



KAYENTA TODAY

The Newspaper of the Kayenta Township and Community

Volume IV NO. 2
::a free publication::

Kayenta Master Plan to Attract More Traffic!

pp. 6-7



(Above: Dennis Corsi of Armstrong Consultants, Inc., presents plans to members of the Township.)

On January 24, the Kayenta Township met with planners and engineers of Armstrong Consultants Inc from Grand Junction, Colorado about the new Kayenta Airport Master Plan.

The current airport was constructed in 1987 and is used primarily for general aviation use. Although it continues to serve general aviation use, its value as a way point for sightseeing traffic and economic growth has increased.

The Airport Master Plan describes the overall concept for the long term development of an airport.

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T.S.H - A Safe Haven

“Tohdenasshai Shelter Home (TSH) is one of the first domestic violence shelters on the Navajo Nation and the only 24 hours shelter located on the Arizona portion of the Navajo Nation.”

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Uranium pp.4

Special Olympics

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My Troubles with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

... The Saga Continues

** The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Kayenta Township*

My Electrical Contractor telephoned me from Snowflake, Arizona on Monday, January 31, 2005. He told me that he hung up on the NTUA woman talking to him, he was so angry. I asked him, "So, what happened?"

He said, "Remember all the times you'd tell me that the electrical poles and lines would be set up so that I could go ahead and connect your trailers to the pole?" I said, "Yeah?"

He continued, "Well that made me real cautious so when I went to Kayenta, the first place I went too was to the NTUA to check the wires and other specifications they'd want. I took a chance and brought out the type of wire that we use here off the reservation. But it was the wrong type. So I went back to Snowflake to exchange the wire but before I went, I got more specifics on the "riser" and other equipment to house the electrical wires from the gal at the NTUA".

I inquired, "So, did you put in the wire?" He said, "Well you paid for the trenching so I laid in the wire." I told him, "I already had the trench covered up." He said, "Yes, I know but now the same gal I talked too said I put in the wrong wire." I told her, "I talked to you in person and you said to put in this particular type of wire? She told me that I had to put in another type of wire."

I got excited now and replied, "You mean that I'll have to dig up the trench again?" He said, "No, she wants the wire beginning from the top of the riser to where they connect too the NTUA lines. She told me that if I didn't change the wire, NTUA wouldn't connect the line."

That's when I slammed the phone down!"

Needless to say, he came out to Kayenta the first week in February and the NTUA turned on my electricity about the 3rd of February. Still, NTUA hasn't put in the security lights I requested on my work order of September 22, 2004.

I first published my woes with the NTUA service in the January issue of the Kayenta Today Newspaper. A number of persons congratulated me for the story and

I have to admit that I was surprised by how many. Even total strangers came up to me to relate a similar story and I would ask them, "Well, why didn't you write?" Many of them said a variety of answers from, "I can't write" to "What's the use?" To some of these persons that had the time to listen, I would tell them, "You know in my small businesses, I pay the Tribe a little more than two hundred thousand dollars a year to operate on the reservation. Do you think the Navajo Nation Council started NTUA so that they could make a small profit?" Most of the people didn't know.

I remember meeting the Council Speaker of the House, Mr. Lawrence Morgan and the Navajo President, Mr. Joe Shirley Jr. back in January in Phoenix before they were to go before the Arizona State legislator to beg for money. I was also thinking about the Gallup Independent article of February 5th entitled Tribal Leaders seek money, where Joe Shirley Jr. and Lawrence Morgan again addressed the New Mexico Round House begging for money.

NTUA is much much bigger than the four Burger Kings and the Hampton Inn that I own. If I pay between \$200,000. to \$250,000. annually to operate on the reservation, how much

does NTUA pay to the Tribe? If they pay several million dollars a year, which they should, then these payments must be a relief to both the Council Speaker of the House, Lawrence Morgan and Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr.

Understand that I am a Navajo business person and my expectations of the NTUA as far as making a profit for the Tribe (not NTUA), is not unrealistic. However, I have to question the services given to me beginning in September and culminating in February. That's almost 6 months for one customer. At that rate by my calculations, NTUA should be going broke. That gets me back to my original question – who is paying NTUA?



- Richard Mike

"If I pay between \$200,000. to \$250,000. annually to operate on the reservation, how much does NTUA pay to the Tribe?"



