



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Sage Memorial Hospital breaks ground on new hospital campus



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, 24th Navajo Nation Council members, and Sage Memorial Hospital Board of Director, staff, and officials during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new hospital facility in Ganado, Ariz. on Nov. 4, 2021.

GANADO, Ariz. – On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer joined the Navajo Health Foundation – Sage Memorial Hospital Board of Directors as they hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in Ganado, Ariz., to mark the start of construction of a new two-story hospital, medical office building, and on-site staff housing on the 18-acre site located west of the current hospital facility.

Sage Memorial Hospital Board of Directors Chairwoman Delores Noble and Interim CEO Alden Joe also welcomed 24th Navajo Nation Council’s members Daniel Tso, who chairs the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Charlaine Tso, and Vince R. James, who represents the Ganado community.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer commended the Sage Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, staff and officials, and all of the frontline workers who continue to sacrifice and put themselves at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic to help others.

“Throughout this pandemic, our frontline warriors have gone above and beyond to respond to COVID-19 infections, to save lives, and to vaccinate our people. Vice President Lizer and I are proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with our warriors on the frontlines at Sage Memorial Hospital and other health care facilities at vaccination events throughout the Navajo Nation. This week, we also approved \$2.6 million for new fire trucks and ambulances for the Ganado Fire District to provide more emergency response services for numerous communities. We are building our Nation and helping to push back on COVID-19 and other health care issues and modern-day monsters that impact our people. Congratulations to Sage Memorial Hospital, Ganado Chapter and surrounding communities,” said President Nez.

The new hospital development will create significant economic impacts for the Ganado area, creating new employment opportunities throughout construction. Once completed, the hospital will also create approximately 100 new jobs for Navajo people. The new facility will be approximately 40-percent larger than the current hospital and provide at least 40 hospital beds and expanded services.

“This groundbreaking is historic for the Navajo people and ensures that we will continue to provide much-needed relief for families near the community of Ganado. We congratulate everyone who is working hard throughout this global health pandemic and those who are working hard to make access to health care services readily available to our people. What we are hoping to do with a new hospital is create a wonderful facility that not only meets today's needs, but tomorrow's needs,” stated Vice President Lizer.

“This is a great accomplishment for Sage Memorial Hospital and the surrounding communities. This is all for you and the patients we serve,” said Sage Memorial Hospital Interim CEO Alden Joe. Officials also noted that 97-percent of Sage Memorial Hospital staff and employees have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

Sage Memorial Hospital Board of Directors Chair Delores Noble, Navajo Area IHS Director Roselyn Tso also spoke during the event and thanked all of the leaders, community members, and Sage Memorial Hospital employees for the commitment and dedication to providing health care services to the Navajo people. Matthew Noble with Bethel Navajo Baptist Church and Ganado community member Fernando Jones provided the opening prayer and benediction.

Sage Memorial Hospital serves the communities of Ganado, Steamboat, Klagetoh, Wide Ruins, Greasewood Springs, Cornfields, Kinlichee, and Nazlini. For more information about Sage Memorial Hospital, please visit their website at <https://sagememorial.com>.

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