



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council Delegate Lee Jack's efforts to build White Cone multipurpose facility given blessing by President Shirley

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – A \$5 million multi-purpose facility project will become a reality for the community of White Cone Chapter after a ten year effort led by Honorable Lee Jack Sr. President Joe Shirley Jr., signed documents today, which will officially begin construction.

The signing ceremony approves Arviso Construction Company, Inc., as the lead contractor with the project scheduled to break ground next month and be completed in the spring. The LAM Corporation of Gallup, N.M. is the principal architect and designer for the 17, 727 square feet project.

"This is a big accomplishment for the White Cone community; we have been working on this project for ten years," Jack (Whitecone/Indian Wells) said. "A big part of this project's progress is collaboration. We had the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands program conduct the site development and the Transportation and Community Development Committee provide funding from capital outlay funds."

Honorable Sampson Begay (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain), chairman of TCDC, sponsored legislation allocating \$4.5 million for construction and the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program providing \$300,000 for site preparation. In 1998, TCDC previously allocated \$250,000 for planning and design.

The White Cone Multipurpose Facility Project will be situated within the chapter's community development tract and will consist of a gymnasium with wood flooring and bleachers, a weight room, office spaces for rent and two large classrooms for meetings, trainings and conferences. A skateboard park and baseball/softball field will also be built on the outskirts of the multipurpose complex. The skateboard park is funded by the Navajo Department of Parks and Recreation.

"The construction of the facility will provide jobs and a safe place where anyone can become involved in an active and healthy environment," Jack said. "The multi-purpose building will also help address diabetes, obesity, and will assist with achieving or maintaining a healthy body."

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President Shirley signs documents for the construction of the White Cone Multipurpose Facility Project. Left to Right: Cal Thomason of LAM Corporation, Chapter President Bennie Hanley, Oran Arviso of Arviso Construction, President Shirley, Orville Arviso of Arviso Construction and Honorable Lee Jack. (Photo by Alastair Bitsoi). In the right photo: Debbie Hanley, Honorable Jerry Freddie, Bennie Hanley, and Honorable Lee Jack at May 24 ground breaking ceremony. (Photo by Laphilda Tso)



Jack also said White Cone High School will utilize the multipurpose facility for basketball, softball and baseball games. Currently, White Cone High School uses local elementary and middle schools for its athletic programs.

"This has been the community's dream and I thank them for their support, commitment and patience," Jack said. "The chapter's advisory committee initiated this project and helped with the selection of the LAM Corporation as the principal architect."

"On behalf of the White Cone chapter, community and previous chapter officials, we are thankful," added Bennie Hanley, White Cone Chapter President. "Our next goal is to build a restaurant and hotel next to the complex."

The signing ceremony also included staffers from the Office of the Speaker, Office of the President, and Navajo AML's Madeline Roanhorse among other attendees.

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