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Kayenta's Tohdenasshai Shelter

Home to open soon

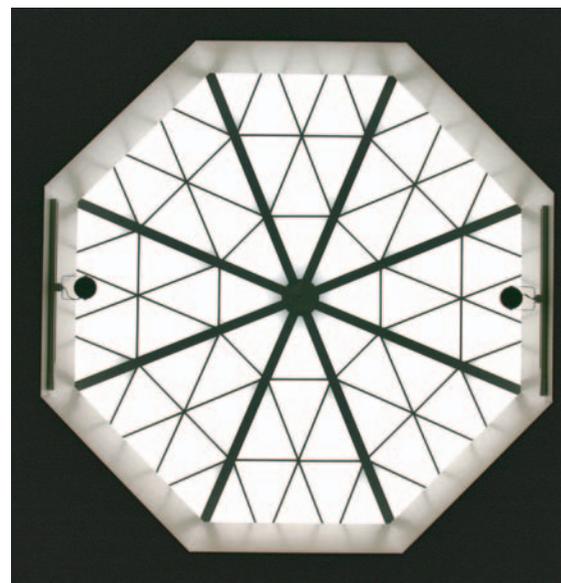
Tohdenasshai Shelter Home (TSH) is one of the first domestic violence shelters on the Navajo Nation and the only 24 hours shelter located on the Arizona portion of the Navajo Nation. TSH was founded in 1982 and has served hundreds of families of domestic violence on the Navajo Nation. The Tohdenasshai Committee Against Family Abuse, Inc. (TCAFA, Inc.) is a non-profit organization, which oversees the shelter program, and future projects that assist in decreasing family violence in our community.

TSH is preparing to move into a new 20-unit facility, which will accommodate twenty four emergency beds and eight transitional housing apartments. The project was funded by NAHASDA funds and private funding. The shelter campus also has a

daycare facility on-site. The project had been short funded but additional funds were acquired to finish the project and secure the building for victims of domestic violence to begin to occupy. NAHASDA provided \$75,000.00 in funding and the Kayenta Township matched the funds to complete the project.

TCAFA, Inc. board of Directors, Chairperson, and Darrell Cornford has stated that "We are grateful to the Kayenta Township for their support in assisting with funds to open the buildings."

The Tohdenasshai Shelter Home has a current staff of nine employees. The shelter operates 24 hours a day, year round. The program provides many services to the residents such as Domestic Violence education and



"The shelter's purpose and goals are to meet the physical and emotional needs of victims of Domestic Violence, to offer a secure shelter, and intervention/prevention services to decrease the incidence of Domestic Violence against women and children." - TSH Mission Statement



The new TSH facilities expect to open in six to eight weeks, TSH staff will be busy cleaning and organizing the facilities. A few minor repairs and some warranty work needs to be completed, as well as inspections need to be done before TSN can start accepting new clients into the new facility.

prevention, crisis-intervention, case management, goal planning, safety planning, lay-legal advocacy, court support, assisting with filing orders of protection, advocacy, and transportation to local resources. Other services the shelter provides beyond the shelter are facilitating the local Domestic Violence Task Force and Women's Support Group. Staff is available to provide training on domestic violence to the public and agencies in local and surrounding communities also.

"We are looking forward to moving into the new facility which will provide much needed space compared to our current shelter and more beds for women and children needing shelter due to domestic violence." said Shelter Director, Geraldine Laughter.

Future projects that TCAFA, Inc. would like to see in the near future is a children's receiving home and adolescent shelter due to the lack of services on the Navajo Nation and in our community. Many children who are displaced due to family violence are often placed in facilities located off the reservation and immediate placement is lacking. There is also the need for a shelter for teenage children who are displaced due to family violence. TCAFA, Inc. hopes to fill this void.

If you have any questions or would like more information please call 928-697-3635. Our 24-hour toll-free crisis hotline is 1-877-697-8591.



Uranium Mining Banned

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., on Tuesday told representatives of Eastern Navajo Dine' Against Uranium Mining and the Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee that he would immediately sign legislation banning uranium mining on the Navajo Nation if approved by the Navajo Nation Council during its Winter Session.

"I am in support of the legislation (the Diné Natural Resources Protection Act), the President said. "A lot of our elders have been killed, and that's resulted in a loss of culture. In a sense, genocide has been committed on us because of the mining of uranium."

On Wednesday, the President sent a letter to Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan and all 87 other Council Delegates urging their support for the proposed legislation.

