



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nation's leaders issue Navajo Nation Breast Cancer Awareness Month proclamation

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation on Thursday, recognizing the month of October as “Navajo Nation Breast Cancer Awareness Month” to raise awareness and promote breast cancer prevention and screenings to help fight the disease, and to support those affected by breast cancer.

“Many of us have a loved one, a relative, or a friend who is battling breast cancer. Breast Cancer Awareness month, which is recognized across the country, presents an opportunity to learn more about this deadly disease that impacts so many lives. Please help us to spread awareness and to fight the disease. Help by learning and promoting a healthier lifestyle to your family, friends, and communities. The risks associated with breast cancer can be reduced through education, screenings, and prevention efforts,” said President Nez.

The proclamation acknowledges that breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Navajo women and further states that risk factors that may increase a person’s chance of developing breast cancer include family history, age, alcohol consumption, and genetic history.

“Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a reminder to us all, men and women, that cancer can affect any of us, and that’s why it’s important to take preventative measures, such as eating healthy, exercising regularly, and taking the time to get screened. We all want to live a long and healthy life for our loved ones,” said Vice President Lizer.

Mammography screening funding is available for Native American women from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the Navajo Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program, which educates and provides cancer screenings to low income, uninsured, or underinsured age-eligible women across the Navajo Nation, while engaging the community and its partners to increase screening rates.

“October holds an extraordinary place in many of our hearts, as we remember our loved ones who battled breast cancer, and we pray for those that continue their fight. This month, I challenge everyone to learn about breast cancer and its early signs. Breast cancer has been known to grow rapidly, and the earlier it is detected, the more lives we can save,” said Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish.

The Office of the President and Vice President encourages all Navajo citizens to wear the color pink during the month of October, to raise awareness and to promote healthy living among Navajo women, families, and communities.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

**RECOGNIZING NAVAJO NATION
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Breast Cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Navajo women at a rate of 64.4 per 100,000 women. Making healthy lifestyle choices, including regular exercise and screenings, can help reduce the risk of developing breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Risk Factors that may increase chances of developing breast cancer include family history, age, drinking alcohol and genetics; and

WHEREAS, Mammogram screenings, recommended for all women age 50 and over, remain the most effective way to identify breast cancer in its earliest stages; and

WHEREAS, Mammography screening funding is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the Navajo Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention Program. This Program educates and provides cancer screening to low income, uninsured, or underinsured age eligible women across the Navajo Nation, while, engaging the community and its partners to increase screening rates; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation renews its commitment to fighting this disease, raising awareness of prevention and screening, and supporting those affected by breast cancer.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation do hereby proclaim October 2020 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We encourage our Navajo people to wear the color pink to raise awareness and to promote healthy living among our Navajo women, families, communities, and Navajo Nation. We call the people of the Navajo Nation to publicly reaffirm our Nation's strong commitment to ending breast cancer through prevention, screening, and treatment.

PROCLAIMED THIS 1st DAY OF OCTOBER 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION