



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2013

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Resources and Development Committee accepts exit report from the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park

MONUMENT VALLEY, U.T. – The Resources and Development Committee approved an exit report on Tuesday, regarding the status of the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park from former interim park manager Edward Dee.

Dee managed the daily operations of the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park during the summer of 2013.

According to Dee’s report, he states that there were improprieties that took place at the park such as mishandling of funds by fee collectors and other staff.

“I am not going to beat around the bush, but let’s call it what it is — embezzlement,” said Dee. “Through a money receipt booklet and prewritten checks, staff was able to manipulate the funds in a manner to account for any money taken.”

“I am almost too angry to comment on this report,” stressed RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta). “There needs to be corrective action at the government level to address these problems.”

According to the written report provided by Dee, other problems include emergency services/response time, entrance fee collection, commercial filming/photography permits, Navajo market vendors, staff compensation, valley residents, and carrying capacity.

“One of our biggest problems at the park is emergency response services,” said Dee. “We had a tourist die due to an ill-equipped ambulance and the response time took over an hour before transporting the patient, who died on the way to the hospital. This isn’t the first time this has happened.”

In response to the report, RDC members were quite distressed upon hearing of the improprieties and embezzlement taking place, especially the slow response time of emergency services.

“All these years, no one has come forward to report these disturbing events that are taking place at our Navajo Nation park. It is time to do an audit of the entire park operation,” stated RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater,

Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake). "It is things like this that make the Navajo Nation look bad."

RDC vice chair Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) also recommended that the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park go through a reorganization and restructuring of its entire operation, upon receipt of the audit.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Delegate Benally and Delegate Tsosie commended Dee for his courage and fortitude for bringing the issues to light.

RDC members voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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**Speaker Naize expresses opposition to the
proposed deregulation of the Arizona electric market**



Photo: Speaker Johnny Naize addresses representatives from various Arizona energy corporations and energy regulators at a workshop regarding the proposed deregulation of the Arizona electric market.

PHOENIX – On Tuesday, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) addressed representatives from various Arizona energy corporations and energy regulators at the Arizona State Capitol, to express opposition to the proposed deregulation of the electric market in the state of Arizona.

“The idea of deregulation has captured the attention of the Navajo Nation because the Navajo Nation is severely threatened by this proposal,” said Speaker Naize. “It will further deepen the unemployment rate which is already above 50 percent.”

Tuesday's meeting was organized by the Arizona Residential Utility Consumer Office, established by the Arizona Legislature in 1983, to represent the interests of residential utility ratepayers in rate-related proceedings involving public service corporations before the Arizona Corporation Commission.

Earlier this year, the Arizona Corporation Commission who is charged with overseeing the quality of service and rates charged by public service utilities, opened up the debate regarding the possibility of deregulating the electric market.

Speaker Naize explained that if deregulation took effect, it would threaten jobs at the Four Corners Power Plant, Navajo Generating Station, Peabody Coal Co., and the BHP Navajo Mine, which would also have a negative impact on border town economies.

"The people who work at these plants live near border towns and rely on those border towns which include Flagstaff, Gallup, Winslow, and Page," Speaker Naize said. "So it will have a tremendous impact on the entire state of Arizona."

Supporters of deregulation suggest that a free electric market would provide consumers with options for utility service which could possibly drive down the price of electricity for consumers.

In a joint statement issued in July between Speaker Naize and Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives Andy Tobin, the two pointed out that Arizona's current electric regulatory low cost model has historically insulated electric and water user rates.

Speaker Naize also pointed out that deregulation has proven to be unsuccessful in other states and has in fact resulted in higher utility costs for consumers in those states.

"I truly believe what is good for the Navajo Nation is good for the state of Arizona, so I asked the Arizona Corporation Commission to carefully consider the Navajo Nation's position," said Speaker Naize.

The Arizona Corporation Commission is expected to decide whether or not to deregulate the electric market in the state of Arizona by Oct. of this year.

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For Immediate Release
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President Shelly Tells U.S. EPA New Rule Must Consider Future Economic Impact

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.— Navajo President Ben Shelly presented a seven-page letter and an agreement to the U.S. EPA, asserting the proposed emissions reductions rule will impede upon future gross revenue receipts to the Navajo Nation during a meeting with the EPA on Wednesday.

“I am asking for your agency to do a more than thorough study,” President Shelly said to EPA Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld.

The letter asks the EPA to consider an “Improved 5-Factor Analysis” of the EPA’s proposed rule to reduce emissions at Navajo Generating Station, taking into consideration the economic impact to the Navajo Nation.

“In July, I signed the Navajo Generating Station lease agreement which was not considered before your proposed rule was issued in January,” President Shelly said during the meeting.

The five factors in the study includes deal with compliance cost, energy and air quality impact, existing facility controls, remaining life at facilities, and visibility and improvement. No consideration is given to the impact of the local economies including the Navajo Nation. A study by the Arizona State University cites the economic impact to the minority low-income population. An annual loss to the Navajo Nation may be as high as \$11 million per year.

President Shelly added that the Navajo Nation already faces existing policies that slow economic progress.

“We have to face the red tape of the federal government being in the way,” said the president. “It takes five, six years to get something going. There are six years of joblessness.”

In January, the U.S. EPA published a new proposed rule to reduce the nitrogen oxide emissions from the Navajo Generating Station near Page, Ariz. It is requirement of the Regional Haze Rule of the Clean Air Act for Class 1 areas including national parks for visibility.

“If your new rule forces us to shut down a unit from production, we will lose \$300 million in our future revenue,” President Shelly said. The financial impact from years 2013 through 2044, are estimated at \$295,421,819.00.

The U.S. EPA at the end of the meeting with the Navajo Nation proposed to hold five hearings, and to push the October 4 deadline to the public comment period to a new undetermined date to allow more time for review of the Navajo Nation’s agreement with the stakeholders.

The rule would force NGS to close one unit and Four Corners Power Plant is proposing to close three units to meet the requirements under the Regional Haze Rule.

Along with his letter to the U.S. EPA regional administrator, President Shelly presented an agreement reached by the Navajo Nation, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Gila River Indian Community, Salt River Project, Central Arizona Project, and two groups known as the Environmental Defense Fund and the Western Regional Advocates. The Technical Work Group (TWG) agreement is an alternative put together by affected stakeholders as a ‘Better than BART’ proposal to “achieving greater emission reductions,” as stated in the president’s letter.

“In fact, the TWG agreement was crafted to expressly allow for the Navajo Nation to continue communication with the U.S. EPA about the proposed rule, including our assertion that the current five-Factor Analysis is flawed,” President Shelly wrote.

The Navajo Nation’s meeting with EPA and the U.S. Department of the Interior was a government-to-government consultation, which the president emphasized the importance as he was joined by the Navajo Nation attorney general and the Navajo EPA director.

The EPA will hold five hearings, and extend the October 4 deadline.

Navajo Generating Station is a 2,250 megawatt generating station, one of four coal-fire plants in the contiguous Navajo Nation area, and employs 528 people and an additional 300 seasonal employees.

The final rule to the Clean Air Act will be issued by the U.S. EPA.

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Health, Education, and Human Services Committee receives annual report from Utah Navajo Health System, Inc.

MONTEZUMA CREEK, UT – On Wednesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discussed the Utah Navajo Health System, Inc.’s annual report during their regular committee meeting, held at the Montezuma Creek Community Health Center.

The Utah Navajo Health System, Inc. is in its fourteenth year of operation as a 501(c)(3) non-profit health care system serving the “Utah Strip”, which includes the northern population of the Navajo Nation.

“The Navajo health care system is constantly transforming and progressing to meet the unique needs of our people,” said HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels). “On the Navajo Nation, we have former uranium workers, rural patients, and low-income families that require a dependable health care system.”

Currently the UNHS operates four healthcare facilities in Navajo Mountain, Monument Valley, Montezuma Creek, and Blanding, under a P.L.93-638 Title V Self Governance Compact with the federal government.

“UNHS has made monumental progress in meeting our patients needs,” said UNHS CEO Donna Singer. “Today patients have better access to dental care, they can schedule appointments from their iPhones, and we have purchased additional land for our future expansion.”

Singer presented the annual report with staff from the various departments within the UNHS, such as: human resources, methamphetamine & suicide prevention initiative, emergency medical services, clinical pharmacy, patient navigation, and accounting.

HEHSC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) was pleased to hear of UNHS’s quality service and questioned how the methamphetamine & suicide prevention initiative was funded.

“The MSPI is funded by our General Fund, grants, and a little from IHS. We are really trying to utilize our third party resources,” said Singer.

In light of the recent federal sequestration, Delegate Hale suggested that the UNHS board of directors create a resolution to protect the four clinic’s federal funding and grants.

“Programs like MSPI need to be protected. I urge the board of directors to provide the IHS with a list of budget priorities in the form of a resolution,” said Delegate Hale.

The UNHS stressed that they continue to improve patient services by covering tuition costs for employees who choose to attend medical or nursing school, maintaining the patient data navigation system, and working with the state and federal governments to continue contract support costs.

“Our patient navigation system allows UNHS clinics to review patient records and appointments to ensure each patient is receiving the right care regardless of which facility they go to,” said Singer. “Our staff is also working to secure contract support costs that allow us to provide specialty services.”

Following the presentation, HEHSC member Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi) commended UNHS for their success in creating a detailed and progressive facility that maximizes both the patient and provider’s time.

“I am very impressed with the patient navigation system, this demonstrates that UNHS has developed into a successful P.L. 93-638 healthcare system,” said Delegate Butler. “I believe that UNHS is a great representative for hospitals and clinics on the Navajo Nation.”

The HEHSC accepted the report with a vote of 3-0.

Public Law 93-638, Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, authorizes the U.S. Secretaries of the Interior, Health, Education, and other government agencies to enter into contracts with federally recognized tribes. Tribes have the authority to administer the funds, giving them greater control over their welfare.

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President Shelly Cuts Ribbon to Open Navajo Route 20



COPPERMINE, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly delivered statements of teamwork and gratitude during a speech near Navajo Route 20 during a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday morning.

“You have your new N20. It is complete,” President Shelly announced before a crowd of about 300 people.

President Shelly was a guest speaker at a dedication ceremony for the opening of N20 Thursday morning with other speakers from the local chapters, Navajo Division of Transportation, Arizona Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Highway Administration.

“This is all it takes,” President Shelly said about teamwork, “let’s work together and look at the future.”

Navajo Route 20 was designated the alternate route after U.S. Hwy. 89 was closed in February because a dry land slide caused portions of the road to collapse. U.S Hwy 89 is the main road between Flagstaff and Page, Ariz.

N20 was a 28-mile dirt road that for decades community members have been asked to be paved. The closure of U.S. Hwy. 89 sparked efforts to fast track the paving of N20 that took more than 750 workers and 79 days to complete.

“This project was completed as an emergency detour route and you did things properly, ensuring the safety of all who will travel this road,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly expressed gratitude for leaders and communities members who have been advocating for the paving of N20.

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart,” President Shelly said.

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**Budget and Finance Committee approves the
Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2014 comprehensive budget**

TOHAJIILEE, N.M. – On Monday, the Budget and Finance Committee approved the Navajo Nation FY2014 comprehensive budget, including proposed financial plans from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as fixed costs and capital project budgets.

“As you are well aware, this is the 2014 budget we have had several hearings for and we are almost at the end of this grueling process to get where we are at today,” said BFC chair Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’kaa, Upper Fruitland).

The BFC is tasked with reviewing the proposed budgets from all branches of the Navajo government with the aid of the Office of Management and Budget, Office of the Controller, Department of Justice, and the Legislative Counsel.

“I have a number of amendments proposed for this legislation, but the intentions are to clean up and strengthen the language in the comprehensive budget, as well as add Conditions of Appropriations to a few more areas,” said Delegate Bates.

Delegate Bates recommended three amendments to the budgets, which included corrections and additional language to the legislation, COA’s, and the approval of carry-overs for the Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office.

In regards to COA’s, OMB is responsible for monitoring the COA’s to ensure compliance and OOC imposes the sanctions.

