

# KAYENTA TODAY

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

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21ST Century Navajo-ism

## Kayenta Township Commission to Endorse Candidates



On October 9th, 2006 the Kayenta Township announced the following candidate endorsements:

For President of the Navajo Nation the Kayenta Township supports and endorses Lynda Lovejoy and Walter Phelps – Mrs. Lovejoy has brought new perspective on Navajo Government and Navajo leadership. As a woman, Mrs. Lovejoy is very concerned about families, children and the youth, the most neglected in Navajo government. Mrs. Lovejoy's choice of Walter Phelps as Vice President is an excellent choice. Mr. Phelps is not a politician hut a leader



who is concerned about the people at the community level and he is a very decent and devoted family man.

For U.S. Congress, District 1 Riek Renzi – Congressman Renzi has served the Navajo people adequately by keeping them informed with his visits to the Navajo Nation. More importantly Mr. Renzi has helped fund projects such as construction of new clinics and hospitals, more funding for Law Enforcement, additional funding for education and economic development. He deserves to be sent back to Congress for another term in the U.S.



Congress. We can't afford to lose him!

Endorsement for Willie Begay, Roy Laughter and David Shondec. Mr. Begay has extensive experience in the Navajo Nation Council and is highly respected. Mr. Roy Laughter is very supportive of Navajo Veterans, the elders and the youth. Mr. Shondec is a highly effective spokesperson for the Veterans and the workers. He supports teamwork as a way to bring about progress to the people and community. He is strongly opposed to divisive politics.

## Navajo Nation Council 2006 Fall Session

By Karen Francis

The first day of each regular session of Council is designated for receiving reports. On the first day of this session, the Council heard the State of the Nation address from President Joe Shirley, and oral reports from Congressman Tom Udall, the Office of the Speaker and DNA People's Legal Services on hate crimes in the border towns of the Navajo Nation, Katherine Benally and the Tom Claw

family on discrimination by law enforcement agencies of Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff, the DWI Resource Center, Inc., the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission and Albert D. Kissling, candidate for Congressional District 2 in New Mexico.

Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) also presented the

Fiscal Year 2006 Fourth Quarter Report for the Legislative Branch to the Council. The quarterly report includes updates from the Council's standing committees and the Legislative Branch programs, as well as Speaker Morgan's report. His report updated members of Council on what his office has been working on during the quarter, including updates on issues with voter identification requirements in the State of Arizona, the

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*“Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Kayenta Township, its employees and Commissioners.”*

## The 2006 Navajo Election

By Daniel Peaches  
Kayenta Town Manager

The Navajo people will have an opportunity to elect new leadership for the next four (4) years. The new leadership will include the election of all eighty-eight (88) Chapter Council Delegates as well as the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation government operation budget is \$126 million annually. Of that amount \$80 million is allocated to the Executive Branch, \$38 million is allocated to the Legislative Branch and approximately \$10 million for the Judicial Branch.

\$126 million is a lot of money; however, 90% of it is tied up in salaries and fixed cost. Essentially there is no money available to start new initiatives or to fix existing facilities, much less build new facilities. In other words, the Navajo Nation government is sitting dead in the water with no rudders. That is the heart of the problem we have faced for the past 40 to 50 years. No leader has been able to change that and no change is likely as long as there is a status quo at the Legislative and Executive levels.

The Navajo people want a change but the status quo is like a brick wall. No one has been able to break it loose. The eighty-eight (88) member council appears to be satisfied with the status quo and any effort to bring about change is stopped in the council chamber, time after time.



***One possible solution is to decentralize the Executive Branch and this can be done in any number of ways, such as:***

**1. Fully implement Local Governance Act (LGA) by assigning more technical personnel (accountant, planner) at each chapter starting with larger chapters like Tuba City, Chinle, Fort Defiance, Crownpoint, Shiprock and Kayenta.**

**2. Decentralize the Executive Branch by establishing administrative centers at the agency level under Agency Council. The budget to operate these administrative centers will be allocated in block grants and the amount will be based on per capita basis.**

**3. Initiate a procedure to plan and develop a Township government at the major communities such as Fort Defiance, Chinle, Crownpoint, Shiprock, Tuba City and Dilcon whereby such governments will administer their own Judicial system, Police Department and other essential programs that are now administered out of Window Rock utilizing local revenue (Taxes, fees).**

**4. Decentralize Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) so the larger communities will operate their own utilities and sanitation management programs.**

**5. Establish an independent Ethics Board or Commission.**

**6. Replace the Election Board of Supervisors with a Secretary of State type of position that is elected by the people.**

**7. Make the Attorney General an elected position.**

**8. Make the Navajo Treasurer an elected position.**

**9. Make the Secretary of Education an elected position.**

**10. The Supreme Court will be the only Court at the Central level.**

**11. Develop a plan to design a Navajo government based on a written document that is approved by the Navajo people.**

**12. A term limit of two terms for Council Delegates and Chapter officials**



**13. Decentralize Economic Development to the agency level.**

**14. Decentralize Community Development to the agency level.**

**15. Decentralize the Justice Department to the agency level.**

**16. Build administrative complexes at the major population centers for service providers.**

**17. Build a new Navajo Nation Capitol in Fort Defiance, Old Sawmill or Tsaile area.**

**18. Make Referendum available to the Navajo voters outside of Navajo Nation council.**

**19. Develop a curriculum to train Navajo traditional learning at each Dine College campuses.**

**20. Develop a land use plan for the entire Navajo Nation and identify as many sacred sites as possible.**

**21. Develop the necessary infrastructures at the major population centers such as shopping centers, detention facilities, judicial facilities, Senior Citizen Centers, youth activity centers, and nursing homes over a twenty (20) year period using a portion of the Permanent Trust Fund.**

**22. Progress requires comprehensive long range planning at Window Rock level, Agency level, and local level.**

**23. It will require at least \$35 million a year for ten (10) years to put new infrastructures in place to meet the needs of the Navajo people.**

**24. Comprehensive land use plans will enable local communities to create local development to create needed jobs.**

**25. With comprehensive and long range plans, state and federal government will make more resources available to the Navajo Communities and more commercial and industrial developments will take place.**

## Navajo Nation Presidential Candidate Answers Some Questions

The Kayenta Township gathered a number of questions to ask the Navajo Nation Presidential Candidates. These questions were submitted to both parties and given a deadline to submit their answers. The Lovejoy/Phelps campaign were the only candidates to submit their answers. The Shirley/Shelly campaign never responded to the questionnaire.

We hope these questions and answers will help give you a better understanding of how our candidates look at some of the issues facing our people today on and off the Navajo Nation.

### Lovejoy/Phelps Campaign Q: Please tell us about yourself.

Answer: Ya'at'eeh Navajo Voters, I am Lynda Lovejoy, a Navajo woman from Crownpoint (Tiis'oz), NM and I am a candidate for the Navajo Nation president. My clan is Ts'ahyisk'idnii (Sagebrush Hill), born for Kin yaa'anni (Towering House), my maternal grandfather is Tse'nahabilnii, and my paternal grandfather is To'dich'ii'nii.

### Q: Why did you choose to run for Navajo Nation President?

Answer: Our people have waited too long for a leader who will really pay attention to their basic needs and represent their interests. In the current form, it is apparent that governance has shifted away from the people and become more institutionalized and centralized. I believe it is time to turn this trend around and return to a more democratic form which builds on the principle of "By the people and for the people."

**Q: The Office of the President was thought to hold a great amount of political influence and power, however recently the Navajo Nation Council has demonstrated the strength of their branch through the overturning of vetoed legislation by the President, which sent a signal to the Office of the President that their strength is not as strong**

**as in years past. As President, how will you regain the strength needed to accomplish your goals and objectives for the Navajo People?**

Answer: Most of our people have observed and will agree to the fact that the current state of the three branches is imbalanced. I believe that the role of the OPVP can and should be that of ambassador (for the people). As such, the OPVP is obligated to promote and fight for what is in the best interest of the people as a whole. The OPVP is responsible in providing leadership through a realistic vision. The people breathe life into this vision by their vote of trust and confidence. It is not so much how much power the executive branch yields that makes the vision a reality, but rather skill and perseverance. This is what you call diplomacy, the leader's ability to persuade, negotiate and work with other leaders respectfully which brings results. A sincere commitment to building meaningful relationships with leaders at all levels is essential in achieving tangible objectives for our people.

**Q: Question: Local governance is a new concept that is being implemented in the densely populated areas of the Navajo Nation and is quickly becoming the government of choice for their region for economic development reasons. As President, how will you view the concept of local governance and its implementation in those regions?**

Answer: We can draw comparisons to challenges in the Navajo history as follows, "A single arrow can easily be broken, but when you have 110 arrows tied together it is much more difficult to break." We need the cohesiveness we had during Hweeldi (Long Walk confinement) and the many other challenges that brought us to being the largest tribe. I believe a review of the legislative intent of the Local Governance Act will show that it was not to have our communities disagreeing over profits or independence, but to assist them

with improving their government. At its basic level, it is giving them the tools to serve the community without having to resort to Window Rock for everything. Because when a Chapter becomes governance certified it does not mean they are independent of the Nation. Certainly other Chapters will be more progressive in their planning and with the right incentives they can continue expanding economically or governmentally. We are a Nation and we need the 110 Chapters to help us strengthen all aspects of our government. We need cohesiveness to protect our Nation, and most importantly to uphold the sovereignty that we fight daily to maintain.

**Q: Although, the BIA is now cut out of the business site leasing process, some people view the Navajo Nation as the new BIA, in terms of creating obstacles for economic development. What is your stance on that perspective?**

Answer: The Nation should not allow the new business site leasing process to develop into a cumbersome time consuming ordeal for would be entrepreneurs. We have many experienced and educated Navajos with the ability to help our

economy flourish, we need to support them by replacing bureaucracy with efficiency.

**Q: How will you demonstrate that this process is the best for the economic well-being of the Navajo Nation?**

Answer: Although the new business site leasing process has only been in place for less than a year, I do not feel is too early for a collective review where we can explore ways the new process can be further enhanced. I think an improved process will demonstrate for itself that it is in the best interest of the Nation. It should not hurt to have the current process studied by professionals, large business owners, small business owners and outside business owners (perhaps from other tribes who have succeeded in economic growth through members tribally owned businesses). For example, from the time it was conceived and fully empowered the Kayenta Township is a representation of such a model, although I think a close mutual partnership with the Chapter is beneficial. Again this is where we listen to business community, chapter leaders, and economic development advisors.

