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MV Baloon Festival

# THE KAYENTA TODAY

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

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Transportation Study

December 2011

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## Congressional District One Reaps a Historic Candidacy for Navajo Woman

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – As one of Kayenta's very own, an Arizona State University alumni, a Harvard trained lawyer, and now, Wenona Benally-Baldenegro is a political candidate to replace Tea Party freshmen Republican Paul Gosar for a seat on Congressional District 1. As a thumbs up for the community of Kayenta, she has also worked hard for last decade as an advocate for the interests of rural and mainstreet communities.

In fact, her resume of endorsements since she began her campaign was so impressive that the national on-line news source The Huffington Post published an article about her candidacy in late October 2011. In that list of endorsements came a huge thumbs up from U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva who is the House ranking member who sits on the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, and a long time advocate for Grand Canyon National Park.

Given the recent redistricting in Arizona, if elected, Benally Baldenegro will represent Congressional District 1, which covers the northern Tucson metropolitan area, then stretches north to Flagstaff and then east to the Four Corners area, including Kayenta. It is the tenth largest congressional district in the country and is considered a swing state when election time rolls around. The district is home to more American Indians than anywhere else. According to U.S. Census 2000, the district has a population of

641,320 people, many of whom live in rural communities.

Back in July 2011, during the Kayenta Township Regular meeting, a small group of about 25 people heard Wenona Benally-Baldenegro declare her candidacy for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in Arizona's Congressional District 1. As she spoke to her audience, she declared, "The time has come for me to come and do what I can to help make a difference in the lives of all the hard-working people in our communities. I've spent the last 10 years helping people overcome the everyday struggles they face and I know that I can do the same for people living on the Navajo reservation and in this congressional district." She received a standing ovation, and many stayed long after the town hall meeting to answer questions.

With all the political support she has accumulated since that time, Wenona now has a historic opportunity to become the first American Indian woman to have a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. She will be the first Navajo. Kayenta Today caught up with her after she gained a good number of endorsements, and now that she is off the ground and running, here are some of the highlights from a recent interview: **Kayenta Today:** Let's begin with introductions. Please introduce yourself and give a little background about yourself and your family.

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Congressional District 1 Candidate Wenona Benally-Baldenegro.

## David Sloan Architects: Kayenta Multi-Purpose Justice Facility



D. Sloan Architects, P.C. : from left to right: Nathan Wero, David Sloan, Ivan Shorty, and Delbert Billy

By Malcolm Benally

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – David N. Sloan, is Diné and principle architect at D. Sloan Architects PC, and he is a 1976 graduate from the University of New Mexico architecture program. He is licensed and registered to work as an architect in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. Among other projects, Mr. Sloan has been busy for the last few years working on the Kayenta Multipurpose Justice Center in Kayenta, Arizona.

At his presentations, Mr. Sloan reminisces back to the time when American Indians were encouraged to move to the city as a result of the 1954 legislation, the American Indian Reorganization Act. While just out of high school he was given a bus ticket to San Francisco with a little bit of spending money expected to become an "urban Indian." The real life experiences later in his life fused into his formal education as an architect. After much success in the industry, these days, during his presentations about architecture, he often talks about design strategies which are influenced not just by his Navajo heritage, but all Native peoples. Today, his architectural designs feature deep influences from the Native landscapes of the southwest; features of mesas, rugged canyons, and vast open skies that brings him back to his roots, his home, his "sense of

place" - which is both in New Mexico and in Arizona. As a sole proprietor and 100% Navajo owned, he started his architectural practice in 1985. Most of the staff at D. Sloan Architects are also Diné and David Sloan attributes all of his success to the Navajo professionals on staff.

Most of his work is focused on the Southwest region of the Four Corners area, where he has facilitated many projects from the beginning planning stages until completion. The staff at David N. Sloan Architects focuses on the needs of Native Americans in their communities. Based on years of experience working in many tribal communities, the D. Sloan Architects PC (DSA) website provides a philosophy on their work ethic, which reads:

*"Based upon dreams and values expressed by the community about what a proposed center should be or should provide, the expressions are organized into groupings of associated sentiments of commonalities of values "reflecting" the voices of the community. These reflections offer a beginning in the interpretation of the feelings and customs of the community, into purpose and meaning for the new center. ...*

*"We will organize a space in such a way that it embraces and reinforces each tribal group's identity and traditions as*

*caretakers. As designers, we honor this role. It is about being guided by our highest selves to find harmony and to see that our buildings harmonize with mother earth."*

Given this statement, Mr. Sloan further expresses the experience of designing a new building as a way of traveling, or going on a journey. The journey, of course, would involve the people from the community as guides and as travel companions. Mr. Sloan writes, "By understanding our place in relationship to the sky, water, earth, and the environment, we better understand the spaces where we live, spaces that express a way of life." Although, we have all heard before that architects can be very complex people, their temperament turns out to be that most are very down to earth, and always willing to understand new concepts and ways of thinking.

It has been years of planning and hard work that entailed bringing the Kayenta Multipurpose Justice Center to construction ready status, but for the Kayenta community, the work has been well worth the effort and patience.

Now that the construction surveying, site grading, and paving the access road are nearing completion, the Kayenta Multipurpose Justice Center is scheduled to **Continued on page 3**

## Kayenta Township First to Implement Online Sex Offender Registration Program

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – Beginning January 01, 2012, the Kayenta Township will have a database of Sex Offender General Information in place, and any person who has been convicted of certain sex offenses or released from jail, prison, or placed on probation on or after this date is subject to community notification. The Kayenta Township Commission passed the "Sex Offender Registration and Reporting Ordinance" by resolution on October 12, 2011.

Since the October 2011 passage of the resolution, the township administration began looking for a software company to implement the sex offender registration ordinance most efficiently. A company based in New Orleans, LA, made a proposal

to the Kayenta Township in late November and secured the procurement and terms of agreement. Watch Systems, LLC is "a privately held software development firm specializing in sex offender registration and community notification software and services at the state and local level." At this time, only the Navajo County Sheriff's Department is responsible for registering sex offenders who reside in Navajo County, but a lot of time this information never trickles down to the Navajo reservation communities who may have a sex offender living in its community.

The Kayenta Township recognized the need to have a database for sex offenders available to the greater public simply because it does not exist on the Navajo

reservation where rape and other sex offenses often reach epidemic levels. In its quest to serve as a pilot project, the township learned that in some jurisdictions (especially in the United States), information in the registry is made available to the general public by means of a website or other means. Some communities even go as far as hanging flyers including a photo and a profile of the sex offender around town. The restrictions that sex offenders must adhere to vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but often include: 1) restrictions on housing; 2) use of the Internet in a public setting; 3) restriction on being in the presence of minors;

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## Kayenta Township Commission

P.O. Box 1490 Kayenta, AZ 86033 Phone (928) 697-8451



### Andre Cordero, Town Manager

Andre Cordero is Ta'neeszhah'nii, the Tangled clan born for Nakaii Dine'e, Mexican people. His grandparents are Ashiihi, Salt clan and his maternal grandparents are Anglo. His mother's name is Sarah Louise Rocha and his father is the late Andrew Cordero. As a graduate of Monument Valley High School, he obtained a political science degree in Political Science from Arizona State University.



### Carol Todecheene, Chairperson

Carol Todecheene, a life long resident of Kayenta, AZ, is one of the elected Kayenta Township Commissioners. She was born in Gouldings, Utah. Carol is Dził Natohnii Tachii'nii, Mountain Tobacco Red Streak Running Into Water clan born for Todichii'nii, the Bitter Water clan. Her maternal grandparents are Bit'ahnii, Within His Cover people. Her paternal grandparents are Kinyaa'aanii, Towering House people.



### Delores Greyeyes, Vice-Chairperson

Delores Greyeyes, originally from Black Mesa, AZ, is one of the elected Kayenta Township Commissioners. She is Bitter Water born for the Near To Water people. Her maternal grandparents are Ashiihi, the Salt clan. The Bit'ahnii, Within His Cover people, are her paternal grandparents.



### Helen Bonnaha, Commissioner

Helen Bonnaha is Bit'ahnii, Within His Cover people born for Tsénahabilnii, Sleeping Rock clan. Her maternal grandparents are T'izi Láni, the Many Goats. Kinyaa'aanii, the Towering House people are her paternal grandparents. She has been a life long resident of Kayenta, AZ.



### Rodger Grey, Commissioner

Rodger Grey has been a resident of Kayenta, AZ for over 35 years. He was raised within the Dennehotso and Lukachukai area. He is Nakaii Dine'e, Mexican clan born for the Kinyaa'aanii, the Towering House people. His paternal grandparents are Bitah'nii, Within His Cover clan and his maternal grandparents are Anglo.



## KACC Recognizes Community Volunteers and Christie Twombly, Volunteer of the Year

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – A typical day at the animal shelter involves washing animals, feeding them, walking the dogs, and providing various types of health care. None of this would be possible without the many volunteers who come to the Kayenta Animal Care Center to help Dr. Charlotta Begay, who also must answer many calls for help with animals within the community. In addition to recognizing all the volunteers for their work, the KACC Volunteer of the Year for 2011 is Christie Twombly.

Christie has been a committed, consistent, caring volunteer of the Kayenta Animal Care Center since the start of KACC operations. She has demonstrated unconditional compassion for the animals of Kayenta by fostering numerous dogs and sponsoring sick animals. She has expended her own resources, time and money, to provide medical care (including chemotherapy and functional reconstructive surgery), to pay for spay/neuter surgeries for animals she

has fostered, and to find homes for animals in her care on her own time and expense. Christie purchased supplies for and constructed shade shelters for KACC's outdoor animal pens and helped paint the KACC examination room and surgical suite.

Despite her time consuming occupation as a Registered Nurse and meeting the demands of emergency medicine, Christy has opened her home to new foster(s) and displaced animals in need of shelter and care. By committing personal time to the care of animals, Christy has certainly made a difference in the lives of numerous animals, and through her efforts, has done her part helping further the inception of KACC and the community quell the accruing public health risks associated with stray and abandoned animals.

KACC would like to thank the rest of our volunteers including Connie Moorhead, Tina Thomas, and all after school and summer volunteers and their parents.



