommendation to the President has failed to convey to the Council within 60-days of receiving the recommendation.

During the legislation discussion, many members of the Council stressed many concerns regarding domestic violence, missing persons, substance abuse offenses, crime sentencing, court proceedings, outdated criminal and civil laws, and the importance of using Navajo culture and language within the court system.

In response to the questions, Judge Begay said, "I completed four-years of my probationary term as a judge at Kayenta Court and it was challenge due to the lack of judges. There are many challenges within the justice system of the Nation and I will do my best to uphold my responsibilities and address the Council's concerns as a judge."

Judge Begay and acting Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate thanked the Council and the LOC for the continuous support to fulfill the appointment of judges on the Nation.

The Council approved Legislation No. 0271-17 with at 15-5 vote on Wednesday. Following the vote, Judge Tsinigine and Judge Begay was sworn-in by acting Chief Justice Holgate following the Council's approval of the legislation.



PHOTO (above): Tina Tsinigine takes the oath of office administered by acting Navajo Nation Chief Justice Thomas J. Holgate after being confirmed as a probationary judge by the Navajo Nation Council, during the 2017 Fall Council Session at the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on Oct. 18, 2017.

Picture Highlights of the 2017 Navajo Nation Fairs

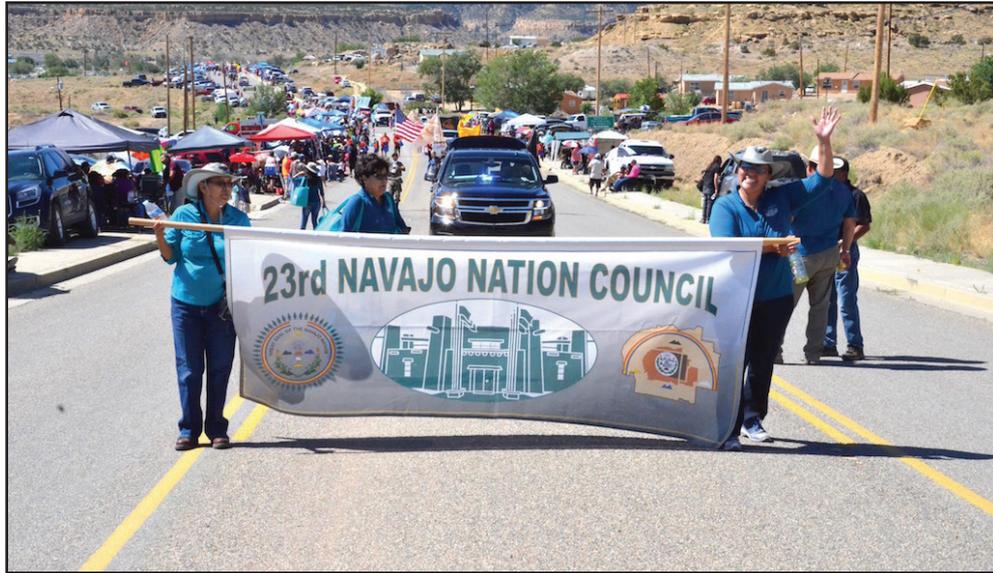


PHOTO (above): The 23rd Navajo Nation Council during the Eastern Navajo Agency Fair parade in Crownpoint, N.M. on July 22, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Speaker LoRenzo Bates and Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie during the Eastern Navajo Agency Fair parade in Crownpoint, N.M. on July 22, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty at the Elders Day Celebration during the 71st Annual Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock, Ariz. on Sept. 7, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Norman M. Begay greeting elders at the Elders Day Celebration during the 71st Annual Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock, Ariz. on Sept. 7, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr. during the 106th Northern Navajo Nation Fair parade in Shiprock, N.M. on Oct. 7, 2017.



PHOTO (above): Council Delegate Otto Tso along the Western Navajo Agency Fair parade route in Tuba City, Ariz. on Oct. 14, 2017.

