



\$19 MILLION FUNDING FOR CHAPTERS

President Shelly signed off on legislation to provide chapters with \$19 million from the Undesignated, Unreserved Fund Balance, page 9.



\$554 MILLION TRUST LITIGATION SETTLEMENT

The Navajo Nation litigation against the federal government for breach of trust responsibilities resulted in a \$554 million settlement, page 20.



\$1 BILLION ABANDONED URANIUM MINE CLEANUP

The bankruptcy settlement from the Tronox Inc. litigation has provided more than \$1 billion for cleanup of 49 abandoned uranium mines, page 21.

HOZHOOJÍ NAHAT'Á BA HANE'

JULY 2014
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE NAVAJO NATION

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS
WWW.PRESIDENT.NAVAJO-NSN.GOV



President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim celebrated Navajo sovereignty on June 27, when the Navajo Nation Title IV-E Agency Plan and Child Welfare Partnership Agreement were signed into law. The Navajo Nation is the first tribal nation to administer the entire Title IV-E program through a direct funding agreement. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

NAVAJO SOVEREIGNTY

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Quality foster care is important in keeping children safe and providing a stable living environment.

On June 24, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly received a letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services stating that the Nation was approved to begin their Title IV-E plan, effective Oct. 1, 2014.

The Navajo Nation set a new precedent

in foster care with a recent decision by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families (Children's Bureau) to execute a direct funding agreement with the Nation.

"We applaud the Navajo Nation's efforts in bringing approval of this plan to fruition that, once implemented, should help further strengthen the safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for your most valuable children and families,"

stated Joo Yeun Chang, associate commissioner of the Children's Bureau.

On June 27, President Shelly penned the agreement into law, along with representatives from the Division of Social Services, Judicial Branch, Legislative Branch and Children's Bureau.

"The Navajo Division of Social Services is the first tribal program in the country to administer the Title IV-E program," President Shelly said. *SEE Navajo on page 14*

\$34 million Kayenta Justice Center opens new detention facility, police headquarters

KAYENTA—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly will tour the new \$34 million justice facility in Kayenta on Tuesday, marking the substantial completion of the American Recovery Reinvestment Act funded project.

He will be signing the official acceptance of the center from the Bitco-Kitchell project team on June 20 at 10 a.m..

Designed by Sloan Architects, the 54,000 square foot building consists of 84 beds, a short-term holding facility for male and female inmates, and a 13,500 square foot support building that will house dispatch, police and criminal investigation

departments.

"This new justice center will provide the Nation with needed infrastructure for detention services and a suitable headquarters for our Navajo Police in the area," President Shelly said. "The facility will allow our public safety officers to continue direct services to the Navajo people."

The facility is located next to the Kayenta District Court, which is another benefit. The location cuts down on travel distance because in the past, families had to travel to other detention facilities in Tuba City or Window Rock to visit incarcerated relatives.

Detention facility

overcrowding will find some relief with the new facility, President Shelly added.

Other touches to the new center include culturally beneficial healing areas for a sweathouse, teepee ground and a hogan.

The Navajo Nation Department of Corrections emphasized the importance of maintaining family connections and cultural values in facility, which they believe will help incarcerated members rehabilitate and transition back into society.

Brad Gabel, a partner from Bitco-Kitchell, said the joint venture maximized job opportunities for local workers.

"The construction team created 'carve outs' of construction projects to maximize participation by community laborers," Gabel said. "The result was an 80 percent Navajo worker participation rate throughout the project."

He noted that his team was honored to be a part of the project, especially the cultural immersion, which increased their knowledge of Navajo traditions and customs.

Bitco is a leading Navajo owned construction management firm. Kitchell is a Phoenix-based construction company with more than 60 years in business.



Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim toured the Kayenta detention facility in April 2014 and met with the construction crew, many of which were Navajo employees. The facility opened in June and includes a police headquarters. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Yá'át'ééh!

Welcome to the first issue of *Hozhooji Nahat'á Ba Hane'*.

There are many issues facing the Navajo Nation today and the stories provided in this newsletter are only a glimpse of some of the current challenges.

One such story is the court settlement for the Navajo Nation trust litigation against the federal government for breach of trust. The \$554 million settlement is a victory for the Nation and will go a long way to addressing needs with infrastructure, housing, academic scholarships and providing services to our disabled tribal members.

We recently celebrated the Treaty of 1868, which brought our Navajo ancestors back home from *Hweeldi*. It is because of their sacrifice that we survived to become the thriving, 300,000-plus powerhouse of today. We must never forget them or the treaty.

For the first time in more than 14 years of trying, the Navajo Nation has approved the Capital Improvement Projects five-year plan. This was a long time coming,

especially for the 110 chapters that submitted prioritized projects over the years. In cooperation with the 22nd Navajo Nation Council, this major achievement was completed.

Working together and communicating effectively between our branches of government is the only way we will move our Nation forward. We cannot fall back into the rut we were in five years ago, when nothing moved, except petty news releases slinging mud between the branches.

Vice President Rex Lee Jim launched the Navajo Nation Golden Rule Day in April. As ambassador for peace and recipient of the Peace and Humanities International Golden Rule International Award, Vice President Jim will be hosting this annual Golden Rule event. His first effort brought peacemaking, effective communication and difficult conversations to the forefront of tribal consciousness.

We have also provided an update from the divisions, on major accomplishments completed during the first quarter of FY 2014. We

are making tremendous headway on behalf of the Navajo people and we have a vision to continue moving forward.

Thanks to the efforts of Sen. John Pinto, Gov. Susana Martinez, NM Dept. of Transportation Sec. Tom Church and Navajo DOT director Paulson Chaco, we will see the completion of four-lane construction on U.S. Route 491. This tremendous undertaking is funded through performance bonds issued by NMDOT, which was approved by Gov. Martinez.

There's much happening on the Navajo Nation. Take a peek inside and read the latest news affecting your chapters and communities. Read about how the Shelly-Jim Administration has been making a difference to improve your quality of life.

Ahe'hee.

Ben Shelly, President
THE NAVAJO NATION



ASAAYII LAKE FIRE DONATIONS

TSE BONITO, N.M.—Navajo Nation chapters, including Local Governance Act certified chapters, are a sub-unit of the tribal government. As such, they are required to follow the policies and procedures set forth by the tribal government.

The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management was established under Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, under Article 4, Section 881.

As such, they are mandated by the Council to “lead Navajo Nation efforts, in protecting from all hazards and threats by coordinating: preparedness, protection, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation, to provide effective and efficient emergency management services.”

Additionally, they are granted general and enumerated powers under Section 884.

This includes “ensuring the accountability by establishing specific policies, procedures and guidelines for the use of funds, goods, services or any type of assistance intended for use in meeting the requirements of the people in any declared emergency.”

Recent media accounts about donations from the Asaayii Lake Fire being taken without cause are untrue. These sensationalized news stories have been based on Facebook posts from displaced residents affected by the Asaayii Lake Fire.

For more than one week Navajo communities

affected by the fire have been under tremendous stress worrying about their homes, livestock and the condition of the land.

Compounding their worries is the inconvenience of having to live in temporary shelters for an unknown amount of time. This increases their level of frustration and anger from the emergency situation.

An obvious outlet for many to vent these frustrations have been social media sites such as Facebook, where they have let loose a litany of diatribes and blame on the Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and the Department of Emergency Management.

These have included several death threats.

The need for accountability of donations is mandated by the Navajo Nation Code, which specifically relegates these authorities to the NNDEM.

“The Department of Emergency Management has been in compliance with all applicable tribal laws, policies and procedures since the start of the Asaayii Lake Fire,” said Rose Whitehair, director of NNDEM.

She noted that the negative comments and innuendo posted on social media sites have been erroneously taken as fact by several news outlets reporting on the fire.

“Reporters are supposed to be objective in their reporting and not subjective, which is definitely happening in

the case of the donations,” Whitehair said. “The fire has flared the emotions of many, but it must be understood that we are in compliance with tribal law.

“The donations are being accounted for and provided as necessary,” she added.

The Navajo Transportation Complex has been hosting teleconference briefings at 6 p.m. since June 20 at the Emergency Operations Center.

The purpose of the briefings is to share activities out in the field with stakeholders in the tribal government, from such areas as natural resources, transportation and public safety.

During the June 22 briefing, news of closures at the Newcomb High School and Tohatchi High School was shared. Both locations will no longer serve as shelters for displaced residents or provide meals.

The Newcomb location will continue to serve firefighters battling the blaze.

In operation still is the Naschitti shelter location, which has a total of 10 people at that location, eight adults and two children. Many families were given the green light to return to their homes today.

The NNDEM will have hard numbers on the number of displaced residents tomorrow, including actual evacuees that received donations from the centers.

2014 NAVAJO TREATY DAY CELEBRATION

President Shelly contrasts treaty with modern day federal government trust responsibilities



President Shelly said the federal government trust responsibilities to the Navajo Nation are outlined in the Treaty of 1868. He said Navajos must return to the traditional concept of self-reliance. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

FT. DEFIANCE, Ariz.—Under a cloudless sky and blazing hot sun, tribal leaders and local community members gathered to commemorate an event central to the Navajo people’s survival.

On May 31, the community of Ft. Defiance gathered to celebrate Treaty Day with a reenactment of the Treaty of 1868 signing, guest speakers and a barbecue luncheon.

More than 100 people gathered at the Bureau of Indian Affairs Park near the old hospital to participate in the festivities.