“A lot depends on the way COA’s are written,” said executive director of OMB Dominic Beyal. “Sometimes the language is too general, too vague, non-specific, does not include time frames, and so forth.”

Beyal stated that the inconsistencies in the language are difficult for OMB and OOC to enforce, while recommending that COA’s be strengthened in the future to ensure compliance by all departments.

At the conclusion of the discussion, BFC vice chair Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts'ah bii Kin) commended the committee and aiding parties for the completion of the FY2014 comprehensive budget.

BFC voted 3-0 to pass Legislation No. 0247-13. The legislation now goes to the Naabik'iyátí Committee for consideration.

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Law and Order committee discusses Chinle Judicial Public Safety Project

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee discussed progress regarding the Chinle Judicial Public Safety Facility.

The Navajo Division of Public Safety is currently working with the Navajo Department of Design and Engineering, Arcadis Consulting, and Arviso Oakland Construction to prepare for the construction of a new public safety facility.

LOC member Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone), said he wants to ensure that the facility will apply to have operation and maintenance costs covered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“Right now the BIA does not want to issue a Certificate of Occupancy or inspect the facility, but I want to make sure our facilities receive the needed O&M funding to maintain services after it is built,” said Delegate Begay.

The LOC requested for Arcadis Consulting senior project manager Al Francis, to explain how the BIA would work with the Navajo Department of Design and Engineering to ensure the project would be maintained after its completion date.

“Right now the BIA is saying that they are not a project sponsor, however the Chinle project will follow their requirements in case they decide to jump on board,” said Francis.

Delegate Begay said the LOC is looking at the tail-end of the project and even if the BIA is not currently involved, the building must be constructed to meet BIA standards.

Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) said he previously witnessed the working relationship between Navajo Department of Design and Engineering, BIA, and contractors, and often there is confusion over which entity serves as the lead authority.

“Right now the BIA is telling everyone they are not apart of this project, and they will probably tell us the same message if we bring them here,” said Delegate Begaye. “We need to bring in each party to discuss this project, because this is creating a bottleneck from every direction.”

Following the discussion, LOC members requested a follow-up meeting with key stakeholders in Sept., at which time they will vote on the report.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2013

NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES COMMISSION MEETING FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

ST. MICHAELS, AZ. – The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) announced it will conduct its September meeting at the Navajo Nation Museum on Friday, September 6, 2013. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. The Commission plans to facilitate a seminar concerning automobile sales and the potential repercussions Navajo consumers may face as a result of being unprepared when purchasing a vehicle.

The Commission encourages Navajo citizens who are considering purchasing a vehicle to attend this one day seminar that will be held at the Navajo Nation Museum located in Window Rock, Navajo Nation on Friday, September 6, 2013. Mr. Leonard Gorman, Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission said, “this is a good opportunity for Navajo citizens to visit with state and federal agencies to address problems with vehicle purchasing and financing a new and used vehicle.” Mr. Gorman further states, “Navajo Human Rights office received many complaints about auto purchasing and assisted them to resolve the problem. Clearly there is a need for public education on purchasing an automobile.”

Should you have any questions please contact the Navajo Nation Human Rights Office at 928-871-7436 for further information.



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President Shelly Honors Former Leaders and Meets about Navajo Mine

CHINLE, Ariz.—Navajo President Ben Shelly bestowed honor to Dr. Guy Gorman, and to former Speaker Nelson Gorman, declaring both gentlemen leaders taught him leadership during an honoring ceremony on Sunday.

“Dr. Gorman has given leadership in his years of service to the Navajo people,” President Shelly said at the Chinle chapter house on Sunday. “He’s a man of honor, wisdom, and great dedication.”

President Shelly bestowed Dr. Gorman with a Pendleton blanket, as he declared Dr. Gorman, a man whose leadership will always be known. He served with Dr. Gorman, as the two were members of the Diné Rights Association, a group dedicated to government accountability.

Dr. Guy Gorman was first elected to the Navajo Nation Council in 1974, and served concurrently with the late William D. Tsosie, as the two represented Chinle.

“Thank you Mr. Gorman for what you’ve done—I am a part of you, of what you have done,” President Shelly said as he gave honor to former Speaker Nelson Gorman. The former speaker served concurrently in the Council with President Shelly in 1991. Dr. Gorman and the former speaker are related by Navajo clan.

Sunday afternoon, President Shelly attended a public meeting regarding the proposed purchase of BHP Billiton’s Navajo Mine. The meeting was at the Shiprock chapter house and was attended by more than 200 people. A resolution “supporting the Diné citizenship against ruining our environment” was placed on the agenda, but not acted on.

“Give us four to five years to transition from coal to clean coal,” President Shelly said. “How do you close down a government,” he asked referring to closure of the mine and the adverse affect it would have on the Nation’s gross revenue receipts.

“I will be prepared,” President Shelly said. “For the people who say no here, give me an alternative plan. Just don’t say no.”

Sunday's meeting was co-sponsored by BHP-Billiton and Diné Care.

"President Obama is saying no to coal, but yet in China they're still using coal," President Shelly added.

The Navajo Nation is working with BSNF to build a railroad spur in Thoreau, New Mex. Plans call for an inland port authority for imports and exports. ship coal on the transcontinental for export to foreign countries. The railroad spur is expected to be in project initiation by December. Coal from the Navajo mine can be used for the local power plants, and for foreign shipment.

The Navajo Nation is currently in the process of buying the Navajo coal mine operated by BHP-Billiton for an estimated \$85 million.

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Navajo Route 20 soft dedication slated for August 29



Before paving began, right-of-way fencing was a major concern from community members, especially because of the open grazing land status. Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration eventually decided to include fencing in the project, which cost nearly \$40 million to complete. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

BODAWAY GAP—It only took 79 days to pave Navajo Route 20.

Finishing 11 days ahead of schedule, the crew from FNF Construction, Inc. paved the final mile of Navajo Route 20 on August 8, 2013. Construction officially began on May 21.

FNF was contracted by the Arizona Department of Transportation to pave 28 miles of N20. Assisting them was AZTEC Engineering and RUMCO.

The new road was completed just in time, as the Page Unified School District started the new school year. Hundreds of Navajo students attend school in Page and previously faced bumpy roads and lengthy drive times to get to school.

N20 is now designated as U.S. 89T and will be utilized to restore essential traffic from U.S. 89 for a period of three years, after which

the road will revert back to the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

U.S. 89 was closed on Feb. 22, after a dry landslide damaged a portion of roadway near the Bitter Springs and Echo Cliffs area, south of the Big Cut.

The Navajo Division of Transportation, ADOT, BIA and Federal Highway Administration joined forces to pave N20 as a detour route.

“This was a game-changing collaboration,” said Paulson Chaco, director of NDOT. “Not only did ADOT get this paving done in such a short timeframe, but we all came together to expedite the project.”

Numerous meetings were hosted and included Navajo community members affected by the closure. Again and again, they voiced their concerns over right-of-way fencing and bus turnout lanes.

What originally began as an \$18 million project blossomed into an almost \$40 million paving construction effort that included 28 miles of paving, turnout lanes, right-of-way fencing, culverts, cattle guards, and shoulders for the roadway.

The FHWA’s Emergency Relief Program will reimburse ADOT for construction costs incurred on the project.

For months, travelers had to navigate U.S. 160 and State Route 98 for access to Page. U.S. 89T will provide the most direct route, saving 45 minutes of drive time and about 100 miles.

Construction crews worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week to get the project done quickly.

Dual hot plants and paving spreads on the northern and southern ends of N20 constructed the roadway simultaneously, in order to make the August 2013 deadline.

According to Jason Yazzie, senior planner for NDOT, now that the paving portion is completed, construction crews are focused on other facets of the project that need to be completed.

Right-of-way fencing, refining back slopes, reseeding, bus turnout lanes, and cattle guards are still in progress, he noted.

“All of these will be done within the next two weeks or so,” Yazzie said.

The official soft dedication celebration for the road will take place on August 29, at the junction of the Coppermine Chapter road and N20. Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. (DST)

Floyd Stevens, president of Coppermine Chapter, said ADOT’s road crew will continue working on finishing touches for the roadway through Sept.

“We’re very excited about the opening. The word is already out,” Stevens said.

Until the road is officially opened to the traveling public, motorists are encouraged to continue utilizing the detour route on U.S. 160 and State Route 98 for travel into Page.

Information: www.navajodot.org or www.azdot.gov/us89



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President Shelly Meets with U.S. House Appropriations Committee Staff to Keep ONHIR

LUEPP, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly joined members of the Navajo Hopi Land Commission Thursday as they met with U.S. House of Representative Committee on Appropriations staff on the proposed defunding of the federally-funded Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR).

“If Congress shuts down ONHIR, then our Navajo families ought to move back to Hopi Partitioned Lands,” President Shelly said. “If they can’t fund us, we will allow our people to go back from where they were chased off. We’ll have to re-do the relocation policy all over again. ONHIR can do a 638 with BIA.”

“Our Navajo families rights’ are being violated. We need a House committee to come here and look into this,” President Shelly added.

The president read from a letter he wrote to Congress on the proposed defunding of ONHIR. “Not funding this program will deprive hundreds of Navajos the benefit and due process that they are entitled to under the law,” the president reiterated to the House staff.

“The Navajo Nation has hundreds of families who are still awaiting their relocation benefits,” President Shelly stated. “To base a funding decision on the statements of a now non-impacted party is flawed rationale for action.”

The House Appropriations Interior bill for fiscal year 2014 proposes to ‘zero out’ funding for the Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation. By federal law, the power to terminate the office rests with the United States president. Congress can effectively close the office by defunding ONHIR.

The Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, one of 12 subcommittees on appropriations, ordered a study to be conducted by the General Accountability Office.

More than 200 Navajo families are awaiting relocation benefits, and another 350 are appealing denials by the federal relocation office in Flagstaff, Ariz. More appeals may be filed for some 2,000 denied applications for relocation benefits.

The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission still has some 400,000 acres of land to put into trust under the 1980 amendment to the Settlement act passed originally made into law in 1974. There are more than 9,000 acres of land the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission is needs to select and purchase under the Settlement Act, incumbent on congressional funding.

The House staff acknowledged the President Shelly's statements at the meeting, and responded that they will return to Washington, D.C. with information and testimony they received from the Navajo Nation leadership, and individuals affected by relocation.

"It is up to the appropriators to make the decisions," the House staff acknowledged.

In April, President Shelly testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior for fiscal year 2014, which begins Oct. 1, 2013. His testimony emphasized more vibrant self-sustained tribal economies, tribal consultation on the sequestration, empower infrastructure costs, and tax incentives for private industry development.

The Hopi tribal leadership offered testimony at the April House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing to "close" ONHIR. Relocation for Hopi families was completed in 2011.

Congress is currently in recess and will return on Sept. 3. They are expected to resume debates on the 12 annual appropriation bills. Appropriation amounts of proposed spending that differ between the House and Senate will be conferenced by both houses.

"If Congress passes the appropriation bill to zero out funding for ONHIR, we still have President's Obama's veto power we can pursue." President Shelly said.

Council Delegate Walter Phelps, who serves on the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission, and Raymond Maxx, director for commission, joined President Shelly.

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Speaker Naize addresses Navajo leaders and healthcare officials at the Navajo Nation Affordable Care Act Summit

LEUPP, Ariz. - On Thursday, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) stood before a crowd of approximately 150 people to welcome them to the Navajo Nation Affordable Care Act Summit at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort.

The summit provided an opportunity for Navajo Nation Council Delegates, chapter officials, and health care leadership from Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah to discuss how the Affordable Care Act of 2010 will impact the Navajo People, healthcare facilities, and businesses.

"This room is filled with leaders in the Navajo health care system. I am happy to see that we have all come together to learn about the federal changes that will affect the health of our Navajo people," said Speaker Naize.

The Affordable Care Act was signed into law by President Obama in Mar. 2010, aiming to provide affordable health care coverage for 32 million people over the next ten years, with implementation scheduled to begin on Oct. 1.