23rd Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees, Subcommittees, Task Forces, and Commissions

Council Standing Committees

Budget and Finance Committee	Health, Education, and Human Services Committee	Law and Order Committee	Resources and Development Committee
Seth Damon (Chair) Dwight Witherspoon (Vice Chair) Tom T. Chee Lee Jack, Sr. Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Leonard Tsosie	Jonathan L. Hale (Chair) Norman M. Begay (Vice Chair) Steven Begay Nathaniel Brown Nelson S. BeGaye Amber Kanazbah Crotty	Edmund Yazzie (Chair) Raymond Smith, Jr. (Vice Chair) Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Herman Daniels, Jr. Otto Tso	Alton Joe Shepherd (Chair) Benjamin L. Bennett (Vice Chair) Davis Filfred Walter Phelps Leonard H. Pete Jonathan Perry

Subcommittees and Task Forces

Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Sacred Sites Task Force	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Arizona Gaming Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Title II Reform Subcommittee	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Síhasin Fund Subcommittee
LoRenzo Bates Davis Filfred Jonathan L. Hale Jonathan Perry Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Alton Joe Shepherd Jonathan L. Hale Walter Phelps Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Alton Joe Shepherd Norman M. Begay Tom T. Chee Amber Kanazbah Crotty Seth Damon Davis Filfred Jonathan Perry Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Otto Tso	Leonard Tsosie Steven Begay Nelson S. BeGaye Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Nathaniel Brown Tom T. Chee Seth Damon Davis Filfred Lee Jack, Sr. Jonathan Perry Walter Phelps Otto Tso
Naabik'iyáti' Committee's State Task Force	Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee		
Steven Begay Nathaniel Brown Seth Damon Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred Walter Phelps	Amber Kanazbah Crotty Nathaniel Brown Jonathan L. Hale Jonathan Perry Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon		

Commissions

Eastern Navajo Land Commission	Navajo-Hopi Land Commission	Utah Navajo Commission
Leonard Tsosie Norman M. Begay Seth Damon Jonathan Perry Edmund Yazzie	Walter Phelps Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Lee Jack, Sr. Alton Joe Shepherd Tuchoney Slim, Jr. Raymond Smith, Jr. Otto Tso Dwight Witherspoon	Nathaniel Brown Herman Daniels, Jr. Davis Filfred

For more information on meeting dates, times, and locations, as well as legislations and news, please visit: www.navajonationcouncil.org

2017 Fall Council Session

Legislation Results

*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

LEGISLATION 0020-17

Adopting the Síhasin Fund Senior Citizens Expenditure Plan Pursuant to CD-68-14 and 12 N.N.C. §~ 2501 - 2508

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Amber Kanazbah Crotty

ACTION: FAILED
(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

YEA (11):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Steven Begay
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Perry
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (11):
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Seth Damon
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon

NOT VOTING (2):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Jonathan L. Hale

LEGISLATION 0177-17

Amending Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code, extending the statute of limitations for white collar crimes

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Otto Tso

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (22):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Jonathan Perry
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (2):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Jonathan L. Hale

LEGISLATION 0334-17

Amending CD-68-14, the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Dwight Witherspoon

ACTION: FAILED
(Required 90% or 22 votes from Council)

YEA (21):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Lee Jack, Sr.
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (1):
Leonard H. Pete

NOT VOTING (2):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Jonathan L. Hale

LEGISLATION 0359-17

Authorizing and Approving the Kayenta Township Commission to Form Wholly Owned Instrumentalities under Navajo Law; Extending the Navajo Nation Privileges and Immunities to the Formed Instrumentalities; and Authorizing the Kayenta Township Commission to Waive the Instrumentalities Privileges and Immunities, Including Limited Sovereign Immunity and the Requirements for Tribal Remedies Exhaustion

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Nathaniel Brown

ACTION: TABLED for 30 days
(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

YEA (11):
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Benjamin L. Bennett
Nathaniel Brown
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (8):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Lee Jack, Sr.
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso

NOT VOTING (5):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Leonard H. Pete

LEGISLATION 0401-17

Amending 2 N.N.C. § 164(B), Agreements not Requiring Committee or Council Approval

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

ACTION: TABLED
(Required 2/3 or 16 votes from Council)

YEA (16):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Lee Jack, Sr.
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (8):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie

LEGISLATION 0101-17

Amending "The Navajo Preference in Employment Act" at 15 N.N.C. §~ 603,604 (B) (8) to Provide for the Addition of Program Managers of the Executive Branch as a Class of Employees Exempt from the Just Cause Provisions of the Act

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Dwight Witherspoon

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (8):
Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Lee Jack, Sr.
Walter Phelps
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

NAY (7):
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Raymond Smith, Jr.