Christie Twombly



## Kayenta Township

is now accepting applications for the following position

### Proposal Writer

Dept: Town Manager

Location: Kayenta Township

Closing Date: Until Filled

#### PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Writing, Journalism, Statistic Research, Planning or closely related field and four (4) years of experience in proposal writing, fund raising activities, statistical research or planning; or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the capabilities to perform the described duties.
- Must have a valid Arizona State Driver License
- Must submit a pre-employment drug screening
- Must exhibit good health, literacy and citizenship
- Establish & maintain effective working relationship with KTC staff & community members
- Must be reliable and dependable
- Demonstrate aptitude of competence for assigned responsibilities
- Must understand written or oral instructions in the Navajo & English language

**To apply submit the following:** 1. Kayenta Township Employment Application; 2. Resume; 3. Copy of Degree/ Certificates; and 4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation.

All applicants are subject to background checks and drug testing.

All positions require a valid state driver license.

Housing will not be provided.

Navajo Preference will be taken into consideration.

Visit Kayenta Township at [www.kayentatownship.net](http://www.kayentatownship.net) for an application, how to apply and full job description. Questions regarding this advertisement must be submitted by e-mail to Town Manager, Andre Cordero: [andrecordero@kayentatownship.net](mailto:andrecordero@kayentatownship.net) or by phone.

Kayenta Township, P.O. Box 1490 Kayenta, Arizona 86033

Phone (928) 697-8451 Fax (928) 697- 8461

**Sloan: Continued from page 1**

begin construction of the actual complex in the Spring of 2012.

Now that Mr. Sloan can sit back and relax a little bit more, Kayenta Today called him up at his offices in Albuquerque, NM to ask him for an interview. The following question and answer was done through the internet.

*Kayenta Today: Can you talk a little about your education and background? How and when did you first decide architecture was going to be your profession?*

I went to grade school through high school in Flagstaff, AZ, living in the BIA border-town dormitory. After high school, BIA sent me on "Relocation" to a junior college in northern California for vocational training to become a carpenter. I continued through the California junior college program in south Los Angeles taking courses in science and engineering, intending to study civil engineering. My father and older brothers often worked in construction, and my dad encouraged his sons to find work in construction because he saw the need in construction on the Navajo reservation. While in junior college in Los Angeles, a college instructor gave me part-time work in drafting house plans and gave me an opportunity in design of homes, and from there on I perceived a strong interest in combining science with art as a career choice. Eventually, I applied to architectural school at the University of New Mexico and received a degree in Fine Arts with a major in Architecture.

*Kayenta Today: At the time you were a student at the University of New Mexico, the Native peoples went through a period of protest and a lot of the activism that followed pointed to a redress of grievances and treaty rights with the United States. How did those years of Native peoples/students rediscovering their indigenous past influence your work as an architect?*

While at UNM from 1972 to 1975, the School of Architecture had quite a few courses in community planning and development. There was a Design and Planning Assistance Center at the school that offered professor - student assisted design services to low-income families and communities needing design and planning for projects for handicapped-elderly housing to day care centers for families. Most of projects were for minority families and communities, including Native People. The emphasis on students working with local communities is listening to the people being served and understanding what people defined as their needs and their desired solutions. This experience showed me the importance in un-

derstanding problem-solving and decision-making by the local families and communities. Planning and design in architecture is based on problem-seeking, problem-solving, decision-making and vision-seeking by the families and the people being served. My father and mother worked in the community also in helping family and neighbors in improving community, or as father often expressed, "beatifying the community". Other college courses included politics and economics, and the impact that political-economy influenced community development and nature of culture and values of people.

*Kayenta Today: Your website gives a very clear, insightful philosophy of your firm's approach to architecture. What are some of the highlights of incorporating Navajo cultural values into the design that you enjoyed the most while working on the Kayenta Multipurpose Justice Center?*

The Kayenta project continues to evolve and some of the changes are responding to the economy, the politics of the Navajo Nation, and the United States at large. The Navajo Nation master plan in public safety begins with the protection of individuals, families and property, but also emphasizes "peace-making" and restorative justice based on Navajo culture. In the design of new facilities to support the master plan goals for public safety, our design challenge has been to comply with the national standards for justice and to serve the needs of the Kayenta community. We have been working from the inside of the facilities to the outside. The form, shape and scale of the building is dependent on the interior space needs and functions. The exterior we have been influenced by the local surrounding land formations of Black Mesa, sandstone outcroppings, volcanic plugs and the big sky. As we blend building and site, we respond to the local environmental conditions of prevailing weather, area landmarks, distant views and neighboring uses.

*Kayenta Today: The design process for the Kayenta Multipurpose Justice Center was very vigorous, and it took a lot of approaches and changes to design before the final design began to look comprehensive. What stood out the most in your mind from some of the design charrettes, especially when the local community members provided input into the design and outcome of the Justice Center?*

My work on this project was started in 1995 and the initial plan was for a much smaller facility and localized with the Kayenta Township and Kayenta Police Department leading the design and formulating the building requirements. We

had community forums and design meetings at the time with local community service providers, chapter officials and members. I have worked on several projects within the Kayenta area over the years and what I have heard and seen expressed often is the hardship and pain that the community suffers from the crime and abuse by lawbreakers, and no punishment, responsibility or with very little consequences paid by the lawbreakers due to lack of adequate justice facilities. Throughout time, the community has now found the means to addressing those concerns.

*Kayenta Today: The Kayenta community has a lot of drainage areas due to its proximity to Black Mesa to the south; in the future of Kayenta do you see a lot of, man-made lakes?*

Kayenta needs a good area flood control system that could be integrated with parks and recreation facilities to benefit both flood control and neighborhood amenities.

*Kayenta Today: Also, in terms of architecture: if you had your say, what does the town of Kayenta look like to you in 20-years?*

Kayenta is one of fastest developing Navajo communities and the pace of building public and private facilities to serve the growth has been a challenge. Kayenta as a Township has been impressive in facilitating community development and the leadership provided by the Township in guiding the growth of Kayenta is key in establishing positive results for the community. Kayenta has several opportunities from tourism, being a regional business and service center to government or county seat for the region.

*Kayenta Today: For example, in addition to the new hospital, vocational education building, and detention center facility going up; what are the next five big buildings you envision going up in Kayenta? Providing goods and services to tourist and area residents is high priority in economic development for Kayenta. Employment, keeping the income and revenue in Kayenta, creating the local small business community, fostering the growth of private residential development – both multi-family and single family, film and media industry, being a "gateway" for tourism, being a regional service and government center in education, health, public safety, recreation and entertainment.*

*Kayenta Today: What kind of advice would you give to a student just out of high school who wants to pursue opportunities as an architect?*

Travel as much as possible, see and experience cities/communities and buildings, too,



while in school. Stay true to your personal values.

*Kayenta Today: The final design and focus groups that took place before construction began was about incorporating "restorative justice" ideas into the overall design. What are some of the features that the public will see that reflects those elements of restorative justice in the design?*

Unfortunately a good portion of the restorative program elements proposed for this project is for the inmate population and not assessable and in view to the general public or community. Inmates have rehabilitative programs, counseling and training services planned based on peace-making between inmate and victim-family, and inmate and family-community visitations, and eventually becoming a contributing member in the growth and well-being of the community.

*Kayenta Today: Water is going to be a really big issue for Kayenta, which shares its drinking water source with Peabody Coal Company. What are innovative ways that future building projects can implement saving on water resources?*

Domestic water use for the facility will be for primarily for the inmates and some staff needs, otherwise the inmate water use will be for drinking, showers, toilets, cooking-kitchen operations, laundry and housekeeping/building maintenance. Plumbing equipment/devices will be low flow or use and we have minimized the use of any outdoor maintenance and landscaping.

*Kayenta Today: The Kayenta Township has been hailed lately in the media as the first community to adopt the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) standards. In addition, most building projects today try to shoot for LEEDS certification.*

*What are some of the suggestions you would give to community planners in achieving environmentally sound projects?*

Sustainability is a tradition practiced by most Navajo families just because there are limited resources on most Indian reservations and limited incomes for most Native families in the consumption and use of building materials and products. Most of the families I know on the Rez recycle materials and parts from old cars to cardboard boxes in building shelter and home, and we should try to build on having people build for themselves.

*Kayenta Today: What projects in your portfolio are you most proud of? Can you explain a short history behind one or two of those projects?*

A Skilled Nursing Home project for the Tohono Oodham elders in southern Arizona is a proud achievement for our firm. The Tohono Oodham people are one of few remaining native communities living traditionally with the land. The elders I meet at many Tohono Oodham villages and the opportunity to hear the oral history and culture of the "People of the Desert" was inspiring and peaceful. I had other projects that I have treasured in working with the landscape, history of place, and cultural significant events and places. There was a youth treatment center in Cherokee, North Carolina; a visitor center for the State of New Mexico in recognizing past events at Bosque Redondo reservation where Mesalero Apache and Navajo families were relocated; to working on a part of the facilities of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC: all of these projects have been gifts of opportunities for me and my staff to be a part of in assisting communities develop and prosper, while respecting and honoring the past.

**Sex Offender: Continued from page 1**

4) not being allowed to live in proximity to a school or day care center; and most importantly, 5) sex offenders registered in offender databases are usually required to notify the government when they change their place of residence.

The state of Arizona has the only overarching revised statute ARS 13-3826, which established specific community notification guidelines. The guidelines provide three levels of notification based on that risk that a particular sex offender poses to the community: Level I is low risk, Level II is intermediate risk, and Level III is high risk. If the township would adhere to the state guidelines, "Level I's require in-home notification only where the offender resides. Levels II and III require community notification," and ideally these sex offenders would be placed on the internet database.

The terms of agreement with the software program OffenderWatch that the township has purchased from Watch Systems, LLC, states that the internet-accessible database "will be provided to house data associated with Kayenta, Arizona Township sex offenders, with Navajo County street maps and addresses for the county built in." The Kayenta Township will provide the

computers with internet access to house the client registration program and access the secure website where the offender database resides. The information to be listed on sex offenders will adhere to the Arizona Revised Statute 13-3826 and with existing Navajo Nation laws.

Mark A. Wilson, Vice President of Sales and Marketing who proposed to set up the demonstration website that will serve as a vehicle to get more communities on board writes in an email to the Township, "Your database system will be a stand alone system, but linked to other agencies in the state and the country. Hopefully, this will be a great demonstration solution and the entire Navajo Nation will get on board."