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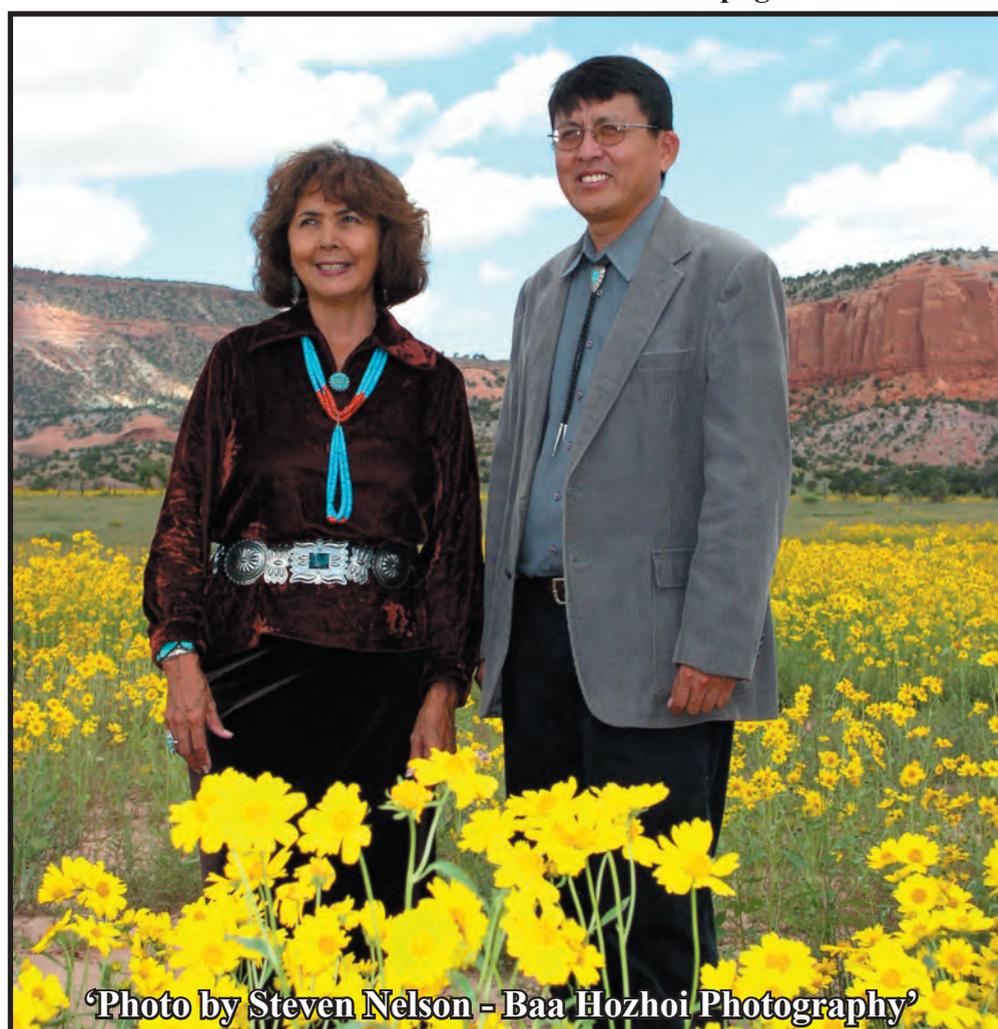


Photo by Steven Nelson - Baa Hozhoi Photography

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**Q: Methamphetamine is gaining strength on the Navajo Nation, how will your office combat the increasing use and sale of methamphetamine on the Navajo Nation?**

Answer: There are many phases to combating the use of illegal substances on the Navajo Nation. They need to be implemented simultaneously. I do believe the Nation needs to not just say we need more jails or police, but we need to work to secure funds needed to build additional jails, and we need to train and hire more police officers. For instance, every police officer counts in combating this substance in our communities, we need to prioritize their training and the affected communities. Further, we have many resources within the Nation to battle this problem from different angles; however we need to pool these resources. It is not efficient to have three separate programs all doing essentially the same duties within three separate divisions. For instance recently the Office of the First Lady received funds from the state regarding the fight against methamphetamines, when really those funds should have been directed towards the Department of Behavioral Health Services within the Division of Health which is providing direct services to our people and communities. Not only will pooling our resources help fight a serious problem in our communities but it will also save the Nation money.

**Q: Right now, a majority of dollars made on the Navajo Reservation is spent in the border communities. How do you plan to keep those dollars on the reservation?**

Answer: This is very true; we have millions of dollars pouring into all the border town communities each day. However, to think that we can alter this trend is not only going to be difficult, it is also unrealistic. We would be wiser to find ways to make our investments in the border communities work to our benefit. This will require innovation and strategic planning which is where we plan to focus our energies. The point is

every dollar we spend is an economic “multiplier” in neighboring towns; we supplement and increase tax benefits in these towns thus creating very little value in our own communities. As a government, we need to be receptive to investing in our neighboring towns such as helping start businesses (for our urban Navajos), be aggressive towards investing in land and housing developments because as long as our people continue to do their shopping in neighboring towns our investment will concurrently increase.



**Q: Alcohol has both positive and negative aspects to it. The rate of alcoholism is higher on the reservation than off the reservation. DUI's and alcohol related accidents are still higher on the reservation than the national and state averages, but some say that is due to the distances that have to be driven to obtain the alcohol. Bootlegging is evident and availability to the youth is very evident however there has been talk that if they were to legalize and tax the sale of alcohol on the reservation we would have greater economic resources to help combat the abuse of alcohol on the reservation. We could have the financial resources to employ more officers, build better facilities, increase substance abuse prevention programs, and provide a stable economic base for economic development. What is your perspective on that topic?**

Answer: I do not agree to the idea of legalizing alcohol on the Nation. The Navajo Nation has certain characteristics which we should not try to compromise just for the sake of the almighty dollar. Let's work to keep our Nation drug and alcohol free. The liquor industry although lucrative is regressive taxation in essence and unduly burdens the poor. It destroys lives, breaks up families, and destabilizes our communities. I am more interested in building strong collaborative partnerships with our neighbors (tribes, cities, counties) in fighting for better facilities, wrap around programs, toward curbing alcohol and substance use.

**Q: One of the biggest deterrents for off-reservation businesses is the sovereign immunity clause and lack of ownership for their business. The Navajo Nation has the labor force and development space to bring these businesses to the Nation. The Navajo Nation has an unemployment rate of 46-50% and has a large number of its youth leave every year because of the lack of jobs, higher education, and housing. We are in serious need of change, how do plan to address these major obstacles?**



Answer: Certainly, alternative economic considerations are vitally important to the Navajo Nation as our reliance on nonrenewable natural resource endowment (coal, gas, etc.) continues to decline, which reduces the general revenues coming into the Navajo treasury. As president, I intend to separate the functions of the Finance Division into an investment and accounting. In doing so we can evaluate better our investment strategy as stakeholders in major developments like the Desert Rock. I want to emphasize the possibilities of becoming stakeholders in the energy industry market rather than just selling raw material goods at wholesale prices. As far as economic development such as Casinos', this has been reinforced by Council, I think we should evaluate possible ways to enhance these opportunities such as destination resorts in regional cities such as Las Vegas. Additionally, our population has begun to concentrate in neighboring towns, and regional cities, I believe these are prime sites with tremendous investments opportunities for the Navajo Nation.

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**Q: In what ways has the Navajo Nation Council given inherent authorities to local governments?**

Answer: Title 26, the Local Governance Act (LGA) provides a challenge for most Chapters to become fully governance certified. Thus, Chapters are compelled to govern with responsibility and accountability to the local citizens. Technically, there are two criteria to meet within this act; 1) establishing a five management systems and 2) ensuring a community based land-use plan. When a chapter is approved under these provisions it is deemed proficient at local level of governance. Through, this act, Navajo Nation Council delegated to Chapters certain governmental authority in local matters that is consistent with Navajo law. The enactment of LGA enables Chapters to make local decisions thereby improving community decision making, and motivating communities to flourish. It also strengthens the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation.

**Q: When Economic Development projects on or off the Navajo Nation threatens our cultural heritage, how would you handle the situation?**

Answer: Throughout its history the Navajo people have been adept at finding unique ways to adapt to new ways, taking care of themselves, and managing their inter-governmental affairs. If you look at non-renewal energy intensive operations many Navajo managed to adapt their lifestyle with industrial type of operations. You also have untapped significant economic opportunities associated with renewal energy development which complements the rural outlying lifestyles. My concern is we have surplus labor that is exported, thus diminishing the value of our labor force. The countries who have managed to maintain their heritage in a capitalistic society have emphasized appropriate training and education. We, as leaders, heads of household, and people have a responsibility of teaching our cultural values in spite of the changing times.

**Q: How can we most effectively insure that our Navajo Language and Culture is alive and well in 2025?**

Answer: It must be taught in the homes and schools. I would rely on the Dept of Dine Education to research how other tribes whose language was near extinction have revived their language and support their efforts to decide what is the best way to incorporate a program in all Navajo schools. However, we must also be cognizant of the fact that our language and culture is dependent on families instilling it in their children. Encouraging and providing an example of pride in one's culture and language is most important. That can also come through strong communities and homes. We need to deemphasize material wealth in our youth and concentrate more on instilling strong values, morals and pride. Community service should be required in every school and some incentive such as flex time to our employees to complete parenting skills classes or training should also be explored. Strong families create strong children and can become our best asset well beyond 2025!

**Q: What are the three greatest barriers to Economic Development on Navajo Land?**

Answer: The trust status of Indian land does affect the private sector's ability to finance business and land development. The security of collateralized Indian property prevents (as it is claimed) or prohibits having a competitive banking environment. The other is current lack of infrastructure within the communities where businesses can be located for operation.



**Q: As a candidate are you in support of Local Government or Townships? How would you support the development of a LGA Chapter or Township?**

Answer: In a lot of ways Kayenta sets the development tone for the Nation. My understanding from its beginnings, Kayenta Chapter created the Township. Because Kayenta was growing, the chapter designated land for a township in 1966. The community members provided innovative ideas and began to further development the concept of securing efficient business leases and they were instrumental of withdrawing land for a township site. And with the assistance of the Navajo Nation government the township has been successfully established. Anytime you have partnership on this scale it is always in the best interest of everyone involved. From a central government and cost standpoint is it beneficial to decentralize government in order to expedite service delivery. I think supporting a tax structure that is favorable towards enhancing both local governance and what the township deems appropriate. All too often there will always be tension in a growing nation because of internal conflicts, and the diminishing pool of natural resources. We as a sovereign Nation face that challenge of the inconsistent nature of political relations with counties, states, and the federal government. We have to emphasize partnership and cooperation at all levels of government development.

**Q: As a candidate are you familiar with Homeland Security Program and Funding? If you are, how will you implement that Homeland Security Program within the Navajo Nation?**

Answer: All Homeland security funding is given to the states directly from the federal level. The Navajo Nation does not currently receive homeland security funds directly, but once a process is developed internally we can then work with Congress and/or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to secure funding directly for the Nation.

**Q: Economic Development on the Navajo Nation. How is your plan different than all the other plans that have failed?**

Answer: Our plan is not dependent on immediate debt through bonds. Our plan is about listening to the people, listening to the experts, providing the support needed to make changes that are needed and serving as a conduit for the people. With education, and an improved business development process there will be growth. There are also many entrepreneurial opportunities available within Navajo divisions and departments. For example, how many services currently administered within community development can be extended through contract services such a one stop mortgage and providing incentive for Navajo homeownership on the nation or outside the nation.