"The Affordable Care Act will affect each of us. It is important that leaders from the chapter level to those in the hospitals and clinics have a good understanding of this new complex system," said Speaker Naize.

Along with the signing of the ACA, President Obama also permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which provides services through the Indian Health Service, tribal organizations, and urban Indian health programs.

The ACA will provide for the establishment of an Office of Direct Service Tribes, recognition of tribal epidemiology centers as public health authorities, protection of IHS National Healthcare Facility Construction Priority System including five Navajo projects, and a mandate for a Navajo Medicaid Feasibility Study.

"The Navajo Nation covers three states. That is three healthcare systems our Nation must constantly remain updated and a part of," said Speaker Naize.

The ACA gives states the option to participate in a health insurance exchange and Medicaid expansion.

Health insurance exchanges will vary by state and allows individuals to shop for health insurance similar to shopping for an airline ticket, choosing the right business, price, and benefits.

The Medicaid expansion allows for states to expand Medicaid coverage to adults ages 19 to 65 with an income up to \$14,856 per person.

Currently, Arizona has declined to participate in a state-health insurance exchange, opting instead for the Medicaid expansion, New Mexico has opted into both the health-insurance exchange and the Medicaid expansion, and Utah has chosen to continue its own health-insurance exchange and remains undecided about the Medicaid expansion.

On Jan. 1, 2014, the ACA mandates that each U.S. citizen be enrolled in a qualified health plan, except for American Indians and Alaska Natives who will be exempt.

"We tell our children to get an education, help improve our Nation, and learn our language and culture, but in order for them to do that we must provide them with a healthy future," said Speaker Naize.

The Navajo Nation Affordable Care Act Summit was sponsored by the Navajo Nation Division of Health.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2013

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**Health, Education, and Human Services Committee receives
report highlighting academic achievement among Navajo students**

WINDOW ROCK - On Wednesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received a report from the Central Consolidated School District concerning student testing data, and overall progress in their effort to improve academic success amongst their Native American student population.

Central Consolidated School District based in Shiprock, is a New Mexico state public school district serving 17 schools.

HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) said HEHSC members are eager to review positive student data that reflects the collaboration between the Department of Dine Education and CCSD.

"Central Consolidated [School District] has taken the lead role in improving the futures of our Navajo children," said Delegate Hale. "When we know that Navajo students' reading, math, and science scores are improving, this indicates we are each doing our job."

CCSD compliance & assessment coordinator of data James Lowe, said the entity serves the second highest Native American student population in the country.

"We are working to improve the educational quality for all of our students and we are seeing that with our methods and approach in education. We are making positives impacts for our Navajo students," said Lowe.

CCSD reported that Native American students have increased their proficiency percentages in mathematics by 10 percent, reading by 9 percent and science by 26 percent.

Nizhoni Elementary School, one of CCSD's nine elementary schools located in Shiprock, made monumental improvements in their overall school performance, going from an 'F' in 2012 to a 'B' in 2013.

Lowe also stated that Shiprock High School students performed at an 89 percent proficiency rate in the chemistry portion of the New Mexico ADC End of Course Exams.

HEHSC member Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) questioned how the district identifies student cohorts for data measurements.

"Student cohorts are identified by entry date. A cohort begins at the kindergarten level and is compared to two consecutive kindergarten cohorts," said Lowe. "At the high school level, students are tested at the tenth and eleventh grade [levels], and their scores are used in that state's comparative model."

HEHSC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) asked if the district was planning to support any congressional bills that would increase the funding for the district.

CCSD school board president Matthew Tso, said the district supports a bill that would prohibit the abolishment of federal Impact Aid, Johnson O'Malley, and Title Seven funding, noting that the district relies heavily on the various funds to provide special academic programs for its Native American students.

"That is good information for the Council to know. I believe there is a proposed senate education bill that would be more friendly to the school district," said Delegate Phelps. "The HEHSC is always interested in supporting congressional bills that will help improve education for Navajo students."

Following the report, Tso said the district will continue to work with the DODE to enhance their curriculum with Navajo cultural and language.

"We hope to continue to hear of the academic progress Navajo students are making in math, science, and reading," said Delegate Hale.

HEHSC members accepted the report with a vote of 3-0.

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**Resources and Development Committee receives
update regarding the upcoming opening of Navajo Route 20**

WINDOW ROCK - On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee received a report from the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Navajo Division of Transportation regarding the Aug. 29 opening of Navajo Route 20, a 28-mile stretch of road from Bodaway/Gap to Coppermine.

On Feb. 20, a landslide ripped through a section of U.S. Highway 89 approximately 25-miles south of Page. Due to significant damage, ADOT was forced to close a 23-mile stretch of U.S. 89, between mileposts 523 and 546.

RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) said RDC members were pleased to receive an update from the two entities, as many Navajo families were affected by the landslide.

"It is good to see divisions provide the RDC with useful information that directly affects the Navajo Western Agency," said Delegate Benally.

Since the closure, U.S. 89A, U.S. 160, and State Route 98 are being used as alternative travel routes.

ADOT representative Dallas Hammit, said ADOT took a three-pronged approach: completing a geotechnical investigation of the landslide, providing an interim detour paving of N-20, and repairing U.S. 89.

"The repair of U.S. 89 cost \$35 million and we expect to open [N-20] on Aug. 29, with a ribbon cutting ceremony," said Hammit. "ADOT will continue to maintain the roadway until the repair of U.S. 89 is complete."

Hammit further explained that due to federal funding requirements, ADOT explored a wide variety of repair alternatives.

NDOT principal civil engineer Darryl Bradley, said the Nation was able to exercise its ability to respond to an emergency situation and did an exemplary job in working with ADOT to accommodate the transportation needs of local residents along U.S. 89.

"NDOT has worked intensively to secure the cultural integrity of the area throughout the repair of U.S. 89 and the paving of N-20," said Bradley.

Delegate Benally closed the discussion by thanking the presenters for taking the initiative to report to the RDC.

"Good job and good work, we appreciate individuals and agencies updating the RDC with news of progress," said Delegate Benally.

The RDC accepted the report with a vote of 3-0.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

“Land, Water, Power and Quality of Life”

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Window Rock, Arizona

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2013

Gerri Hongeva, Media Representative

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Telecommunication grows with Tourism and the Navajo Nation Fair

WINDOW ROCK, AZ. - Telecommunications is ever-evolving and has become an essential resource on the Navajo Nation that affects our people in their daily work and those traveling to Navajo country. A decade ago, we had limited access to basic phone service and telecommunication services was virtually nonexistent on some parts of the reservation. Today, our longstanding partnerships with carriers like Cellular One, NTUA Wireless, ComNet, Verizon Wireless and AT&T enable us to work together to bring advanced mobile technology to even some of the most remote areas of the Navajo Nation.

For example, by collaborating with Cellular One, the Navajo Nation has moved into a robust cellular network in remarkable short time. Cellular One is the pioneer, as they were the first provider to sit down with the Division of Natural Resources; the Navajo Land Department and the Department of Resource Protection Enforcement roughly 10 years ago to begin the process of building a network to bring reliable wireless coverage to our Navajo people, homes, and businesses. We continue to work together to balance their plans for the expansion of their mobile network and strategize towards land development with reliable network and proper placement of cell towers on Navajo Nation.

As we plan for the 67th Annual Navajo Nation Fair, with over 100,000 in attendance annually. The demand for strong and reliable mobile service is significant. This is a critical resource that our partners like Cellular One tirelessly work to provide for those living on Navajo Nation or visiting us from afar. During the Navajo Nation Fair, we rely on Cellular One to have enough wireless capacity to support the thousands of fair goers who will use their cell phones and to address any emergency situations if they arise. Many families visit and enjoy the Fair, as well as benefiting our local economy in the Window Rock area.

“With over two million visitors making Navajo Nation a top travel destination every year, we strive to have reliable wireless coverage and efficient internet to ensure safe travels to Navajo country,” stated Frederick H. White, Division Director of Natural Resources. Our program managers work very hard to assist the Navajo people, as well as meeting the needs of our visitors, added White. Division of Natural Resources and all its counterparts manage, protect, conserve and preserve the Navajo Nation’s natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the Navajo people.

Most importantly, it is our goal to collaborate and work strategically with our telecommunication partners to foster an environment in which technology continues to expand so that our own Navajo people can live and work better every day. For more information visit www.dnrnavajo.org or call (928)871-6592/6593.



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2013

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“Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise supports Nizhoni Arts Market”



(Left to Right: Gloria West- Fire Rock Navajo Casino, Basket Weaver Lorraine Black from Monument Valley, UT, and Rhonda Ray- Fire Rock Navajo Casino. September 2012 at 66th Annual Navajo Nation Fair. Photo by Harold Carey)

WINDOW ROCK, AZ – The Navajo Nation Museum staff works enthusiastically in recruiting artisans for the upcoming Nizhoni Arts Market during the 67th Annual Navajo Nation Fair “Honoring Navajo Language” in Window Rock, Arizona, from September 2nd to 8th, 2013.

Navajo Nation Museum initially began Nizhoni Arts Market five years ago at the museum, during the Navajo Nation Fair. Currently, this is the third year it will be at Gorman Hall and part of the Navajo Nation Fair. “The Nizhoni Arts Market benefits the Navajo Nation by providing a quality competition for artists who are up and coming as well as the professional artists,” stated Manuelito Wheeler, director of Navajo Nation Museum.

Nizhoni Arts Market invites a variety of artisans on Navajo country and surrounding areas. Navajo Nation Museum staff begins planning months before the Navajo Nation Fair. This involves five dedicated staff who are passionate about art and creative minds. Navajo Nation Museum’s curator, Clarenda Begay, coordinates the event from beginning to the end, with her fellow staff and volunteers, it entails promoting and networking with potential artisans.

With thousands, attending the Santa Fe Indian Market last weekend, the Navajo Nation Museum staff successfully advertised the Nizhoni Arts Market and will bring accomplished artists to Window Rock next week. “A lot of our Navajo people aren’t able to get to some of these big markets and Nizhoni Arts Market is an opportunity to see all these great artisans during the Navajo Nation Fair,” explained Clarenda Begay. This year we have more awards for the youth competition, added Begay.

Contemporary Artist, Patrick Hubbell, 27, from Navajo, NM is no stranger to the Nizhoni Arts Market and the Navajo Nation Fair. Alumni of Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Hubbell has been painting for nine years and has been showing professionally for three years. “As a child, I grew up going to the Navajo Nation Fair every year, it is an opportunity to see friends and family, as well as making new friends and I enjoy the competition there” said Hubbell.

Basket weaver, Sally Black, from Monument Valley, UT masters the skill of basketry. She is surrounded by a family of rug weavers, and basket makers. Today, basket weaving is disappearing among the Navajo people. She learned how to weave baskets from her mother at the age of eight years old, nearly 45 years ago and she has been weaving ever since. “I look forward to the Navajo Nation Fair, so we can see our relatives and find new relatives,” chuckled Black.

Silversmith, Tonya June Rapael from Black Water, NM creates innovative silver purses, jewelry, and recently an all silver chess set, inspired by her son who loves to play chess. Rapael plans to attend the Nizhoni Arts Market at the Navajo Nation Fair, collectors and admirers are excited to see her collection. This year, she will make her second appearance at Nizhoni Arts Market. “I love my Native customers, my Dine customers, it is also a chance to meet new relatives and make new friends,” stated Raphael.

Painter, Nani Chacoan, from Chinle, AZ currently has an exhibit at the Navajo Nation Museum, she will also attend the Nizhoni Arts Market for the third year. Chacoan says, “I want my art to be Navajo thoughts and I combine both traditional and contemporary images together.” An alumni of University of New Mexico with a degree in education, she enjoys designing her thoughts into art.

In conjunction with promoting Navajo artists, Wheeler and his staff are also organizing a Navajo ‘Star Wars’ screening on September 5th, Kids Day during the Navajo Nation Fair.