The Treaty of 1868 guaranteed more than freedom for the Navajo people. It created another way of life for the Navajo people and new responsibilities for the federal government.

Hweeldi Ba Hane’

The Long Walk of 1864 began with the scorched earth tactics of Kit Carson, who burned Navajo crops and killed livestock in order to force Navajos into surrender.

As Navajos surrendered, they eventually began the 400-mile journey to Ft. Sumner in southeastern N.M. Scores of Navajos died along the way, many of them elders and children.

They suffered internment at Ft. Sumner and many lives were lost during the time of Navajo history known as *Hweeldi*. The Long Walk changed the lives of Navajo people for the generations that followed.

T’áá hwó ájít éego, or self-reliance, was the mindset of many Navajo people before the Long Walk. After the return back home, that philosophy was changed into dependence upon the government and the reluctance from federal officials to live up to trust responsibilities guaranteed in the Treaty of 1868.

T’áá hwó ájít éego

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly has long since said we need to return to that traditional lifestyle of doing for ourselves because nobody will do things for us.

President Shelly was keynote speaker and began by acknowledging the lives

lost at *Hweeldi* and said it was because of their sacrifice that Navajo people were alive today and thriving.

“When the Navajo people returned from *Hweeldi*, we had to start over again. Homes had to be rebuilt. Crops had to be replanted. We had to learn to live under the federal rules and regulations,” President Shelly said.

Today, he said the Navajo Nation is 300,000 strong and still growing.

“Our sovereignty and strength is in our language, *Diné bizaad*. The Navajo language saved this country from war, through the heroics of our Navajo Code Talkers,” he said.

Breach of Trust

On May 30, President Shelly signed legislation into law that ended the litigation against the federal government for breach of trust in safeguarding Navajo Nation trust fund assets. These assets included mineral right royalties from coal, oil and gas.

The Navajo Nation will receive \$554 million in an agreement that ends the litigation that has been in court since Dec. 29, 2006.

“I want the priorities for this \$554 million to go toward housing, infrastructure, scholarships and accessibility for our disabled Navajo citizens,” President Shelly said.

Because of limited funding, budget cuts and diminishing mineral royalties, President Shelly said he has been fiscally conservative with the Nation’s money, often executing the line item veto to trim spending.

The funding from the lawsuit will change all of that.

“With this half-a-billion dollar surplus, I will begin loosening these line item vetoes so that projects can be funded,” he said. “All I ask is that our legislators follow the proper tribal law and processes for their projects.”

The Executive and Legislative Branches of government will begin meeting to plan for the money, he said, and that a 120-day review period will begin for the prioritization of projects.

“T’áá hwó ájít éego. That is what our elders taught us,” President Shelly said.

Navajo Nation CIP five-year plan approval

After 14 years of effort, President Shelly signs plan into law



Top, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signs the Navajo Nation CIP five-year plan into law after 14 years. Above, Legislative and Executive leadership stand poised. (Photos by Rick Abasta)

It took almost 14 years to complete.

On May 5, President Ben Shelly signed the Navajo Nation Five-Year Plan into law and finalized 14 years of effort for prioritizing capital improvement projects.

During the spring session last month, the 22nd Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0118-13 and recommended for approval to President Shelly the Navajo Nation five-year capital improvement projects plan.

The multi-year plan is for capital expenditures, including a detailed one-year capital improvement budget. The priority list includes anticipated project costs, source of

capital funds to complete projects, completion dates, and priority rankings.

The CIP plan includes various infrastructure projects, such as bathroom additions, house wiring, power lines, waterlines, buildings, wastewater treatment plants, parking lots, roads, sewer lines, and heavy equipment.

Cause for Celebration

The mood was celebratory as President Shelly penned his name to the legislation.

The five-year CIP plan from 2013 to 2017 totals \$295,669,676.35 for projects from the 110 chapters.

The Division of Community Development, along with

the Capital Improvement Office, hosted a barbecue luncheon at the Window Rock Veterans Park to kickoff the festivities.

President Shelly and members of the Navajo Nation Council provided remarks about the achievement during the luncheon, before sharing the news with the Navajo people during a live remote broadcast with KTNN AM 660 at the Office of the President and Vice President.

Navajo Nation Council

Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) said the CIP plan from the 110 chapters was a major legislation that involved a lot of effort from tribal leaders and provided a blueprint for infrastructure development moving forward.

She mentioned that perhaps the interest from the Permanent Trust Fund could be utilized to fund the projects for the 110 chapters.

“Thank you to the Resources and Development Committee. We stood strong and worked on this. By a vote of 19-1, it passed Council. Thank you, delegates,” Benally said.

LoRenzo Bates (Nenahezad, Newcomb, San Juan, T’iistoh Sikaad, San Juan, T’iistoh Sikaad, Tse’ Daa’ Kaan, Upper Fruitland) said passage of the CIP plan was a new beginning for the Navajo Nation.

“We’re moving forward in improvements

that are needed at the chapter level, as well as at the central government level,” Bates said. “This has been in the making for nearly 14 years.”

He noted that the 2014-2015 budget for the Navajo Nation is the first time there will be no waiver of the Appropriations Act because of the unavailability of a five-year plan.

“The next big step is to fund these projects,” he added.

Jonathan Nez (Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Shonto, Tsaah Bii Kin) gave appreciation to President Shelly and the 22nd Navajo Nation Council for moving the initiative forward.

“I want to say to the Navajo people that this is your voice and a lot of the chapter officials deserve great kudos,” Nez said. “I want to thank each and every one of them for bringing their project listings to the Council.”

He added that there is still time for chapters to submit proposals.

“At the end of the day, as President Shelly always states, ‘It’s about job creation.’ I believe there will be a lot of job creation as a lot of these projects go into construction,” Nez said.

Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) said he was thankful for the careful deliberation from tribal leaders to approve the CIP plan.

“There are many challenges facing our people. We need roads

for our school kids,” Hale said. “We are thankful for this legislation moving forward.”

George Apachito (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee) agreed with his colleagues and said it was time to address the many needs out at the chapters, such as new buildings for the Navajo Head Start students.

He gave thanks to the vision and leadership of the Resources and Development Committee, Health and Human Services Committee, and Speaker Pro Tem Bates.

“To our Navajo people, these are your funds. We will be moving forward on your behalf. Ahe’hee,” Apachito said.

Working Together, Making Change Work

President Shelly was the final speaker for the KTNN live remote broadcast.

“This effort has been ongoing since 1998, during the days of the 88-member Navajo Nation Council, under the guidance of the former Transportation and Community Development Committee,” President Shelly said.

He said the CIP plan came directly from the Navajo chapters for infrastructure development.

They have conducted assessments for their community needs, he said, and noted that task forces were formed to conduct real property inventory and

identification of chapter boundaries.

“We have nearly \$2 billion in the Permanent Trust Fund and the interest from that is \$295 million, enough to fund these projects,” President Shelly said. “A lot of hard work went into working on this project listing for almost 14 years.

“We must combine our savings and leverage them against other funding sources to get this work done,” he added.

President Shelly said thanks and gratitude must be given to the past leaders that had a hand in developing the CIP plan, from Peterson Zah, Edward T. Begay, Albert Hale and Kelsey Begay.

“People say there’s bad things happening in Window Rock. That’s not what I see. I see planning and tribal leaders working together to move this Nation forward,” he said.

“As leaders, we make decisions for the benefit of all. There’s three branches working together. Now’s the time to get working on behalf of your communities,” President Shelly said. “Together, we’re making change work.”



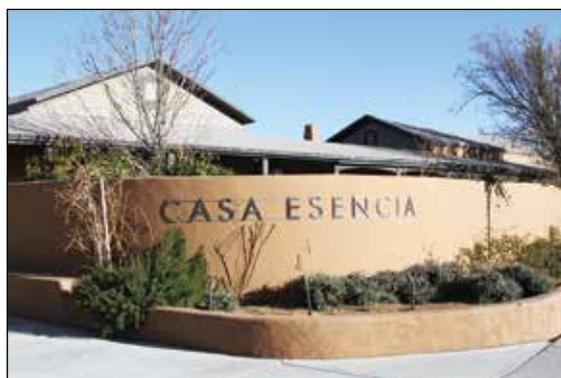
Tribes and pueblos stand united with a strong tongue for Tsoodzil TCP designation



Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim has been advocating for Tsoodzil to be recognized as a TCP at the international level. He said the name means “strong tongue.” (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Tsoodzil, also known as Mount Taylor, has been under attack by mining companies interested in the search for uranium on the mountain. (Photo by Ettie Anderson)



The historic Casa Esencia was the site of the Mount Taylor TCP designation celebration. Many in attendance were professional archaeologists and anthropologists. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

ALBUQUERQUE — Sometimes, the strength of a unified collective has to power to defeat the machinations of industry and development.

Such was the case with the traditional cultural property (TCP) designation of Mount Taylor in New Mexico.

Since time immemorial, Mount Taylor has been known as Tsoodzil to the Navajo people and has been revered as the southern mountain of the Four Sacred Mountains.

The traditional homeland of the Navajo people is located between the Four Sacred Mountains of Sisnaajini (Mount Blanca) to the east, Tsoodzil (Mount Taylor) to the south, Dook’o’shiid (San Francisco Peaks) to the west and Dibé Nitsaa (Mount Hesperus) to the north.