**Q: Do you feel that local governments like the Kayenta Township or Chapter government should be allowed to levy taxes to support the community growth?**

Answer: The Kayenta Township model is proof that it can and does work. However, this model may only be effective in the larger growth communities such as Tuba city, Shiprock, St. Michaels, Chinle, etc. Smaller chapter communities will certainly not be able to compete or be self sustaining without on-going financial support from central government. Currently, the Chapters either receives full or partial sales

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# Kayenta Became My Home

By John D. Andrews

I want to take this opportunity to let everyone in Kayenta know how much I enjoyed living and teaching in Kayenta. I'm now living and teaching in Holbrook, AZ. I miss Kayenta very much; I never would have thought I would feel that way when I first moved to Kayenta from Lincoln, NE. Kayenta truly became my home. I'm not saying goodbye because I am still a member of the Chilchinbeto Veterans Organization, which will bring me back to Kayenta on occasion, and maybe someday I will be able to return, if not to Kayenta, to somewhere else within the Navajo Nation.

It means so much to me to have been accepted by so many members of the community. While in Kayenta I was invited into the Kayenta Veterans Organization, the Chilchinbeto Veterans Organization and the 4th of July Pow Wow Committee. Those invitations and associations still mean a lot to me.

## Cheyenne Peterman earns the Miss Kayenta Community School Crown

KCS-At Kayenta Community School, each year, during Eagle Pride Week, a young Dine woman is crowned Miss KCS and is the school's ambassador.

Cheyenne Peterman, 11 years old, of Monument Valley, Utah attends Kayenta Community School. She was crowned Miss K.C.S. 2006-07 on Thursday, September 28th.

"I can't believe it, I won." said Cheyenne, in a surprised and confused way.

Cheyenne's clans are the Salt People born for the Big Water People. Her maternal clan is Red House and her paternal clan is Red Streak Running into Water.

"My mother inspired me to run for

There are so many wonderful things about Kayenta, but there are problems too. Now that William Allsbrooks is no longer the Superintendent of Schools for the Kayenta Unified School District (KUSD), I hope the Governing Board will choose someone who understands the community of Kayenta and the needs and wants of those who live on the Navajo Nation. I hope the new superintendent will be Navajo and will work to infuse Navajo history, government, culture and tradition into the Arizona mandated curriculum.

The goal of KUSD should be preparing its students to live in a bicultural world – Navajo society and an Anglo-dominated society. It is also my hope that the Governing Board will take a more active role in the running of KUSD, remembering that the Superintendent works for them, not the other way around. (I've been told a new superintendent has been

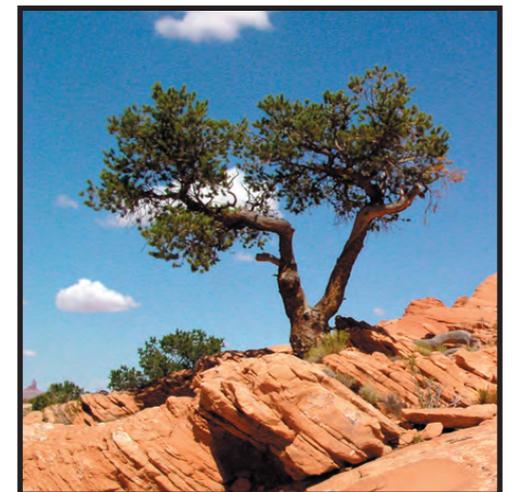
chosen, but the people I've talked to don't seem to know for sure.)

There is also much discord surrounding the Township government. If those that oppose the Township truly believe the township form of government is corrupt and unlawful, then they should exercise their rights as citizens to make their voices heard. However, I hope they will also work to find solutions to the problems that exist in the community and not obstruct the good things the Township is doing.

I hope I haven't offended anyone. If I have, please accept my apology. I only give my opinions because I care about the community of Kayenta. I have seen serious problems at KUSD and in the community. It is only my desire to see people step up and find solutions to those problems. I also hope to see one day KUSD led by Navajos, not Anglos.



John D. Andrews with former U.S. President Bill Clinton.



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tax revenues collected by the central government depending if they are governance certified. In the case of Kayenta, the Township is fairly proficient at levying and collecting taxes. They have demonstrated for other communities the creativity of a managed type growth, especially if residents could have the added flexibility of owning and selling a home. Kayenta community members foresaw the problem of the lack of zoning, facilities, housing, and other infrastructures needed to attract business and they took action.

**Q: With the exception of Albert Hale and Kelsey Begay there has not been a Navajo Nation president that has proposed the decentralization of Navajo government so that there will be more local control and self-determination at the local level. What is your position on Local Control and decentralization?**

Answer: Local control and decentralization can mean many things to many people. One has to distinguish between decentralization of governance vs decentralization of constituent related services. Decentralization of governance (Title 26) is currently still in process of evolution and we strongly support self-determination in governance by local chapters. However as a nation we must continue to think interdependently as one. On the other hand, local control in terms of services should not be as complicated.

**Q: Under the present system of economic development, there are no plans for private sector development to keep the dollar on the Navajo Nation and create more private sector employment. How do you stand on private sector development?**

Answer: We can begin with a business roundtable designed to review and explore potential incentives and economic partnerships. We must build on the strengths already existing in our communities and in our people. For example, I believe that no previous administration has actually considered the Navajo

government as one of the biggest consumer of goods, many services and products can be subcontracted to our people in rural or urban areas. Technology will be the key ingredient to establishing an interactive e-commerce. We can establish an "e-bay" type of on-line outlet for our grassroots people to market for many of their traditional arts and crafts. Also, we have to review of our taxing policy as far as providing some incentives for start-up small business and those that are established.



**Q: A master lease with a provision for 99 year leases could entice more private investment on the Navajo Nation. The Kayenta Township has asked for a master lease and when the Kayenta Chapter is certified, it is certain they will ask for a master lease. Do you support master leases for large communities such as Kayenta, Chinle, Fort Defiance, Tuba City, Shiprock, Crownpoint and Tohatchi?**

Answer: I think this a unique way to accelerate development in major growth areas. These master leases have the flexibility to negotiate and parcel out business leases depending on their constituents and consumer needs. They will have the added incentives to reinvest their tax dollars. I would stress close partnership between the local governing body and the Master Lessee. Dine' Cooperative has been very successful with this type of arrangement because they have not been only confined to Chinle as their headquarters. They also have a thriving electronic assembly industry in Leupp as well. Again for Kayenta, with the Black Mesa Mine closure there will be greater reliance on unique taxing

strategies to take advantage of the tourism or tourism-related businesses.

**Q: Salt River Project, which operates a power plant in Page and is part owner of two power plants in Apache County is considering reviving the Mohave Power Plant in Laughlin which would use coal from Black Mesa, do you support this SRP plan?**

Answer: This is a fairly new development it would be premature to state my position without reviewing the proposal by Salt River Project. If such a plan is to move forward, we are committed to working with stakeholders involved where the best interest of the people is foremost in any future negotiations.

**Q: The Navajo Government has become so large that it has become very bureaucratic and unresponsive to address pressing issues at hand, how do you propose to change this?**

Answer: Like with anything that has become oversized or broke, you give it a good overhaul, remove the excess, dust it off, update the outdated parts, improve the productivity with any new technologies and get to work. I believe there are many ways we can improve our process in Window Rock while saving money in the process. My staff will immediately begin this process. I feel this is the responsibility of the Division Directors with my supervision. The fleeing of Navajo Nation resources will end. My government will be accountable because right now there so much waste and no one held accountable.



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# KAYENTA DEDICATES NEW SKATE PARK

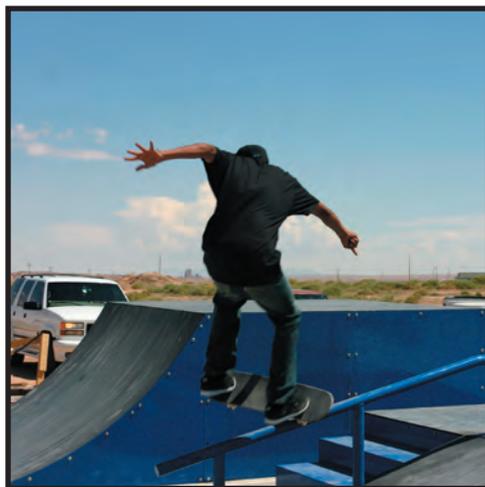
On July 4, 2006 the Township officially opened the Junior Skate Park which sits on an 85 foot by 40 foot concrete pad and has two 4 foot ramps. The opening of the junior skate park drew crowds of kids daily and was well received by the youth of the community. Little did they know that this was only the beginning, the Township had plans to build the biggest and best skate park on the Navajo Nation. News soon got out about the Townships plans and the word spread like wild fire.

The Kayenta Township dedicated the much anticipated skate park on September 2, 2006. Many kids from all over the Navajo Nation came to check out the new skate park, some kids came from as far away as Window Rock, Flagstaff and Page just to see if the rumors they heard were true. According to the web site [www.rezriders.org](http://www.rezriders.org), Kayenta currently has the biggest and best skate park on the entire Navajo Nation.

Prior to the opening of the skate parks, skaters and bikers resorted to biking and skating at the schools, and local businesses, unfortunately many of the bikers and skaters were chased off by school officials, business owners, or the police. This made skating or biking for the youth a pretty tough sport to do in Kayenta.

The new skate park is next to the current Kayenta Recreation Center and sits on a 115 foot by 80 foot concrete pad. Construction of the park began in June and ended in September. The Township set aside \$175,000.00 for the skate park, KTC Project Manager Anthony Peterman utilized KTC maintenance and construction workers to build the skate park. "If we were to have had an outside construction company build the park for us, it would have cost well over \$250,000.00. We saved a lot of money doing the majority of the work ourselves." said Anthony Peterman.

The Township purchased the skate park ramps from American Ramp Company, a company well known in



the skate park industry for the quality construction of their equipment. Although there were many other companies the Township could have purchased from, American Ramp Company had the best price, best quality, and the best warranty in comparison to its competitors.

Since the opening of the skate parks, there is not a day that goes by that you don't see at least 10-20 kids enjoying themselves. Although the skate park belongs to the community anyone that wishes to utilize the facilities must sign up for a skater card at the Kayenta Recreation Center. The Recreation Center utilizes a safety implementation plan. This is to ensure the safety of the participants of the Kayenta Community skate park and to inform the parents of the safety risks and potential hazards of skateboarding.

Skate park participants will be asked to fill out a skate park registration form and a waiver of liability and agreement that informs the skater that he/she has read the rules and regulations set forth by the Kayenta Township. For example, if the skate park participant is under the age of 18, he/she will be required to have the registration form and liability waiver signed by their parents or guardians before participating. A skate park card will be issued by the Kayenta Township following the completion of the registration form and liability waiver. This will show that the skater and parent or guardian have read the rules and agrees to abide by them. A copy will be given to the participant and the original will be handled by the recreation center. We highly recommend the punch card so that they can also participate in the recreation center.