"Passing this legislation is urgently needed," the President wrote. "Waiting to consider it until the Spring Session in April may be too late. The bill will accomplish in Navajo law an objective that I have advocated consistently since taking office two years ago: prohibiting conventional uranium mining and placing a long-term moratorium on uranium processing. On this issue, I concur with the grassroots – Lheetso Dooda, K'ad."

Lynnea K. Smith, a representative of ENDAUM and one of 15 people to meet with the President regarding the proposed legislation, said the bill would ban open pit and shaft mining of uranium and place a moratorium on in-situ leach mining of uranium.

"It really is the sovereign right of the Navajo Nation to say, 'We're going to look after our water,'" she said.

She said that if uranium mining contaminated Navajo groundwater, it would be rendered unusable for hundreds of thousands of years.

Navajo Nation Council Delegate Alice Benally of Crownpoint said the principle reason for her serving on the council was to protect her community from the dangers of uranium mining.

"I'm very thankful to our President for his stand on this," she said. "This is why I'm here. His response has always been the same; that he supports us."

She said she agreed with President Shirley's contention that financial gain is why a handful of Navajo residents support uranium mining and are against the proposed Diné Natural Resources Protection Act.

"I agree with my shi'nali that money is the reason some allottees oppose this legislation," Ms. Benally said. "They must remember that the water belongs to everyone and we have a right to have pure, pristine water."

She commended the perseverance of ENDAUM members. Despite a lot of opposition to their efforts, "They continued to stand. They continued to prevail," she said.

"I can't say enough about the damage in our community," Ms. Benally said. "It's going to hurt our community if we don't oppose (uranium mining)."

J. Keith Killian, a partner in the Killian, Guthro & Jensen law firm who represents former uranium miners and downwinders seeking compensation through the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, said the centerpiece of the Bush Administration's Energy Plan is construction of new nuclear power plants which would require uranium.

"To me, it's beyond a cultural injustice," the President said. "I'm dead-set against uranium mining on Navajoland. I'd like to outright outlaw the thing. There's no cure for uranium radiation exposure. I'll do everything I can to get the legislation passed."





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N.A.S.A. Focus Group Gathers in Window Rock

Tribal representatives, concerned citizens, and formal and informal educators gathered in Window Rock to participate in a unique discussion to discover ways to use technology to encourage youth on the reservation to study math and science. About 30 people participated in the NASA Focus Group, which was conducted by ArtReach International and The Office of the Speaker. The Office of the Speaker began a partnership with ArtReach International, out of Herndon, VA to work with NASA to explore how to use electronic education and multimedia to encourage youth living on the reservation to pursue studies in aerospace and related technologies. ArtReach submitted a proposal to conduct a Focus Group on the Navajo reservation, and was one of 11 proposals chosen by NASA's Office of Education. All of the 11 proposals selected by NASA use science, technology, engineering, and mathematics resources to develop engaging experiences, materials, and information.

"The purpose of this Focus Group is to help NASA better understand the realities that educators working with youth in classrooms, and educators working outside formal classroom settings, are experiencing on a day-to-day basis within the reservation community. We are here to listen, to learn, and to share resources so that we might supplement one another's efforts to provide reservation youth meaningful learning experiences," said ArtReach Founder Alice Carron.

The focus group opened a dialogue that can lead to developing innovative programs using NASA-related resources. "These focus groups will truly help us understand the needs of the informal education community. The knowledge we gain will us to foster new learning environments that spark the interest and imagination of people from all segments of society," said NASA's Chief Education Officer, Dr. Adena Lotson.

"On December 19, 2004 our Office put

out a call for educators and representatives of science centers, museums, libraries, youth groups, schools, and community-based organizations to participate in a unique meeting to identify ways to inspire youth living on the reservation to study aerospace and work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Since the announcements, there was a lot of buzz among educators and around the reservations schools regarding what the focus group meeting really is, and what the expected outcomes are. Our Office received many calls from parents who really are the first line of educators for every child. The response has been great, and we hope to give the topic and effort our best shot so that the benefit resources really do reach our isolated rural schools." Said Speaker Morgan

Speaker Morgan expressed his gratitude "to the educational experts and technicians who worked diligently to prepare [for the focus group] and provide a comprehensive snapshot of [the] Navajo education system" He commended their efforts "in establishing a culturally relevant education system" for Navajo youth. "We have the capabilities and resources to do research and training, and are equipped with the tools needed to perpetuate tribal language and culture. We all have a strong role in promoting educational opportunities for youth. We're all here for tribal youth."