On March 18, 2014, Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim provided the welcome address at Casa Esencia Hotel to celebrate of the designation of Mount Taylor as a TCP. The event was hosted by the Society for Applied Anthropology and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

“Within Navajo, Tsoodzil means ‘strong tongue.’ So we speak with the power of Tsoodzil,” Vice President Jim said. “We are taught that the sacred begins at the tip of our tongue.

“So when we speak of Tsoodzil, we speak of our ability to articulate, to express ourselves in ways that convinces others,” he added.

Vice President Jim said Mount Taylor allowed Navajos, pueblos and tribes to speak what’s on their mind and in their heart and that it will always be the cultural property of native people.

“Some of us have been fighting on the international level through the United Nations, creating the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, so that all people, wherever they live, where they have sacred sites, that they will be protected,” he said.

The effort to protect Mount Taylor from uranium mining and other industrial development coalesced in 2007, when the Pueblo of Acoma began coordinating the effort for the TCP designation.

The TCP Workgroup was created as a partnership of five tribes – the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe and Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna and Zuni – to nominate Mount Taylor as a TCP with the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties.

Tribal cultural advisors, elders and traditional practitioners provided narratives on the cultural significance of the mountain and worked in tandem with GIS professionals, hydrologists, environmental specialists and archaeologists to document tribal relationships to the mountain.

Theresa Pasqual, director of the Pueblo of Acoma Historic Preservation Office, took the lead role in the effort,

after being inundated with mail from tribal members opposing the uranium mining.

The spark that ignited the effort to protect the mountain came Pasqual’s phone call to the Hopi Tribe and Pueblo of Zuni.

“I wanted to know if they were seeing the same things that I was seeing at my office: the enormous amount of letters regarding the proposed development happening on Mount Taylor,” she recalled.

A series of meetings titled “Protecting the Sacred” convened after that phone call and over the past seven years, the tribes worked together to map the mountain and reach out to national organizations to bring attention to preserving the mountain.

The Navajo Nation Land Department and Historic Preservation Department provided the maps and GIS data used for the technical aspects of the TCP designation.

“What came out of the effort was truly a partnership and that’s what we’re celebrating,” Pasqual said.

In 2009, the state provided the original TCP designation, which resulted in a mountain of opposing legislation

and lawsuits from private landowners, Spanish land grant members and uranium mining companies.

Pasqual said the slew of legislation was meant to undermine the cultural property laws in the State of New Mexico.

The case navigated through the state courts for five years and on Feb. 6, 2014, the New Mexico Supreme Court affirmed the TCP designation.

The high court’s decision to uphold the designation of 400,000 acres and assign it TCP status was unprecedented and profound, according to Dr. Jeffery Pappas, N.M. State Historic Preservation Officer and director of the N.M. Historic Preservation Division.

“It’s an immensely important recognition of a very important traditional and cultural property that is unprecedented throughout the American southwest,” Pappas said.

While the mood at Casa Esencia was celebratory, all agreed that the TCP designation of Mount Taylor was only the beginning and tribes and pueblos must continue working together for the protection of sacred sites and tribal sovereignty.

TSOODZIL

Tsoodzil is one of the Four Sacred Mountains of the Navajo, it is the mountain of the south. Decorated with turquoise, Tsoodzil is fastened to the earth with a stone knife and is covered with a blanket of blue cloud. The mountains are our leaders.

Tsoodzil is a significant site in the stories of the Navajo Hero Twins and their quest to eliminate the monsters of the area. Monster slayer killed the Walking Giant, whose blood you can still see to this day as lava flows in the area of Grants, N.M.

\$78 million funding designation for U.S. Route 491 construction

Sen. John Pinto's efforts for more than 20 years finally pays off



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly joined New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez to announce the funding designation of \$78 million to complete four-lane road construction on U.S. Route 491. Gov. Martinez said the funding was made possible through the sale of performance bonds by NMDOT to raise money. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



New Mexico Senator John Pinto said he gave more than two decades of his life lobbying for funding to complete the construction on U.S. Route 491. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly praised the efforts of Gov. Martinez and her willingness to work with the Navajo Nation on infrastructure projects across the Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Top, Gov. Susana Martinez lauded the hardwork and dedication of Tom Church, her cabinet member for NMDOT. She said they have been fiscally responsible. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

First Lady Martha Shelly coordinates One Sight Project, eye exams



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly has his eyes examined by the One Sight Project staff doctors. First Lady Shelly said the purpose was to provide youth and elders with eye care. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

KAYENTA, Ariz.— Navajo Nation First Lady Martha Shelly recently launched an initiative to provide eye examinations for elders and children in Kayenta.

The One Sight Project brought a mobile eye lab to provide eye exams, screenings, and eyeglasses courtesy of Walking Shield, Inc.

Serving families since 1986, Walking Shield has followed the mission of improving the quality of life for American Indian families by coordinating programs

that provide shelter, healthcare, community development support, educational assistance, and humanitarian aid.

Phil Stevens, a Lakota Sioux, founded Walking Shield, Inc. to improve the quality of life for American Indians. Walking Shield is his Lakota name.

From May 12 to 16, Navajo elders and children received eye exams and eyeglasses free of charge after signing up for the services months in advance.

First Lady Shelly said, “The One Sight Project is unique because they do eye screenings, eye exams and produce eyeglasses on site through their mobile lab.”

A total of 157 Navajo elders from Kayenta and the surrounding communities received services and 99 percent received eyeglasses.

In addition, 800 school kids received free eye exams and glasses. The students were from Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta, Pinon, Rough Rock, and

Shonto schools.

During the awards dinner on May 15, First Lady Shelly said the need for eye exams existed throughout the Navajo Nation because not all children and their families had the necessary insurance for examinations.

“In 2010, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) reduced the cost for children’s healthcare, especially in the area of eye exams and dental care,” she said. “In addition, we have parents

and grandparents that are not working and cannot afford healthcare.

“This project is addressing those needs,” she added.

For day one, the doctors served 150 elders from the Kayenta Senior Citizens Center. School kids were bussed in for the next three days to undergo exams for glasses.

In addition to the examinations for prescriptions, the professionals from Walking Shield checked for eye diseases and other

vision conditions.

The Navajo Nation First Lady’s Office continues their mission of providing public outreach to the elders and children across the Nation.

“Thank you to Walking Shield for providing these desperately needed services,” she said.



Navajo Nation forges ahead with new developments

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

The division has worked closely with the New Mexico Legislature in the 2014 session to acquire funding for several road and highway projects. Through such advocacy with chapters, state transportation department and legislators, the funding to complete four-lane construction on U.S. Route 491 was secured. This was not only a major victory of the Navajo Nation, but for Sen. John Pinto as well. His tireless service to the Nation and state is to be commended, especially his unwavering determination to get U.S. Route 491 widened. The Huerfano Chapter bridge construction is also underway, with collaboration with the San Juan County and BIA Transportation Dept. A second bridge project is also underway at Dennehotso, which is in the initial stages of planning and preliminary engineering. Both projects were funded through the direct funding agreement between Navajo DOT and the Federal Highway Administration. The collaboration with legislators in the Arizona Legislature continued in the 2014 session to revert a portion of the Navajo Nation Fuel Excise Tax funds that go to the state. The effort is intended to fund direct service delivery of road improvements on the Nation.

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The administration has provided technical assistance to chapters on information technology efforts regarding chapter websites, N.M. partnerships, and WIND updates. The Community Housing and Infrastructure Department received a \$5.9 million grant from NHA to construct 30 to 40 new homes on the Nation. Design and Engineering Services is moving forward with work on Administration Building No. One. Construction documents were completed and construction began in April 2014. The Solid Waste Management Program hosted 25 public education forums on proper solid waste management and recycling practices to 22 chapters and one community land use planning committee. Approximately 479 individuals attended the events.

DIVISION OF HEALTH

The Kayenta Health Center is now 72 percent complete and is expected to receive additional funding in FY 2015 for completion of construction. The head of the Office of the Environmental Health and Engineering, Admiral Gary Hartz, conducted a site visit of the facility. The Division of Health met this quarter to shore up partnerships between the Navajo Nation, federal government, states and non-profit entities to implement preliminary services for homeless veterans. The plan is to work toward creation of a Navajo Veterans Wellness Facility. For this past quarter, \$1,341,161 was paid to Navajo uranium workers through the Office of Navajo Uranium Workers.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

In the past quarter, the Budget Section reviewed and processed 100 program budgets for FY 2014 for supplemental appropriations. The reports were compiled and summarized into report format for the final FY 2013 expenditure reports for the branch chiefs and division directors. The Contracts and Grants Section has focused on the FY 2014 federal budget and tracking of continuing resolution number one. The impact of FY 2014 funding at the Navajo Nation level has not been determined. Work also continued on the FY 2016 budget request for PL 93-638 funding. The Nation submitted a \$49 million budget request for Health, Emergency Management Services, and Navajo Treatment Centers for Children and their Families. A total of \$262,337,404 was submitted to the BIA Navajo Region Office on behalf of 19 contracted programs for FY 2016.

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Minerals Department completed a draft agreement with Mid-America Pipeline Company for renewals of rights-of-way for existing natural gas liquid pipelines. Also included were oil and gas, and coal lease audits, plus sand and gravel lease applications. The Land Department completed the General Leasing Act of 2013 passage through the Navajo Nation Council and President Shelly delivered the legislation to the Secretary of the Interior. The Department of Fish and Wildlife auctioned bighorn sheep hunting permits to promote big game hunting on the Nation. They sold for \$35,000 and \$49,000 respectively. Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands completed FY 2010 Public Facility Projects for Forest Lake water system improvement and the Nageezi Chapter administration building expansion. The FY 2012 Whitehorse Lake Chapter waterline extension project was also completed.