The Township would like to inform the public that utilizing the skate park does have risks and potential hazards if not used accordingly, they also strongly urge the use of protective gear while using the facilities.

## National School Bus Safety Week

The National School Bus Safety Week is a public education awareness program designed to promote school bus safety. The observance of the school bus safety is held each year to focus attention on the role of parents, students, and school bus operators to motorist, teachers and school administrators in doing their part to keep our children safe on school buses when traveling to and from school. The Kayenta Unified School District Transportation Department takes pride in conducting and hosting an Open House for this event. Their goal is to emphasize and share the importance of school bus safety whether it is in the bus, outside of the bus and more so whenever near or approaching a school bus.



The Transportation Department staff has been busy preparing for the National School Bus Safety Week. They are inviting students to the transportation department and the Bus Drivers will share information and the importance of a school bus evacuation, the danger zone, loading and unloading areas and review school bus rules with the students. The Mechanics will explain and show the students the transportation shop; the areas in where they change tires, the lube area where the oil is changed, and various equipment that is used to maintain the Transportation fleet.



Schools from surrounding areas, parents, and the community are invited to attend this year's Open House. The Transportation Department will be distributing literature on school bus safety and serving refreshments and providing various presentations. In addition, the local Police Department, Fire Department, KUSD Security Department, and other KUSD Departments will conduct presentations. Each Department will focus on the safety awareness for students as they make their way to and from school daily.

Although the National Awareness was the third week October, the Transportation Open House will be November 6 to the 9, 2006. Due to the AIMS testing and the schedule for Parent conferences, the date had been changed. The Transportation Department feels that this importance subject should be shared and therefore, they only changed the recognition date. Anyone is more than welcome to meet their outstanding team during the Transportation Open House..

If you have any questions, call the transportation department at (928) 697-2121/2124 and or visit their website at <http://www.kayenta.k12.az.us/district/Operations/Transportation/index.htm>

## Council Passes Legislation to Create Human Rights Commission

By Karen Francis

The 20th Navajo Nation Council took action on several pressing matters facing the tribe during the 2006 Fall Session – the most important being on the issues of racial discrimination facing the Navajo people in border towns surrounding the Navajo Nation.

The first day of session, October 16, 2006, the Council heard reports from first, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) and the DNA People's Legal Services on the issue of hate crimes in border towns, and next from Dennehotso Council delegate Katherine Benally and the family of Harry Claw on issues of racial discrimination in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Speaker Morgan had first reported to Council on the racial discrimination issues during the Summer Session held in July. He said he anticipates more reports to be made to Council as the issue is further explored.

Because undertaking the gathering of data from all border towns would require much time and resources, DNA focused gathering data from five towns, including Farmington, Aztec, Bloomfield, Gallup, Page and Flagstaff. The information gathered focused on four areas: "(a) information regarding formal administrative complaints by Dine' to formal municipal authorities alleging police misconduct and/or excessive use of force; (b) formal litigation on these issues in either state or federal courts; (c) statistical data regarding hiring of Dine' by municipalities, particularly in law enforcement; (d) formal training of law enforcement personnel in cross cultural sensitivity."

Among the findings by DNA People's Legal Services, it found there was no real data to support the claims of racial discrimination committed against Navajo people. The Legal Services put forth a theory that the reason there is no such data is because such matters largely go

unreported. Furthermore, according to Dr. Barbara Perry, people may be reluctant to report such incidences because there is no clear process for reporting and people do not know to which agency they should report. There may also be the general feeling that further discrimination will occur if such incidences are pursued.

The Speaker and the DNA People's Legal Services recommended that a subcommittee be formed to hear sworn testimony from Navajo citizens on treatment or mistreatment in border towns, that a Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission possibly be established and that joint panels with the border towns could facilitate action within communities.

Legislation carrying out one of the recommendations was sponsored by Ervin Keeswood (Hogback) during this most recent Council session. The legislation to establish a Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission passed by a vote of 60 in favor and 1 opposed.

Keeswood said that the primary focus of the Commission will be to begin seeking data to support claims of discrimination by the Navajo people themselves.

"The idea is to ask our own people right now. Once we collect that data we are in a good position to negotiate," he said. Keeswood further added that the Commission would work with other human rights organizations throughout the world.

During the debate on the legislation on Thursday, October 19, 2006, Council delegate Mark Maryboy (Red Mesa/Aneth/Mexican Water) said, "There's over 300 million people in the United States. We need to find a way to get along. As Native Americans we are probably less than 1 percent of the population. I believe this is very appropriate and we should approve this legislation at this time."

# TOWNSHIP RECIEVES NEW TRUCK

On September 19, 2006 the Kayenta Township recieved a new truck to help with the transportation of trash from the Kayenta Transfer Station to a land fill in Blanding, Utah. The old truck has many miles on it and was beginning to show signs of excessive wear, the Township believed that it was time to purchase a new truck so the day to day operation of the transfer station would not be interrupted with equipment downtime.



R-L : Town Manager/Daniel Peaches, Records Managaer/Ed Whitewater, Project Manager/Anthony Peterman, Kayenta Chapter/Matt Austiin, Community Involvment Officer/Jarvis Williams, Operations Manager/Bill Cly, KTC Maintenance/Shawn Big, and KTC Driver/Thomas Grey were at hand for the delivery of the new truck.



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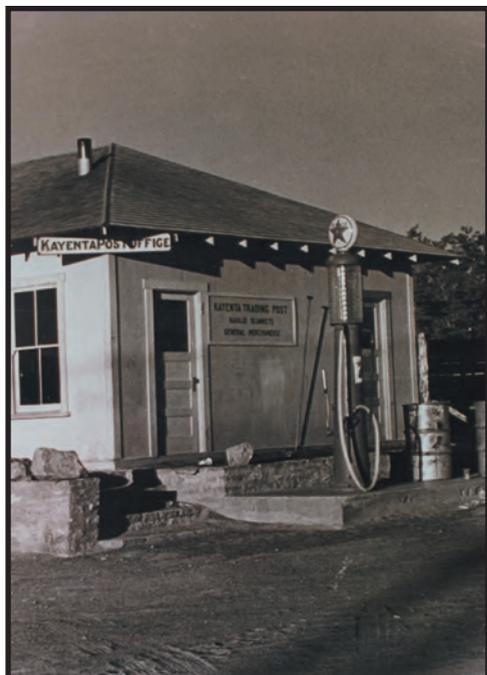


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# Kayenta Township Commissioner Candidates



## Alyce Mae Yazzie

### Please tell us about yourself.

My name is Alyce Mae Yazzie. My clans are:

I am a Bitter Water Clan (To'di'chi'nii) born for Black Sheep (Dibe Li'zhi'nii), My maternal grandfather is Black Wood Streaked clan (Tsinnijinnie), and my paternal grandfather is Jemez Edgewater (Naa'naas'tees'zii' Tabaha). I am born And raised here in Kayenta, and am residing here for 60 years plus.

### Why are you running for this position?

I got interested in giving back to my community By helping with getting more developments, so our children, grandchildren can come back to stay and work here if we create more businesses through economic development within our community.

### What would you like to accomplish while in office?

What I would like to accomplish while in office is that I want to work closely with My colleagues, constituents and the chapter staff/officials and other entities. I firmly believe in good working relationship and get more businesses established here.

### How will you boost economic development or create jobs within the Township?

In order to boost economic development or create jobs within the township, more monies needs to be generated through taxes, and also seek outside source to leverage funding for economic development. Also, if our local chapter gets certified, this will help our town to develop so more jobs will be created.

### How do you feel about the business site leasing process of the Navajo Nation? Of the Township?

How I feel about the business site leasing process of the Navajo Nation? The Navajo Nation only gives business site leases for twenty-five years, and also getting business site leases through them takes too long for processing. As for the township, I strongly will support getting the ninety-nine year business site lease, and get the business site leases to be approved locally through the township, and this will eliminate the long process for approvals.

### How do you view local governance and the Navajo Nation?

I view the local governance as our own central government, where we can have our own control of our government. And for the Navajo Nation, we have been under the Navajo Nation too long, and we don't seem to get enough monies from them to run our own government, due to the growth of our community.

### How well do you understand local government and the functions of local municipalities?

As for me to understand local government and the functions of local municipalities, I want our local government to be self-sustaining with our own local generated monies, and have better working relationship with various entities, and our local

people here and need their inputs of what their wishes are, and create more jobs through bringing in various businesses in our town for our children, etc.

### How do you feel about raising taxes to generate revenue to complete projects?

How I feel about raising taxes to generate revenue to complete projects is a iffy to me at this point and time, due to no availability of jobs, and jobs are too scarce in our community for now. The economy is too high, and by raising taxes will create some chaos again.

### What is your stance on the amount of assistance given to social programs?

My stance on the amount of assistance given to social programs is I would like to A lot of the programs on-going, such as headstart program, early child development program, new senior citizen building and headstart building, etc.

### What do you feel are the important issues for the Kayenta Township? And how do you plan to address them?

How I feel about the important issues for the Kayenta Township is support the Governing body of the township to address concerns of the people, and work with the local business people, and work closely with the Kayenta Chapter and the community.

### What is your feeling toward having a chapter and Township in the same community?

I don't feel any different about having the chapter and the township in the same Community. What I would like for my people to better understand is that the township is only for collecting taxes by the local businesses, and these monies generate here is for local usage, and share the 2.5% with the local chapter, and also support each other on mutual basis. This is similar to County and City government.

### What is your approach toward being prepared for any Emergencies?

My approach toward being prepared for any Emergencies is that we established a local shelter with equipments for emergency use, telecommunication s;ystems, and work closely with emergency staff.

### Do you see a future for Townships on the Navajo Reservation?

Yes, I see a future for townships on the Navajo Reservation, depending on the size and what kind of businesses they have in their communities.



## Ben Johnson

### Please tell us about yourself?

My name is Ben Johnson, born for Manygoats clan/Red running into the water people clan. Born in Black Mesa. A long time resident of Kayenta. Went to school at Kayenta Boarding School and Graduated from Unified School District #27(MVHS) received AA degree from Dine College, Vietnam Veteran, with a honorable discharge, former Kayenta Chapter President for (8) years, former District 8 President, President of Western Agency School Board President; currently the Kayenta Community School Board President, also serving on the Navajo Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Currently employed with Black Mesa Community School, as a Facility Manager.

### Why are you running for this position?

My main reason for running for the Kayenta Township Commissioner, is to upgrade the Township, Plan Of Operation in regards to business site leasing process, and correct all audit findings and treat all Business owners with respect and equal treatment.

Continued on page 13

**Kayenta Township Commission  
Regular Meeting  
September 11, 2006  
5:30 pm**

## Meeting Minutes

## A. Call to Order: Roll Call; Invocation

Commission Badonie called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Badonie, Young, and Charley were present for the meeting. Commissioner Charley did the invocation.

**\*\*For the record Commissioner Eugene's Charley's first official meeting\*\***

## B. Recognized guest; Announcements

Guests and Commissioners introduced themselves. Announcement to remember to vote for state and county tomorrow September 12, 2006.