Focus group participants identified needs and began to develop strategies to increase access on reservations to NASA assets (staff, research, technology, information, and facilities). The goal is develop strategies to help NASA reach parents and educators with limited resources through informal education. A summary of the Focus Group insights and findings will be posted on a website that will available in March 2005 at www.ArtReachStudios.com

Speaker Morgan continued: "The Navajo Nation is committed to maintaining the cultural integrity of the tribe We are excited, but cautious. We must maintain our connection to Mother Earth and Father Sky. We must gain spiritual permission while we seek opportunities for youth from outside the four sacred mountains. I am confident that with our combined minds and energy we will put together a productive program. We are also interested in establishing research and internship opportunities for youth. We have much to offer to each other."

Initial meetings of Navajo participants took place in January at the Education Center in Window Rock. The NASA Explorer Institute Focus Group took place in Window Rock at the Dine Quality Inn on January 26 and 27th. Anyone who was unable to attend the Focus Group, but wishes to respond, is urged to complete a brief survey and return it to Alice Carron at: ArtReach PO Box 157 Herndon, VA 20172, (703) 834-1880 phone (703) 689-3337 (fax) or email at alicecarron1@msn.com. The local Focus Group contact who helped organize the meetings is Angela Barney-Nez, Staff Assistant, Office of the Speaker.

The Office of the Speaker and ArtReach International have previously collaborated on the production of the documentary film, "Navajo Women Warriors: Sani DezBah."

CONTACT IN WINDOW ROCK: Angela Barney Nez, Office of the Speaker (928) 871-6371 CONTACT IN WASHINGTON, DC: Alice Carron (703) 834-1880, alicecarron1@msn.com

"We all have a strong role in promoting educational opportunities for youth."

- The Honorable Lawrence T. Morgan, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council



Continued from page 1

The primary objectives of the Airport Master Plan are to develop an attainable phased development plan concept that will satisfy the needs of the airport in a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally sound manner. The planning takes place at national, state, regional, and local levels which involves collecting data, forecasting demand, determining facility requirements, and developing plans and schedules.

Specific objectives of the Kayenta Airport Master Plan include:

- Clearly identify the present and future roles of the airport.
- Evaluate the potential demand for commercial service flights serving Monument Valley.
- Update aircraft activity forecasts for the airport.
- Refine the size and layout of commercial service and general aviation areas.
- Determine the preferred development alternatives for meeting airfield facility requirements and FAA safety and design standards.
- Provide a plan for improvement of the facility to accommodate increased usage and to meet current FAA airport design standards.
- Identify optimum landside uses, which will enhance the economic benefits of the airport and that are compatible with airside development.
- Prepare a schedule of development projects and reasonable cost estimates by which to implement the improvements.
- Develop realistic, phased development and maintenance plans for the airport.
- Provide an Airport Layout Plan drawing set in accordance with current FAA standards.
- Prepare an Environmental Overview for proposed development.
- Prepare a proposed, comprehensive Airport Standards Manual for the airport, which incorporates the necessary information and regulations for users of the airport.
- Prepare a compatible land-use and height restriction plan for the airport vicinity including recommended zoning protection within the airport influence zone.



Developments at public airports, such as Kayenta's are considered to be of national interest and are eligible for financial assistance for airport planning and development under the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982.

The Kayenta Airport is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). NPIAS is a nationwide system of public-use facilities that serve a variety of traffic. An airport must be included in the NPIAS in order to receive funding under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

The current runway configuration at Kayenta Airport consists of one asphalt runway. The runway is 7,140 feet long and 75 feet wide. The new runway will be an additional 1000 feet longer making it 8140 feet long. Extending the runway will require the removal and relocation of existing power lines east of the airport runway underground, to accommodate the extended runway.

The current runway surface is in poor condition with collapsing pavement sections and major ruts. The most severe problems are primarily on the east end of the runway, however the entire runway is in poor condition. 3 inch new asphalt will remedy these problems as well as allowing larger

heavier aircraft to utilize the airport.