WASHINGTON OFFICE

The Washington, D.C. Office has a stronger presence with local news organizations and reporters near the Navajo Nation and the communications director was recommended to serve on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee. The office continues to track legislation on behalf of the Nation, such as the Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act. In addition, they have facilitated communication between the Division of Dine' Education, Bureau of Indian Education, Department of Education and White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education regarding the Alternative Accountability Workbook and other issues. The office has worked on the rewrite of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which regulates telecommunications across the country.

OFFICE OF THE NAVAJO TAX COMMISSION

For the second quarter of FY 2014, a total of \$54,816,777 in tax revenues was collected, which represents 50

percent of the FY 2013 tax revenue projection. From that amount, \$35,139,045 is considered Navajo Nation General Funds. The office tax attorney addressed a large number of pending taxpayer appeals, consisting of 20 assessments and 16 cases. The attorney is also working with four chapters to develop tax ordinances.

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

The Office of the Controller has finalized the draft p-card policy and procedure and forwarded the document to the Navajo Nation Council standing committees for approval in April 2014. Grant closeout activities continue and there is a need for temporary staff to closeout FEMA grants. The Title III grant reports are complete and reimbursements have been received for services that do not involve client services. Training for online reporting was done in April 2014. Title III grants will be audited by KPMG. A total of \$1,902,416.64 for right-of-way revenues was collected for the quarter, including \$328,840.98 for land rent revenues.

NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMISSION OFFICE

The FY 2012 U.S. Department of Energy grant was executed with Tetra Tech, Inc. for implantation of Phase III on the 4,000-megawatt solar farm at Paragon Bisti Ranch, in N.M. The \$2 million NAHASDA grant detailed project management plan, including budget and training was completed. Additionally the office completed three work sessions with nine Former Bennett Freeze Area chapters. Ten ongoing projects have been reactivated to the end of FY 2014 utilizing monies from the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

President Shelly signs \$19 million funding distribution to chapters



For the duration of his administration, President Shelly has been fiscally conservative, often invoking the line item veto to save money. The UUFB was in the red by \$22 million when he took office. After building up a \$30 million savings, he was recently able to sign off on \$19 million from the UUFB for the 110 Navajo chapters. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe leadership meet, discuss golden eagles, confluence



Top, President Shelly spoke on the plight of the golden eagle and shared a photo of Shelly, his adopted eagle at the Navajo Nation Zoo. Above, Chairman Honanie listens. (Photos by Rick Abasta)

Navajo DOJ attorney Katie Grounds explains the trespassing order against the Hopi Tribe for fiber optic drilling near the Jeddito area. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Top, attorney general Harrison Tsosie shares concerns from the Navajo Nation on the golden eagle harvests conducted by Hopis. Above, Chairman Honanie views a map. (Photos by Rick Abasta)



The Feb. 2014 meeting between Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, Vice President Rex Lee Jim, and Hopi Chairman Honanie was amicable and informative. They spoke on issues ranging from the golden eagle harvests to surface damage issues in Jeddito to the Grand Canyon Escalade near the confluence on the Little Colorado River. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

GENERAL LEASING ACT

The U.S. Department of Interior has approved the Navajo Nation General Leasing Regulation Act of 2013, after meeting with Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly several times since 2013.

President Shelly traveled to Washington, D.C. in March and again met with federal officials on a host of issues, including leasing provisions, telecommunications, housing and Navajo Head Start. He also met with the Interior Department to stress the importance of approving the General Leasing Act, especially for its use with the Navajo Land Title Data System.

In 2013, the General Leasing Regulation Act was enacted to streamline residential and business site leasing on the Navajo Nation by providing the Nation authority to approve such leases without involvement from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

However, mineral and right-of-way leases were excluded from the legislation and still require DOI approval, he said.

“The approval of the General Leasing Act by the Department of Interior is another step toward self-sufficiency,” President Shelly said. “This provides the Navajo Nation the authority to approve leases for homes and businesses.

“New business means growth and economic development for the Nation,” he added.

The Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act, or the HEARTH Act, was enacted on July 30, 2012, after President Barack Obama signed H.R. 205 into law.

The bill followed the Navajo Nation Leasing Act of 2000 as a template.

Mike Halona, manager of Navajo Land Department said approving the Navajo Nation General Leasing Regulation Act of 2013 would be another historic step for Indian Country.

“There will be no need for the BIA to approve residential home site leasing, schools, religious sites, agriculture, energy, grazing. The Navajo Nation can now do all of those needs to streamline the approval process,” Halona said.

“Once again, the Navajo Nation is leading the way for the rest of Indian Country by using technology and self-determination,” President Shelly said. “The Navajo Nation improved the HEARTH Act for all tribes.”

The decision to use the Navajo Nation Leasing Act as a template occurred in 2010, when Halona and others met with the BIA and DOI to request for seed money for the Navajo Land Title Data System.

The Navajo Land Department is currently uploading data to the NLTDS.

All current conveyances are being uploaded to the database and Halona said the department is simultaneously entering past data records. He anticipates completion in one to two years.

“Then we’ll have the government certify our system as a title plant,” he said.

Streamlining the land conveyance process will provide users with access to personal, industrial and economic leases, including community land use plans. Since 2006, the Land Department has invested \$1.2 million into the database.

“Which is peanuts when you consider what we’ve been able to develop. We developed a system that you cannot get anywhere else and helped all tribes,” Halona said.

The Navajo Land Department will have an enterprise license in place by summer and will begin providing other tribal departments and entities with access to their automated land title plant.

Twelve tribes are already on the waiting list for the chance to follow the NLTDS as a template for their own automated database.

“Imagine the independence that we’ll have. We’ll know every square inch of our land,” Halona said.

Navajo Nation Adult Guardianship Act of 2014 signed into law by President Shelly



President Shelly signed the Navajo Nation Adult Guardianship Act of 2014 into law in June 2014. The law reaffirms the rights of disabled citizens. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—*T’aa bi bohoh niih.*

“It’s up to the person” is not only a concept of Navajo Fundamental Law, but it is also an inherent right of disabled Navajo citizens.

On June 12, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed the Navajo Adult Guardianship Act of 2014 into law and reaffirmed the rights of disabled Navajos.

“The most important thing we need to remember is that (disabled citizens) have rights that are guaranteed by Navajo Fundamental Law,” President Shelly said.

Such rights include decision making in regard to finances, education, housing and guardianship consent.

He explained that when the Shelly-Jim administration first took office, they began by hosting a series of town hall meetings across the Navajo Nation to engage the Navajo people on their needs.

From those discussions, the challenges facing disabled Navajo citizens came to light, in particular the fact that there have been no major amendments to the tribal code regarding the disabled since 1945.

The newly enacted Guardianship Act changes all of that.

“We have been meeting with Hoskie Benally, president of the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities to assist with legislation that meets (the disabled) needs,” President Shelly said. “We’ve also been meeting with the Native American Disability Law Center to discuss the legal aspects of the legislation.”

He said the Executive Branch would make the recommendation to invest funding from the \$554 million trust settlement for accessibility at tribal offices and buildings, including facilities at the chapter level.

We have not forgotten the needs of our disabled Navajos, he said, especially since many are returning home with disabilities from the war.

Hoskie Benally, president of the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities, expressed gratitude for the new law.

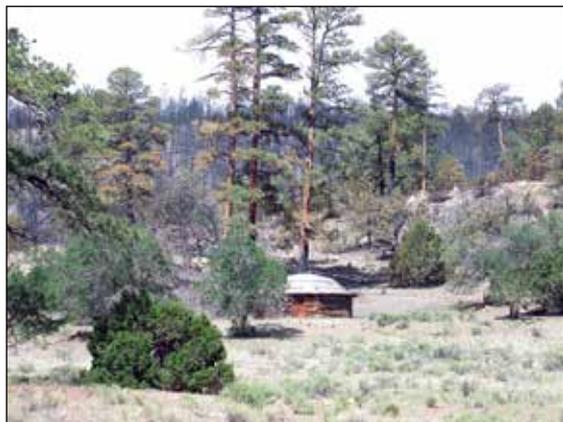
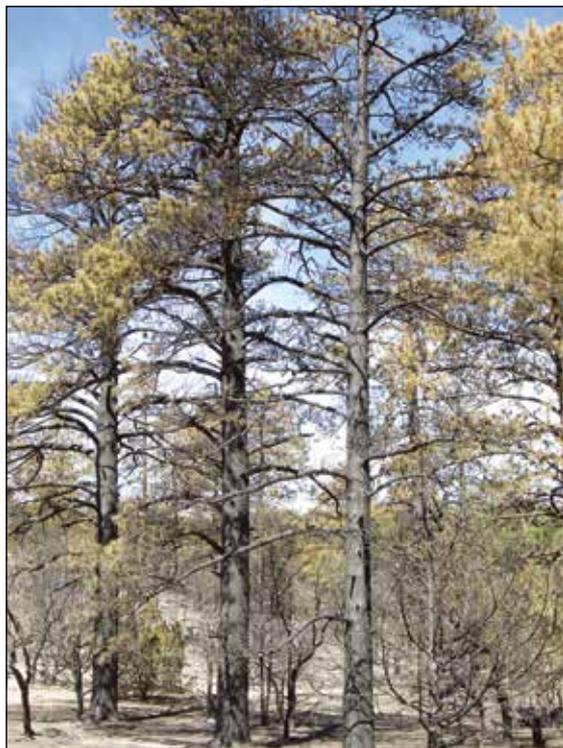
“It’s been since 1945 that (the tribal code) has been revised to meet the needs and give the due process to those with disabilities,” Benally said.