## C. Review and Adopt Agenda

Commissioner Young motioned to adopt the agenda with an amendment to Item C (Review and Accept Minutes: 08/14/06 KTC Regular Meeting) to be deferred to the next regular meeting and Item F (Financial Report for Month ending August 31, 2006) to be deferred to the next regular meeting due to Bank Statements not yet received. Seconded by Commissioner Charley and voted 3-0-0. Motion passed.

**\*\*For the record Commissioner Mike arrived at 6:30 pm\*\***

## D. New Business

1. Request to the Navajo Nation Transportation and Community Development Committee to add 2.4 miles of Roads within the Kayenta Township to the Indian Reservation Roads Inventory. Resolution was read by Anthony Peterman. Commissioner Young motioned to include the Western Navajo Agency Roads Committee in the heading and in the Resolve Clause, #4 to correct the typographical error (bet to best). Second by Commissioner Mike and voted 3-0-0.

**\*\*For the record Commissioner Austin arrived at 6:55 pm\*\***

2. Consultant Contract for Frank Ramsey to set up Animal Control Program - Resolution was read by Anthony Peterman. Commissioner Young motioned to strike whereas #2 of the resolution. Renummer the items so that there are four (4) items in the resolution.

•Strike all references to KACS in the Heading, Whereas, and Resolve.

## KAYENTA TODAY

•Resolve should have an amount, a timeline, and an account number. Seconded by Commissioner Austin, and voted 4-0-0. Motion passed.

3. Request to approve the KTC Organizational Structure. Resolution was read by Anthony Peterman. Commissioner Austin made motion to accept the Resolution. No second was made to Commissioner Austin's motion. Motion

4. Request to Approve and Establish a Cooperative Partnership between Kayenta Chapter Government and Kayenta Township on a Mutual Basis. Resolution was read by Anthony Peterman.

• Commissioner Austin motioned to approve the establishment of a Cooperative Partnership between Kayenta Chapter Government and Kayenta Township. Motion seconded by Eugene Charley. Questions and Comments.

• Community member, Beverly Pigman, mentioned that the original Resolution of the Kayenta Chapter Government KT08-322-06 did not have a space for the motioning/seconding party.

• It was also noted by the Chapter Secretary, Lena Clitso that "Exhibit A" should be typed into the official Chapter document.

• Motion was then made by Commissioner Young to defer this item. Motion seconded by Commissioner Mike. Vote: 3-1-0. Motion passed to defer until Chapter Resolution is corrected.

5. Comments regarding the use of Kayenta Today was presented by community member Ken Whitehair. Mr. Whitehair's presentation was focused on Unemployment/Economic Development in Kayenta. He stated that Kayenta Today Newsletter can be used as a main communication tool/marketing tool to reach the residents of the Kayenta and the entire Navajo Nation. Mr. Whitehair made several recommendations to the Commissioners as he referenced the many accomplishments of the Township. It is election year and the Kayenta Today can be used to post the political viewpoints of both parties. Motion was made by Commissioner Mike to accept Ken Whitehair's comments. Motion seconded by Commissioner Young. Vote: 4-0-0.

## F. Reports

6. Financial Report for months ending July 2006 was read by Weylon Singer, Compliance Officer. Motion to approve report by Commissioner Young and seconded by Commissioner Austin and voted 4-0-0. Motion passed.

7. Manager's report for month ending September 11, 2006. Daniel Peaches, Town Manager was present for his report. Motion by Commissioner Young to accept his report, seconded by Commissioner Mike and voted 4-0-0. Motion passed.

## G. Adjournment

8. Motion by Commissioner Austin to adjourn meeting at 8:30 pm and seconded by Commissioner Young and voted 4-0-0. Motion passed.



Continued from page 11

**What would you like to accomplish while in office?**

I like to accomplish to have more business coming to Kayenta and generate more revenues.

**How will you boost economic development or create jobs within the Township?**

To advertise more on the newspaper/TV/radio/flyers/internet to increase economic development and Create more jobs within District 8

**How do you feel about the business site leasing process of the Navajo Nation? Of the Township?**

I don't believe Kayenta Township should go to Navajo Nation for approval on the business site Leasing process, because the council get their blessing for local control

**How do you view local governance and the Navajo Nation?**

I view the local governance as self-control on all local matters.

**How well do you understand local government and the functions of local municipalities?**

I have a good understanding on local government and their functions of local municipalities since both Government has similar operation

**How do you feel about raising taxes to generate revenue to complete projects?**

I feel we need to increase our taxes to generate more revenue to complete more projects within the Boundary of Kayenta.

**What is your stance on the amount of assistance given to social programs?**

We need to increase the amount of assistance to our local programs, mainly because our community is Growing rapidly.

**What do you feel are the important issues for the Kayenta Township?**

I believe the important issues for the Kayenta Township, is to educate our community members on the Kayenta Township function and hold public meeting/chapter meetings to inform all community Members of municipalities.

**What is your feeling toward having a chapter and Township in the same community?**

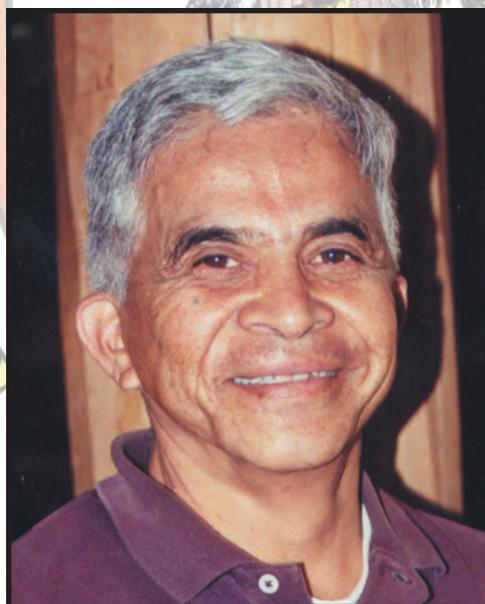
My feeling on the chapter/township in the same community is not a problem with me providing the two Entitles can provided services to its community members, communication, team work for the best Interest of the local community membership

**What is your approach towards being prepared for any Emergencies?**

I believe ever entities has emergencies protocol in place for emergencies situation within the community Of Kayenta, we are stand ready for all emergencies. As a incident Commander where I work we have Implemented Standard Operating Procedures in case of emergencies that arise.

**Do you see a future for Townships on the Navajo Reservation?**

Yes,I do see a clear direction for the township to be self governance/self generate revenue , increase Economic development to create more jobs within the township.



**Richard Mike**

**Please tell us about yourself?**

My name is Richard Mike. I am of the Bitterwater clan born for Toh Tsoni (Big Water) My father was a Navajo Code Talker originally from Low Mountain, Arizona raised by his older sister, Frances Kanuho. My Grandmother had a large farm and only my mother and father spoke English. My mother and her youngest brother, Norman Blackwater (deceased) were the only one's who ever went to school. During World War II, I lived with my mother and

two sisters at Tuba City. Back in the 40's, our sheep-camp (Blackwater) was 50 miles from Kayenta and Kayenta only got mail once a week. My mother wanted to write to my father so she raised us kids all by herself at Tuba City. Tuba City got mail two times a week and we only lived a mile from the Trading Post. It was dirt road all the way to Cameron. When my father returned from the war, he had many years of nightmares and moved us to the Navajo Ordnance Depot at Bellemont, Arizona. My two younger brothers King Mike Junior and Francis (Spank) were born there. I was in the second grade when my father purchased our first truck. At the present Flagstaff Community Church, only Hopi and Navajo children were required to take bible lessons on Wednesday afternoons. The school bus would take us to the church. All of us 5 Mike children received a college education as that was the minimum requirement from my father, King Mike. My parents moved to the Intermountain Indian School at Brigham City, Utah and most of the summers, me and my two sisters Sharry and Vickie were dropped off at our sheep-camp to dry corn, dry apricots, and herd sheep. I went to St. Michaels' Indian School back then when they still had a boy's dormitory. Later, I would become the President of the St. Michaels' School Board of Directors.

**Why are you running for this position?**

Over the years, I noticed that the old BIA system doesn't work. When I would come back home from Boarding School, I noticed that the Public School teachers had their own electrician, their own plumbers, and locksmiths. These Public School teachers didn't know anyone in the BIA compound or anyone in the IHS compound. The tribe was divided into local Chapter and Window Rock programs (Community Center, NTUA, Rangers). I've always wanted one community for Kayenta instead of segmented compounds. A place where we create our own jobs, good education and recreation facilities, a place with a good public library and generally, a good place to raise children with parks, picnic tables, groomed cemetery and a

place where people have a say in molding their lives.

**What would you like to accomplish while in office?**

I would like to see three main projects: 1.) more small businesses as they provide jobs which in turn, provides more income for more families. 2.) more recreation facilities for families like picnic areas, a Veterans Park with names of local soldiers, Skateboard Park with annual contests, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, paid walking tours by students for our hotel guests, quad dirt trails for paid tours, and 3.) Police protection. Kayenta has a great need for municipal police, police cars, municipal courts and a larger jail with appropriate treatment and addiction programs.

**How will you boost economic development or create jobs within the Township?**

I would grant all businesses in Kayenta the option for a 99 year business site lease. I would offer reasonable rental rates to make our business site leases attractive and I would waive sovereign immunity. Our tribal government has sovereign immunity but the greatest economy in the world has "free enterprise" which means "no government". A society is the largest group of people who share a common way of life. This does not mean that all the people in a society live in exactly the same way. For example, the people of the United States share a government. They share a belief in freedom and equality. They share a system of laws. They believe in free enterprise and individuality. They share a number of habits and ways of doing things. The people of the Navajo Nation make up a different society. We have a system of government which is different than the "outside". We share different outlooks and ways of doing things. Our biggest need however, is jobs. The United States has a five (5%) unemployment rate whereas the Navajo Nation has over ten times that amount (50%). So why not simply copy the US method of creating employment?

Continued on page 14

Continued from page

### How do you feel about the business site leasing process of the Navajo Nation? Of the Township?

The business site leasing process of the Navajo Nation doesn't work, has never worked and will never ever work. Why do the Navajo people go to Farmington or Cortez to shop? Window Rock is always telling us to shop in Kayenta or Chinle. Why don't Navajo people listen to their government? The answer is simple. There are many more types of businesses in Farmington and Cortez while you cannot purchase an ordinary pair of shoes in Kayenta or Chinle. There is not a single hardware store in Chinle. The Township is governed by the laws of the Navajo Nation and therefore it cannot develop stores or employment either. The Township has been trying to develop a "Master Lease" for the whole town of Kayenta similar to the Chinle Shopping Center. That way, a new business site lessee doesn't have to go through the 25-step ordeal and several years to acquire a lease like a tenant in a shopping center. I feel that the Township needs its own Indian LGA and Township bill so that we can develop our own "Home-Rule" regulations for each municipality to govern themselves and not be hassled by some committee or person in Window Rock.