NOT VOTING (9):
*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie
Edmund Yazzie

2017 Fall Council Session

Legislation Results

*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

LEGISLATION 0103-17

Amending 3 N.N.C. §~64, 66, 67; Enacting Amendments to Subchapter 4. Major Irrigation Projects Farm Boards Plan of Operation

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Alton Joe Shepherd

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (13):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Tom Chee
Lee Jack, Sr.
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (3):

Nathaniel Brown
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon

NOT VOTING (8):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie

LEGISLATION 0136-17

Approving Amendments to 24 N.N.C. § 620 of the Navajo Nation Sales Tax to Allow for an Emergency Reserve Fund and a Replacement Reserve Fund for the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Alton Joe Shepherd

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (11):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (3):

Steven Begay
Walter Phelps
Raymond Smith, Jr.

NOT VOTING (10):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie

LEGISLATION 0343-17

Approving Amendments to 12 N.N.C. § 1176 of the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Tom Chee

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (13):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (11):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie
Edmund Yazzie

LEGISLATION 0244-17

Declaring the Third Friday in May to be Known as "Navajo Police Officer Day" within the Navajo Nation

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Edmund Yazzie

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (14):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (10):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie

LEGISLATION 0264-17

Confirming the Appointment of Ms. Mae Franklin to the Diné Uranium Remediation Advisory Commission

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Walter Phelps

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (12):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Otto Tso
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (12):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon

LEGISLATION 0266-17

Confirming the Probationary Appointment of Tina Tsinigine as Navajo Nation District Court Judge

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Edmund Yazzie

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (12):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (1):

Nathaniel Brown

NOT VOTING (11):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon

2017 Fall Council Session

Legislation Results

*Chaired the discussion - Only votes in the event of a tie

LEGISLATION 0384-17

Confirming the Appointment of LeTanya Thinn, as the Student Representative, to the Commission on Navajo Government Development for a Term of Two Years

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Nelson S. BeGaye

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (13):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (11):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon

LEGISLATION 0179-17

Approving the Reinstatement of Juanita M. Dutton as a Member of the Navajo Nation

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Jonathan L. Hale

ACTION: TABLED

YEA (13):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (11):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon

LEGISLATION 0406-17

Approving Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) for the Diné School Accountability Plan of the Department of Diné Education

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Jonathan L. Hale

ACTION: TABLED

YEA (13):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Steven Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (0):

NOT VOTING (11):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon

LEGISLATION 0415-17

Ratifying the Federal Charter for the Naat'áanii Development Corporation

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Alton Joe Shepherd

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (11):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Otto Tso

NAY (2):

Steven Begay
Edmund Yazzie

NOT VOTING (11):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Norman M. Begay
Benjamin L. Bennett
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Leonard Tsosie
Dwight Witherspoon

LEGISLATION 0271-17

Confirming the Honorable Malcom P. Begay as Permanent Navajo Nation District Court Judge

PRIMARY SPONSOR
Edmund Yazzie

ACTION: PASSED

YEA (15):

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Norman M. Begay
Nelson S. BeGaye
Nathaniel Brown
Tom Chee
Herman Daniels, Jr.
Davis Filfred
Jonathan L. Hale
Lee Jack, Sr.
Leonard H. Pete
Walter Phelps
Alton Joe Shepherd
Otto Tso
Dwight Witherspoon
Edmund Yazzie

NAY (5):

Steven Begay
Amber Kanazbah Crotty
Seth Damon
Jonathan Perry
Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

NOT VOTING (4):

*Speaker LoRenzo Bates
Benjamin L. Bennett
Raymond Smith, Jr.
Leonard Tsosie