Nizhoni Arts Market wouldn’t be possible without the Navajo Nation Museum staff, eager volunteers and their generous sponsor, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise; Flowing Water Navajo Casino, Northern Edge Navajo Casino, Fire Rock Navajo Casino and Twin Arrows Navajo Casino. For more information, contact Clarenda Begay (928) 810-8540.

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New Events Added to 2013 Navajo Nation Fair

WINDOW ROCK, AZ – A million dollar ride.

That's a new event that will be added to this year's Frazier Carnival during the Navajo Nation Fair here in the Navajo Nation capital.

According to Owner Steve Broetsky, the new ride is called Freak Out, which was invented in the Netherlands – it took almost two years to make and it cost approximately one million dollars to make. Broetsky explained there are only two dozen Freak Out rides in the world.

"We're very excited to bring Freak Out to the Navajo Nation," Broetsky said. "Freak Out will make its premier during the Navajo Nation Fair."

The Navajo Nation Fair will be held September 2-8th. Frazier Carnival will begin its rides on Wednesday, September 4th and end at 10 p.m. on Sunday, September 8th.

Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department Manager Martin L. Begaye said "We're trying to add new events, attractions and activities to make the Navajo Nation Fair a week full of adventure and fun for the entire family. We hope individuals who enjoy carnivals will enjoy Frazier's new ride and we pray for everyone's safety at the carnival and at the entire Navajo Nation Fair."

Unlike previous years, Begaye said there will be three straight days of concerts and fireworks. Moreover, the public will have a chance to win a horse trailer or win \$1,000 or \$5,000. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$10 to give fairgoers a chance to win \$1,000 on September 4-7th and a chance to win \$5,000 on September 8th. Individuals must be at the Indian rodeo in order to win the cash give away.

Begaye said in year's past, "The only way a person could win anything is if he or she was entered as a contestant or participant. However, this year's fair will be an opportunity for anyone to become a winner."

Navajo Nation Fair Manager Genevieve Tsouhlarkis echoed Begaye's comments, and noted, "I would like to invite everyone to come out and enjoy the Navajo Nation Fair. We have an action-pack week of events and activities. The Navajo Nation Fair is the grand daddy of all tribal fairs and it is the premier Native American festival in North America. This is how we show our appreciation to the Navajo people and how we showcase our cultural pride and beauty to the world."

No matter what genre you enjoy, the Navajo Nation Fair is the ideal place to experience Navajo culture. Some of the Navajo Nation Fair highlights will include an Indian rodeo for the young and seniors, roping, a wild horse race, song and dance, pow wow, a arts and crafts competition, a free barbecue, concerts, fireworks, a golf tournament, a fry bread contest, a parade, a half marathon, a livestock show, a hot air balloon night glow, a baby contest and much more.

For more information about the Navajo Nation Fair, contact the special events staff at (928) 871-6478 or via the internet at www.navajonationfair.com



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For Immediate Release
Aug. 22, 2013

President Shelly Lists Concerns About the Affordable Care Act

TWIN ARROWS, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said he was concerned about the health care Navajo people may receive under the Affordable Care Act and the health insurance exchanges the act creates.

“The federal and state governments need to make their Exchanges easier to understand and follow. They need Navajo speaking individuals on staff to help implement their plans,” President Shelly said during his opening remarks at the Affordable Care Act Summit at Twin Arrows on Thursday.

The ACA states that eligible people have to enroll in a health insurance exchange by Jan. 1, 2014, but not all states are going to have exchanges like Arizona and some portions of Utah are not planning to implement health exchanges or marketplaces.

“I’m afraid the Health Insurance Exchange will divide our Navajo people into three different systems - Federal, Federal-State, or State Health Insurance Exchange depending on where one lives. This is similar to how the State Medicaid programs are currently administered,” President Shelly said.

Federal and state health officials were on hand during President Shelly’s speech.

President Shelly added that he has asked Utah and federal officials for a tribal consultation regarding the exchange system.

“Last week, we requested the State of Utah and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide adequate tribal consultation with the Navajo Nation regarding its Split Agreement for Utah Health Insurance Exchange as soon as possible, because open enrollment in the Marketplace begins October 1,” President Shelly said.

The summit is scheduled to end on Friday.

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 21, 2012

President Shelly Tours NFPI Site, Clean Up to Start Next Week



NAVAJO, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly toured the former Navajo Forest Products Industry site today where clean up will start Monday, Aug. 26, 2013, of the buildings which once housed the Navajo logging and lumber industry.

“I want to get this cleaned up,” said the president. “It is unsafe and a hazard which has been here much too long. This is something I have been wanting to do for years.”

The former NFPI location is under Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency control and listed as a Brownfield site. The Navajo Nation EPA has conducted site inspections and environmental investigations to determine the extent of contamination. Soil samples and well monitoring to the groundwater are routinely conducted on the 70-acre site.

“By cleaning this site up, we’re going to create jobs,” said the president. “We want to hire
employees from here, those who are familiar with the site.”

Preference will be given to residents from Navajo and the Red Lake chapter, as agreed by the construction contractor, Economic Development, and local chapter officials.

Accompanying the president on the site tour were Albert Damon, economic development director, and Stephen Etsitty, EPA director, and staff from the Navajo Nation EPA.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties protects the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off greenspaces and working lands.

The clean up work will start with the deconstruction of the buildings in the northeast corner. The concrete will be crushed and turned into road base for road projects. The larger buildings along Navajo Route 12 will be last to be deconstructed. The project period is anticipated to take one year.

The Division of Economic Development will be proceeding with plans to re-develop the site with business and commercial use.

Navajo Forest Products Industry began in 1951, and was then the Wood Products Industry Enterprise. The operation originally began as a pilot plant to obtain cost analysis and profit margin, but as orders exceeded \$43,000, the operation was well underway. It was shut down in the early 1990s as the industry changed, and over concerns raised by an environmental group of Navajo forests being a habitat of the endangered Mexican Spotted Owl.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Law and Order Committee approves the implementation
and management of a 9-1-1 emergency response system**

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee approved amending Title 2 and 21 of the Navajo Nation Code, authorizing the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission to implement and manage a 9-1-1 emergency response system on the Navajo Nation.

“There is no proper 9-1-1 system on the Navajo Nation and this legislation is giving the responsibility to NNTRC,” said legislation co-sponsor and LOC member Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat).

Legislation No. 0212-13 authorizes NNTRC to develop a 9-1-1 emergency response program and the authority to manage and make changes to the program in the best interest of the Navajo Nation.

“NNTRC accepted the challenge of instituting a regulatory framework to address the lack of a true 9-1-1 public safety answering system and to deter further endangerment of the public,” stated NNTRC executive director Brian Tagaban.

According to NNTRC’s report, a Technical Advisory Committee and Intergovernmental Advisory Committee will be created to oversee daily operations and report back to the Commission.

“The goal of the committees is to develop and create guidelines for the program, as it will begin to progress into a more efficient emergency response program that will meet the needs of the [Navajo] public,” said Tagaban.

LOC member Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) expressed a few concerns regarding the Commission’s development of the program.

“I do not want to see the [9-1-1 emergency response] program evolve into a bureaucratic-type system that becomes complicated,” said Delegate Begaye. “I hope NNTRC will find a way to streamline the emergency response process effectively.”

Tagaban stated that advisory committees will be established to ensure that the emergency response program runs efficiently and improves response time to emergency calls by addressing concerns such as jurisdictional boundaries, service plans, and recommendations.

“In dead areas where cell service is non-existent, I do hope we see the emergency response program address this issue because the Navajo Nation is mostly rural,” said Delegate Begaye.

At the end of the discussion, Tagaban said NNTRC will do its best to ensure that the LOC member’s concerns are taken into account, and that the program will seek additional funding at the state and federal level to safeguard against any potential problems that may arise.

The LOC voted 2-0 to approve Legislation No. 0212-13. The legislation will now go to the Naabik’íyátí Committee for consideration.

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Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discusses miscommunication between Navajo schools and the BIE

WINDOW ROCK – Last Thursday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received a report from the Dine Bi Olta School Board Association relating to the ongoing reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Education.

In light of the recent school board elections held in January, HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michael's) requested an update from the designated school board officials regarding their perspectives about reorganization.

"We have school boards that are sometimes confused about their authority as a governing body for community schools and how the reorganization will affect them," said Delegate Hale.

According to DBOSBA administrative director Angie Barney-Nez, there is a high level of miscommunication between the school boards and the goals of the BIE.

"We hear one message from the regional office in Albuquerque and another from Washington, D.C.," said Barney-Nez. "We find there is a lot of disconnect with the BIE restructuring itself and we haven't received any clarification about restructuring here in the Navajo Area."

Delegate Hale said he believes the BIE and DODE also need to work together to further clarify how Title 10 of the Navajo Nation Code is to be implemented in the Nation's BIE schools.

"DBOSBA is being told that the schools do not need to follow Title 10. The federal government says it is not a federal requirement and it is not a requirement to spend our allocations," said Nez.

Following the report, Delegate Hale said he was displeased to hear that BIE officials were not working with the school board or schools to interpret the school's functions and authorities.

"The committee needs to fix this immediately. We cannot have the Nation's schools derailing from Navajo laws," said Delegate Hale.

The HEHSC voted to accept with a vote of 3-0.

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**Council Delegates share knowledge of Navajo
government and current issues with students from Canadian Tribes**



Photo: H.O.P.E. Scholars students from Canada by the Navajo Nation Council Chambers. The group is from the Plains Cree in Maskwacis in Alberta, Canada, consisting of 4 First Nations (Tribes) including the Samson Cree Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, and Montana Cree Nation.

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin), Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels), and Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau), took time to share their perspective on Navajo government and current issues with H.O.P.E Scholars students, representing four tribes in Canada.

The H.O.P.E. Scholars group is from the Plains Cree in Maskwacis in Alberta, Canada, consisting of four First Nations including the Samson Cree Nation, Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, and Montana Cree Nation.

Delegate Hale who serves as the chair of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, shared knowledge of a wide range of issues including health care, education, and gaming, while emphasizing the need for young people to learn and utilize their language and to participate in their government, specifically at the local level.

“Being able to speak your language is a blessing, but sometimes those teachings are not handed down,” said Delegate Hale. “It’s important to exercise your language, especially in your local government because it’s your families that will benefit from your community moving forward.”

H.O.P.E. group leader Mario Swampy from the Samson Cree Nation, explained that he wanted to broaden the minds of the participants and empower them to become leaders and actively contribute to the development of their own communities.

When encouraging the group to overcome obstacles and pursue their goals, Delegate Yazzie who chairs the Law and Order Committee, drew from his own experiences serving as a Council Delegate and from his passion for music.

“Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t accomplish something,” said Delegate Yazzie. “If you put your heart to it, and your mind to it, you can do a lot for your people.”

Prior to meeting with the delegates, the group of 21 high school students had the opportunity to sit in on budget hearings conducted by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Vice chair of the Budget and Finance Committee Delegate Nez, stressed the importance of being involved in one’s local government and giving back to your community.

“Be involved in your local government because that’s one thing that a lot of young people don’t do these days,” said Delegate Nez. “Learn all you can and take it back to your people because a lot of them look up to you as young people.”

The group’s visit marks the first time the H.O.P.E. Scholars have visited the Navajo Nation.

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Law and Order Committee approves report from Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety regarding improvements to their fleet management

WINDOW ROCK – The Law and Order Committee approved a report during a special meeting on Thursday, from the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, regarding its initiative to make improvements to their fleet management administration.

According to the report, NDPS purchases fleet vehicles in addition to paying rental fees to the Navajo Nation Fleet Management Department, which is used for services/repairs of all tribally owned vehicles.

“Annually, fleet management costs deplete 59-percent of NDPS General Fund Allocations, and does not include applicable insurance costs and the 5-percent general sales tax,” said Billison. “Why should we be paying rental fees on top of a vehicle that we flat out purchase and own?”

Billison stated that NDPS is proposing an amendment to the Navajo Nation Budget Instructions and Policies Manual, seeking to add new language that would benefit Navajo divisions that currently purchase and own their program vehicles.