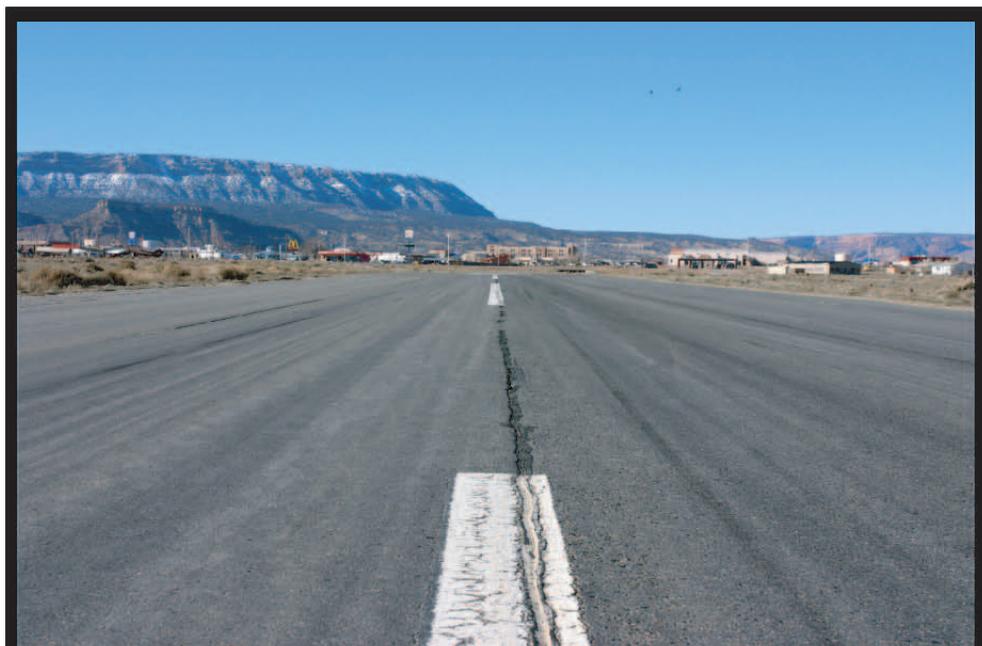
The runway threshold lights are in poor condition and nearly half are broken or missing, also the air field lighting and visual aids are also reported to out of service indefinitely. New lighting to the airport will bring a safer airport to Kayenta.

The taxiway system at the airport currently consists of one connector taxiway located off the runway, which connects the runway with the aircraft parking and tie down area, the pavement on the taxiway is also in poor condition. A new taxiway, aircraft parking and tie downs will be included in the project.

The Airport currently has fencing around the property line, however

the road to the airport is unrestricted and cars are able to drive onto the ramp and runway. Wind carried sediments often accumulate around the fence area allowing animals to easily cross the fence. New 7 foot game fencing will be installed around the airport boundaries and possible C.C.T.V installed for security.

Monument Valley, Utah has a privately owned airport which receives a high volume of tourism air traffic. Most of the air traffic comes from Las Vegas, Sedona, Page, and Phoenix. Kayenta would like to provide services to these aircraft and tour companies by attracting them with better facilities.



The Kayenta Airport is currently serving single engine and turbo prop aircraft, and some that use multi engine and light turbojet aircraft. Some of these aircraft include Air Medivac Services, Air Tour Operators, and Business/Recreational Transportation.

The combination of improved airport facilities and concerted effort by the Kayenta Township to enhance Kayenta's image, quality of life and visitor experience is expected to lead to increased airport activity, including air tours, personal, recreational, business, medivac, and government air traffic.

The Kayenta Airport is unattended and currently no services are available. It is recommended that fuel, pilot/passenger lounge and a courtesy car or shuttle to hotels/towns be provided at the airport for general

aviation public, as well as for the air tour operators and air ambulance operations. These services could possibly be incorporated with a cultural center on the airport allowing tourist to see what Kayenta has to offer.

Future construction of the access road to the Kayenta Airport was approved on January 24, 2005 by the Kayenta Township. Construction of the access road is a step forward in one of the many phases of the Kayenta Airport Master Plan.

With the current and future growth of economic development in Kayenta, the addition of a more up to date local airport will provide an added benefit to the community for years to come.

The next Kayenta Airport Master Plan meeting will be March 14, 2004 at the Kayenta Town Hall.

Navajo Nation will receive its own Boys & Girls Club

The Navajo Nation is days away from receiving its own charter from the Boys & Girls Club of America.

The Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., received assurances from BGCA officials that the charter for the non-profit organization Boys & Girls Clubs of Navajo, Inc. is in the process of being revoked and that the Navajo Nation would receive a charter of its own as soon as it submitted its application.

“We’re prepared to issue a charter to the Navajo Nation to create a club,” said Glen Purmuy, BGCA senior vice president for service to clubs. “We would like to start service to those Navajo boys and girls just as soon as possible.”