Council delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Standing Rock, White Rock) called the law “historical.”

“I took this legislation very personal to get it passed. As you know, when something very comprehensive comes before the council, it takes five to 10 years to get it passed,” Simpson said.

The 26-page legislation took one-and-a-half years to get enacted by the Navajo Nation Council and President Shelly.

Asaayii Lake Fire spreads after high winds batter Navajo Nation



The Asaayii Lake Fire scorched more than 14,000 acres and became the largest wildfire in Navajo Nation history. More than 20 structures were burned, but many others survived, including large areas of forest and vegetation. (Photos by Ettie Anderson)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Emotions were running high.

But in the midst of adversity, there is one major truth about the Asaayii Lake Fire: there has been no loss of human life.

Clouds of smoke have billowed across the horizon since Saturday. Residents are worried about their homes and livestock in the mountainous area.

On June 17, Gov.

Susana Martinez flew into Window Rock and met with Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim.

She came to offer assistance to the Navajo Nation and take a firsthand look at the fire that began in the Asaayii Lake area.

“We have a strong working relationship with Gov. Martinez and we appreciate her taking the time to offer assistance,”

President Shelly said. “There have been numerous individuals and organizations that have stepped forward to help.

“We appreciate this outpouring of support. Together, we can make a difference,” he added.

President Shelly and Gov. Martinez walked through the command center shaking hands and commended firefighters for their hard work in extinguishing the blaze.

The fire was described as “spotty” and a “dirty burn” by operations staff. This meant portions of land were still left untouched.

Gov. Martinez had questions about the loss of livestock and structures in the fire. She also asked if the livestock board was being utilized to clear out livestock in the fire area.

Officially, two structures were reported as burned and no reports have come in regarding loss of livestock. Crews couldn’t get anyone into the area to clear out the livestock because of the road closures and potential danger from gusting winds.

The primary concern for the fire crews has been structures and watersheds.

Staff said 13 Type-I hotshot crews are battling the blaze, along with Type-II initial attack crews, 15 engines, four dozers and miscellaneous taskforce leaders and other resources.

Incident commander Bea Day explained that it was a full suppression fire and that was the

reason why they were actively going after the fire with the number of crews they have.

“We also have a number of aircraft, if we can fly them,” Day said. “We are ready to take action and we are looking good on the south side and west side.”

She said they had great coordination with the BIA Navajo Region and the Navajo Nation for the purpose of successfully extinguishing the fire. Chapter houses have been actively participating as well, with spike camps in Crystal and Sheep Springs.

Rose Whitehair, agency representative for the Navajo Nation, spoke of the need to dispel rumors about the need for cash donations. She noted that the money was not going to the firefighters or to the incident command team.

“The Red Cross is here and they are helping us with the huge amount of donations. They’re giving us technical assistance with donations management,” Whitehair said.

The Navajo United Way has also stepped up to assist with monetary donations. An account has been established under the name “Asaayii Lake Fire Relief Fund.” She explained that Facebook pages sprung up for acceptance of monetary donations. The governor knew of the propensity for fraud during an emergency from past experiences.

“It’s going to be very difficult. That’s why donate the cash donations go only to the Red

Cross,” Gov. Martinez said. “You’ve got to get that word out.

“Also, do not accept calls soliciting from Red Cross. Instead, say if I’m going to donate, I’ll make the call,” she added.

She asked if additional law enforcement assistance was needed for the state police to be on standby or to be onsite. However, Whitehair said they were already working with the necessary resources and that the incident command was already being inundated with traffic.

Day said some residents disregarded the roadblocks and snuck through the blockades during the middle of the night in search of their livestock.

“I understand their concern,” she said. “But they have to understand that it’s still very dangerous in here.”

After the briefing, President Shelly, Vice President Jim and Gov. Martinez boarded a N.M. National Guard helicopter and flew over the site to see the fire damage before landing on a baseball field at Newcomb School.

They met with Newcomb Chapter residents and shared information about the aerial view of the fire damage. The spot fire patterns were consistent with reports from the crews battling the blaze.

President Shelly and Gov. Martinez assured the residents that the fire wasn’t as enormous as it seemed. The heavy smoke gives the

impression that all of the landscape is charred, but that isn’t the case.

They also traveled to Nashcitti Chapter and again met with residents to reassure them that the wheels were in motion to extinguish the blaze.

With the winds dying down, the incident management team was able to get more aerial vehicles out to drop water and fire retardant.

On June 17, President Shelly and Vice President Jim broadcast news about the fire to listeners of KTNN AM 660.

President Shelly’s address focused on the coordinated efforts, from the June 12 executive order mandating fire restriction to the declaration of emergency and the call for tribal programs to assist with the fire.

Vice President Jim’s address focused on safety and he encouraged residents to stay away from the fire zone until the crews had the blaze under control. He also reminded the Navajo people to pray and remember the traditional values.

The next day, medicine men and women were allowed access to the fire site to provide offerings and prayers for the winds to calm for the fire to be extinguished. Vice President Jim also provided prayers and offerings.

President Shelly said the Division of Natural Resources is already communicating with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reseed the damaged areas.

Southwest Area Incident Management Team 3 controls fire within two-weeks



Hotshots from the southwest and other crews from the Southwest Area Incident Management Team 3 quickly mobilized to control the blaze. (Courtesy photo)



Gov. Susana Martinez toured the fire damage with President Shelly in a Blackhawk helicopter from the N.M. National Guard to survey the damage. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Top, Vice President Jim, President Shelly and Gov. Martinez listened to a briefing in Ft. Defiance before flying over the fire. Above, Gov. Martinez makes a point. (Photos by Rick Abasta)



Top, spot fires burned some portions of the land, but trees and vegetation survived much of the blaze. Above, a somber sight of charred forest. (Photos by Ettie Anderson)

\$1.38 million NTUA reimbursement from FEMA



President Shelly and staff stand proudly after the signing for the \$1.38 million reimbursement from FEMA. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



NTUA assistant deputy manager Rex Koontz proudly displays the \$1.38 million check. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—It was the fastest processing for a FEMA reimbursement check for a tribal nation.

On June 11, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly presented Navajo Tribal Utility Authority with a \$1.38 million reimbursement check for costs associated with Operation Winter Freeze in early 2013.

Winter Freeze was the first tribal disaster declaration made by the Navajo Nation in accordance with amendments to the Stafford Act.

“Congratulations to the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management for their work with NTUA and FEMA to get this reimbursement processed quickly,” President Shelly said. “Great things happen when tribal entities work together.”

President Shelly plans

to submit a proposal for the creation of an escrow account to address unforeseen natural disasters that may arise in the future. This way, tribal entities can be repaid right away while the reimbursement process takes place.

Rose Whitehair, director of NNDEM, commended NTUA for their thorough accountability.

“They had 100 percent of their documentation and that made all the difference in the world,” she said. “We could not have done it without assistance from the Department of Justice and Office of the Controller.”

Most FEMA reimbursements take three to five years after the emergency declaration to be processed. Operation Winter Freeze was completed in one year.

“We do have a

computerized system and we went through a bit of trouble to get through the billing,” said Rex Koontz, deputy general manager for NTUA.

He said the tribal entity’s investment in the system paid dividends, especially when they were able to extrapolate data on the work committed, equipment used, labor hours and more.

“FEMA has their own reporting process that requires certain data. Our system automatically gave them the data and that made (the reimbursement) very quick,” Koontz said. “The Navajo Nation did very good. It unprecedented in getting these dollars back.”

Whitehair said NNDEM also obtained

approval from FEMA for refund for the Navajo Nation’s oldest disaster, Operation Hastlish, which was on the books since Dec. 28, 2004.

“President Shelly’s administration developed a new FEMA policy and procedures to streamline reimbursements. This was done with collaboration with NNDEM, DOJ, and OOC,” she said.

In preparation for the upcoming monsoon season, NNDEM has scheduled a sandbag training session on June 27 at the Navajo Nation Zoo.

Other courses include the Community Emergency Response Team training in July and the benefit cost analysis course in August.

www.fema.gov

Navajo Nation to operate Title IV-E program for foster children

Continued from page 1

“I commend Sharon McCabe and her staff for making this possible.

“Our kids are important and we must do everything we can to protect them,” he added.

Sharon Begay-McCabe is the director for DSS and has been working with the Children’s Bureau to amend the Nation’s foster care program since 2011, when President Shelly gave the directive to move forward on the direct funding agreement.

According to the Children’s Bureau, the Federal Foster Care Program helps to provide safe and stable out-of-home care for children until the children are safely returned home, placed permanently with adoptive families or placed in other planned arrangements for permanency.

Title IV-E is an annual appropriation with specific eligibility requirements and fixed allowable costs for uses of funds. In FY 2010, the

direct funding provision was made available to Indian nations, tribal organizations and tribal consortia with approved plans to operate the program.

The Navajo Nation is the first tribe to qualify and administer the entire Title IV-E program through a direct funding agreement.

“Families can now get reimbursed for caring of our children who are in the custody of Navajo Division of Social Services,” Begay said.

“This law will ensure and promote stability for our children and their families.”

The three main focus areas are in foster care, adoption and guardianship. The Nation will also be reimbursed for training and administrative costs.