### How do you view local government and the functions of local municipalities?

One of the jobs of any government is to give services to its citizens. Window Rock has basically forgotten about Kayenta. In America, it is often local governments that touch the lives of most people. In fact, the Township often carries out state and federal programs. The US Post Office for example, was a federal program carried out by the Township. Local water departments pump water from lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. The water is cleaned and pumped through miles of underground pipes to homes. Bringing clean water to homes and removing water waste is a huge task. Sanitation departments often supply trucks and trash bins or the collection and recycling of garbage. The electricity for your

computer, television, lights and refrigerator may come from the NTUA. When the Township gets autonomy from the Navajo Nation government, then it can begin the process of controlling the NTUA, the way they are run, and the prices that they charge.

Local governments also prepare streets and keep them clean and free of potholes. Often, this means streetlights, traffic lights, and road signs. The Township is presently in the process of building a new road behind the High School to alleviate the traffic problems and congestion in front of the High School Administration Offices every morning at 8:00 am.

A school board of education hires teachers and sets policies for the school within the district. The school building, like other local buildings, must meet building codes, or laws. These cover the materials used to build the school, its size, the number of doors it has, and many other items. Buildings also have to pass fire inspection. After school, you might visit the local library, play basketball or soccer at a nearby park, or go swimming. In many communities, local governments provide these types of services. They might also support youth centers, senior citizen centers, and museums or art galleries. The local police department must also protect the public. Police officers keep the peace by enforcing the laws. These are just some of the services that local government can provide.

### How do you feel about raising taxes to generate revenue to complete projects?

I am a member of the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission. For years, the Navajo Nation government existed almost exclusively on its natural resources via royalties. It was the Kayenta Township Commission that started sales taxes in Kayenta. The Navajo Nation Tax Commission has copied the KTC sales tax concept down to the exemptions for food and medicines. The sales tax is at 5% of the retail price merchants charge at the time goods or services are sold to customers. The Kayenta Township Commission cannot raise taxes

Continued on page 16



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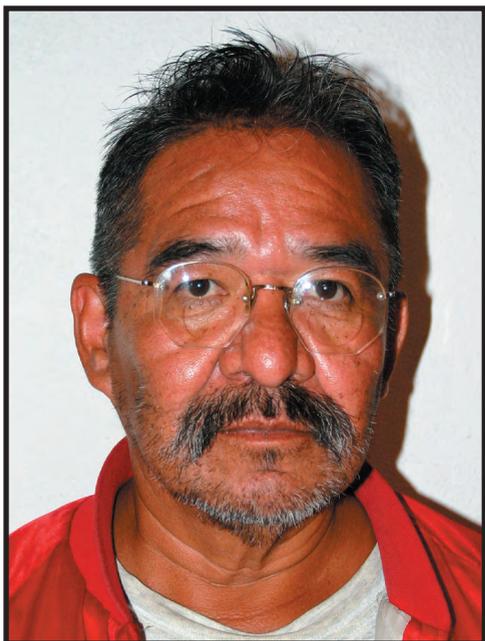
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*“Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Kayenta Township, its employees and Commissioners.”*

# 21ST Century Navajo-ism

***“There is only one question Navajo can always ask, and that’s why does Navajo not have a world-class economy?”***

**- Ken Whitehair**

**By Ken Whitehair**

My usual answer is after 514 years, since Christopher Columbus hit the beach in the Caribbean, Navajo Nation has not really got firm footing somewhere between a barter economy, to investment and banking, casino operations, launch rockets into space, have manufacture applications using robotics, and other facets showing a capitalist system. A suspicion should raise its head: Does it really take Navajo Nation 514 years to learn economics, and that poorly, as though Navajo Nation has a learning disability?

Needless to say, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that Navajo is a slow learner. I hope the curious Navajo examines the census data, starting with 1950, ending 2000. Specifically, Navajo per capita income may ring some sheep and goat bells! The examination may publish a monograph displaying the disadvantaged, remedial, 21st Century Navajo. The census is only one body of evidence. The monograph may incite interest, maybe serve as an indictment of Navajo Nation Government and Administration for keeping Navajo impoverished. Isn’t keeping a people in poverty a form of oppression? I think it is. The evidence sustains the charge oppression against the Navajo interest. (Navajo interest might be thought of as business property.)



As we all know, Navajo Nation government and administration is merely the face, does the pantomime, of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), of Department of Interior. And the BIA is a byproduct of the War Department.

Some Navajo people say they have returned from Fort Sumner, from prisoner of war status. Some Navajo returned from Fort Sumner to walk right into a ‘legal Fort Sumner’ with eyes wide shut, which currently endures, and has out lasted the actual years of imprisonment. Its bitter to remember Hweeldi (Fort Sumner), but it’s a warning to beware of similar disasters in our future.

Where the Rez boundary begins, right next to it is the 18th Amendment announcement on stone, and next is a large invisible structure like a supermax, which I call ‘legal Fort Sumner’. ‘Legal Fort Sumner’ is Navajo Rez. Is there a relationship between ‘legal Fort Sumner’ and Navajo Nation’s absent world-class economy? Hmm. Let me guess— Yes.

One example: Unemployment. Unemployment is a constant feature of a day in the life of Chapter Navajos. Unemployment reflects poverty and poverty is impotence. Unemployment is a measurable quantity of Navajo Nation’s absent world-class economy. Unemployment thrives in ‘legal Fort Sumner’. Legal Fort Sumner is a body of laws, regulations, opinions, imposed onto Navajo life. Legal Fort Sumner has

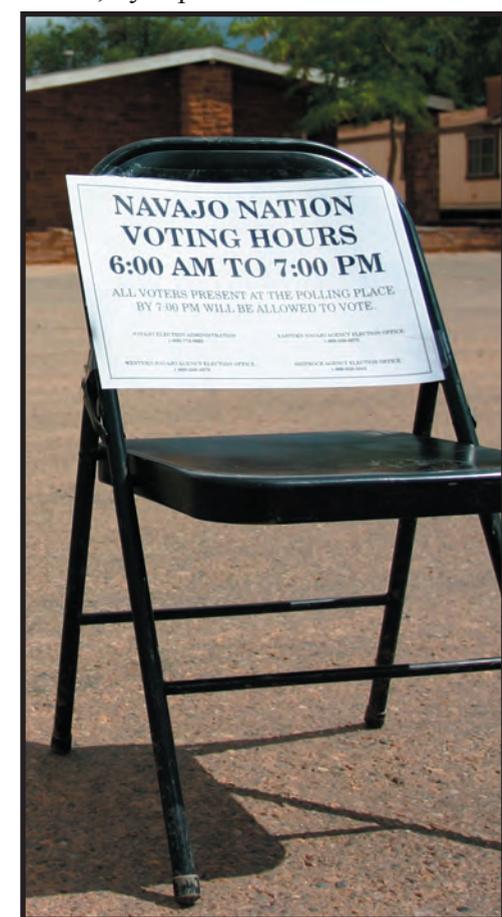
an oppressive quality and promotes unemployment, ensures that Navajo remains impotent in all spheres of 21st Century existence. Hence, a day in the life of Chapter Navajos is spent unemployed.

Ok, let me bring unemployment to a Chapter level. An unemployment resolution (see attached) was passed by unanimous vote at a recent Chapter meeting. The unemployment resolution has two designs: One is to bring unemployment to the front page, to become part of Navajo Voter awareness; Second, to begin talks between Kayenta Chapter and Navajo Nation government and administration about unemployment as part of Navajo economy. One desired outcome is a commitment from candidates for Navajo public office to support unemployment as an issue, as an agenda topic during Council meetings in recognition of the destructive power of poverty against Navajo interests. Simply talking about unemployment from the Navajo Voter sector will do much to change the political landscape. By such talk, candidates for Navajo public office will be expected to do something about unemployment. So far, in the context of Navajo economy, Navajo can brag about regular and habitual subordination, and those days simply can no longer be the community standard. Action and daring is wanted, from which POWER can grow.

Is there a method currently in progress on the Rez that is a solution to the problem of unemployment? Yes.

Local Government like Kayenta Township is a method that clearly shows a solution to the problem of unemployment. The performance of Township shows the following: when Township started several years ago the budget was zero dollars, the full time employees (FTE) was zero, and there were volunteers. When that beginning period is compared with present times, there is now over 50 FTEs in aggregate, comprised of staff, contractors, consultants, and subcontractors. Some achievements are: Township is owner of the transfer station which is a dump compactor; Joint Venture to accomplish streets and lights construction; ownership of airport to accomplish jet landing capability; renovation of buildings to increase office space, a recreational facility, and housing development. A recent street repair at the ‘NHA Housing’ appreciates the values of neighborhood homes. These accomplishments are only part of everyday business, whose dollar value is in the millions. Township, a form of local government, by these works impacts unemployment by increasing employment opportunities. This conclusion is beyond dispute.

Do elected leaders show an interest in the Kayenta Township success story by visiting Kayenta, by appropriate supportive legislation, by financial assistance such as letters of credit, by replication?



Continued from page 14

unless it is approved by a majority of the Township voters.

For the Township, we pay a Hotel Occupancy Tax and get none of it back here in Kayenta. The KTC and Chapter have been working together on this to get some of our hotel taxes back.

### What is your stance on the amount of assistance given to social programs?

It's too much. Of course we all have an obligation to reduce hardships on families when the income earner is out of work. At times, all of us simply run out of luck with the loss of loved ones or accidents and occasionally, we all need help. We have social security and related programs, there is unemployment programs, WIC, welfare, food stamps, the BIA and the Public Health Clinics and hospitals. When I lived at Brigham City, Utah, I use to see my Navajo peers picking cherries and we'd hoe beets in Idaho. My grandmother use to have a large farms with an orchard of apricot, peach, and apple trees.

There were many other families with small farmland gardens. Today, there is almost none. As a matter of fact, all of my generation had to learn to plant and raise animals as part of our boarding school curriculum.

What we hardly ever talk about is the staggering costs of these significant social developments if they go unchecked. What is usually forgotten is that all these social programs are paid for by business firms and all workers of America, and by government deficit financing. I can see now that it is stealing away our work ethic. My grandmother never took a cent from the federal government and I believe that she would be horrified if she could see how dependent our leaders have made the Navajo reservation.

### What do you feel are the important issues for the Kayenta Township?

And how do you plan to address them? At present, the most important issue facing the Township is the Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Navajo Nation Council

trying to take away "Home-Rule" from the Township. They are doing this by a campaign of mis-information. The EDC is not able to work with the Township over its business site leases. They want the Township to give Jodonna Ward very favorable rental rates. The Township believes the EDC has no business meddling in Township affairs. The Township sees a separation of power in their own type of government and want Window Rock politics to stay out. The EDC on the other hand, wants Kayenta's city money and the power to tell every LGA and Township what to do, how to do it, and when to do it.

The way to address this issue is for the Township to file a Conflict of Interest case with the Ethics and Rules Committee against the EDC. I want to know why the EDC filed a report against the Township before the Navajo Nation Council without notifying or ever talking to the Township Commissioners. I specifically want to know why Lawrence Platero,

Chairperson of the EDC sides with Ms. Jodonna Ward to the exclusion of the Township and even to the destruction of it. Why is it that he will only talk to her and not to the Township?