Robbie Callaway, BGCA Senior Vice President for Government Relations, said the national organization was prepared to issue a charter to the Navajo Nation immediately, and will begin proceedings

to revoke the charter of the non-profit Boys & Girls Clubs of Navajo, Inc.

“The other group has done nothing but cause trouble for boys and girls on Navajoland,” he said. “What I want to do is help President Shirley serve the kids of the Navajo Nation, and get there as soon as possible.”

A financial report of Boys & Girls Clubs of Navajo, Inc., has found the non-profit organization \$729,000 in debt and in difficulty with the Internal Revenue Service for using employee withholdings to pay other debts.

“I don’t see how they’re going to pay it,” President Shirley told the officials in a conference call on Tuesday. “I don’t think the Navajo Nation should pay it. The executive director jumped ship. We don’t know where the board is.”

Last week, the organization’s execu-

tive director Fran Rowden resigned.

Navajo Division of Dine’ Education Director, Leland Leonard, said a Navajo Nation-based organization can be operated through the division’s Department of Youth with approval from the Navajo Nation Council Education Committee.

Spencer Willie, program manager of the Dine’ Boys & Girls Club Expansion Office, said this is a plan that will finally resolve the long-running problem of the 14 Boys & Girls Clubs’ closure.

“We’ve been involved with this for close to a year-and-a-half trying to get over this impasse with the non-profit organization,” he said. “We’re at a point where we finally reached an agreement. We have more confidence in this plan now than the previous plan. We’re addressing some of the concerns that the (Navajo Nation) Council Delegates have raised.”

“We’re in your corner,” said Robbie Callaway. “Let us know what we can do to help.”

Design Prototypes for the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Navajo Nation



New Director of Indian Affairs

Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs David W. Anderson today announced he has named W. Patrick Ragsdale to be Director of Indian Affairs (BIA) effective February 13, 2005.

Ragsdale, who is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, has been serving for the last year as Director, Trust Review and Audit in Albuquerque, New Mexico in the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.

“Mr. Ragsdale comes to this position with a wealth of experience in Indian Affairs,” said Anderson. “He has done everything from teaching in Indian schools to holding the position of Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs between the Regan and Bush administrations. I have every confidence in his management

abilities and his dedication to meet the needs of Indian people.”

Ragsdale began his career at BIA in 1967 as a teacher. From 1969 to 1972 he has been on military furlough serving as an officer with the U.S. Marine Corps. During his BIA tenure he has served in many capacities including: Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Area Director Anadarko, Assistant Area Director (Trust Responsibilities) Phoenix, and Superintendent of the Unita and Ouray Agency.

He retired in 1993, joined the Cherokee Nation and became Executive Director of the Nation in 1999. He returned to Federal service in February last year to become the Director,

“I look forward to rejoining the large group of family and colleagues in the Indian Bureau after being absent for more than 10 years. I have great appreciation for Mr. Anderson’s efforts to energize leadership in Indian Country and am grateful to him for giving me this opportunity.”

Ragsdale has a bachelors degree in history from the University of Central Oklahoma and has graduate hours at both the University of Oklahoma and the University of Arizona.

He was born and attended high school in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and has two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

Ragsdale will replace Brian Pogue as BIA Director. Pogue left the directorship to take the position of Regional Director Anadarko.

The Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs directly oversees the day to day activities of the agency that provides services to individual American Indians and Alaska Natives from federally recognized tribes.

The Director administers all laws governing non-education portions of Indian Affairs, provides leadership and direction for BIA employees, and oversees and monitors the work of the BIA regional offices, agencies and field offices.

The Director also shares authority and responsibility for the management of tribal and individual Indian trust funds with the Special Trustee for American Indians, and oversees the Bureau’s Land Consolidation Center, the agency’s nationwide program to consolidate fractionated interests in Indian lands.

