

NAVAJO TIMES

DINÉ BI NAALTSOOS

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Cell on wheels delivers cellular, broadband service to Low Mountain

On Friday morning, a cell on wheels unit was turned on in Low Mountain, Arizona, to provide wireless cellular and broadband service to the area.

The network went live for cellular users at 10 a.m. and legislative branch staff were able to live-stream on-location immediately.

Valena Tsosie, deputy general manager of Choice NTUA Wireless, said, "This day has been in the making for five-plus years. Our goal has always been to bring service to the Low Mountain community."

The unit is capable of delivering line-of-sight service to a surrounding area of up to 15 miles. The unit is one of two that Choice NTUA Wireless owns and is providing at its own expense for community members.

Cell users on Choice's own network, as well as other major carriers, will now have service in the vicinity.

Friday's cell on wheels going live was made possible by the recent build-out of fiber by Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to the nearby Low Mountain school and chapter house. With the chapter's fiber and electricity lines in place, the unit was placed in the most feasible location until permanent locations could be identified for fixed cell towers.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay Jr. (Tachee-Blue Gap/Many Farms/Nazlini/Tselani-Cottonwood/Low Mountain) thanked residents, chapter officials, NTUA, Choice Wireless, the president's office, Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Navajo Land Department and others.