Town Manager Andre Cordero is excited to see this software program put in place, he says, "This is to protect the welfare and safety of our community. If you have been found guilty and sentenced as an offender, the law says that you must register as an offender. And in this community, you should adhere to these rules." In the meantime, the Township will be working closely with Watch Systems, LLC, to create a website that will soon be available to the public.

ID	Name	Address	Photo
1	KLINK, MARK JEFFERY	2116 LAIRD ST OMAHA, NE 68111	Yes
2	STEVENS, THADDEUS DYSHON	2016 EMNET ST OMAHA, NE 68110	Yes
3	SMITH, TEBBELL	2102 1/2 SPENCER OMAHA, NE 68110	Yes
4	WRIGHT, ROBERT LEE	2824 SPALDING ST OMAHA, NE 68110	Yes
5	BERKINE	8 STEVENS, THADDEUS DYSHON 2016 EMNET ST OMAHA, NE 68110 OFFENSE: SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD FS	Yes
6	COOKS		
7	SCOTT		
8	BOHM, CARL MICHAEL	1907 HIRT ST OMAHA, NE 68110 OFFENSE: ASLT BY INTENT TO RAPE	Yes
9	DELEZENE, ROLAND ALFRED	4515 N 14TH ST OMAHA, NE 68110 OFFENSE: 1ST DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT FS	Yes

Sample of search results for registered sex offenders on the Internet.

## Dental Clinic To Open in Near Future

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ - Kayenta Dental, to be run by owners of Moab Dental Health Center, will be starting out its dental practice with part-time hours. The location of Kayenta Dental, that will be leased to the business, is currently under discussion with Kayenta Township.

The Kayenta dental will have two dentists originally from Moab, Utah: Jeff Cornelius, and his older brother Bryan Cornelius are scheduled to begin dental business hours every Thursday from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Fridays from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm, beginning in January 2012.

The two have been operating the Moab Dental Health Center for the past 12 years. Jeff became a dentist about six years ago, and his brother Bryan has been a dentist for over 12 years now. The business in Moab serves about 4 thousand patients annually. They see Kayenta Dental as an extension of their professional practice, and both Jeff and Bryan say, "At Kayenta Dental, we will provide comprehensive treatment planning and use restorative and cosmetic dentistry to achieve your optimal dental health. Should a dental emergency occur, we make every effort to see and care for you as soon as possible."

At this time, Kayenta Dental is looking fill three positions: a Front Office person and two Dental Assistants. The three positions will be part time, 15 to 20 hours a week.

The Front Office position's minimum qualifications include: 1) high school diploma or GED equivalent; 2) must possess a valid drivers license; 3) must

possess a social security card (and be a U.S. citizen); 4) have knowledge of general office procedures; 5) demonstrate good customer service skills; 6) knowledge of Windows 2007; and 7) professional communication skills over the phone.

For the two part-time Dental Assistant positions, the minimum qualifications include: 1) a high school diploma, 2) must possess a valid drivers license, 3) possess a social security number (and be a U.S. citizen), 4) dental and medical background will be helpful; 5) must be open to learning new skills; and 6) can train the right person on the job.

For any one who is interested in applying for a position, please fax resume to (435) 259-3458.

Kayenta Dental is now accepting patients of all ages. The practice accepts Medicaid and most insurance plans. All major dental procedures are welcome for intake. In terms of education and prevention, the business touts preventive care and education to achieving optimal dental health.

If you visit Kayenta Dental health, look forward to a thorough dental exam – checking the overall health of your teeth and gums, performing oral cancer exams, and taking x-rays when necessary. And the business offered Kayenta Today a dental health updates for upcoming issues, including letting the community know about the benefits of routine cleanings, flossing, sealants, and fluoride in preventing dental health problems. For information about Kayenta Dental or to schedule an appointment, please call Bryan or Jeff at (928) 679-5221.

## Kayenta Elder Festival



**Elder Festival at the Kayenta Recreation Center on November 15, 2011: Over 150 Elders attended the annual Thanksgiving Elder Fest where they enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal, and listened to local service providers give presentations on personal banking, healthy eating tips, and tai chi exercises which was presented by Recreation Leader Joann Begay of the Kayenta Recreation Center. The Kayenta Recreation Center partnered with local I.H.S., Special Diabetes, National Honor Society, and Kayenta Township to host the successful day honoring the Elders.**

## Northland Pioneer College Kayenta Center Hosts a Community Outreach Roundtable

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – The Northland Pioneer College Kayenta Center Community Outreach manager, Lorraine Benally facilitated a roundtable meeting with many local and neighboring community stakeholders on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at the Kayenta Town Hall meeting room from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. In attendance to provide all the updated information were NPC President Dr. Jeanne Swarouth and Mark West, Vice President of Learning and Student Services. At least 15 people were attendance for the meeting.

Located throughout Navajo and serving Apache Counties, Northland Pioneer College has four campuses in Show Low, Winslow, Holbrook, and Snowflake. NPC also has five community centers in Kayenta, Hopi Center, St Johns, Spingerville, and Whiteriver, AZ.

The Kayenta Center Manager Lorraine Benally announced that there are currently 79 students enrolled and 20 students dropped due to no financial assistance at the Kayenta Center. Lorraine has been with the center for over 14 years, beginning her employment at NPC as a student advisor and later became the Center Manager. "Ever since I came on board, student service has always been our number one priority," she says. "This will continue to be the case with us, even with the pending state budget cuts. For a lot of our students, financial aid has become more rigorous. But, there is a lot of interest in our Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Program and in our Elementary Education program. However, for most of these programs we mainly have a pre-requisite program for our students." So, at this point, Northland Pioneer College is seen more as a stepping ground to get into a four year university. The college continues to have dialogue with area universities like Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University to make sure that the credit hours

to transfer completed pre-requisite classes for the students meets all expectations and is smooth.

The college said its strongest programs are for Nursing and Elementary Education programs, GED pretesting/preparation, and Early Childhood Development program. In fact, the certification program for early childhood can allow a person the necessary certifications to run a day care center from home. A lot of these pre-requisite programs are available to Veterans, Food Stamp recipients, and parents on the Navajo Nation Program for Self-Reliance.

After a lively conversation, President Dr. Jeanne Swarouth talked about the Northland Pioneer College Strategic Plan, which "is a result of input from community outreach meetings, needs assessment meetings, and many college activities devoted to planning for the future. It is a complex conversation that puts community concerns and needs on the table. After we assess all these needs, we create partnerships within the community so we can do what we can to best meet our student's educational needs," she said. The college has been working on its strategic plan in three year increments, to respond quicker to changes in the state budget process.

Two meeting participants, a local Registered Nurse who has close ties to students through her work, says students ask her all the time how she got her degree as an RN. "So, I know the interest is there," said the community health nurse for the Kayenta Service Unit. Afterwards, the Regional Director of Diné College said that although it's great that a lot of students have an interest in nursing, she said the pre-requisites, math, and science classes are rigorous. "We need to build the facilities here," she said. "It's been my experience in Tuba City, that if you build a nice facility, the students will come. The nursing program is definitely a program that we can develop. Right now, a

lot of our students are having trouble with the required classes. But, if we build on the programs ourselves, it will be easier to track the student's progress," she said.

Then Jonathan Nez, the Supervisor of the Navajo County Board of Directors from District I and Navajo Nation Council Delegate said he had wanted to see the college provide technical assistance to the Kayenta Public Library. "Right now, the library is getting ready to open, but it is located in a used, single wide trailer. This is a place where students go to get on the public access computers to look for opportunities. And right here in Kayenta, with all the capital improvement projects going on, we have potential for many to find jobs in construction, teaching, and in the health field in the next three to five years," he said. The dialogue turned to building a facility locally to address the needs of limited class rooms and lab space.

Andre Cordero, Kayenta Town Manager said, "We need to work together hand in hand to make this happen. I personally think this is a worthwhile project. We have land that we could be set aside, but my main question is: can it remain operational once the building is up and running? Do you have a capital budget for a building that will address your needs here in town?" he asked.

Dr. Swarouth said, "Yes. We're ok with our budget right now. The money is there. We just need a place to build permanently," she said.

Other areas of discussion included putting more services in for Veterans in the NPC Three Year Strategic Plan, instruction for construction management, math tutoring, heavy equipment operators, community planning, the need for science labs, and technology driven classes. By 11:30 am, the meeting was moved over to the Kayenta Center to provide time also for a Student Focus Group.

*This Holiday Season...*  
**Help Bring Christmas To Children In Need!**  
*Kayenta Toys for Tots Charity Event*

Friday, December 16, 2011 \* 6:00pm - 11:00pm \* Kayenta Monument Valley Inn

**Retro-Dance & Dinner**

Your choice: Steak or Chicken Dinner

1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve  
**\$25.00 Single \* \$40.00 Couple**

**Door Prizes ~ Silent Auction ~ Holiday Jail**

*Serving nearly 5200+ children  
 Help Us Help Them*

**For Ticket information, please contact:**

Ann Young-Talker (928) 697-2071	Lorna Benally (928) 697-5600
LeAndrew Sixkiller (928) 697-5530	Kristie Mendez (928) 3777-7181
Cherylene Jones (928) 697-5530	Marguerite Holiday (928) 697-5600
Kayenta NTUA (800) 528-5011	Kayenta Monument Valley Inn - LaVina (928) 697-3221
Chris Claw (928) 675-1035	

*Happy Holidays!*  
*From the Kayenta Township*

## Township Takes a Look at Sponsorship Money Requests

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, Arizona – The Kayenta Township is happy to announce some of its sponsorship support for the month of October to the Elder Care Fair, the Veterans Stand Down/Comic Relief Show, Tohdenashai Annual Horseback Ride Against Domestic Violence, and the Monument Valley High School Future Farmers of America Scholarship Fund. Most of the requests were remarkable, because each organization is planning weeks ahead of time.

In a letter dated October 04, 2011 from the Kayenta Public Health Nursing Program Kayenta Task Force Chairperson, the department asked for a donation to honor 250 elders of Kayenta and surrounding communities who will receive food boxes on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the Kayenta Recreation Center from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The chairperson writes, "In addition to the distribution of food boxes, there will be an Elder Care Fair, booths and entertainment." The Kayenta Township donated 100 Non-Perishable Food Items. It should also be noted that the organization also provided its Tax Exemption Identification Number, which identifies the organization has non-profit status.