“Running the Title IV-E program is an exercise of tribal sovereignty. We will operate a Title IV-E program that is culturally sensitive,” President Shelly said.

Child welfare partners

such as the Casey Family Program, Navajo Nation Judicial Branch, Division of Public Safety, Office of the Chief Prosecutor, Office of the Chief Public Defender, Department of Dine’ Education, Division of Health and Office of the President and Vice President were instrumental in getting the direct funding agreement approval.

The daylong celebration was held at Window Rock Veterans Memorial Park and included speakers from

across the country.

President Shelly signed the Navajo Nation Title IV-E Agency Plan and Child Welfare Partnership Agreement into law. It is a new precedent for Indian Country to have a tribe administer the entire Title IV-E program.



President Shelly joins Gov. Brewer to sign NTU funding agreement

PHOENIX—Education is a cornerstone for the Shelly-Jim administration.

In support of this, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met with Ariz. Gov. Jan Brewer on March 26 to sign a funding agreement between the Navajo Nation, the State of Arizona, Dine' College and Navajo Technical University.

A funding agreement between the Nation and Arizona has been in place since 1999, but recent amendments to the legislation allowed for funding to also be provided for Navajo Technical University.

While signing the agreement into law next to President Shelly, Gov. Brewer said, "It is an honor today to be able

to participate with you."

He responded, "Well, it's an honor to be with you today. I was supposed to be with Gov. Martinez, but I chose to be here with you today."

Flanked by Speaker of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council Johnny Naize, delegate Dwight Witherspoon, Dr. Maggie George, Dr. Elmer Guy and former delegate Andy Ayze, President Shelly and Gov. Brewer signed the agreement into law.

After the agreement was signed, President Shelly joined the group for photos and expressed appreciation for the funding.

"The Navajo Nation is thankful for the support we have received from Governor Brewer and the State of Arizona,"

President Shelly said. "This legislation gives our Navajo students a healthy learning environment and the necessary infrastructure at our tribal institutions of learning.

"Chief Manuelito instructed the Navajo people to climb the ladder of education. We are still climbing," he added.

Under terms of the agreement, Transaction Privilege Tax revenues collected on the Navajo Nation will be utilized to provide up to \$1.75 million annually for Dine' College and \$875,000 annually for Navajo Technical University. This will continue through 2020.

Gov. Brewer presented the "\$7 million pen" to President Shelly after the

signing was completed. He gave the pen to Dr. Guy as commemoration of the historic event for NTU.

On Feb. 7, 2014, Resolution No. 0038-14 was sponsored by Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hard Rock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) and introduced to the 22nd Navajo Nation Council as an action relating to Health Education and Human Services and the Budget and Finance Committees.

The funding compact with the state has been in place since Oct. 19, 1999 and was originally only for Dine' College. TPT funding collected on the Nation was provided to the college to support maintenance, renewal and capital expenses.



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signs an agreement with Arizona Governor Jan Brewer to provide NTU with \$7 million. The funds are covered by TPT revenues. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Bread Loaf School of English partners with Dine' College for workshop



Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim has advocated for the writing workshops at Dine' College, in collaboration with the Bread Loaf School of English. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

TSAILE, Ariz. — The Bread Loaf School of English collaborated with the Navajo Nation and Diné College for the Navajo Nation Writing Centers Workshop on Jan. 18-19, 2014. The two-day work session

took place at the Tsaile main campus.

Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim said the event was a success and that it was the first in a series of workshops designed to encourage writing for

participants of all ages.

"Reading and writing are the fundamentals of education. We must encourage our Navajo students to strengthen their writing as we continue to share our stories, culture and lives with the outside world," he said.

Schools that participated in the workshop included Window Rock Unified School District, Rough Rock Community School, Rock Point Community School, Gallup-McKinley County School District, Central Consolidated School District and Diné College students and faculty.

The respective schools identified representatives

that would benefit from renowned professionals at national higher education institutions across the country.

Vice President Jim said, "We ensured that each of the participants understood what a writing center is and that they would be able to convey the knowledge they gained when they returned back to their schools."

Although workshop was geared toward high school teachers and writing curriculum, invitations were also sent to students.

A sophomore from Window Rock High School had her eyes set on a writing career and said

the training was valuable. Her participation in the workshop was equally valuable for the teachers in attendance because she provided insight on what would interest students.

She suggested having access to library collections and historical records documenting the Navajo Nation as important components of the high school writing centers. The group also discussed the potential of dual credit programs with Diné College and Navajo Technical University at WRHS.

Other considerations included college students participating in a mentorship program

with high school students to prepare them for the rigors of college, especially with writing.

"Students expressing these kind of ideas are important," Vice President Jim said. "We must engage our students when developing educational programs."

The push for peer mentorship will continue, especially for college students tutoring high school students in language arts.



ASU Hozho' and Education: Tribal leaders meet with students



The Hozho' and Education leadership forum at Arizona State University on April 11 brought together students and tribal leaders. Discussions focused on leadership, jobs for college graduates, scholarships and maintaining cultural identity outside the Navajo Nation. President Shelly brought his cabinet members to provide specific insight on several subject areas. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



President Shelly answered questions on leadership and advocated for the return to the traditional Navajo philosophy of self-reliance. He said we must not be dependent on others (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Arizona Senator Carlyle Begay spoke of his humble beginnings as a sheepherder being raised by his grandmother. He said education was his way out. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Larry Curley, director of the Navajo Nation Division of Health, said there are many scholarship opportunities available for students in the health profession. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

President Shelly tours Cutter Dam, receives progress report on water delivery system



Water from the Cutter Reservoir will be utilized for the southwest portion of the Navajo-Gallup Water Delivery System, which will serve more than 250,000 residents. President Shelly toured the Cutter Dam with tribal, federal and state officials to receive an update on the project in May 2014. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

NAGEEZI, N.M.— Drive through the Navajo chapters of Nageezi, Huerfano and Dzil Na’oodilii, one thing becomes abundantly clear: the communities are in the midst of drought.

A recent tour with tribal, federal and state officials provided a firsthand view of the conditions in the northwestern N.M. communities located on the eastern portion of the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly joined chapter officials and representatives from the Navajo Nation Council, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services for a tour of Cutter Dam and Reach 22 on May 9.

The Cutter Lateral is one of two main laterals of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP).

Authorized for construction in 2009 through the BOR, the NGWSP is a basis of the New Mexico Water Rights Settlement between the Navajo Nation, U.S. and State of New Mexico.

Estimates from the bureau indicate that by

2040, a population of 250,000 will be served by the project.

It will provide a long-term, sustainable water supply from the San Juan River Basin to 43 chapters on the Navajo Nation, the southwest portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation and the city of Gallup, N.M.

In Sept. 2012, President Shelly and former U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced an agreement for \$43 million for the Navajo Nation to design and construct a portion of the NGWSP.

The portion will provide clean water to thousands of Navajos and create up to 600 new jobs in the area.

“This project has been in development for a long time, back to my days as a county commissioner and council delegate,” President Shelly said. “These chapters are in desperate need of water and this project will address that.”

The NGWSP is separated into 27 reaches for construction.

The BOR states that the beginning of a reach is typically the location of a turnout that will deliver water to communities.

The two main laterals of the project features 270 miles of pipeline.

Cutter Lateral will provide water to the eastern side of the Navajo Nation and a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. Reaches 21 through 26 are in the Cutter Lateral segment of the project.

The San Juan Lateral will begin at the San Juan River near Kirtland and stretch south along U.S. Route 491 through Gallup. Reaches 1 through 20 and 27 are in the San Juan Lateral of the project, with extensions to Crownpoint, N.M. and Window Rock, Ariz.

BOR construction engineer Barry Longwell facilitated the tour of Cutter Dam and provided information on the project.

Constructed in the early 1970s, the Cutter Reservoir was completed in 1974 and has provided water to the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project since. About 80,000 acres is under irrigation presently.

He explained that when the dam was built, a pipe was constructed through the bottom portion of the reservoir to release water when the dam was low.

“That’s where we’re going to tie into to get water for the Cutter Lateral,” Longwell said. “That will be our pipeline that will be taking water out to all of your communities around Highway 550.”

The 27-inch conduit that extends into the reservoir is where the Cutter Lateral begins. The BOR will be doing modifications to the concrete down at the bottom of the vault, including the pipe gaskets and joints.

We want to ensure the pipe doesn’t leak, so we’re going to put steel bands inside that pipe where and gaskets and joints and seal those, he explained.

“They’re 40 years old now. We don’t know what condition they’re in, so we’re going to seal them and make them water tight,” Longwell said.

A new vault and a T will be constructed for the Cutter Lateral pipeline to hook into for water delivery. The

pressure from the reservoir will be used to push the water down to the other side of Blanco Canyon, the site of the first pumping plant.

Longwell said the purpose was to reduce the amount of infrastructure in the remote location to keep costs low.

President Shelly expressed appreciation for the tour of the dam and explanation of its proposed Cutter Lateral use for Navajo chapters.

“For our chapters and communities in the Eastern Navajo Agency, the water is coming. All of you leaders from the eastern agency and agency council have a lot of planning to do,” he said.

“It’s great to see the progress that is being made on this project after so many years of development and discussions,” President Shelly said. “We will continue working together to serve the needs of the Navajo people.”

“For our chapters and communities in the Eastern Navajo Agency, the water is coming.”

VITAL STATISTICS

-Two main laterals totaling approximately 270 miles of pipeline.