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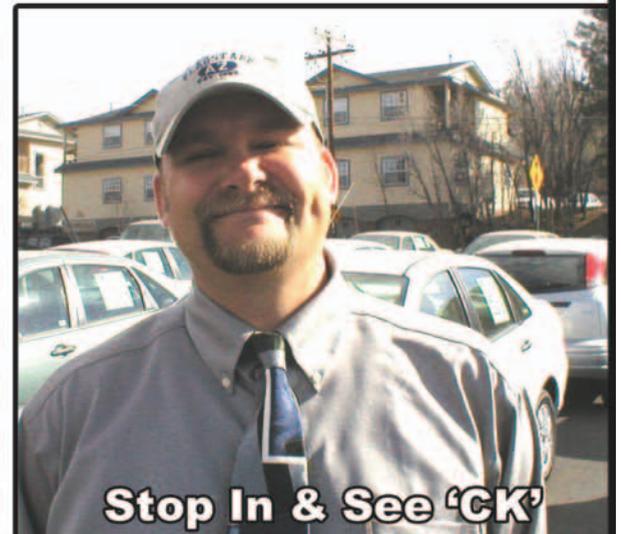


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Local K.U.S.D Employee: Former Recipient of Prestigious President's Service Award



It isn't everyday that community members have a chance to rub shoulders with a person who in the past, has exemplified service in it's most unselfish form and can also speak of an experience involving former President Clinton and the President's Service Award, in the same sentence. Such circumstances can be found, if one were to look within the walls of Kayenta's local Hozho Academic Center. Mr. John Andrews is one of two teachers at the Alternative Educational facility located next to the Kayenta Middle School.

Before Andrews resumed his career as a teacher, he could be found operating a moving company, Star Van & Storage, located in his hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska. Unlike many of today's popular moving outfits, Star Van & Storage was unique in its mode of operation as they were know for providing immediate service to victims of domestic violence. Often, his crew would transport individuals along with their property to various locations within the county, with no questions asked and quite often, at no cost to the victim.

"What got me started moving women and children out of abusive homes, was a childhood friend asked me if I could move a family that was in that situation. Her name was Marcy Metzger, she was the Director of the Rape Spouse Abuse Crisis Center in Lincoln, NE. She kept calling and I kept saying yes. I also felt some empathy for these clients because of my background. I grew up in an alcoholic home and all the dysfunction that that entails," stated Andrews.

Although the years have passed by since he received the esteemed award in the Rose Garden of the White House by President William Jefferson Clinton, Andrews continues his beliefs in providing service willingly in the name of Christianity and its companion of selfless service.

"As a Christian I believe it is my duty to help those in need when I am able to do so. Helping to me means more than just giving money, it also means being hands on," passionately commented Andrews.

Currently Andrews fills the role of an educator with every intention to provide his students with valuable lessons of life in addition to the skills needed to read, write, and understand the fundamentals of mathematics efficiently. The moving business was a satisfying job in terms of saving people's lives; therefore, the move to resume a career in education made perfect sense after much careful deliberation.

"I had taught Sunday school for seven years, and really enjoyed it. I had taught 8th grade American History for one year, years before. My father, and others, kept telling me I should go back into teaching. That was a big decision to make casually. I thought about it for about two years before deciding that I do have a gift in relating to young people and that I could use that gift as a teacher. I renewed my teaching certificate (which had expired) and ended up in Kayenta. I believe I made the right decision," concluded Andrews.