The second letter requested financial support comes from the commander of the Kayenta Veterans Organization, Inc., who will be hosting a Veteran Stand Down and Comic Relief Show on November 11th, 2011 at the Monument Valley High School Student Activity Center. Commander Gray writes in his letter that the Veteran Stand Down "will be a day of getting valuable information on benefits and services to our local heroes, [the Veterans]". The organization received \$300 in sponsorship funds from the Township.

The Kayenta Township donated \$210.00 for the Tohdenashai Shelter Home 7th Annual Horseback Ride Against Domestic Violence for its Saturday, October 21st, 2011 event. A Tohdenashai Shelter Home Victim Advocate writes, "We are one of two domestic violence shelters located on the Navajo Reservation and have been in operation for 29 years now serving women and children experiencing domestic violence. We ask if you could help sponsor our 7th Annual Horseback Ride Against Domestic Violence by assisting with covering the costs of #80 t-shirts." The Kayenta Township donated \$210.00 for the t-shirts.

During the Homecoming festivities, the Monument Valley High School Future Farmers of America members held a free barbecue dinner for Mustang fans where they were able to raise \$300 from donations for FFA scholarships. Town Manager, Andre Cordero, made a personal contribution of \$150 to the scholarship fund.

For all donation requests, the Kayenta Township would like to adhere to transparency practices, so when requesting monies, don't forget to include 1) a letter describing the reason for requesting funds and the amount of request needed; 2) social security; 3) valid driver's license; 4) Fill out a W-10 form with signature; and 5) please allow at least two weeks for processing, which means all requests have to be approved by the Town Manager and Finance Department. For the month of November 2011, the Kayenta Township donated 150 turkeys to the Kayenta Senior Citizen program. Pearlina Chiquito, manager at the center, delivered all the turkey by Monday, November 21, 2011. "Just in time for Turkey Day," she smiles. Pearlina Chiquito is the Senior

Center Supervisor with a staff of two: cook, Irene Sombrero and delivery driver Ruth Todhachine. The center provides services to 160 registered congregate meal clients who can eat a meal each day for lunch at the center, in addition to 22 home delivered meal clients.

As of last Monday, about 20 additional residents signed up for services. The service unit provides services within a 30 square miles radius. The Kayenta Senior Center will be enjoying its winter Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 from 11:00 to 3:00 pm at the Kayenta Senior Center. Gift bags of snacks will be available for Elders and Christmas Carol will be provided by Mrs. Taggart and choruses from local churches.

The Military Care Package Program received a delivery of 250 non-perishable food items from the Kayenta Township for the Thanksgiving holidays. The "Military 'We' Care Package Program, for our Defenders of Freedom" was sponsored by Navajo Tribal Utility Authority in its fifth year, and NTUA has made a commitment to support military efforts "until they come home." Their goal is to collect 250 care packages for the holiday.

Other community participants include public schools where teachers organize student projects to write cards, letters and design artwork to include in the military care packages. This aspect of the projects sends a clear message to our service members that their services are not forgotten at a time when families and friends gather for holiday celebrations. To participate in the ongoing military care package program, call Paul Bemore, Human Resources Manager, and Military Care Package Committee at (928) 729-6253, pdbemore@ntua.com.



## Kayenta Township Initiates Long-Range Transportation Study

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, ARIZONA - The Kayenta Township and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) have initiated a multimodal transportation study to identify long-term improvements needed within the Township boundary. The study will address a broad range of local and regional planning issues related to roadway, transit and non-motorized transportation modes. The purpose of the study is to prepare specific recommendations for multimodal improvements to be implemented in five-, 10-, and 20-year timeframes.

In late 2010, the Kayenta Township submitted a proposal for, and was approved for funding through, ADOT's Planning and Assistance for Rural Areas (PARA) Program. The PARA Program is sponsored by ADOT's Multimodal Planning Division, and provides federal funds to non-metropolitan communities for the purpose of conducting transportation planning studies. The Township is the first Navajo Nation community to initiate planning and zoning for its entire jurisdiction.

The Kayenta PARA Study project management team has established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to closely coordinate with and provide technical input into the study. The TAC partners include the Kayenta Chapter, Navajo Division of Transportation, Navajo Transit System, ADOT, Navajo County, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The study is also being coordinated with the Kayenta Township Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance planning process, which is currently in development. To date, the project team and the TAC have completed a Work Plan and Public Involvement Plan, which are available to the public, along with team and TAC meeting notes, on the project web page at <http://www.kayentatownship.net/transportationstudy.htm>.

Currently, the project team and TAC are preparing a Current and Future Condition Inventory, which will document and forecast needs and deficiencies within the overall Kayenta Township transportation system. The holistic study will include analyses of traffic volumes, accident statistics, road classifications and conditions, school and transit bus routes, street lighting, utility easements, access management, land use and drainage patterns, pedestrian facilities, trails, and basic demographic and socio-economic characteristics within the study area. The Current and Future Condition Inventory will be the topic of a public meeting, scheduled for 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at the Kayenta Town Hall, where the project team will present the results of the inventory and seek public input on transportation needs and deficiencies.

Following the first public meeting, the project team and TAC will prepare Evaluation Criteria and a Prioritized Transportation Improvement Plan. This phase of the study will include the development of specific recommended projects and implementation strategies, as well as criteria for measuring the advantages and disadvantages of each recommended project alternative. Potential sources of funding to complete projects will also be identified. The project team will use national and state accepted planning criteria, the Current and Future Condition Inventory, and public input received at the first public meeting when developing the Evaluation Criteria and Prioritized Transportation Improvement Plan, which will also be presented at a public meeting anticipated to occur in late spring 2012.

Ultimately, a final report will be prepared with comprehensive and focused recommendations for all transportation modes of private vehicles, transit, bicycles and pedestrians. After being approved by the TAC, the final report will be presented to the

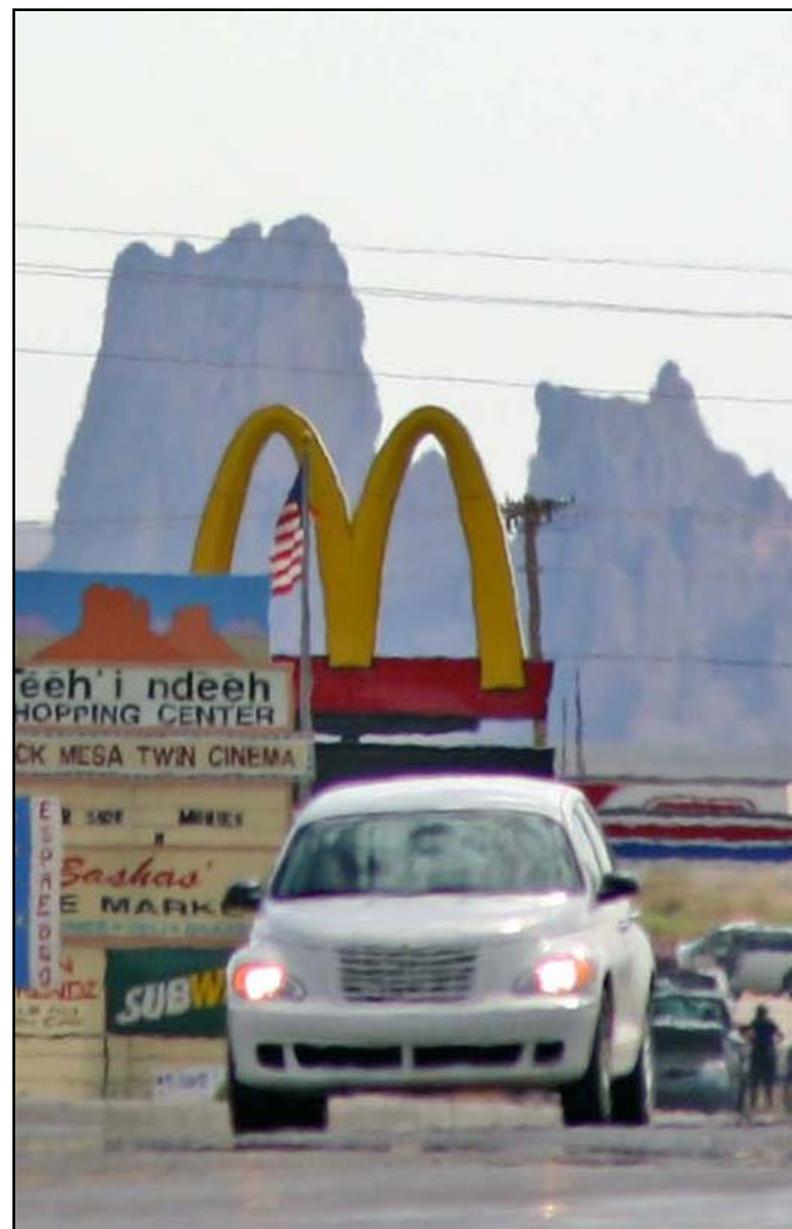
Kayenta Township Commission for consideration of adoption in late summer 2012.

As stated in the original grant application by Don Jackson, Kayenta Township Engineer, "The final report will aid in Kayenta's system performance and preservation; mobility and access for people and goods; environment and quality of life; planning and coordination; mobility and economic competitiveness; safety; accessibility; and resource conservation."

Public involvement efforts are crucial to the success of the transportation study. Actively engaging the public is an important aspect of assuring the project's final improvements are locally acceptable and successful, as well as building local support for funding transportation improvements. As indicated above, two public meetings will be held during the course of the 12-month study, although public input is welcome at any time.