### What is your feeling toward having a chapter and Township in the same community?

Great! The Township takes care of city problems as I explained in the question concerning functions of local municipalities. The Chapter on the other hand becomes a county government. Voters do elect officials to represent them and they in turn, include a sheriff – who keeps the peace and serves as an officer of the county or municipal court. There is usually a clerk who keeps the public records, and a coroner, who looks for the cause of death in suspicious cases. County governments also pay for rural school districts, community colleges, county fire district, a county library, vocational education technical institutes, and a variety of other services.



### What is your approach towards being prepared for any Emergencies?

We need a town plan. Looking at the odds, our emergency would probably be water shortages. The Township should have a plan so that we teach all our citizens to maintain a small food supply and stored water, enough to last for 45 days.

### Do you see a future for Townships on the Navajo Reservation?

At present, it is the only means for real economic development. It is the only way the Navajo people can develop safe communities and bring jobs to their communities. The bottom line for any addiction problems or boredom is a job. A job gives everyone a sense of accomplishment and money to spend for college, new truck, or even the choices during your leisure time and where to spend it.

# Kayenta Chapter Delegate Candidates

The Kayenta Township compiled a list of questions for the Kayenta Chapter Delegate Candidates to answer for the public. Out of six running candidates for the Kayenta Chapter, only one candidate answered these questions. The following candidates did not submit their answers for the Kayenta Today: JoDonna Ward, Lena Clitso, Alice White, Willie Begay, and Roy Laughter. We hope the following questions and answers the candidate submitted will help give you a better understanding of the candidates views and goals for their candidacy.



**David Shondee**

## **Please tell us about yourself.**

David Shondee, retired coalminer with 25 years of service with Peabody Coal Company. I retired in March, 1995. Currently, I am just kicking back, dreaming of going fishing at the best fishing place on the REZ where the fish will grab my hook. I am Commander of KVO. I also am a committee member to land planning. In working with Navajo people I am not retired.

## **Why are you running for this position?**

There are a number of concerned Kayenta/Chilchinbeto Citizens who feel that they are not being fairly represented by their elected officials at the local level and Window Rock. It is at the urging of these concerned Citizens that I agreed to seek the Office of Kayenta/Chilchinbeto Council Delegate. We need to be a part of the "change for a more responsive government and our elected officials".

## **What is your main reason for running for office?**

Hopefully, I will be able to make a difference in the needs and concerns of the local Citizens. There is not enough feedback on the status of Resolutions the local Citizens have voted on and passed at the Chapter Meetings and passed by the Commissioners at Township Meetings.

## **What would you like to accomplish while in office?**

Research and identify the status of each project that have been initiated by the Chapters within the past 10 years. How soon will these projects become a reality? Listen = It's very important to listen, and I will accomplish listening to the people. Listening can be done by being at Kayenta and Chilchinbeto on announced, scheduled days. I will accomplish taking a look at Navajo Nation Government, especially from the point of view of, is it working for the people? Is it getting the job done? This mean work for the people.

## **How will you boost economic development or create jobs within your chapter?**

The Kayenta/Chilchinbeto Chapters and the Kayenta Township need to collaborate and cooperate in bringing Economic Development which creates jobs. The current system of "double Taxation" (Township Taxes and Navajo Taxes) needs to be thoroughly addressed. Either the Navajo Nation or the Township need to consider limiting the amount of taxes they collect. The system of Double Taxation is not working or attracting the businesses to our community. The issue of "Grazing Use Areas" also needs to be considered; the Permit Holders need to be included in the process of identifying potential business sites. Getting more jobs here is no simple task. It's going to take lots of work many people will get involved. I am committed to more jobs. A joint effort can be made with the State. Navajo Nation resources need to be prioritized so that jobs can be created.

## **How much influence will the Office of the President have in your decision to pass/not pass legislation?**

Very little. The local citizens need to be informed of pending legislation, how it will affect them and the community of Kayenta/Chilchinbeto. Their opinions count more than a delegates' personal decision/opinion. There is no room for any of the concept of "Your Yes Vote means No".

## **How do you feel about the business site leasing process of the Navajo Nation? And the Township?**

The business site leasing should be initiated by the local citizens as they are the ones who will be and are directly affected by what business are developed in their community. The local citizens should have a real voice and participation in the process. I feel the business site lease is way too long. The BIA must not be involved.

## **How do you view local governance and the Navajo Nation?**

Local Governance will work if the local Citizens become more involved. They are the ones who will be making the ultimate decisions as to how their community will be. The present Navajo Nation Government has very little concern about the "GRASS-ROOT" people. The present system is based on the needs of only a handful of chapters; delegates who seem to have the most voice and influence over the other delegates.

## **Projects need to be completed in Kayenta, as council delegate, how will you assist in that process?**

Identify pending projects, the status of each project, when they were initiated and how they were prioritized. Inform the local citizens, Chapter Official and the Township of pending projects.

## **What are your feelings toward having a Chapter and Township in the same community?**

The Kayenta/Chilchinbeto Chapters are unique. The Township and both Kayenta/Chilchinbeto Chapters will work if the majority of the Kayenta/Chilchinbeto members

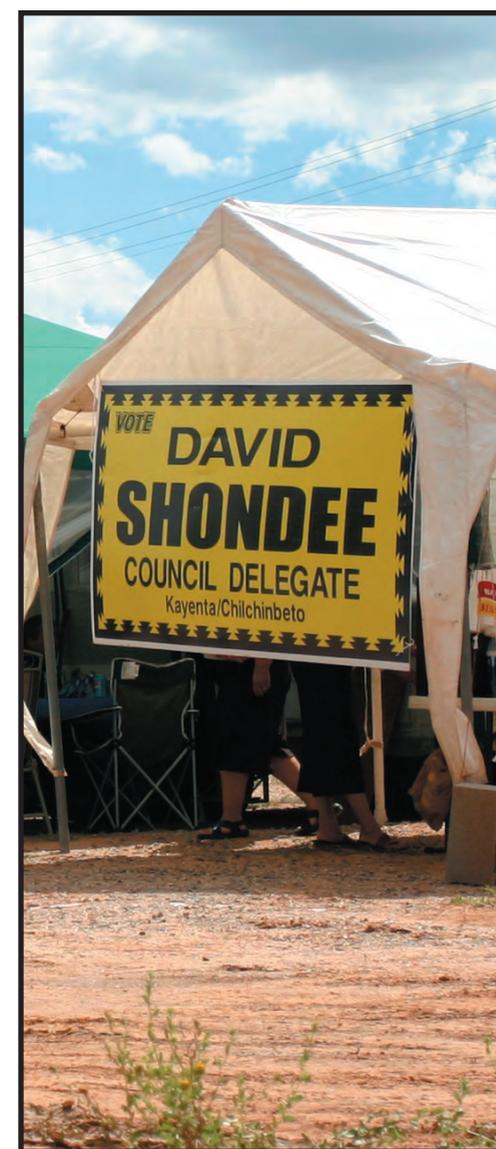
will understand this concept. With this system there cannot be a division between the two governments. Both Governments need to come together and understand why they are here. The interest of the local citizens should be a priority, not their own self interest.

## **What are your feelings toward Economic Development here in Kayenta?**

Kayenta/Chilchinbeto Chapters are way behind in Economic Development. There is not a single business in Chilchinbeto. The last business that has happened in Kayenta is "SON-IC". Why? A partnership between the Kayenta/Chilchinbeto Chapters and the Kayenta Township is the only answer to bringing more Economic Development. We can no longer afford to let Economic opportunities blow away in the wind.

All questions were answered with Kayenta/Chilchinbeto Chapters and the Kayenta Township Cili/ens in mind as they are going to be represented at the Navajo Nation Council level.

**"PLAN WITH THE PEOPLE;  
WORK WITH THE PEOPLE;  
WORK FOR THE PEOPLE"**



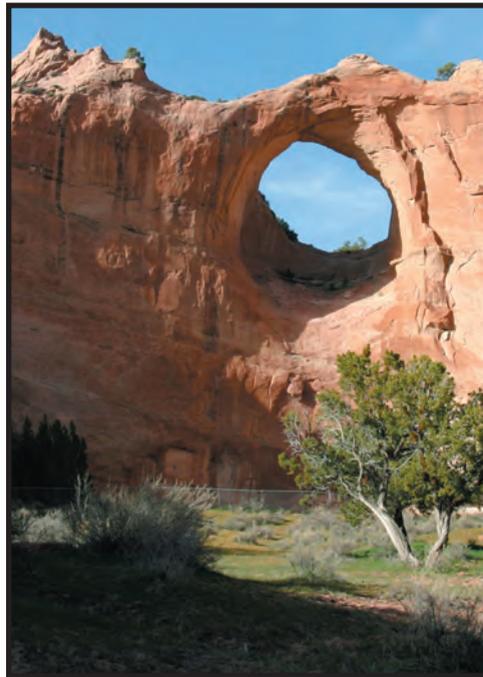
**Continued from page 1**

the rehabilitation of the Council Chamber and technology updates within the Legislative Branch.

The second and third days of the fall session were consumed with consideration of various requests for supplemental appropriations from the undesignated, unreserved fund balance, which stood at \$32,512,432 at the beginning of the session. However, in the end, most of the supplemental requests did not pass with the required 59 votes. On the third day of session, the request for \$94,800 for the Division of Public Safety was the only one that passed with seven amendments attached bringing the total amount taken from the undesignated, unreserved fund balance to \$6,382,200. The amendments included \$825,000 for the Eastern Land Board and Grazing Committees of the Navajo Nation, \$3 million to Chapters for scholarships, \$1,935,000 to the Office of the President and the Office of the Speaker for discretionary funds, \$26,400 to Navajo Election Administration for poll workers for the upcoming election, \$301,000 for the Navajo Nation Farm Board and \$200,000 to the Claw family for attorney fees.

What did pass between deliberations on supplemental appropriations was legislation sponsored by Ernest Yazzie (Churchrock/Breadsprings) to enact the Fairness in Appropriations Act, which would set the annual budgets for the nation's branches. Legislation adopting a five-year plan for the expenditure of income from the Permanent Trust Fund was tabled to the summer session.

On Thursday, October 19, 2006, Council did not choose to amend the residency requirements for the Office of the President and Vice President. Council did however choose to amend the law to authorize the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council to issue certificates of condolence, congratulations, appreciation and recognition of achievement on its behalf. The change in law, sponsored by Speaker Morgan, could save the Legislative Branch thousands of dollars as \$1070 is spent on average in utilizing the legislative system for



an administrative task. The change was one initiated by discussions of the Legislative Branch Effectiveness Subcommittee of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

“There are important policy issues we should be debating,” Rex Lee Jim (Rock Point) said in explaining why he supported the change. “We are after efficiency.”

Francis Redhouse (Teecnospos) agreed, saying that it is a cost-saving effort and the branch needed to look at ways of being cost effective.