“NDPS is proposing an amendment that would exempt program-owned vehicles from being bound to Fleet Management Department rental fee rates,” said Billison. “And the programs would be able to negotiate procurement of any FMD services and rates through outsourcing cost-efficient services.”

LOC members praised Billison and NDPS for spearheading the proposed cost-saving plan.

“The amendment will save the Navajo Nation additional yearly funds, which can go towards other Navajo agencies and will maximize the Nation’s dollars,” said LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat).

Billison presented a Business Case Analysis for the NDPS vehicle fleet that proposes to address financial concerns and said he hopes this progressive initiative will evolve the administration into a more independent and autonomous business that specializes in fleet services.

“Once the BIPM has been amended, we can expect to save more than half of what we spend from the General Fund allocations we receive each year,” said Billison. “Then we can begin to hire additional police personnel and save mileage costs.”

LOC member Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) stated, “I commend NDPS for addressing these financial concerns that have been plaguing the department for many years, and we look forward to seeing this initiative implemented.”

At the conclusion of the discussion, Billison stated, “We need your help to push this forward, and this committee will be recognized as one of the driving forces that will assist us in its success.”

At the conclusion of the discussion, LOC voted 2-0 to accept the report.

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**Resources and Development Committee approves
proposed FY14 comprehensive budget for 3 Navajo divisions, 1 agency**

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved and recommended to the Budget and Finance Committee the proposed Fiscal Year 2014 budgets for three Navajo divisions and one Navajo agency: Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Economic Development, Division of Community Development, and Division of Transportation.

RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) sponsored the four legislations relating to division budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.

“After some significant work, we have come back with the directives of the RDC and have changed some budget figures,” said Delegate Benally.

Legislation No. 0238-13, pertaining to the Navajo Nation EPA FY14 budget of \$9.4 million, passed unanimously with a vote of 3-0.

“We have always worked well with the RDC and have always done our best to work with the budget we’ve been allocated,” said EPA executive director Stephen Etsitty. “We have been receiving annual grants with little reductions, but we have heard that reductions are going to start happening in 2015.”

Legislation No. 0235-13, pertaining to the Navajo Nation DED FY14 budget of \$6.02 million, passed with one amendment to include two conditions of appropriation.

According to 12 N.N.C §810, a condition of appropriation places a specific contingency on an appropriation by the Navajo Nation Council. Appropriated funds or any other funds received by the Navajo Nation by which a condition of appropriation is place, may not be lawfully expended until the condition of appropriation is met.

The first COA requires the DED to submit a plan of operation, which provides for more technical and financial resources to regional offices, while maintaining essential regulatory and administrative offices at their central offices, to RDC by the end of the FY14 first quarter.

The second COA approves the carry-over of the FY13 Navajo Land Title Data System budget for the Navajo Real Estate Department.

The RDC voted 3-0 to approve the Division of Economic Development FY14 budget.

Legislation No. 0237-13, pertaining to the Navajo Division of Community Development FY14 budget of \$44.8 million, passed unanimously with one amendment to include two COA's.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake), said he believes chapter staff neglect their main responsibilities due to excessive travel and training.

The first COA requires the division to implement a process where chapter officials and employees sign necessary consent forms, authorizing banks to permit the Navajo Office of Auditor General and the agency Local Governance Support Center "view-only" access, for the purpose of enabling the OAG and LGSC to continue audit and monitoring responsibilities.

The second COA requires the division to implement a policy that will cap training and traveling expenses at \$10,000 for elected officials and administrative staff at each respective chapter within the first quarter.

"I like the new language of the budget, we definitely need to always take care of the Navajo people's money," said Delegate Tsosie. "It seems that training is becoming a way to make money off the chapters."

The RDC voted 3-0 to approve the FY14 budget for the Division of Community Development.

Legislation No. 0234-13, pertaining to the Navajo Division of Transportation FY14 budget of \$19.7 million, passed unanimously with an amendment to include two COA's for the division to fulfill within the first quarter of FY14.

The first COA requires NDOT to receive technical assistance from the Navajo Tax Commission in order to develop a plan to receive all Fuel Excise Taxes collected without Navajo Nation set-aside, and to meet with the Speaker of the Arizona State Legislature to revisit the \$4 million tax agreement.

The second COA requires NDOT to select two civil engineers for an Intergovernmental Personnel Act assignment with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Roads Department for Navajo Nation capacity building, to assume certain responsibilities of the BIA roads. Sections for the positions will be made in the first quarter and shall not exceed two years.

"I would like chapter planners to be better qualified to truly do the chapter some good," said RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle). "I'm concerned with how much training it would take to get our planners up-to-date. The second COA should help our communities."

The RDC voted 3-0 to approve the NDOT FY14 budget.

The four approved budgets now move on to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 16, 2013

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Delegate Yazzie advocates for local youth's musical aspirations

GALLUP, N.M. – On Tuesday, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) met with the Gallup City Council during their regular city council meeting to discuss the reopening of the local nightclub known as FUEL.

FUEL is a local café and music venue that has opened its doors to local bands of all genres.

During Delegate Yazzie's address to the city council, he expressed his appreciation for local youth bands and the benefits they receive while writing music and performing.

"Gallup has always catered to rodeo, basketball, and track and now Gallup is well known for those activities," said Delegate Yazzie. "When it comes to music, our kids don't have that outlet anymore."

Due to fire code violations, including an inadequate sprinkler system and lack of maximum room occupancy, Gallup zoning officials were forced to close FUEL.

Several local musicians were in attendance to support Delegate Yazzie, and to advocate for the need of a non-alcohol serving music venue in Gallup.

"Currently city zoning ordinances only allow for night clubs adjoined to an existing hotel or restaurant," said Gallup Planning and Zoning director C.B. Strain. "City ordinances do not allow for stand alone night clubs."

Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinny, said he is an avid supporter of the city's youth and music, however he could not ignore fire code violations, as they could lead to fatalities during an emergency.

"The city council would be more than willing to work with Mr. Yazzie to find a place for the youth to perform, we have Red Rock Park," said city councilor Cecil E. Garcia.

Delegate Yazzie said he supports the city in amending zoning ordinances and finding a suitable facility that can house local musical performances.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Gallup City Council agreed to explore the possibility of amending city codes that would allow for non-alcohol music venues to be established in non-residential areas.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



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For Immediate Release
Aug. 15, 2012

Navajo President Shelly Says NECR Mine Site Cleanup Must Continue

GALLUP, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly during a meeting with U.S. EPA Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry said cleanup of the North East Church Rock mine site needs to continue.

“What effect will the sequestration and budget have on the clean up and disposal of contaminated materials? We need to stick with the Five Year Plan and make sure the Obama administration doesn’t lose focus of the long term goal,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly and other staff from the Navajo EPA met with Curry Thursday morning.

“We need to find another place to put the contaminated material, I just don’t want them covering it up. I don’t want to contaminate the water,” President Shelly added.

President Shelly has continuously stressed the importance of the 5 Year Plan to both federal agencies and local residents.

“One of the critical lessons we learned early on was to listen to the people who live in the impacted areas,” President Shelly said.

The 5 Year Plan was released in 2008 that outlined steps to clean up the Northeast Church Rock uranium mine site. The plan has seven federal agencies involved.

President Shelly added that U.S. EPA Region 6 and Region 9 need to work together with the Navajo Nation and keep the Nation informed about any prospected changes in policy, since both regions cover the Navajo Nation.

Another discussed item was the State Implementation Plan for San Juan Generating Station near Farmington N.M. SJGS has proposed to close two units to meet the requirements of the Regional Haze Rule.

“I am not completely happy with the impending early retirement of Units 2 and 3 by year
and 2017 but I do support it as the best economic alternative. BART (Best Available Retrofit)

Technology). I understand the need to find a course towards an agreement that will result in some paths for meeting the Regional Haze Rule, mitigate job losses and impacts to the regional economy,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly added that the PNM-Navajo Work Force Training Program is welcomed to help train workers in the region.

“Understanding my concerns about the impacts to the work force, PNM offered \$1 million dollars to assist with training to offset lay-offs and other job-related challenges that some workers will face. I am very optimistic about this effort,” President Shelly said.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 2013

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Speaker Naize pays tribute to the Navajo Code Talkers



Photo: Speaker Johnny Naize addresses hundreds of spectators at an annual event to commemorate the Navajo Code Talkers in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK – Speaking before a crowd of approximately 300 people on Wednesday at Veteran’s Memorial Park, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) honored and thanked the Navajo Code Talkers for their dedicated service and sacrifice during World War II.

“You have made us a proud people with your sacrifices and all that you achieved for Diné people, and you have gained us recognition through your courage and achievements,” said Speaker Naize.

Seated in the front row of the event were 20 Navajo Code Talkers, who traveled from various parts of the Navajo Nation to represent the distinguished group of veterans that developed the Navajo Code used to help the United States win World War II.

Speaker Naize also expressed appreciation for the Diné language and stressed the importance of teaching the language to young Navajo children.

“As mothers and fathers, we have to teach our children about the love, compassion, and power that characterize our language,” said Speaker Naize. “The power of our language cannot be expressed through English words, and that’s something we have to hold on to.”

Also in attendance were representatives from the State of New Mexico, Navajo County, the United States Marine Corp., and the Navajo Code Talkers Association.

Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) who also serves as chairman of the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, expressed his gratitude and presented an official proclamation on behalf of Navajo County, declaring the month of August as “Navajo Code Talkers Month.”

“On behalf of Navajo County, it is an honor to present to the Navajo Code Talkers Association with this proclamation,” said Delegate Nez.

Former Navajo Nation Chairman and current president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, Peter MacDonald was also on hand and urged current Navajo leaders to advocate for the establishment of a museum to honor the Navajo Code Talkers.

On Aug. 12, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez signed an executive order, declaring Aug. 14 as “National Code Talkers Day” in the State of New Mexico.

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 14, 2012

Navajo President Shelly Help Opens New Data Center



SHIPROCK, N.M.—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly yesterday opened a tier three data and network operating center as part of the broadband initiative he began in 2009.

“Today, we celebrate our very first data center of many to come,” said President Shelly at NTUA-Wireless’ new 6,400 square foot facility. “We are a technology nation just as much as we are an energy nation.”

The technology center will be operated by NTUA-Wireless, LLC., a for profit company created three years ago as the Navajo Nation headed the broadband effort for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, BTOP, grant.

“The day following the field hearing in Flagstaff, our Navajo staff formed a broadband work group,” said the president. “They brought together telephone companies, Internet Service Providers. government offices. enterprises. hosnitals. schools. citv and countv

governments. They even reached out to the Hopi tribe, and the Hopi Telecommunications Inc.”

The tier three site is a secure facility that relies on card keys and bio metrics for staff access, with 30 inch raised floors, and security cameras. There is one uplink through a fiber backbone to Albuquerque, with another pathway being negotiated through Gallup creating redundancy. The facility has two power feeds, and one Cummings diesel generator with storage batteries on site.

“With the cloud, we are inviting companies, corporation, large groups across America to store their data here on the Navajo Nation,” said the president. It is a smart move.”

U.S. Senators Tom Udall, D-NM, and Martin Heinrich, D-NM were represented by staff, along with U.S. Congressman Ben Lujan, D-3-NM. Governor Susana Martinez was represented by Indian Affairs Department Arthur Allison. State Representative Sharon Clahchischilliege, R-Dist. 4 said that President Shelly led the effort in Washington, D.C. during the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act period in which the Navajo Nation received more than \$500 million for infrastructure projects.

NTUA General Manager Walter Haase acknowledged that 70 percent of the workforce at the new facility are Navajo.

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 14, 2012

Navajo President Shelly Expressed Gratitude for Navajo Code Talkers



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly expressed his gratitude for the service of the Navajo Code Talkers during Navajo Code Talkers Day celebration today.

“On behalf of First Lady Martha Shelly, Vice President Rex Lee Jim, and I, we salute our Navajo Code Talkers, who turned the tide of the war in the Pacific Theater, and brought our county to victory,” President Shelly said in his welcoming address.