For more information about the study, to submit comments, or to request to be added to the project notification email/fax list, please contact :

**ADOT Outreach Team, Attn: Kayenta PARA Study, by phone: 928-522-6015; fax: 928-522-6016; email: [jason@intrinsicinfo.com](mailto:jason@intrinsicinfo.com); or mail: PO Box 336 Flagstaff, AZ 86002. As the project progresses, materials and working papers will continue to be posted on the project web page at <http://www.kayentatownship.net/transportationstudy.htm>.**



**4th ANNUAL**  
**K-TOWN GET DOWN**  
 BMX AND SKATEBOARD COMPETITION

**JULY 4th 2012**  
**KAYENTA RECREATION CENTER**

**AGES 12 & UNDER**

**1ST-3RD PLACES**

**AGES 13 TO 17**

**1ST-3RD PLACES**

**18 AND OVER**

**1ST-3RD PLACES**

**OPEN FEMALE**

**1ST-3RD PLACES**

**OPEN BMX/FREESTYLE**

**1ST-3RD PLACES**



**\$10 REGISTRATION FEE.**

**MUST BE PAID BY JULY 2ND, 2012 AT KAYENTA TOWNSHIP FINANCE DEPARTMENT.  
 CASH OR MONEY ORDERS ONLY.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (928) 697-8451 OR WWW.KAYENTATOWNSHIP.NET**

**UNFOLDING THE MILESTONE COMMEMORATING TRADITIONS AND GATHERING AS A COMMUNITY TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE**

**Kayenta Skate Park Competition Registration**

WAIVER: As a parent or guardian, I give the participant(s) permission to participate in the Kayenta Community Skate Park Competition listed below. Participants may be photographed and/or videotaped for the promotion of Kayenta Community Recreation Programs. I understand that there are risks of physical injury to the participant(s). Considering all possible risks, on behalf of myself and the participant, I voluntarily waive, release, discharge and hold harmless the Kayenta Township Commission and the Kayenta Chapter, its employees, supervisors, and volunteers from all claims, including those based on negligence, for all injuries to participant(s), no matter how severe.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18 years of age) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name

Last Name

Address

Apt/Unit #

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Home (Area Code + Number)

Work (Area Code + Number)

Emergency #

AGE:

Birthdate:

## World Premier Balloon Event in Monument Valley



By Malcolm Benally

MONUMENT VALLEY, UTAH

The Hot Air Balloon Event at Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park on February 24-26, 2012. There will be three launches, one on Friday morning, Saturday morning and the other on Sunday morning. The two night glows are scheduled on Friday & Saturday evening at dusk.

There will be various launch sites down the Monument Valley dirt road and scenic 17-mile loop. Twenty pilots have been invited to fly their balloon craft in this unique World Premier Balloon Event. Each pilot has met all expectations needed to fly over the Navajo Tribal Park lands. Fifteen of these pilots flew at Monument Valley in April 2011. Currently, five international pilots have been invited for this event.

To participate publicly in these events, hot air balloon pilots have to achieve: over 35 hours of flight instruction, have a commercial pilot's license, complete ground school for basic aviation training, pass a written test for hot-air balloons, and

obtain a flight check issued from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The fifteen pilots selected to fly at the World Premier Balloon Event in Monument Valley are: Don Edwards (Albuquerque, NM), Judith Holt (Phoenix, AZ), William Lee (Gallup, NM), Glen See (Albuquerque, NM), Donald Stockley (Murray, UT), Jeffery Johnson (Flagstaff, AZ), Dorothy Harrison (Phoenix, AZ), Sally Bartsch (New River, AZ), Sally Heinrich (Phoenix, AZ), Gary Woods (Ridgeway, CO), Kent Barnes (Murray, UT), Doug Lenberg (Farmington, NM), Phil Cambell (Bayfield, CO), Phred McAllaster (Santa Fe, NM) and Bryan Hill (Page, AZ). These will bring the excitement and experience of hot air ballooning to Navajo country.

Youth Day will be on Friday, February 24, 2012, when surrounding schools will be invited to participate in a hands-on preparing a hot air balloon while pilots talk about the scientific background of hot air ballooning.

For students in grade levels Kindergarten through the 12th grade, ARTSCO, Inc and the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation will host an Art Contest and an Essay Contest. Each grade level will have a First (1st), Second (2nd), and Third (3rd) prize winner.

The Grand Prize Essay Contest Winner will receive an iPad and a hot air balloon ride with one guest.

The Grand Prize Art Contest Winner will receive \$500.

The Poster Contest Winner will receive \$500 in Grand Prize monies. The contest begins October 17, 2011 and has a submission deadline for December 19, 2011.

Booths and vending areas will be available for local artists who will be on site to display their works of art, and as proud sponsors of the hot air balloon event. Balloon events are a very social and casual sport. Bring your family and friends. Free entertainment! For more information call 928-871-6647 or go to [www.navajonation-parks.org](http://www.navajonation-parks.org).

## Ringworm Outbreak in Kayenta

By Malcolm Benally

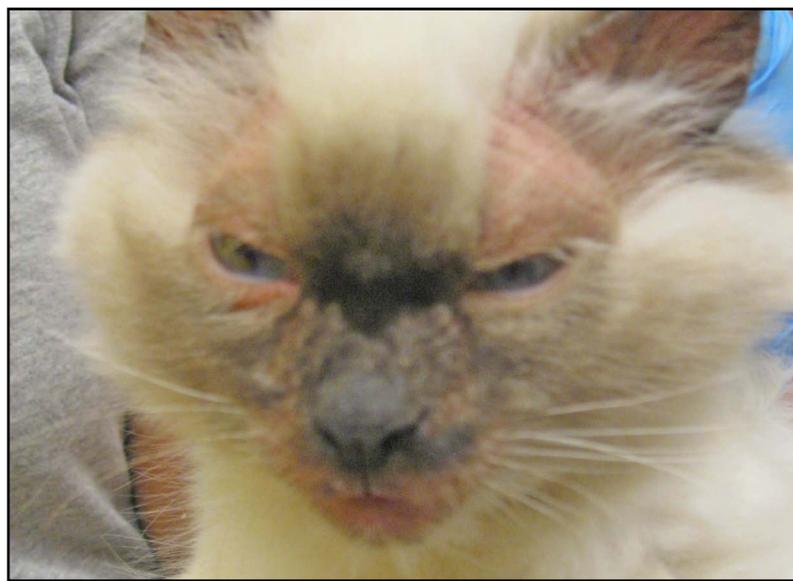
KAYENTA, AZ - Ringworm is a contagious fungal skin infection transmissible between animals and between animals and people. Within the past few months, there has been a cluster of ringworm cases in animals and people. The clusters of infection have been associated with extended periods of heavy rain.

Ringworm is transmitted by direct contact between animals, between people, and between animals and people. It can also be transmitted through contact with contaminated bedding, furniture, flooring, etc. Skin lesions on people usually appear as red, round, itchy lesions with a halo of white, scaly skin. Cats and dogs exhibit the disease as hairless, itchy, scaly skin lesions that may progress to whole-body hair loss similar to mange. Ringworm lesions on animals are diagnosed using UV fluorescence and/or fungal culture.

Ringworm can be extremely difficult to cure and eradicate once it infects a household. Young children are at the highest risk of infection due to increased contact with animals and injudicious hygienic prac-

tices. Severe ringworm infections can lead to secondary bacterial infections in people. Treatment with topical medications can be difficult and ineffective. Oral medications have a higher cure rate but have significant side-effects.

Due to the public health significance, any animal showing scaly, red, hairless, itchy skin lesions should be examined immediately especially if another family member or pet also has an itchy rash. Any human family member should seek immediate medical attention if a rash concurs with suspected ringworm lesions on a pet. Ringworm is generally not a life-threatening disease. However, because it is extremely contagious and can become endemic to a small community like Kayenta, the public is asked to be vigilant about their pets and strays that may become reservoirs of ringworm and other infectious diseases. Kayenta Animal Care Center makes capture of animals that are a public health risk a priority. Please call KACC at (928) 697-8444 with any questions or concerns.



## KACC Finds its Niche as a Community Animal Shelter

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – Kayenta Today got together recently with Dr. Charlotta Begay, Director of the Kayenta Animal Care Center (KACC) to look at the tides the program has crossed since it opened last year in May 2009. From a small organization that began with unique setbacks, the program has managed to get into its own groove. All of a sudden, the center seemed it had become established when a little picture book appeared at the Kayenta Township main office that profiled cats, dogs, and kittens that were healthy, and ready to be taken home for adoption.

Below is a list and photos of new animal intakes which have come into Kayenta Animal Care Center up to this date. Once all the equipment needs for Dr. Charlotta Begay are in place, hopefully by summer we can look forward to more veterinary care services for our beloved cats and dogs, such as low cost spay/neuters. Her goal is to proceed with these services as early as November.

### Sunshine

One year old Female Doberman Cross Sunshine was brought to the Kayenta Animal Care Center shelter very thin with an infection in her right hind leg. Sunshine is a very friendly canine looking for a home, she gets along with most dogs, but she can be dominant and aggressive towards other female dogs who express dominance. Sunshine is gentle enough to be around small children and very good on a leash.

### Rosey

Two year old Female Mixed Breed Rosey is very energetic. She is very happy to get attention, is playful, and needs space to roam in an enclosed yard and gets along with most dogs. Rosey has a gentle history of being around small children. To get a reward, Rosey loves treats, and could be a good candidate for a championship in fetching.

### Garbonza

One to Two year old Female Boxer Cross Garbonza is very energetic and intelligent dog. Garbonza needs a secure yard with a lockable gate, or this dog will find a way to learn how to open it. Garbonza likes going on walks, playing with friends, and sitting for treats. Garbonza gets along with most dogs.

### Mikey

Two to Three year old Male Australian Shepherd Cross Mikey is very good on a leash and is friendly enough to be around older children, but not around small children. He loves chasing lizards, rabbits, anything small, and fast. Mikey probably would not be good around cats and livestock, especially sheep. But Mikey is very handsome and would make a good wingman.

### Chili

2 year old Female Australian Shepherd Cross Chili is a very shy dog, but very loveable. Chili is a good companion for anyone who likes to take life slow and easy. She may not be able to endure the wear and tear of living with toddlers or preschoolers. And Chili does not get along with dominate

female dogs, and Chili is not used to cats.

**Cindy**  
4 year old Female Spayed Golden Retriever Cross Cindy is a very loveable and gentle female dog. She would make a good friend for a young child. Cindy is very pleasant to walk on a leash, completely house trained, and gets along with other non-dominant dogs. Because Cindy is so docile, she probably would not be assertive with livestock, but may do well with cats.

All animals adopted through the Kayenta Animal Care Center are de-wormed, vaccinated, and spayed or neutered. Not pictured here are two Four to Five month old black labs, mixed small breed puppies, foster puppies, cats, and kittens in the shelter. Cat adoptions are suspended for the next two weeks pending ring worm quarantine. So far, KACC has not had a case of feline ringworm for two to three weeks. KACC currently has a litter of five, very cute kittens that will be available for adoption in two weeks.

