



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2018

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
Crystalyn Curley (928) 286-7918
nlnb.communications@gmail.com

Delegate Brown and Dennehotso community celebrate contract signing to start construction of convenience retail center



PHOTO: Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and Dennehotso Chapter officials and members celebrate the signing of a construction contract to build a convenience retail center in Dennehotso, Ariz. on Feb. 7, 2018.

DENNEHOTSO, Ariz. – Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta), President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, Dennehotso Chapter President Larry Tuni, and community members gathered at the Dennehotso Chapter house on Wednesday, to celebrate the signing of a contract between the Navajo Nation and Arviso Construction Company to begin construction of a new convenience retail center in the community. The community of over 1,300 is located approximately 30 miles east of Kayenta along U.S. Hwy. 160.

Delegate Brown, who represents Dennehotso Chapter on the Navajo Nation Council, thanked the chapter officials, Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development, Navajo Tribal Utility

Authority, Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, Dyron Murphy Architects, P.C., and many others who worked on developing the projects for many years.

“The new retail center will provide much needed services and products for our Navajo people, who for many years had to travel long distances for basic necessities,” said Delegate Brown. “I am thankful to all of our past and present leaders for their persistence and determination.”

Project funding was secured through the \$150 million Permanent Trust Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan that was approved by the Navajo Nation Council in April 2016, for the purposes of increasing economic, community, and agricultural development throughout the Navajo Nation. The funding for the expenditure plan was obtained from the annual income/interest earned from the PTF’s principal balance. No funding from the PTF’s principal was utilized.



PHOTO: Local community members presented a quilt depicting the history of the Dennehotso community to Navajo leaders in Dennehotso, Ariz. on Feb. 7, 2018.

The Dennehotso Chapter withdrew 10-acres of trust land for the 6,700 square-foot facility that will house a convenience store, gas station, laundromat, and a deli-eatery. The project also includes the extension of a sewer main underneath U.S. Hwy. 160 to the community’s lagoon. The Division of Economic Development provided funding from the Economic Development Sales Tax for the infrastructure development at the site.

Upon signing the contract, President Begaye and Vice President Nez acknowledged and thanked past leaders who worked very hard to push for the project to help local community members. Dennehotso Chapter officials presented the Nation’s leaders with a quilt depicting the history of the community, on behalf of the community members.

Chapter officials said that many local Navajo people often hitchhike or drive to the nearby towns of Cortez or Farmington to purchase basic necessities. With the new development, the officials say many elderly and young community members will benefit from the services.

Arviso Construction Company anticipates the project will be completed by the end of 2018, and will be located near the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 160 and Navajo Route 6465 across from the Dennehotso Boarding School.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council