Approximately 20 Navajo Code Talkers and 200 people attended the welcoming ceremony at the Window Rock Navajo Tribal Park and Veteran’s Memorial.

President Shelly read a Loyalty Pledge to the United States that was passed by the Navajo Nation Council in 1940 as World War II escalated.

“Now therefore, we resolve that the Navajo Indians stand ready as they did in 1918 to aid and defend our Government and its institutions against all subversive and armed conflict

and pledge our loyalty to the system which recognizes minority rights and a way of life that has placed us among the greatest people of our race,” President Shelly stated.

President Shelly cited Congressional reports that more than 5,000 American Indians served in the armed forces during World War II and about half of them were Navajo.

“We welcome you to this day, whereupon we will bestow honor to you, and to the spirit of the ones who have passed. This day shall forever be set aside in your tribute and honor,” President Shelly said.

President Ronald Regan set aside Aug. 14 as National Navajo Code Talker Day beginning in 1982.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2013

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**Naabik'íyátí Committee approves
amending Absentee Voting by Rules and Regulations**

WINDOW ROCK – The Naabik'íyátí Committee on Thursday approved Legislation No. 0166-13, which seeks to amend Title 11 of the Navajo Nation Code to authorize the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors to implement absentee voting by rules and regulations.

“What we are trying to do is separate the procedural process from Title 11 by adding them to our current rules and regulations and allowing our office to manage them,” said Navajo Election Administration director Edison Wauneka.

Wauneka explained that allowing the election supervisors to oversee the rules and regulations would streamline the process of absentee voting.

“I want to clarify that we are not getting rid of absentee voting,” said Wauneka.

Committee members requested further clarification from Wauneka in regards to the proposed changes in the absentee voting rules and regulations.

“In the [absentee voting] policy and procedures, what exactly does the Election Board want to change?” asked Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill).

“We are requesting the authority to amend the policy through our Board to make the absentee voting process more efficient,” said Wauneka, while noting that currently changes made to the policy requires approval by the Navajo Nation Council.

Wauneka said that any changes made to the rules and regulations are to ensure that Navajo voters can exercise their right to vote if they are unable to be present at their designated polling site.

“If the rules and regulations in absentee voting does not accommodate our voters and prevents them from exercising their right to vote, the Board can make proper amendments to remedy any issues,” said Wauneka.

Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) cautioned the Election Board to protect against voters attempting to vote more than once.

“We need to make sure that those who choose to submit absentee voting ballots do not also vote in person at the polls,” said Delegate Begaye.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Wauneka acknowledged the committee’s concerns and stated that the election supervisors will do everything in their power to uphold the integrity of the absentee voting rules and regulations, while protecting the rights of Navajo voters.

The Naabik’iyátí Committee voted 12-0 to approve Legislation No. 0166-13. The legislation now goes to Council for final consideration.

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 12, 2012

Navajo President Shelly Releases Back To School Statement

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly released the following back-to-school message.

“Every year as the summer starts to cool, we send our children back to start a new school year. We have the opportunity for our young people to learn and better their future.

Today’s world is changing so fast and we must encourage our children to learn how to navigate through this complex world and create a good life for themselves. Education has long been a pillar for a strong productive life.

As our children continue to maximize their educational goals, they establish a new founded knowledge to enhance their lives, which is to say, they are enhancing our lives.

With each educational success comes enhanced definitions of prosperity and that raises the quality of life for our people.

Young people, please learn all you can and take advantage of the opportunities that are in front of you. You are going to be successful and we believe in each and everyone one of you.

My challenge to you is learn new ways to move our Navajo Nation forward. We have to change our thinking that the government is a place of employment in the future. We need start businesses on the Navajo Nation and create new jobs. This is the need of the future.

My people please join the First Lady, the Vice President and myself and let us all pray for our children as they return to school. Let’s pray for their positive thinking, their health, and their safe journeys. Our children are our most precious resource because they are the ones who hold our dreams for to make our Navajo Nation stronger. “

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OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2013

NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES POSE TO CONDUCT SEMINAR ON FINANCING AND PURCHASING OF VEHICLES

ST. MICHAELS, AZ. – The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) announced it will host a one-day seminar on financing and purchasing vehicles on Friday, September 6, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. The Commission along with representatives from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Arizona and New Mexico Attorney General’s Offices, DNA Peoples Legal Services and the Navajo Nation Credit Services office will provide information concerning, credit scores, financing a vehicle, terminology used in contract negotiation, legal terms in the vehicle contract and laws that protect consumers when your purchase goes wrong are among some of the topics to be discussed.

The Commission encourages Navajo citizens who are considering purchasing a vehicle or had purchased one to attend this one day seminar that will be held at the Navajo Nation Museum located in Window Rock, Navajo Nation on Friday, September 6, 2013. Mr. Leonard Gorman, Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission said, “this is a good opportunity for Navajo citizens to visit with state and federal agencies to address problems with purchasing and financing a new and used vehicle.” Mr. Gorman further states, “Navajo Human Rights office received many complaints about auto purchasing and assisted them to resolve the problem. Clearly there is a need for public education on purchasing an automobile.”

The Commission urges Navajo consumers to - *Save the date* – and mark your calendars now. Navajo consumers can contact the Navajo Nation Human Rights Office at 928-871-7436 for further information.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Nation Fair An Opportunity to Win

WINDOW ROCK, AZ. – Contestants aren't going to be the only winners during the 67th Annual Navajo Nation Fair.

That's because five individuals will be \$1,000 or \$5,000 richer during the Largest American Indian Fair in North America.

Raffle tickets will be sold for \$10 at the Navajo Nation Fair grounds and at various outlets – buyers will have five opportunities to win a cash drawing, however, there is a catch. Buyers must be present at the Indian rodeo where a nightly winner will be announced, which is scheduled to be held on September 4-8th at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds. Fairgoers will have an opportunity to win \$1,000 on Wednesday through Saturday and a chance to win \$5,000 on Sunday during the last Indian rodeo performance.

Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department Manager Martin L. Begaye, said, "The Navajo Nation Fair is a great opportunity for visitors to learn about Navajo culture. We are very pleased that many visitors enjoy our scenery, but we also want them to know that the true beauty of the Navajo Nation is our unique language, culture and way of life."

In fact, the theme for the 67th Annual Navajo Nation Fair is "Dine Bizaad Dilzin," which means Honoring the Navajo Language in Navajo.

Navajo Nation Fair Manager Genevieve Tsouhlarkis, said, "The Navajo Nation Fair is also a great time to visit family and friends. It is a prime venue for the Navajo people and other tribes to showcase their skills whether that be through songs, dances, art, food, livestock or during one of the many different athletic events such as rodeo to a half-marathon."

Tsouhlarkis added, "The Navajo language is the foundation of who we are as a people. That is why we want to honor all the silent Navajo heroes who are using the Navajo language to help preserve and protect it."

Such Navajo heroes include Navajo medicine men and women who use the Navajo language in their prayers, songs and ceremonies; the Navajo Code Talkers who used the Navajo language in World War II, Navajo teachers and professors who teach Navajo, Navajo translators, Navajo entertainers who

sing in Navajo, Navajo authors, Navajo story tellers and our Navajo elders who are our living cultural treasures.

The 67th Annual Navajo Nation will begin on Monday, September 2, 2013 and kick off with a open junior rodeo and baby contest and slowly pick up during the week with such activities and events as a 4-H horse show, a daily Indian rodeo, two country western concerts, a rock and roll concert, an inter-tribal pow wow, fireworks, a traditional Navajo song and dance, Nizhoni arts market, a fry bread contest, a golf tournament, a night performance and other events.

For more information about the Navajo Nation Fair, call (928) 871-6647 or 6478 or at www.navajonationfair.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2013

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HEHSC approves an enabling legislation which seeks to implement a 9-1-1 emergency response system within the Navajo Nation

WINDOW ROCK – The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee met on Wednesday, and approved Legislation No. 0212-13, which proposes to amend Title 2 and Title 21 of the Navajo Nation Code, authorizing the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission to implement and manage a 9-1-1 emergency response system within the Navajo Nation.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) said the legislation would allow for the NNTRC to begin developing a framework for a sustainable and adequate 9-1-1 system.

“There are many areas on the Nation that have no way to call emergency authorities and, we are losing lives as a result of it,” said Delegate Phelps. “This is something that needs to be done. We will have to work with the Federal Communications Commission to do this.”

The legislation developed from a joint meeting between the Law and Order Committee and HEHSC on Mar. 13, where residents of the rural community of Black Falls, Ariz. gave testimony about accidents that resulted in fatalities due to the lack of emergency services and response.

NNTRC executive director Brian Tagaban, said the legislation would allow for the NNTRC to be the lead agency in establishing the three main necessary components for a 9-1-1 system: public safety answering point (PSAP), location information system, and rural addressing.

“Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah all have a 9-1-1 program which funds their PSAP system, this is what this legislation begins to do for the Nation,” said Tagaban.

A PSAP is responsible for answering emergency calls for police, fire fighting, and ambulance services. Trained telephone operators are usually responsible for dispatching emergency services.

“When you have an emergency here on Navajo, you call 9-1-1 and the county sheriffs office gives you another phone number to call for Navajo Police,” said HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels). “This legislation will bring a better system for the Nation.”

The HEHSC approved Legislation No. 0212-13 with a vote of 3-0.

The legislation now moves on to the Law and Order Committee and the Naabik’íyáti’ Committee for final consideration.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 8, 2013

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The Budget and Finance Committee approves the Navajo Nation Chapter's Infrastructure Improvement Priority Projects list

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, the Budget and Finance Committee approved the Navajo Nation Chapter's Infrastructure Improvement Priority Projects list for FY2013-2018. The Capital Improvement Project list consists of projects from most of the 110 chapters on the Navajo Nation.

"This legislation was introduced in April 2013 and resulted in work sessions with chapter officials discussing proposed capital projects in their areas," said legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels).

According to Delegate Hale, all chapters that requested a capital project to be added to the priority list had to submit chapter resolutions, including project proposals.

"At this point, we have the majority of chapters that have already submitted their chapter resolutions with the exception of 13 chapters," said Delegate Hale.

Included in the presentation, Chief Justice Herb Yazzie explained the importance of the CIP priority list and spoke on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to the construction of a new Supreme Court building.

"About six years ago, we started on a dream to obtain a judicial complex to house the Supreme Court, court administration, peacemaking, and probation programs," said Chief Justice Yazzie. "We are construction ready and ask that we be put at the top of the priority list."

Currently, the list includes 105 projects from each of the Nation's five agencies and the Navajo Nation Capital, according to the CIP report.

"How many of these projects are actually project-ready?" asked BFC member Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaille/Wheatfields, Tse Chi'zhi).

Delegate Hale responded, "The FY2014 priority list is project-ready and is awaiting funding to begin construction. Every year until FY2018, the list will be reevaluated to reflect project-ready sites only."

The funding of the capital projects was a concern posed by BFC members.

“I do not see any language in this legislation that authorizes a bond [to finance these projects],” said BFC member Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tse Si’ani, Wide Ruins). “There needs to be language or another legislation that addresses how the Nation will fund these developments.”

BFC member Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) stated, “The stock market has been good to us and we should use the Navajo Nation Permanent Trust Fund to finance these projects and get them completed as soon as possible.”

Delegate Hale explained that the capital projects were originally to be funded by the interest of the Navajo Nation’s Permanent Trust Fund, but the goal now is to approve the priority listing first. He also noted that creating a concurrent legislation for funding the projects would cause confusion, but will be initiated after the priority listing is finalized.

“If the CIP list is not approved soon, it will only cause further delay. If we opt to finance, we will lose money on interest rates because the money will end up sitting there and interest will add up,” said Delegate BeGaye.

At the end of the discussion, BFC voted 3-0 to approve Legislation No. 0118-13 and will move on to the Naabik’iyátl’ Committee for consideration.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 8, 2013

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RDC modifies Chinle business site lease for Navajo Code Talker

WINDOW ROCK – The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0211-13 on Tuesday, which modifies a Chinle business site lease for a Navajo Code Talker, Fleming D. Begaye.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch' izhi) said the legislation would amend a business site lease belonging to Fleming D. Begaye, and replace his name with his daughter, Veronica Walters.