The KACC is open to the public and for veterinary services from 1 pm to 5 pm Monday through Friday. Spay/neuter services are pending as KACC awaits additional equipment. The animal care center provides animal shelter, animal control services year around. Daily veterinary care services are available for pets including vaccinations, deworming, and other basic preventative care. Spay/neuter services are estimated to proceed in mid-November. Volunteers and donations are always welcome.



**KAYENTA TOWNSHIP**  
 Post Office Box 1490  
 Kayenta, Arizona 86033  
 Phone (928) 697-8404  
 Fax (928) 697-8461

**KAYENTA TOWNSHIP JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**TITLE:** HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR  
**LOCATION:** Kayenta Township, Public Works Department

**SPECIFIC DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. The Heavy Equipment Operator is responsible for operating heavy equipment in a safe and appropriate manner. Heavy Equipment may include trucks, front-end loaders, dozers, graders, compactors, dump truck and other pieces of equipment. Operate heavy equipment in a safe and effective manner at all times in order to minimize the risk of injury, property damage or loss of life
2. Perform daily safety and maintenance checks, pre-trip and post-trip inspection on all heavy equipment, emergency packet in all vehicles, fire extinguishers are up to date.
3. Assumes responsibilities for minor maintenance & preventive maintenance of all heavy equipment with the assistance of the mechanic. Schedule repairs with mechanic:
  - a. Inspect, diagnose, tire replacement and balancing, oil change, lubrication, refilling all fluids, brake setting, loose nuts/bolts, tune up, fuel and minor repairs. Discuss service and repair problems with Public Works Director
  - b. Maintain records including warranty, insurance documents, and mileage logs
  - c. Keep all heavy equipment clean inside and out
4. Maintain regularly scheduled services, order parts as needed. Obtain quotes on parts.
5. Maintain inventory of tools, equipment & securely stored.
6. Furnish own tools relating to the job
7. Staff will be randomly drug tested during the year
8. Performs other tasks and responsibilities as assigned by the Public Works Director.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Diploma or AA Degree
- Must have a valid Arizona State Driver License and CDL
- Must submit a pre-employment drug screening
- Must have three or more years of successful experience with Heavy Equipment
- Must exhibit good health, literacy and citizenship
- Establish & maintain effective working relationship with KTC staff and community members
- Must be reliable and dependable
- Demonstrate aptitude of competence for assigned responsibilities
- Must understand written or oral instructions in the Navajo & English language

**CLOSING DATE:** Until position is filled. Submit Kayenta Township Employment Application with resume, 3 letters of recommendation, training certificates. Navajo Preference will apply in hiring. Questions: call 928-697-8451, Fax#: 928-697-8461, or website: kayentatownship.net

## MVHS Cross Country Runner Julian Cly Qualifies for 2011 Junior Olympics In Myrtle Beach, SC

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – After placing 10th at the Regional Junior Olympic Cross Country meet in Denver, Colorado, Julian Cly, freshman Varsity Cross Country runner at Monument Valley High School has qualified to compete in the 2011 USATrack and Field National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships at the Whispering Pines Golf Course in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on December 10, 2011.

Nearly 3,000 cross country runners in all youth age groups will compete in this year's junior olympics. Julian will be running in a division for youth born in between 1995 and 1996. In his Intermediate Boys Division, only one other Navajo runner will compete against him from Tuba City: Wesley Eddie Loughran.

During the Montezuma-Cortez Ancient Trails 5K Invitationals, Julian Cly, then a freshman at Monument Valley High School came in third place with a time of 17:55.00. For the 2011 school year, he was the only Freshman to run in the Varsity Boys 5000 Meter Run. A week earlier at the Holbook Invitational, where the best from the Navajo reservation high schools go head to head, Julian placed 14th with a time of 17:42:90.

When the Arizona State Championships in Division 3 came around, Julian placed 11th with a personal best time of 16:35:12 at the Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix, Arizona. By improving his time on the 5000 m (3.1 mile) course, Julian has increased his momentum to do well in these summer races.

Based on a program that was started about seven years ago by Cross Country coach Rick Krause, Julian Cly is a member of the Moencopi Rez Runners Cross Country club. Mr. Krause is an Elementary Physical Education teacher at Moencopi Day School, a small school near Tuba City, AZ. TCM Rez Runners is their official club name (Tuba City Moencopi Rez Runners).

Over the years, the success of these student runners has grown to over 90 participants with kids ranging in age from 6 to 16 years old. Since Julian is now 16, this year will be an opportunity for him to make a mark outside of his regular high school cross country season and this is an opportunity to achieve national recognition at an early age.

The Rez Runners all compete in cross country events sponsored by the United States of America Track and Field (USATF at www.usatf.org). This year, sixty-seven of

the Rez Runners traveled to Denver, CO to compete in the regional olympic events. Their coach, Rick Krause says this opportunity is worthwhile because, "We currently have three kids in the club that Colleges have already put in their data base for possible scholarships after high school. By getting these kids to Regional and National meets, it will give them the exposure they deserve for the talent they have."

Of the sixty seven (67) TCM Rez Runners who competed in Denver, CO on November 19, 2011, twenty seven (27) runners have made it to Nationals, including Julian Cly. TCM Rez Runners are trying to raise \$3,000.00 to pay for travel, lodging, and entry fees. If you or somebody you know would like to sponsor these runners, many of whom may place in the Top 25 nationally, it would be greatly appreciated. TCM Rez Runners EIN # is 20-8053349. Please make sponsorship donations payable to RCM Rez Runners, c/o Rick Krause, PO Box 4058, Tuba City, AZ 86045. Or, for more information, please call (928) 283-5361 ext. 1027 or on cell (928) 255-9330, email at tcmrezrunners@yahoo.com. Good Luck Rez Runners!

### Kayenta Health Center- Flintco. LLC

Kayenta Health Center- Flintco. LLC stated that work will be ongoing throughout the winter into next year. Scope of work will be reduced until next Spring. Work within the next 30 days: Structural steel ongoing through January 2013.



All applicants are still being referred to LDS Employment Services for registration. Flintco wishes the community a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

### Kayenta 4<sup>th</sup> of July Rodeo and Fair 2012

*"Unfolding the milestone, commemorating traditions, and gathering as a community to shape our future."*

Kayenta Recreation Center

July 03 and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

10:00 am to 9:00 pm

Please check one below:

- Arts and Crafts, \$35.00 per day, per table, 15' X 15' space.
- Prepared Food and Drinks, \$45.00 per day, per table, 15' X 15' space. (Food Handlers permit required).

DATES REQUESTED: TUES (7/3) \_\_\_ WED (7/4) \_\_\_ THURS (7/5) \_\_\_ FRI (7/6) TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out form below. Make payment at the Finance Department, Kayenta Township:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**\*For Emergencies Call 911 or Kayenta Police Department 697-5600**

I, the undersigned, accept responsibility for the above conditions and agree to make restitution for any damage to the facility or Township/Chapter property. I hereby exempt and release the Kayenta Township/Kayenta Chapter, its employees, agents and servants from any and all loss, liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of actions whatsoever arising out of any loss, damage or injury that may occur as a result of the referenced facility use requested herein.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check/MO # \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt# \_\_\_\_\_ Total Price \_\_\_\_\_

Please make payment at the Kayenta Township, see FINANCE DEPARTMENT to register for a space. For More Information, please call NATALIE at (928) 697-8451. DEADLINE: July 02, 2012 at 5 PM.

**BRING YOUR OWN TABLES AND CHAIRS!!!** Any Vending or Solicitation from June 29, 2012 through July 07, 2012 is not allowed without receipt of payment from the Kayenta Township Finance Department. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### Wenona: Continued from page 1

Wenona Benally-Baldenegro: I was born in Gallup, New Mexico and raised in Kayenta, Arizona. I am Tsi'naajini, born for Honágháahnii. My maternal grandfather is from the Ta'neezahnii clan and my paternal grandfather is from the Tábaqáha clan. My mother is Winnona A. Benally and my father is Raymond A. Benally. My mother's parents are from Manuelito and Sawmill and my father is from Pine Springs, AZ. My mother used to be a teacher at Kayenta Intermediate School and Middle School while my father used to be an engineer at the Peabody Coal Mine. I am married to Salomon F. Baldenegro, a Mexican-American from Tucson. "Baldenegro" means "black bucket" in Spanish. His family is not sure of the origin of their last name.

I'm an attorney who received my law degree from Harvard Law School and a master degree in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. I graduated Salutatorian from Monument Valley High School in 1996. I am an alumnus of Arizona State University where I graduated in the top 5% of my graduating class. I am also a graduate of ASU's Barret Honors College.

**Kayenta Today:** Within the Navajo Nation leadership a great chasm seems to have been created, beginning with the Navajo Nation President vetoing the Green Economy Commission and before that Joe Shirley, Jr. vetoed the Title XVIII Legislation which was, at one point, passed by the Navajo Nation Council as legislation. Consequently, local Chapter communities can no longer negotiate on their own behalf when it comes to extraction of their natural resources. A lot of remarkable people who work on environmental issue have endorsed your campaign. What will you do to convince the Navajo Nation to get away from a coal-based economy?

WB: Over the years, multiple stakeholders have had to come to the table to discuss what the future energy needs should be for the Navajo Nation and its people. It's a complex process that involves Navajo interests as well as other tribal, state, and citizen interests across Arizona. In addition to considering the interest of other parties and entities outside of the Navajo reservation, we must also consider other factors in addition to job creation. Clean air, clean water, and our public health should be prominent factors that we should all consider, particularly when it comes to planning for the future of our children. For example, how many people in Kayenta know that we share our source of drinking water with the Peabody Coal Mine? Current studies indicate that the Peabody Coal Company is responsible for using up 87% to 97% of Kayenta's drinking water. If we want future generations of our families to live in Kayenta, we must seriously weigh job creation with other factors like the depletion of our drinking water.

**Kayenta Today:** Although the push for a green economy has been a big issue lately, how can the Navajo Nation embrace a green economy when it is a part of one of the poorest demographics in the country? Alternative energy does not come cheap. Are there programs available that can make it affordable? What can be done in the short term?

WB: Since his election in 2008, President Obama has called on the U.S. to begin the transition to a clean energy economy. By moving to a clean energy future, we can reduce energy bills, expand energy access, and strengthen our security.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the federal government provided \$54 million to Indian Tribes for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The Navajo Nation has successfully leveraged federal funding to build the Boquillas Wind Project, an 85-MW wind farm west of Flagstaff. The project is also projected to bring electricity to approximately 1,200 to 2,400 Navajo homes.