On Thursday, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission was also approved.

On the last day of session, legislation approving the Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Authority Act, sponsored by Ervin Keeswood (Hogback), was passed with a vote of 61 in favor and 7 opposed.

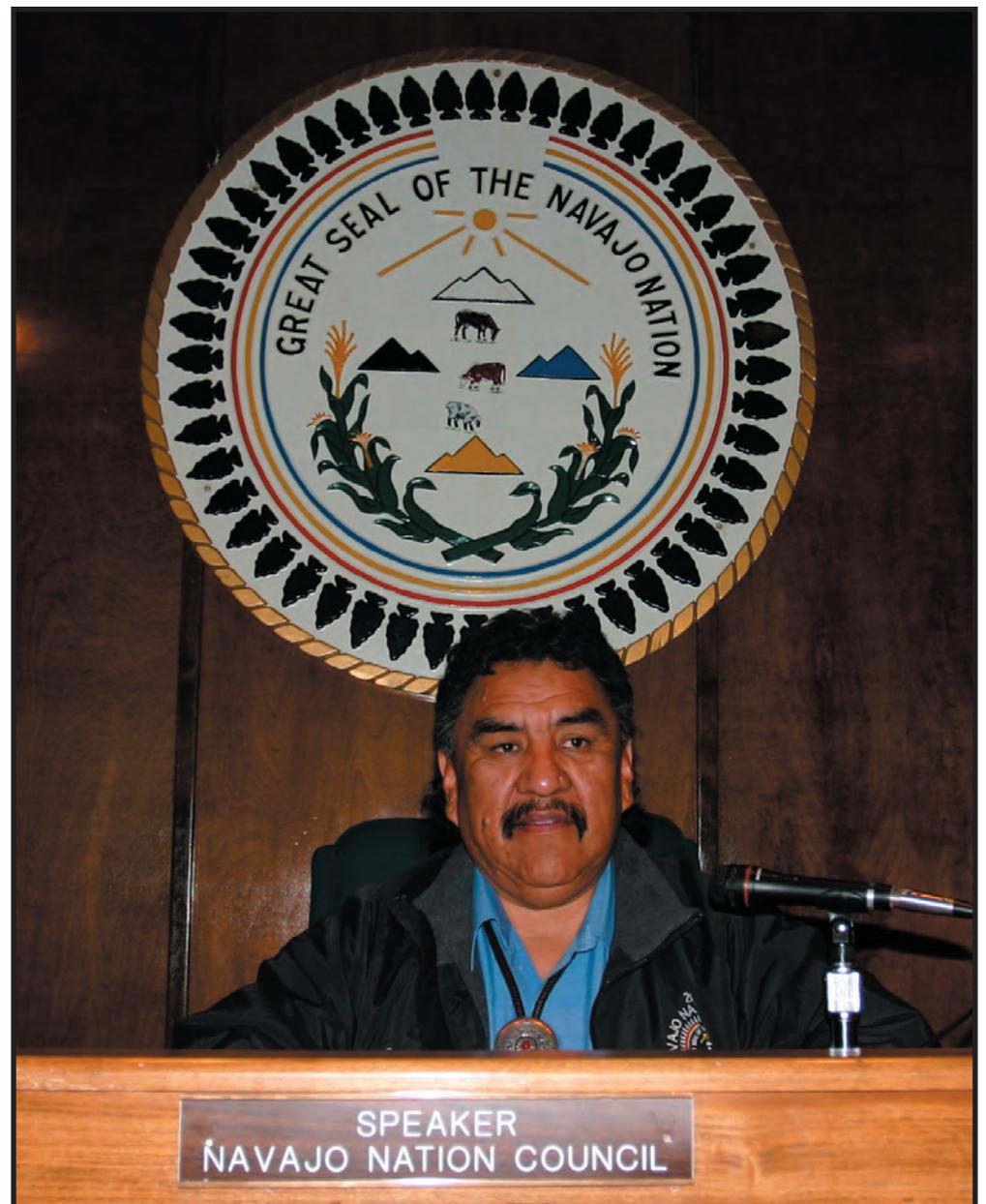
Benefits of establishing a Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Department include creation of job opportunities, a Navajo Nation license plate could be issued and revenue could be collected and returned to the Navajo Nation. The plan is for the central office to be housed in Window Rock with four branch offices. The department would provide services such as new registration processing, renewal processing, printing decals for license plates and issuing personalized or specialized license plates, eliminating the need for Navajo people to travel off the Navajo Nation to obtain these services.

On Friday, the Council congratulated the Ramah High School Lady Mustang Basketball Team, coaches and managers for their 2006 New Mexico State 2A Girls Basketball Championship and the Gallup High School Lady Bengals Basketball Team and coaches for their New Mexico 5A Girls Basketball Championship. The Council also honored the late Tommy Chavez, Sr., former Navajo Nation Council delegate for Pueblo Pintado and Whitehorse Lake Chapters from 1991 to 1999, with legislation sponsored by Lavern Wagner (Pueblo Pintado/Torreón/Whitehorse Lake).

The Council passed three confirmations during the fall session. The first confirmation, sponsored by Curran Hannon (Oak Springs/St. Michaels) was for Shawn Attakai for a two-year term to the commission on Navajo Government Development. Kee Allen Begay (Many Farms/Round Rock) sponsored the next two confirmations separately to appoint Cathy J. Begay and Eleanor Shirley as probationary district court judges of the Navajo Nation.

Ms. Shirley, a long-time employee of the Legislative Branch, was honored on Friday by the Fort Defiance Agency Caucus, the Office of Legislative Services and the Office of the Speaker for her outstanding work while serving in the Legislative Branch. Following the confirmations of Ms. Begay and Ms. Shirley, Chief Justice Herb Yazzie administered the oath of office.

The Council was able to enact the Board of Education Age Qualifications Act of 2006 by a vote of 52-0 and amendments to Title 1 of the Navajo Nation Code relating to displaying and handling of the Navajo Nation flag by a vote of 40-9. The Council will meet in a special session next week to consider remaining legislation from the fall session. Because of the unusually long agenda, fourteen pieces of legislation remained on the fall session agenda when Council adjourned on Friday. The Ethics and Rules Committee is expected to meet on Monday, October 23, 2006, to develop the agenda for a special session.



# Kayenta Talent Reaches Carnegie Hall *Guest Opinion – YES on Proposition 204*



A yearly trip to the “Shrine of the Ages”, for the Grand Canyon Music Festival was the exciting conclusion to the NACAP (Native American Composer Apprentice Project). Here is where the students that had composed their own music would be able to hear it performed by professional musicians. Native students from various schools and different reservations would participate in this yearly gathering. Through this program a family of young and talented students could share their composed pieces.

Recently, Rochelle Chester, a former student of Mr. Irwin’s guitar class was selected by a non-profit organization known as “From the Top” ([www.fromthetop.com](http://www.fromthetop.com)) to have her music piece, ‘Moon’s Lullaby’ to be played at the Carnegie Hall in New York City. This event will occur on Friday, October 27, 2006. “The mission of From the Top is to “Celebrate kids who’ve shown commitment to music and fine arts.”

Rochelle Chester is a senior at Monument Valley High School. So far Rochelle has composed 3 pieces of music since her sophomore year. Her clans are Tachii’nii and Deeshchii’nii, and her parents are Darlene and Alfred Chester of Black Mesa.

Creativity in the art of music has been around the Kayenta school district for many years. Guitar class is one that former Kayenta teacher Mr. Irwin had taught. Mr. Irwin left the Kayenta school district and is now teaching in Flagstaff.

His passion in teaching guitar classes motivated many young students to excel in their musical talents. The guitar group would meet after school to practice and they would also play their music for school concerts and activities. There were occasions when visitors, family and friends would enjoy the guitar group when they shared their music at the Holiday Inn and Hampton Inn. Encouragement and support from Mr. Irwin led some students to gain confidence in composing their own music.



Submitted by Cheryl Naumann

This November 7th, Arizona voters can fight animal cruelty by voting YES on Proposition 204.

Supported by mainstream animal welfare organizations such as the Arizona Humane Society and The Humane Society of the United States, as well as the National Environmental Trust, and Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Proposition 204 would require that pigs used for breeding and calves raised for veal have enough space to lie down, turn around, and extend their limbs. Most voters don’t realize that current animal cruelty laws in our state do not apply to farm animals.

There are no “extremist animal rights” organizations involved in this campaign – only conservative animal welfare organizations. So many Arizonans have rallied around the YES on 204 campaign because it is so modest in its goals. How can anyone argue with merely giving an animal the right to turn around?

Currently there is only one factory farm in our state which would be affected by Proposition 204. This massive complex is located in Snowflake, Arizona. It confines more than 16,000 breeding sows in crates so narrow that they cannot even turn around. These animal’s lives are filled with daily misery. Barely able to move, they suffer from a variety of maladies that no responsible farmer could ever support. Their muscles atrophy, and they develop painful joint abnormalities. And, contrary to their nature which would have them walking about in pastures and rooting in the dirt, they are forced to live in 2-foot wide crates no wider than their bodies, and to lie down and sleep in their own waste. Even if the measure passes, this factory farm would have six years to come into compliance.

The cruelty of the veal industry is notorious as well. Day-old calves are chained by the neck in crates that permit almost no movement. Most crated calves are barely able to walk after four months of confinement and must be dragged to slaughter.

According to the USDA, there are over 200 registered hog farms in Arizona – yet, only one uses the cruel and inhumane gestation crate housing method. If these other operations can humanely raise their hogs, why can’t this massive factory farm do so, too? Even animals raised for food deserve humane treatment. The conditions within this one facility are so shocking, one of their own employees came forward with video taken inside the gestation crate barns. This video can be viewed on the campaign website, [www.yesonproposition204.com](http://www.yesonproposition204.com). Even though he works at this facility to support his family, the employee finds it hard to deal with the cruel conditions the animals are forced to endure.

This law would not apply to the confinement of pregnant pigs and veal calves during transport; in rodeos, county fairs; during lawful research; or during veterinary procedures. The law also would not ban the use of “farrowing crates” (also used by children in 4-H programs), a different type of crate used after birth to prevent sows from crushing their newborn piglets in the absence of materials which pigs would naturally use to build protective beds.

More than 100 Arizona veterinarians have already endorsed Proposition 204. And Northern Arizona University’s October 2006 poll shows that 72 percent of Arizona voters support Proposition 204.

Arizona voters have always supported reasonable animal welfare reforms – we voted YES to ban cockfighting, and we voted YES to ban the use of cruel steel-jaw traps on public lands. And now, by a YES vote for Proposition 204 in this election, we can end the suffering of thousands of animals. Learn more by visiting [www.yesonproposition204.com](http://www.yesonproposition204.com).

*Cheryl Naumann is the President and CEO of the Arizona Humane Society, and the Chairwoman for the Arizonans for Humane Farms/YES on Proposition 204 Campaign.*

**Sitting there won't change a thing.**



**VOTE**  
**November 7, 2006**