-Cutter Lateral – Reaches 21 through 26. Serving the far eastern side of the Navajo Reservation and providing a tap to serve the TeePee Junction area of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation.

-San Juan Lateral – Reaches 1 through 20 and 27. Starting at the San Juan River near Kirtland, NM and extending southward, roughly following US Hwy 491 through Gallup; with extensions to Window Rock, AZ, and to nearby Crownpoint, NM.

-Numerous pumping plants and storage tanks.

-Two Water Treatment Plants – Cutter Lateral and San Juan Lateral.

-Power Supply Facilities – Project is eligible to receive Western Area Power Authority (WAPA) power.

-Navajo Nation (29,060 acre-feet/year = 6,410 in AZ and 22,650 in NM)

-City of Gallup (7,500 acre-feet/year)

-Jicarilla Apache Nation (1,200 acre-feet/year)

PNM-NN Workforce training provides opportunity



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly praised the partnership with PNM and the Navajo Nation to produce a strong workforce for the burgeoning energy market. (Photo Michele Morris)



The honorary stoles presented to students by President Shelly during the commencement ceremonies at Navajo Technical University and San Juan College. (Photo by Michele Morris)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—On April 17, 2014, more than 100 Navajo college students were honored at Navajo Technical University and San Juan College.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly joined Patricia K. Collawn of PNM to honor the students. Collawn is chairwoman, president and CEO of PNM.

Students received scholarships as part of the PNM-Navajo Nation Workforce Training Program for careers in energy, construction, manufacturing and technology.

One such person was Sean Tohannie, a SJC student majoring in instrument and controls technology.

In a letter to PNM and the Navajo Nation, Tohannie stated, “Since I live in Arizona and

San Juan College is in New Mexico, we had to commute to and from for a total of four hours. It took a lot of money and time out of our studying and homework. When we the extra money we were able to stay in motels for another day to catch up.”

Tohannie was one of the 47 NTU and 77 SJC students in certificate, associate and bachelor degree programs to receive scholarships since 2013.

The initiative was created in 2013 by PNM’s \$1 million five-year funding commitment. It is designed to prepare Navajos for jobs that are in demand and important to the Four Corners area and the Navajo Nation.

These jobs are in the energy, oil and gas, construction, information technology and manufacturing

sectors.

Addressing students at NTU, President Shelly said, “Here on the Navajo Nation, our most important resource is our Navajo people. Our human resources are our heart and mind.”

“To compete globally, we are creating a workforce to attract business. Our resources at home are you and your talent,” he added.

In May 2014, 12 students will graduate from NTU and nine will graduate from SJC.

NTU’s recent effort to offer a four-year degree brought in 15 PNM-Navajo Nation Workforce Training Program participants for enrollment in information technology, engineering and environmental science programs.

“As we move forward as a people, we are making

a future to provide for our families, how we are going to provide for our children and most importantly, how we are going to provide for our elderly,” President Shelly said.

He said there are over 300,000 Navajos in the world and what sets

said.

The training program is part of PNM’s efforts to minimize economic impact related to the proposed 2017 closure of two units at the San Juan Generating Station near Farmington.

The closure is part of an agreement between PNM, the Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department that would allow San Juan to comply with a federal regional haze rule.

The program scholarships are not funded by customer rates and provides \$200,000 over five years.

“Helping lay the foundation for a stronger New Mexico economy is important to PNM and all of us here,” Collawn said. “Having a strong economic base empowers our communities.

“It allows individuals to provide for themselves and their families to improve their quality of life,” she added.

NTU President Dr.

partnership, students will have the opportunity to achieve the career goals in numerous disciplines,” Pendergrass said.

From studying building trades and civil drafting to occupational safety and welding, she noted that the students are the future of business and the community.

Through the PNM-Navajo Nation Workforce Training Program, Navajo students can qualify for \$1,000 to \$2,000 in funding per semester for specific programs at NTU and SJC.

“Through public and private sector partnerships, we are able to enhance support for Navajo students enrolled in certificate, associate and bachelor degree programs,” Guy said. “The program is not only contributing to the success of Navajo students, but also empowering our graduates to compete economically at home, nationally and globally.”

“To compete globally, we are creating a workforce to attract business. Our resources at home are you and your talent.”

us apart from Indian Country as the largest tribe in the U.S. is our drive, vision and belief that there’s always something better out there.

“Everything rests on you,” President Shelly

Elmer Guy and SJC President Dr. Toni Pendergrass joined President Shelly and Collawn last week to honor Navajo students in Crownpoint and Farmington.

“Because of this



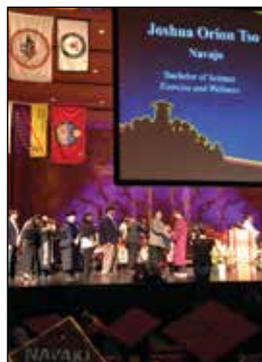
Arizona State University, University of Arizona convocations



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and First Lady Martha Shelly were joined by Hopi Chairman Herman Honanie and his family at the University of Arizona Native American Student Affairs Convocation in Tucson in May 2014. A multitude of students graduating from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Left, Victor Begay, a doctorate graduate at ASU, provided the keynote address to students. Right, the Navajo Nation Flag was on display at Gammage Auditorium. (Photos by Rick Abasta)



Left, President Shelly presents graduates with stoles during the ASU American Indian Convocation in Tempe. Right, graduates at the University of Arizona file in. (Photos by Rick Abasta)



Left, graduates from the University of Arizona anxiously await their chance to walk the stage. Right, President Shelly congratulates a Navajo student from St. Michaels. (Photos by Rick Abasta)



President Shelly signs \$554 million litigation settlement



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signs the \$554 million settlement for the Navajo Nation trust settlement against the federal government for breach of trust responsibilities. Upon signature, the Nation will have to wait 120 days to receive the settlement. While many task force members have been advocating the development of an expenditure plan, President Shelly has strongly encouraged all to consider creating an investment plan instead. He cited the areas of housing, scholarships, infrastructure and disabled citizens as legitimate areas of need for the Navajo Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



President Shelly presented Navajo DOJ Deputy Attorney General Dana Bobroff with a blanket for her years of hard work on the case. She broke down in tears. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation Attorney General Harrison Tsosie said the litigation was won in court by attorneys who were prepared for the Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Leadership from the Executive and Legislative Branches stood proudly after the signing for the accomplishment of a hard fought victory won by working together. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Council delegate Lorenzo Curley expressed the need to expedite an expenditure plan before the funds arrive in 120 days. He was also on the task force. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Navajo Nation \$1 billion bankruptcy settlement

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On April 3, the U.S. Department of Justice announced the court decision for Tronox Inc. v. Anadarko Petroleum Corp.

According to the settlement, Anadarko Petroleum and former parent Kerr-McGee Corp., have agreed to pay \$5.15 billion for abandoned uranium mine cleanup in the northern and eastern agencies of the Navajo Nation.

Approximately \$4.4 billion will fund environmental claims and cleanup for damages for claimants of Tronox. The Nation is one of several claimants in the case, which include the U.S., 22 states, four environmental response trusts and a trust for tort plaintiffs.

Tronox will receive 88 percent of the \$5.15 billion settlement and the Navajo Nation will receive 23 percent of that amount, totaling \$1 billion. The Nation will utilize the funds for cleanup of 49 abandoned uranium mines that were owned by the Kerr-

McGee.

“This settlement was the result of the Navajo Nation’s claim against Tronox when it filed for bankruptcy in 2008,” President Shelly said. “We lobby Congress heavily to request funds from federal agencies and that takes a long time.

“Going into a bankruptcy case demonstrates that we have not stood idle on this effort. The government understands its trust responsibility for cleanup of the legacy uranium mines,” he added.

The settlement will address cleanup at 49 abandoned mine sites, but hundreds more still remain unfunded.

The Kerr-McGee reorganization of 2005 placed decades of environmental liabilities upon Tronox. Anadarko eventually acquired Kerr-McGee and became the parent company of Tronox in the process.

The lead agencies in the settlement agreement were the Navajo Nation’s Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Justice.

For more than three decades, several individuals working for the Navajo EPA Superfund Program contributed significantly toward the landmark settlement, including the late Arlene Luther, Jerry Begay and Eugene Esplan.

Stephen Etsitty, director of Navajo EPA, said the opportunity to file a claim in the Tronox bankruptcy case came in 2009.

“Tronox was overloaded with environmental liabilities from Kerr-McGee,” Etsitty said. “They wound up suing Kerr-McGee and Anadarko.”

David Taylor, staff attorney with Navajo DOJ, assisted Etsitty with the legal work to complete the filing.

Working for Navajo Nation since 2005, Taylor brought valuable Superfund cleanup experience to the table and was previously the principal enforcement attorney for the state of Missouri.

“Taylor’s efforts to cleanup the dioxin contaminated lands in Times Beach, Missouri in the 1980s and early 90s is commendable. It is still recognized as the largest civilian exposure to dioxin in U.S. history,” Etsitty said.

In 2011, staff from the Navajo EPA Superfund provided tours of the Kerr-McGee abandoned uranium mine sites to U.S. Justice Department attorneys in preparation for the trial.

In the summer of 2012, President Shelly and Navajo Nation Attorney General Harrison Tsosie testified in New York City for the court case. Etsitty and Perry Charley were selected as

witnesses.

President Shelly said that tribal former leaders were instrumental in providing guidance. My administration never gave up and we ultimately prevailed, he added.