“Mr. Fleming owns one of the more successful businesses in Chinle and he’s ready to pass it onto the next generation,” said Delegate BeGaye. “The business does not owe anything and has a letter from the Bureau of Indian Affairs approving the lease renewal.”

Begay owns and operates a laundromat, gas station, convenience store, fast food facility, and automotive service within a single facility in Chinle.

In 2012, Fleming was denied a lease renewal by Navajo Area BIA director Sharon Pinto, however after Fleming filed an appeal his request was approved in May 2013.

Following the presentation, RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) questioned the location of establishment and if the business was subleasing to outside entities.

“The business is located at the major intersection in Chinle, where State Route 191 and Navajo Route 7 meet,” said Delegate BeGaye. “They are working with the Four Corners Giant Corporation for their gas station.”

Delegate Tsosie said that he does not believe business leases should permit lessees to sublease land, as it could possibly deter much needed tax revenue from the Nation.

“In my opinion there should be no subleasing because everything goes haywire when we try to collect sales taxes for the Nation,” said Delegate Tsosie. “However, I am going to support this legislation and trust that this is helping local economic development.”

The RDC approved Legislation No. 0211-13 with a vote of 3-0.

The Resources and Development Committee serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 6, 2012

Navajo President Shelly Says Overregulation Hurts Housing Development

ST. MICHAELS, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said the Navajo Nation is overregulated by the federal government and that creates problems for housing development on the Navajo Nation.

“The CFR (Code of Federal Regulations), that’s what hinders our development in Indian Country,” President Shelly said during an address during a meeting with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Monday afternoon.

President Shelly added he is advocating for more Navajo autonomy in his meetings with federal officials.

The GAO was tasked by Congress to investigate barriers in Indian Country to housing development. A three-person panel was on hand visiting the Navajo Nation Monday with plans to visit other communities throughout the week.

President Shelly said land status was an issue and Land Department Manager Mike Halona said that federal laws apply to all federal lands, regardless if there are people living on federal land.

“I think that is where a big change and an easy change would need to be made, when all of these federal environmental lands were enacted, they just put federal lands across the board, not thinking there is actually people living on it. That’s the big problem,” Halona said.

President Shelly said the Navajo government is making changes to help speed up development, like the expedited 164 process that puts deadlines to documents needing signatures from key Navajo government officials.

“We are making progress, but we need new solutions that consider all options,” President Shelly said.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2013

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**The Law and Order Committee receives a report
from the Title 17 Sentencing Provision Review Task Force**

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee accepted a report from the Title 17 Sentencing Provision Review Task Force, which is charged with reviewing and updating the Navajo Nation Criminal Code to impose stricter penalties for certain crimes.

According to the report, in Jan. 2000, the Navajo Nation Council eliminated jail terms and fines for a number of offenses, in part because the Nation had limited resources to prosecute and jail criminal offenders. Portions of the Code are outdated and should be revised to reflect the current needs of the Navajo Nation and people.

“The initial task was to look at the criminal code because much of it was decriminalized all at once and it is time that we revise this to reflect individual criminal accountability,” said LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat).

The task force was formed in July 2012, and began conducting bi-weekly meetings in Jan. 2013, to review all criminal penalties, and held public hearings in May to receive input and field questions from the public.

“I reviewed the offenses listed in the task force’s recommendations, but I do not see assault on a police officer or establishment of street gangs in this report,” said Delegate Shepherd. “I believe they need to be added to the code and be criminalized.”

Delegate Shepherd also recommended that crimes be classified to reflect the level of the crime, such as distinguishing between different levels of misdemeanor crimes.

“Currently, the recommended changes we made for LOC is to implement classifications for the crimes, but not all of them need them,” responded Renner.

Renner explained that drug offenses will be based off of the amount that is seized upon arrest, thus the penalty and sentencing will reflect the seriousness of the offense.

“Another suggestion I would like to make is to implement the Tribal Law and Order Act regarding these crimes,” stated LOC member Russell Begaye (Shiprock).

The Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 was signed into law by President Obama to support tribal public safety efforts to enforce stringent prosecution of offenders on reservations for sexual assault and violence against women, as well as other crimes plaguing Indian Country.

“At this time, we do not have enough resources to implement the TLOA because it would require a state-licensed attorney and law-trained judges, which we do not have at this time,” said Office of the Public Defender director Kathleen Bowman.

Delegate Shepherd suggested that LOC members meet for a two-day work session to make appropriate changes to the criminal codes.

“Title 17 needs to be revised to strengthen the laws and that is our goal,” concluded Delegate Shepherd.

At the conclusion of the discussion, LOC chair Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) said the two-day work session will begin on Aug. 27.

LOC voted 3-0 to accept the report.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



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For Immediate Release
Aug. 5, 2013

President Shelly Vetoes Title 2 Amendments

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly vetoed a bill that would have reduced the comment period for newly introduced bills to the Navajo Council and given the Navajo Nation Speaker power to move council meeting places.

President Shelly vetoed CJY-31-13 Monday.

President Shelly applauded the intention of the first amendment to Title 2, which would have reduced the time period for public comment for newly introduced bills from five days to four days.

“It is clear the Navajo Nation Council’s motive is government efficiency,” President Shelly wrote in his veto memorandum to Navajo Nation Council Speaker Johnny Naize.

“I would respectfully request the Navajo Nation Council to continue the discussion regarding the comment period in order to find a balance to assure the Navajo People their comments can be received and continue to promote efficacy within our government legislative process,” President Shelly wrote.

The other amendment would have given the Navajo Nation Council Speaker the authority to designate alternative meeting sites for Navajo Council meetings.

President Shelly stated that he understands the idea of bringing the government to the people but he wants a cost analysis for moving meetings from Window Rock even though most of the council meetings are webcasted.

“The Navajo Nation Council provided the opportunity for millions to access the Navajo government through the Internet. This achievement is applauded. However, the possibility to designate an alternative meeting place will be at greater financial cost to the Navajo Nation. In order to consider this additional authority a cost analysis should be provided,” President Shelly wrote.

###

After 20 years of waiting, Huerfano bridge to be replaced



Officials from Navajo Division of Transportation, Navajo Nation Council, New Mexico Department of Transportation, San Juan County and URS Corporation met in Albuquerque on July 31, 2013, to discuss the replacement of the Huerfano bridge. NDOT is contributing \$1.5 million toward the replacement of the bridge, estimated to cost \$2.3 million. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

ALBUQUERQUE-Officials from the Navajo Division of Transportation, San Juan County, New Mexico Department of Transportation, URS Corporation, and Navajo Nation Council met on July 31, to discuss the replacement of the Huerfano Bridge.

Community members from Huerfano have been asking for a bridge replacement for over 20 years.

The PS&E (plans, specifications and estimates review) meeting took place at the URS corporate headquarters. PS&E review meetings are typically conducted when the plans, specifications and construction cost estimate are approximately 99 percent complete.

URS is the consulting engineer under contract with San Juan County to design the bridge and overall project, prepare construction documents, and monitor construction.

Bridge No. 8105, which carries San Juan County Road 7150 over the Gallegos wash, is in desperate need of repair, especially now with monsoon season in full swing. Commercial vehicles and trucks weighing over 10 tons must travel the detour access

route through the wash for crossing.

The bridge is located approximately 6.3 miles south of Highway 550. Although community members regularly travel on the bridge to get home, the rusty and deteriorating condition of the structure cannot be underscored enough.

The entire structure vibrates whenever vehicles travel across. Although this region of New Mexico is suffering from drought conditions, monsoon rains could easily complicate the bridge matter exponentially if water began flowing through the Gallegos Wash.

The cost estimate to replace the bridge is at \$2.3 million.

NDOT, NMDOT, Federal Highway Administration, San Juan County and the New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax are all contributing agencies for the project. NDOT will provide \$1.5 million in funds to replace the aging structure.

Paulson Chaco, director of NDOT, said the Huerfano bridge project is the first project funded by the direct funding agreement between NDOT and the FHWA, which was cemented in Feb. 2013.

“This is the first time NDOT is taking over the reins from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to complete this project from start to finish. We are utilizing funds from the direct funding agreement for this project,” Chaco said.

In 2013, NDOT became partners with the FHWA and BIA to complete road projects on the Navajo Nation, receiving annual appropriations of \$10 million from the FHWA. BIA receives \$44

“Bridges are a very important element of our national, regional and local infrastructure that warrant increased funding and upgrading.”

million annually for services on Navajo Nation roads.

Finding the funding for the Huerfano bridge project was the biggest challenge stakeholders had to overcome. To date, development for the bridge has taken over five years, most of the time spent identifying potential funding sources.

Peter Hinckley, principal transportation engineer for URS, said construction of the project is slated to begin Jan. 2014, with construction finished in Oct. 2014.

“The span of the bridge is 356-feet. The average height of bridge deck above natural channel is 11 to 12-feet,” Hinckley said. “The bridge will be constructed of pre-stressed concrete girders on drilled shaft foundations, with a cast-in-place concrete deck.”

During the construction period, the existing bridge bypass will remain open for traffic.

“Bridges are a very important element of our national, regional and local infrastructure that warrant increased funding and upgrading,” Hinckley said.

He said the new bridge will provide a safe route for local residents, school buses and the general public to cross the Gallegos Wash, which is one of the largest ephemeral waterways in San Juan County.

“The new bridge will carry two lanes of traffic instead of the one lane on the old bridge. It will also have shoulders that can be used by pedestrians or bicyclists,” Hinckley said. “The new bridge barrier rail will meet current design standards for both automobile and truck traffic.”

Information: www.navajodot.org

-30-



The Huerfano bridge spans a distance of 356-feet and serves approximately 4,000 people in the area. The Bailey bridge has reached its maximum service life through the years. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Left, signs warn trucks to utilize the access road through the Gallegos Wash. Top, The erosion and rust is evident on the supporting pillars for the Huerfano bridge. The entire structure vibrates heavily when vehicles travel across the span. (Photos by Rick Abasta)





DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2013

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“Native Plant Garden Cultivates Fort Defiance, Arizona”

FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZ – Navajo Forestry Department nurtures one of the most beautiful gardens near the capital of Navajo Nation, for nearly 30 years the ‘Native Plant Garden’ has flourished in Fort Defiance adjacent to the Forestry Administration Building.

In 1986, Amanullah K. Arbab, manager of Navajo Forestry Reforestation & Disease Control transported the first pine tree from the Chuska Mountains to the ‘Native Plant Garden’ in Fort Defiance, Arizona. Arbab arrived to Navajo Nation in 1979 with only \$0.10, with an educational background in Plant Pathology and Botanical studies from Purdue University, he gravitated to Navajo Forestry Department and began his adventure as a botanist among the Navajo people.



(One of the many greenhouses at the Native Plant Garden in Fort Defiance, Arizona, July 30, 2013. Photo by Geri Hongeva)

The greenhouses at the Native Plant Garden maintained by Navajo Forestry Department, provides one of the best botanical environments to grow healthy seedlings year round. Currently, Navajo Forestry

Department already has a commitment from U.S. Forest Service to grow over 31,000 seedlings to help with replenishing the Coconino National Forest.

Northern Arizona University also utilizes the greenhouses in Fort Defiance for seed processing and transported for planting. Arbab works with many organizations to encourage native plant growth across the southwest region, he is a firm believer in having a healthy garden to keep the mind, spirit and body healthy.



(Arbab shows off the beautiful Cliffrose growing near one of the first greenhouses, July 30, 2013. Photo by Geri Hongeva)

Arbab welcomes the community to visit the Native Plant Garden and thankful for all the Navajo elders who have guided him thus far. “I envisioned a garden for young people to come and think, to find peace. This garden is unique because it holds a Native American ambience as you walk around here,” said Arbab. Each plant is useful to Navajo, either for medicinal use, to eat, basketry, making weapons or ceremonial use.