In the short term, the wind project is projected to employ 350 people during construction and, in the long run, will employ 8-10 people with permanent jobs when construction is completed. Approximately \$19 million is expected to be generated over the 25-year lease period of the wind farm. This new income can be used to create new jobs in other sectors of the Navajo economy.

Also built into Obama's clean energy plan is the creation of new stable, high-paying jobs in the green technology workforce. The federal government is committed to increasing funding for federal workforce training programs that incorporate green technologies training. Also part of the green technology job package is the creation of an energy-focused youth jobs program that will help disadvantaged youth on our reservations obtain the jobs they need.

**Kayenta Today:** What kind of a message do you have to share with Navajo students who are entering the universities, and maybe the workforce, for the first time in their lives?

WB: Times are tough for everyone at this time. Jobs are down and college tuition is up. But we've got to remain hopeful even in these tough economic times.

I'm going to do all that I can to ensure that our younger generation of Navajos will have a future here on our reservation. The best way we can put people back to work is to create construction jobs for the area to build and repair our aging infrastructure like bridges and roads. We can also begin to take advantage of the loans and grants made available for rural water and wastewater infrastructure aimed at addressing the lack of safe drinking water in rural areas like the Navajo Reservation.

The best guarantee of a good, secure job is a quality education, and I will work to make sure that everyone in Arizona has an opportunity to attend to college without have to worry about the cost. I relied on Pell grants and scholarships to attend ASU and Harvard and so I understand the importance of ensuring that college remains affordable for everyone.

**Kayenta Today:** The Kayenta Township has met many milestones within the last decade as a "political subdivision of the Navajo Nation." Although it is one of the fastest growing communities on the Navajo reservation, it still has many obstacles in its way. For one, none Navajo owned businesses (mainly the hotel industry) currently has to pay over 12% in taxes. A Forbes magazine article in 2009 warned its readers not to visit Kayenta due to its high taxes. Can this "double taxation" be changed? Or, how can we attract outside none Navajo businesses to Kayenta?

In this tough economy, our priority has to be focused on supporting and promoting our Navajo small business owners. Small businesses drive the U.S. economy. Even as the economy struggles, small business are generating new jobs. We need to support small businesses for Navajo Nation to become economically self-sufficient.

Right now, small businesses are not receiving the support they need to grow and help the economy recover. One of the hurdles small business owners face is access to capital. Business owners on Indian-reservations have additional obstacles to overcome including the use of tribal land as collateral. As we begin to experience more cuts in federal funding, we need to invest in our small business community in order to address the high unemployment rates we face on the Navajo reservation.

**Kayenta Today:** Currently, the Kayenta community, as well as many other Navajo reservation communities, lack three important things. Or, if they have a center or a facility, it needs major improvements. Those needs are: 1) a Public Library, 2) a Head Start or Early Childhood program, 3) and Senior Citizen Facilities. How would you prioritize and address these needs?

WB: In addition to the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Office of Indian Education, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides financing for construction of public facilities in rural areas. The USDA oversees several rural development programs that provide loans and grants to construct or renovate essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities can include child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Indian tribes are permitted to apply for these funds.

Depending on how and where federal funding and financing can be leveraged, it is possible to have all three facilities built. There is federal funding available to construct a Head Start program building and a senior citizens center. The economic downturn has affected our seniors, their families and young children the most and so I would focus on making their needs a top priority.

**Kayenta Today:** If you are elected to Congress, what are some of the first things you will address once you are in office?

My priorities are to create sustainable, long-term jobs for the Navajo Nation and rural Arizona, increase and support educational opportunities and programs from K-12 to college, and to protect vital services and programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid that provide much-needed health care services and economic security for the Navajo people. I've elaborated above on the specifics of these priorities.

**Kayenta Today:** Many people who are successful, like yourself have been influenced by a writer or a public figure. If you were to recommend a book for required reading, what would you recommend and why?

I can't think of a book at the moment, but one of the most influential people in my life has been the late Senator Ted Kennedy. I had the privilege of meeting him at the Boston Airport while waiting to catch a flight to New York City



one morning while I was still in law school.

He was waiting all alone for a flight to DC and so I decided to approach him. I introduced myself and told him that I was a member of the Navajo Nation. I completely expected him to say "nice to meet you" and to go back to reading his documents. He didn't; instead, he invited me to sit down next to him and we continued to talk for about 30 minutes about my law school experience, my future career, and the Navajo Nation. He told me that he had spent some time working with the Navajo Nation "in his younger days" and greatly enjoyed visiting the reservation.

This brief conversation with the late Senator heavily influenced my decision to pursue a career in public policy. My desire to pursue public office is also very much influenced by his long legacy of public service. He long identified with those who were left out and left behind and he always stood up for fairness and equality in our society. Most importantly, he also admitted to me and others that he hardly ever succeeded on the first try; he always remained persistent and never gave up.

**Kayenta Today:** Thank you Wenona, and good luck on your historic run for office.

## Kayenta Animal Care Center Youth Volunteers



**KACC Volunteers Standing Left to Right: Mykayla Roop, Tysheena Bedonie, Zymara Nez, Kayleigh Russell**

# KAYENTA 4th OF JULY MUSIC FESTIVAL



JULY 4th, 2012 - KAYENTA, AZ

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## Kayenta Recreation Center Closed for Maintenance and Repair

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – As of December 01, 2011, the Kayenta Township has closed down the Kayenta Recreation Center for major repair and maintenance services. The center will go through a phase of mass cleaning, product/equipment inventory, and facility maintenance.

Although it is in the early parts of the winter months, the outdoor park will remain open to the public for use. The Township administration asks that if you use the gazebo and cooking grills for family functions and cook outs, that the grills be cleaned and the trash picked up and taken away.

The center has to meet health and safety issues as it is open to the public, and because the public building facilitates children and elderly programs on a month to month basis, proper upkeep of the facility is a major priority. As a lot of the public program events begin to grow, the decision to close the facility has been timely.

The Kayenta Township will not schedule any events or approve facility use rental agreements until later notice. At this time, the Kayenta Recreation Center is scheduled to reopen in April 01, 2012 unless the schedule maintenance issues change.



## KAYENTA 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY RODEO AND FAIR PARADE REGISTRATION 2012

**“Unfolding the milestone, commemorating traditions and gathering as a community to shape our future.”**  
Wednesday, July 04, 2012 at 9:30 AM

**WAIVER:** As an adult, a parent, or guardian, I hereby and herewith give permission for the participant(s) identified below, to partake in the upcoming 2011 Kayenta 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. I understand that there are risks of physical injury to the participant(s). Considering all possible risks, on behalf of myself and the participant, I voluntarily waive, release, discharge and hold harmless the Kayenta Rodeo Task Force, Kayenta Township Commission, Navajo Nation Department of Youth and the Kayenta Chapter, all of its elected and appointed officials, including commissioners, supervisors and subordinate personnel as well as volunteers from all claims, including those based on negligence, for all injuries to participant(s), no matter how severe.

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: July 02, 2012! NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Participant  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18 years of age) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Apt/Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home (Area Code + Number) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (Area Code + Number) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency # \_\_\_\_\_

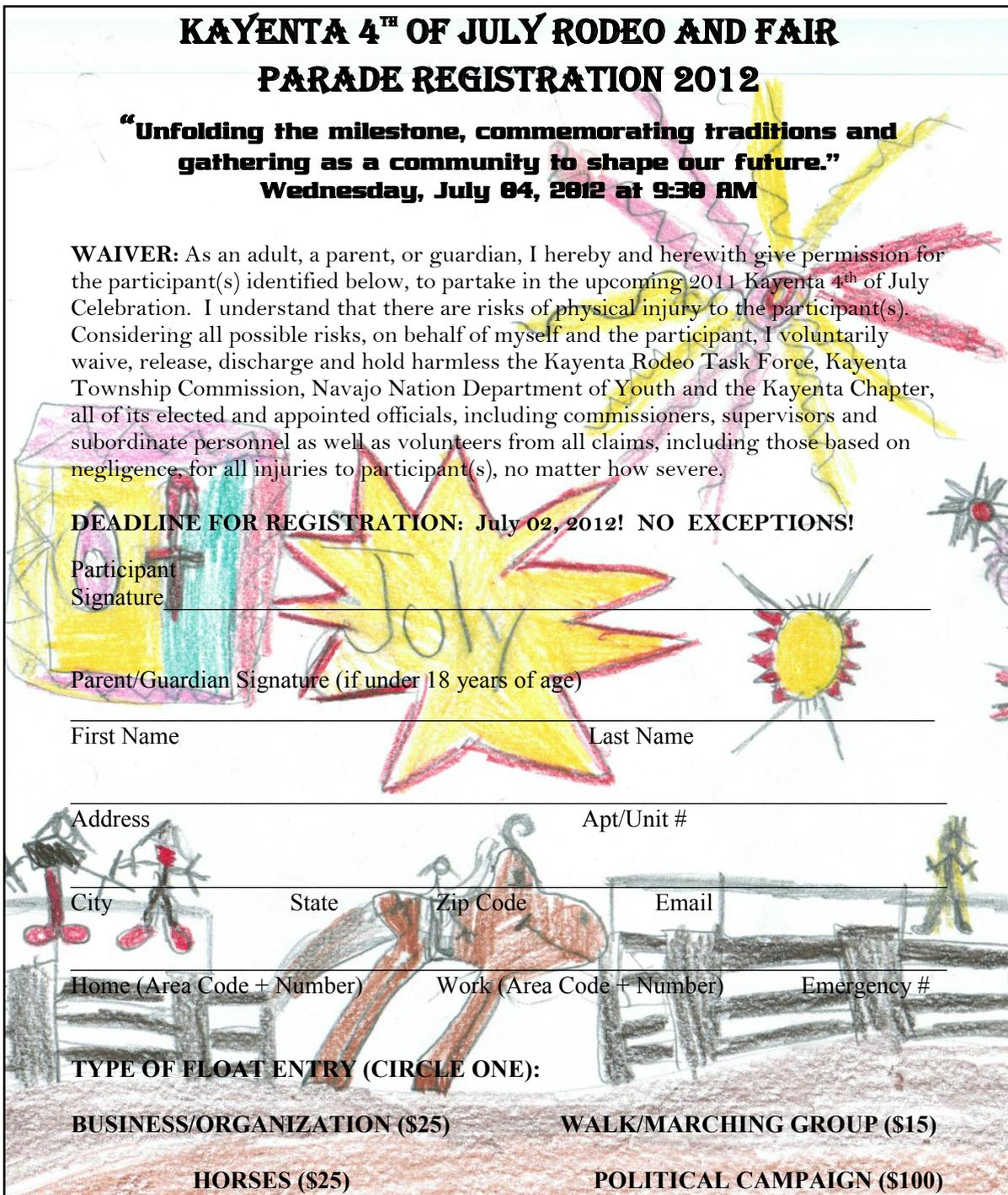
**TYPE OF FLOAT ENTRY (CIRCLE ONE):**

**BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION (\$25)**

**WALK/MARCHING GROUP (\$15)**

**HORSES (\$25)**

**POLITICAL CAMPAIGN (\$100)**



## Kayenta Recreation Center Employees Make A Successful Year Out of Healthy Native Communities Fellowship Program

By Pete Gilmore

KAYENTA, AZ – Joann Begay and Pete Gilmore, employees at the Kayenta Recreation Center, recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to fulfill the last part of their one year fellowship program with Healthy Native Communities Fellowship, sponsored by the Indian Health Service's health promotions program. The one week workshop and conference was held on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. from October 21st to October 27th, 2011. Peter Gilmore, recreation leader assistant, gives us a glimpse of their awesome one week experiencing the daily grind on Capitol Hill:

Our trip began with a bit of difficulty but challenges are nothing new for the Kayenta Recreation Center, where Joann Begay, and I, Pete Gilmore, work as Recreation Leader and Recreation Leader Assistant. It was our first trip to Washington, D.C. and it will always be remembered. We arrived at Durango, CO airport early in the morning around 5:00 am. As we were checking in our luggage we were reunited with some of the Healthy Native Communities Fellowship staff from Shiprock, NM. It was great to see them again and as we talked and caught up, we were all eager to board the plane. Passing through security was easy and before we knew it we were in Denver ready to board another flight, this time to Washington D.C.

We had a 30 minute wait until we could get on the next plane. Joann and I decided to get some breakfast and cover some last minute details over the phone concerning business back home. It was still early, maybe around 6:30 am and we were still trying to wake up as we ate our breakfast. We were determined to be on time and board our flight to Washington but when we arrived at the gates we realized it was closed. Seriously? Joann and I looked at each other thinking, what now? Do we laugh or cry? Ok, no time to panic let us just go to the airport attendant, explain what happened and board another flight. The service at the Denver airport was great and they were more than helpful. Suddenly, we were

back on track and headed for D.C. Geez, I guess this is what normal city folk do, but for two kids from the rez, we felt anxious, slightly confused, and highly overwhelmed by the trip ahead. We landed at the Dulles airport Saturday evening. We were supposed to land at Reagan International but Dulles was close enough. We paid 40 dollars to shuttle over to the Holiday Inn on Capitol Hill where we would be staying for the rest of the week. It was great to see all the Healthy Native Community Fellowship (HNCf) members and catch up on all the things we have been up to since we last seen each other in June. Our first retreat with the fellowship was in Scottsdale back in January. The second retreat happened in June in Farmington, NM and our last conference, here, in D.C. seemed to be more exciting and rewarding than the previous two. Here's a brief look at our schedule of activities throughout the week and some of the highlights from our trip to Washington, D.C.

### Saturday, October 22, 2011

Arrived in Washington, D.C. and checked into hotel at the Holiday Inn on Capitol Hill located in the middle of Washington, D.C. Met up with fellow HNCf members and caught up on things since our last retreat back in June. Everyone is fired up for the week ahead.

### Sunday, October 23, 2011

Breakfast at 8:00 am followed by meeting 2009 HNCf members as mentors. We learned how the program has helped them work within their communities. The rest of the day was reserved for sightseeing and free time. We spent the day touring Washington D.C. Saw the Capital building, the Supreme Court, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Museum of the American Indian, Chinatown, Georgetown, and many other museums, historical sites, and government buildings.

### Monday, October 24, 2011

Monday was a work day. We spent our day working with HNCf staff and year two members learning how to incorporate our community core values into programs that

would benefit the needs of our community. We identified our community's core values such as traditional, cultural teachings, and contemporary values such as hard work, family, and selfless service. The group thought of ways to create programs and activities we would like to start in our own communities.

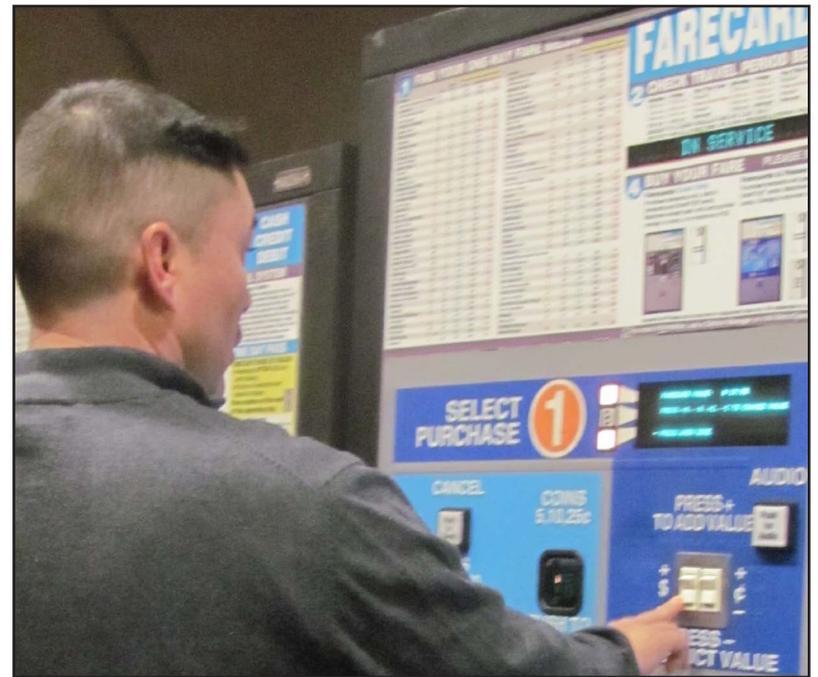
### Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Tuesday was very exciting. We attended a presentation by one of our fellow HNCf members meeting with a panel comprised of Department of Interior government officials regarding Native issues as well as the Indigenous Human Rights officials from South America. On the panel were various Native women from different parts of the United States. They presented the dreadful facts of Native women regarding rape and domestic violence in Indian country. The Department of Interior officials and Indigenous Human Rights officials were informed and showed great concern as they offered significant ways to address these problems.

Joann and I were very impressed and we felt empowered knowing that there are ways to have our voices heard at the highest levels even though we come from the most meager places. That afternoon we were shown the room where U.S. Senators meet who are on the Indian Affairs Committee if we ever needed to have a meeting with them in the future.

### Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Wednesday was all about media tools and information. We learned how to use media in order to both empower and broaden our message. We used violence against women as an example. Joann was interviewed and told a heart wrenching personal story about the loss of her niece and nephew due to domestic violence. The whole room was in tears. The reporter was a veteran of news reporting and even she was in tears. The impact of the story backed by the facts we presented regarding violence against Native women in Indian country would have had a tremendous impact if brought before a



Pete Gilmore purchasing a metro ticket to get around Washington D.C.



Pete Gilmore sightseeing stands in front of D.C. Capital.



Native women leaders and advocates testify before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, DC. Standing Left to Right: Juana Majel Dixon, First Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians and Co-Chair of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women; Dorma Sahneyah, Vice Chairperson, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center; and Executive Director, Hopi Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse Lisa Brunner, Executive Director Sacred Spirits First Nation Coalition; Joann Begay, Kayenta Recreation Center Outreach Program; Terri Henry, Co-Chair, National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Native Women; Tribal Council Representative, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; and Principal Director, Clan Star, Inc.; Jana Walker, Senior Attorney Indian Law Resource Center.

congressional committee. This experience and trail run greatly empowered us and gave us the confidence needed to execute a plan if and when needed. We were very grateful for gaining this knowledge on how to use media to address issues in our communities.

### Thursday, October 27, 2011

Thursday was spent learning about various policies that affect Indian country, both negatively and positively. We spent a lot of time discussing the Indian health care improvement act and what types of changes have occurred due to this legislation in our communities. Joann and I work a lot with the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes program, and we thought of ways we could create a greater outreach to help our people back home. We also met with high level officials such as the head of Indian Health Services and top official within the United States Department of Agriculture. We discussed ways of improving health and diet in Indian country. We joked and said we were going to start a boycott of Bashas' campaign. Although we joked, the conversation turned serious when we began discussing the ravages that diabetes has had on our people. We thought of ways that the tribe and the federal government could work together to protect our people from harmful products while focusing on prevention programs and promoting health and fitness. Not very long ago, perhaps within a generation, obesity has now become a major issue. We discussed ways to reverse this new and harmful trend.

### Friday, October 28, 2011

Friday was our travel back home day.

We boarded the plane early in the morning and landed in Durango, CO before noon! We were both very happy to be back close to KTown and within the four sacred mountains in Diné'tah.

Joann and I had a tremendous experience in Washington, D.C. We were in awe seeing all the historic sites and being amongst one of the world's most democratic institutions. We gathered crucial networking information and were shown that even a small voice from Kayenta can be heard when using the appropriate processes. We plan to start a program in conjunction with a team from Alaska called Healing the Heart. It is a coalition to help Native youth by providing mentors and positive resources that will help our youth succeed. We are in the planning stages but hope to present the program in the spring of 2012. We care deeply for our community and would like to thank the Kayenta Township for allowing us to become members of the Healthy Native Communities Fellowship program which is funded through the Indian Health Services.

All of the funding necessary for our trips were provided by the Healthy Native Communities Fellowship program. One of the most powerful things Native people have is the Federal Indian Law. No other minority group has this kind of protection in the United States. Our warriors and great leaders fought and died for this protection. Now it is up to us to strengthen our tribal communities and create a higher standard of living for future Native generations. Éí lá t'áá hó ájit'éégo t'áá kódi. Ahé'hee'.

**Azee' Naakah Diné  
Bee Baa Áháya**



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