“I am proud to say ahe’hee to the Navajo people for your patience and prayers,” he said. “The settlement will be a great help in restoring the abandoned uranium mine sites, but we must not forget about the 460 other sites still in need of cleanup funds.”

The Navajo Nation’s litigation team included attorneys from the Chicago firm of Kirkland and Ellis, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, U.S. Justice Department, and representatives from the U.S. EPA in San Francisco.

On June 20, the students from the Navajo Nation Environmental Workforce Development and job training program graduated after weeks of learning abandoned uranium mine cleanup techniques.

In the summer of 2012, President Shelly met with the U.S. EPA in San Francisco, where he requested for training to prepare a Navajo workforce for the cleanup efforts.

“I would like to thank the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program, NAU, Navajo EPA and the instructors who provided the hands on instruction,” President Shelly said.

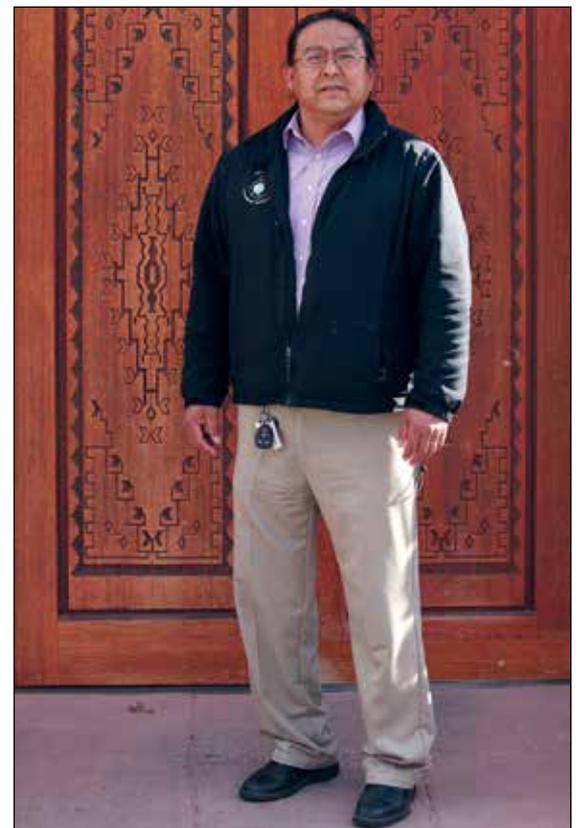
He added, “I want to express my sincere appreciation to each of you graduates for your decision to participate in this program. I expect you will do wonderful things for the Nation.”



During a meeting a Dzil Yizhiin Chapter, President Shelly made the initial announcement of the \$1 billion settlement to a large acuidence of residents. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo Nation Attorney General Harrison Tsosie said the litigation was won in court by Navajo Nation attorneys and outside legal counsel working together. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Navajo EPA director Stephen Etsitty said the \$1 billion settlement will provide the necessary cleanup for 49 abandoned uranium mines. He is currently promoting training Navajos. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

President Shelly continues to advocate on behalf of veterans



During a report at Tolani Lake Chapter in April 2014, several veterans were in attendance and asked President Shelly for support on various issues. He shared his record of staunchly supporting Navajo veterans from his days on the Council to his role as a father and grandfather of veterans that served on the frontlines. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

NMDOT to complete four-lane construction on 491



Standing atop a makeshift stage off U.S. Route 491 in Sheep Springs, N.M., the announcement was made that Gov. Susana Martinez and the New Mexico Department of Transportation will complete four-lane construction on U.S. Route 491, formerly known as one of the most dangerous roads in New Mexico. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

SHEEP SPRINGS, N.M. — It was a celebration.

Although there was no groundbreaking, no ribbon cutting or any other ceremony indicative of commemoration, the announcement by N.M. Gov. Susana Martinez that four-lane highway construction for the completion of U.S. Route 491 improvements would be funded was enough cause for celebration.

On March 26, a crowd of 50-plus people gathered alongside U.S. Route 491 while commercial trucks and other vehicles sped by. A makeshift stage on a tractor-trailer bed faced an audience seated on folding chairs.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly spoke first and began by giving recognition to Sen. John Pinto.

“I’d first like to start by recognizing the hard work and dedication of a man that made the four-

lane construction of U.S. Route 491 a priority in his service to the State and the Navajo Nation: Senator John Pinto,” President Shelly said.

He said Sen. Pinto got the ball rolling for the four-lane construction on U.S. Route 491, which was formerly named U.S. 666 and called the “Devil’s Highway” because of the large number of fatalities on the road.

President Shelly also thanked Gov. Martinez for her commitment to working with the Navajo people, which he said was “unquestionable.” He presented a letter of appreciation for her recent approval of capital outlay funding to the Navajo Nation.

He recalled how the importance of U.S. Route 491 was underscored on July 5, 2013, when a portion of the road between Naschitti and Sheep Springs was closed after heavy flooding

damaged a portion of the roadway.

“The rest of the country quickly realized how vital this road is to travel in the Four Corners region,” he said.

Sen. Pinto spoke next and was assisted to the podium by Gov. Martinez.

He gave thanks for those in attendance and remembered how he and others began advocating for widening the roadway more than 20 years ago. Funding was a constant concern.

“There were years when the money could have been taken away from us for other use. After asking for money year after year for almost 20 years, we are here today,” Sen. Pinto said.

He expressed sadness for those that lost their lives on the highway and said completing the four-lane construction would put an end to the destruction and make the road safe for Navajo

families and all visitors.

Sen. Pinto said, “This is an important highway. It brings all of the Navajo people together. We all drive great distances to keep connected with families and work.”

Tom Church, cabinet secretary and director of New Mexico Department of Transportation, said he has worked for the highway department for more than 21 years.

“During my entire career, we have talked and promised that this highway improvement to the people of northwest New Mexico would be completed and I am proud today that Gov. Susana Martinez will keep that promise,” Church said.

The funds were generated from the sale of bonds with a triple-A rating, he explained.

“Three years ago, the state transportation department could not have done this project. We were operating at

about \$100 million in the red,” Church said. “It’s been the sound financial and fiscal policies of the governor and the transportation commission that really turned the department around.

“Now, we’re operating \$100 million in the black,” he added.

Gov. Martinez agreed with Church and gave him praise for his leadership in turning the department around.

She credited him with being smart about the money that taxpayers paid to the state government and making it stretch, making the best of it and completing a project as big as U.S. 491.

“Today, we’re here to talk about an important project that will of course make U.S. 491 more safe and accessible,” Gov. Martinez said. “This road is an essential highway for commerce and tourism in the area, with local families and businesses depending on it on a daily basis.”

In 1982, the state widened 21 miles of the two-lane road into a four-lane highway, which saw an immediate decrease in the accident severity and fatality rates on that stretch of road.

The remaining two-lane road from Shiprock to Gallup was listed in the top 10 most dangerous highways in the U.S. and had a fatality rate six times higher than the rest of the state. Sixty percent of those fatalities were alcohol related.

“In 2003, the highway designation was changed

to (U.S. Route) 491 and that same year, the legislature approved more funding for more areas of the corridor to be reconstructed,” Gov. Martinez said.

She noted that 21.8 miles remain to be constructed at a cost of \$78 million.

“The New Mexico DOT recently issued \$80 million in new money revenue bonds to fund certain eligible highway projects, including U.S. Route 491,” Gov. Martinez said. “Today, I am pleased to announce that much of that money will be spent to improve this road and the safety of those who travel upon it.

“The proposed improvements to this corridor will improve safety, efficiency and drive economic development along the highway in surrounding communities,” she added.

Major improvements include two additional lanes to increase capacity, a median separating northbound and southbound lanes, plus development of acceleration and deceleration lanes in congested and high traffic areas.

Improving drainage to prevent water from flooding the roadway is another important safety feature.

“I am proud of all the hard work that has gone into this vital project,” she said.



In Feb. 2014, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim traveled to Santa Fe to meet with Gov. Martinez on concerns with Tribal Infrastructure Funds, capital outlay and road construction on main arteries crossing through the Navajo Nation. Several cabinet members from the administration were also present to ask specific questions. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



President Shelly has a strong government-to-government relationship with Gov. Martinez. They spoke at length on several issues facing the Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Gov. Martinez also has a strong relationship with Sen. John Pinto, the most senior ranking member of the N.M. Legislature. Sen. Pinto brought up the need to continue construction on U.S. Route 491 for the safety and welfare of all travelers in the area and the state of New Mexico. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

Diné Binaat'áanii Bił Da'ínííshjí T'áá Náás Diné Yá Deílníísh

At the Navajo Nation Executive Branch, we continue to work on behalf of the Navajo Nation. It is our responsibility to carry out the administrative functions of the tribal government.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim extend thanks and gratitude to our divisions, departments and programs for your loyal service on behalf of the Navajo people.

Our employees are the greatest natural resource for the Navajo Nation. By providing direct services to the Navajo people, you are at the seat of power for our tribal government.

We continue to work together with our partners at the Legislative and Judicial Branches. Together, we can achieve great things for our Navajo Nation. Ahe'hee!

Navajo Nation Divisions and Offices

Division of Community Development
Division of Dine' Education
Division of Economic Development
Division of Finance
Division of Public Safety
Division of General Services
Division of Health
Division of Human Resources
Division of Natural Resources
Division of Social Services
Division of Transportation

Navajo Environmental Protection Agency
Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office
Navajo Nation Washington Office

Office of Miss Navajo Nation
Office of Management and Budget
Office of the President and Vice President
Office of the Navajo Tax Commission
Office of Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

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