“This is a Native Plant Garden built by Navajo people and Navajo companies, I simply wanted to put my knowledge about plants to use by establishing a garden for the Navajo People,” explained Arbab. I am originally from Pakistan, living here among the Navajos is quite rewarding and I enjoy my work everyday, this is my office, added Arbab.

With over 110 plants at the Navajo Forestry’s Native Plant Garden, visitors will be amazed to see the years of dedication and planning sculpted by the Reforestation & Disease Control for future generations to enjoy. Species include; Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, Alligator Juniper, Apache Plume, Curleaf Mountain Mahogany, Russian Sage, Wolfberry, Santa Rosa Plum, Fendler Bush, Utah Service Berry, Aspen Tree, Wax Currant, Sumac, Sagebrush, Joint Fir, Yucca, Cinque Foil, Creeping Mahonia, Cliff Rose and Peteria Scoparia known as the “Potato Medicine.”



(A.K. Arbab talks about the stonework and masonry near courtyard, July 30, 2013 at the Native Plant Garden. Photo by Geri Hongeva)

Future plans include adding sculptures and gardening workshops for those seeking landscaping skills. Arbab envisions a small play area for school-age children near the courtyard, as he looks forward to the new school year and the many young people who will be visiting the Native Plant Garden, either for educational reasons or to simply find a quiet place to think, and meditate.

“The Native Plant Garden is a place where people, of all ages, can go and gain an understanding of all the native plant species that can be found on the Navajo Nation. Our main focus is educating our young people and anyone interested in learning more about each plant,” stated Alexious Becent Sr., Navajo Forestry Department Manager.

Currently, the Navajo Forestry greenhouses have grown over 4 million seedlings, which have been replanted to rejuvenate the forest around Navajo Nation and over 1 million native plants seedlings for coalmine reclamation. For more information about the Native Plant Garden, visit www.dnrnavajo/forestry or call 928-729-4007.

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 2, 2013

President Shelly Line Item Vetoes \$2.5 Million Bill for Summer Youth Employment

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly line item vetoed a bill that would've provided \$2.5 million for Chapter Summer Youth Employment programs. He vetoed the measure Friday morning.

President Shelly stated three primary reasons he line item vetoed the CJY-4213. Firstly, President Shelly stated the Undesignated Unreserved Fund Balance already below the amount he has been advocating for, he needs a more thorough evaluation of chapter level finances and that he intends to find solutions within the government to help expand resources for chapters who do need extra financial help for summer youth workers.

"The majority of chapters have a high amount of unspent money within their budgets. I am aware of a few chapters that are in need of additional funding for their summer youth employment accounts," President Shelly wrote.

President Shelly added that he plans to meet with the Division of Community Development, Local Governance Support Center and other chapter programs to discuss long-term solutions to fund summer youth employment.

In addition, President Shelly said the UUFB is below the \$20 million he has been advocating as a minimum balance above the mandatory minimum fund balance of 10 percent of the prior year's fiscal budget.

After about \$16.8 million of allocations since the spring, the UUFB sits at about \$9.5 million, though President Shelly indicated that the allocations were for necessary projects, federal financial uncertainty hasn't gone away.

"The financial uncertainty still looms over us," President Shelly wrote.

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Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program
PO Box 1450 ♦ Window Rock ♦ Arizona ♦ 86515

EQUINE ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NAVAJO NATION PRESS RELEASE:

The Navajo Veterinary & Livestock Program is encouraging horse owners to ensure that their horses are vaccinated against West Nile Virus. West Nile vaccinations should be an annual vaccination along with your spring 4-way vaccination and deworming schedule especially since WNV is endemic (naturally in the environment) since it arrived to the Navajo Nation in 2003. West Nile, the disease, is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito carrying the virus, which may develop into a brain inflammation disease in humans, horses and birds.

Presently, the Navajo Nation has one (1) area of where a positive horse has been confirmed with the West Nile Virus: the Chinle Valley. This animal was never vaccinated against West Nile. The animal began showing signs of the disease on July 21, the disease progressed until the horse was unable to balance and was euthanized at the Chinle Veterinary Clinic, July 23, 2013. Laboratory confirmation of West Nile virus was received August 1, 2013.

The NNVLVP urges the public to take precautions against the bite of mosquitoes; once again the “Fight the Bite” prevention for people and horses is stressed. Prevent mosquitoes from multiplying by decreasing the incidence of standing water around your home and stables. Use insect repellants to prevent bites to horses and make sure all horses have WNV vaccinations in place. People should utilize your DEET products to prevent mosquito bites and limit early morning and evening hours outside when mosquito activity is the highest; wear protective clothing if you need to be outside during these times.

For additional information to protect yourself from West Nile contact:

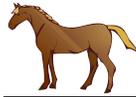
- Division of Health – Health Education Program (928) 871-7967
- Community Health Representative Program (928) 729-4027

For more information call the nearest NNVLVP clinic: Chinle (928) 674-2069,
Shiprock (505) 368-1007 and Tse Bonito (505) 371-5214.

West Nile Virus in Horses

Spring 2003-2013

Navajo Nation Veterinary and Livestock Program



What is West Nile Virus?

West Nile Virus is a mosquito-spread disease that affects birds, humans, and horses. West Nile Virus is carried by birds and spread to other animals by mosquitoes. West Nile virus infections generally occur during warm weather months when mosquitoes are active. WNV is presently endemic within the area. Annual precautions are recommended such as vaccinating your horse to prevent the impact of the disease.

How is it spread?

Horses are the main animals susceptible to the West Nile Virus. West Nile Virus does not usually affect animals other than horses and other equine. West Nile Virus is not a contagious disease from horse to horse so there is no quarantine issued for this disease.

Signs and symptoms of WNV infection in horses may include:

One of the first signs usually is head droop, loss of coordination, stumbling, or staggering, circling, weakness or paralysis of limbs, inability to stand, muscle twitches or tremors, apparent blindness, lip droop, grinding teeth, and death. These signs are not specific for WNV infection, and may be caused by other diseases including rabies. WNV vaccine protects horses against the West Nile Virus. Horse owners should contact their local Navajo veterinary clinic for any additional questions:

- Two doses of the vaccine given three weeks apart are required, if the horse has never been vaccinated before. Following the second dose, it will be about three weeks until the immunity reaches protective levels. Plan 6 weeks in advance to gain the appropriate protection levels.
- Horse(s) vaccinated last spring will require an annual injection for protection. Remember it will be about three weeks until the immunity reaches the highest level of protection.
- Use an insect repellent for horses. Premise sprays for stables.

Mosquitoes become infected with WNV by feeding on infected birds. There is no evidence that a person can acquire the disease by handling live or dead birds or other infected animals. The NNVLPP encourages the public to take precautions such as utilizing insect repellent and limiting standing water around homes to cut down on mosquito breeding sites.

To reduce the risk of becoming infected with WNV, people should:

Take precautions for yourselves and your horses. Should your horse have any of the previously described signs and symptoms, they need veterinary attention and should be taken to veterinary clinic. Please call ahead to the veterinary clinic, in case our vet staff is in the field. The Navajo Veterinary & Livestock Program would like to prevent the likelihood of this disease – **VACCINATE YOUR HORSES EVERY SPRING.**

For more information:

- ❖ Navajo Veterinary & Livestock Program: Chinle clinic (928) 674-2069, Shiprock clinic (505) 368-1007 and Tse Bonito clinic (505) 371-5214
- ❖ NN Health Education Program (928) 871-7967
- ❖ NN Community Health Representative (CHR) Program (928) 729-4027



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2013

**NAVAJO NATION HUMAN HOSTS FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON THE WORLD
CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' ALTA, NORWAY OUTCOME
DOCUMENT**

ST. MICHAELS, A.Z. – On Monday, July 29th, the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and Office of the Navajo Nation Speaker held an Indigenous Leaders preparatory meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples' Alta, Norway Outcome Document at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort. The preparatory meeting was held in-advance of the listening session to be hosted by the United States Department of State and Department of Interior.

The purpose of the preparatory meeting was to discuss and review the United Nations approving the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held in September 2014 in New York City, New York at the U.N. Headquarters and the Alta, Norway Outcome Document which will be the document used at the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

The Department of State will be inviting Indigenous Leaders of the United States to meet in Washington, DC at the Department of Interior's Sidney R. Yates Auditorium in the Fall 2013 to discuss issues to be presented at the World Conference. The goal of the Commission is to formulate unified recommendations with Indigenous elected Leaders for the meeting with the United States and U.N. members who will be present at the 2014 World Conference.

The listening session by the Department of State and Interior is tentatively focusing on topics which will impact Indigenous Nations and Peoples. Topics such as: addressing violence against Indigenous women and children; establishing a new U.N. monitoring body to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; or the protection and preservation of Sacred Sites.

"The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples will be a historic event. The Navajo Human Rights Commission does not want this conference to be just another gathering but a vehicle to see real change in domestic policies," said Leonard Gorman, Executive Director of the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

Gorman also stated, "the Navajo Human Rights Commission has several initiatives in the world human rights forums. The World Conference is another vehicle to ensure the world community recognizes the Navajo people's human rights."

"I look forward to building upon the progress made by the Navajo Human Rights Commission in addressing human rights issues such as, violence and abuse of Dine women and the protection of our sacred sites throughout our land," said Navajo Nation Speaker Johnny Naize.

Speaker Naize also states, "I will continue to advocate for the human rights of the Dine people and will continue to work with the Commission and other entities to address such issues, and I look forward to what will result from the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2013

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**HEHSC discusses health care conditions at Kayenta
Health Care Clinic with local residents and I.H.S. representative**

WINDOW ROCK – The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee received a report on Wednesday, from Kayenta residents regarding their concerns with the current health care conditions at the Kayenta Health Care Clinic.

Kayenta resident Annalita Osif, informed the HEHSC that she is part of a group of constituents who are disappointed with the clinic’s administration and services.

Due to a shortage of staff at the Kayenta Clinic, constituents often have to travel to other hospitals in Tuba City, Monument Valley, Shiprock, and Phoenix, said Osif.

“The HESHSC understands your frustrations with the facility, but we also need to hear how IHS is addressing these issues,” said HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels).

The Kayenta Health Care Clinic currently operates for 40 hours during the week and provides services which including, general medical care, pediatrics, internal medicine, mental health, and women’s health to approximately 20,000 people.

Navajo Area IHS chief medical officer Dr. Douglas Peter, explained the actions the Navajo Area office has taken to improve services and address local concerns.

“We are tackling the biggest challenge of the clinic, which is recruitment, by implementing the Federal Direct Hire Authority,” said Dr. Peter. “Now we can hire the staff we need, like doctors, nurses, and techs, the same day without going through the entire HR process.”

The Federal Direct Hire Authority enables an agency to hire any qualified applicant by eliminating competitive rating and raking, veterans, and “rule of three” procedures during a critical hiring need or severe shortage of candidates.

Dr. Peter also added that patients cannot be turned away from other IHS clinics and hospitals even if they are not apart of their service unit population.

HEHSC member Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi) said the HEHSC can only provide guidance in this situation and that the local community needs to make IHS an active member in their dialogue in order to address their concerns over the clinic’s administration.

“We are dealing with a federal agency and it can be very complicated when dealing with their funding. You have to access the situation from a broad perspective,” said HEHSC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii).

Delegate Phelps also suggested that the community consider pursuing a P.L. 93-638 Title 1 contract so the facility would operate under local governance control.

Public Law 93-638, Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, authorizes the U.S. Secretaries of the Interior, Health, Education, and other government agencies to enter into contracts with federally recognized tribes. Tribes have the authority to administer the funds, giving them greater control over their welfare.

“We can solve these problems by unifying the health care system and needs of our people,” said Delegate Hale. “Working against each other on different sides doesn’t help anything,”

After a lengthy discussion, Delegate Hale advised Dr. Peter to present IHS’s work to the Kayenta Chapter, to prevent future confusion and demonstrate the area office’s commitment to providing quality health care.

HEHSC members voted 4-0 to accept the report.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org