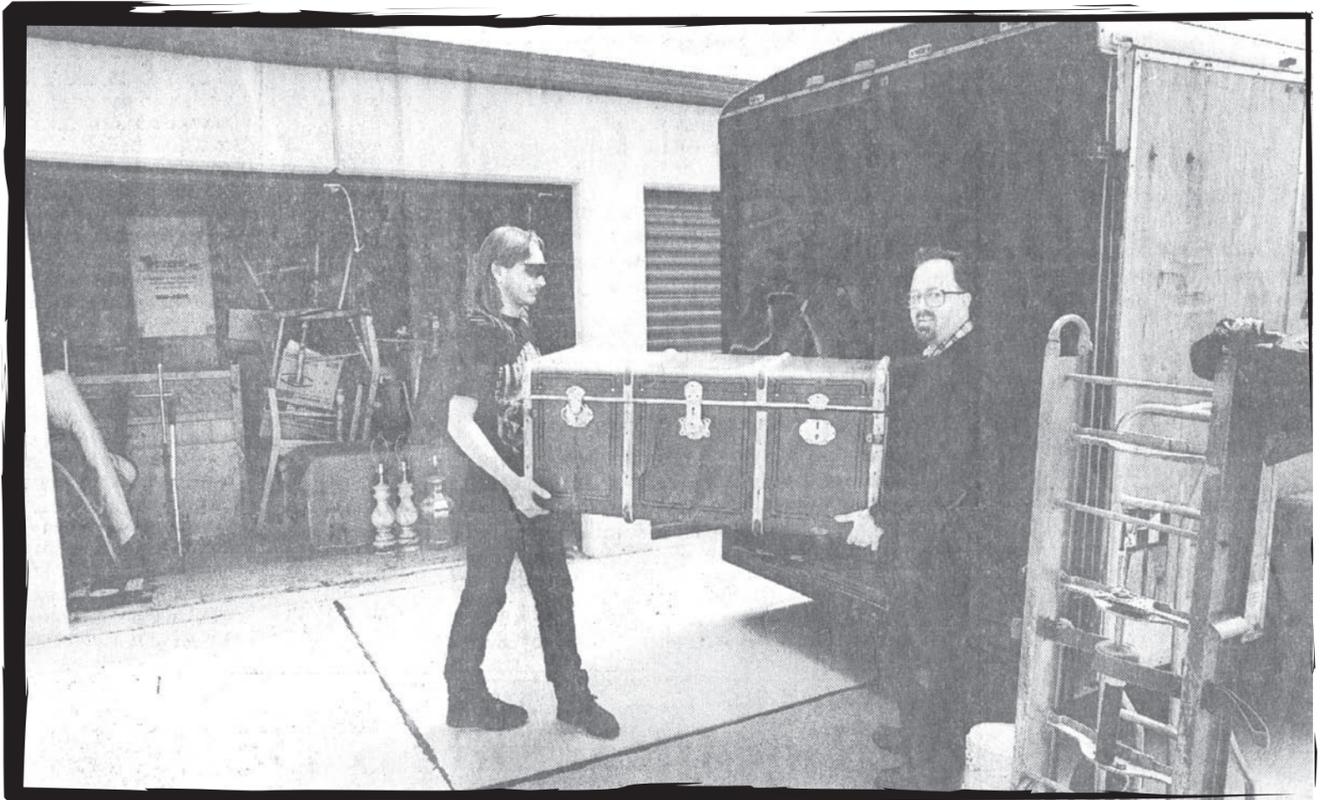


Above: John Andrews personally receives President's Service Award from former U.S President Bill Clinton

"As a Christian I believe it is my duty to help those in need when I am able to do so. Helping to me means more than just giving money, it also means being hands on." ~John Andrews



Below: Andrews (right) and fellow crew member carefully load personal property of a domestic violence victim to a safer location.



Q. How many years have you been coaching the Special Olympics?

I have been coaching Special Olympic- Kayenta for the past four years. I started off as a chaperone then moved on to becoming a volunteer. When the coach who was here before me moved, there was really no one left to take over. I didn't want the program to end, so I stepped forward.

Q. Who are the other assistance involved, if any?

There are a number of individuals who are involved with S.O. Kayenta.
Chris Greyeyes- Head of Delegate/ Head Coach
Kikki Greyeyes – Assistant Coach
Delphina Jones- KUSD School Sponsor
Patricia Gonnie- KUSD E.S.S. Director
Donny Pettyjohn- S.O. Volunteer
Student/ Athlete Parents

Q. Where do they usually take place?

There are over 8,000 athletes who participate in S.O. in Arizona. The state is divided into 14 regions. Our S.O. Kayenta program is in the Navajo Nation Special Olympic region. We participate in both regional and state events. We hold our training, practices, and games on the KUSD campus.

Q. What motivated you to participate in the Special Olympics?

I was introduced to Special Olympics by Mrs. Rose Dugi. (She was one of the two individuals who started Special Olympics here in Kayenta). Rose asked me to chaperone on one of the S.O. trips. After watching these incredible athletes perform, I was hooked.

Q. Are there certain events that you train the athletes in or do you provide guidance in all the events?

S.O. Arizona provides twenty one events. Our program participates in basketball and track/ field. Currently there are twelve athletes on the team who train seven months out of the year. We coach and train these athletes in each of their respected events.

Q. What is the history of Special Olympics in Kayenta or perhaps, in this area in general?

(i.e. Schools involved, Sponsors, requirements, etc...)

This is Special Olympics Arizona's 30th anniversary. Roger Halwood and Bobby Brown started Special Olympics here on the Navajo Nation 27 years ago. Over the past twenty seven years there have been over twenty area programs, at any given time, here on the reservation. Right now there are currently fourteen programs participating.

Our Special Olympic program was started in 1993 by Rose Dugi and Kristen DeVore. They laid the foundation down for what I think, is one of the top programs in our area. Right now we are trying to find new athletes to better our program. Special Olympic training and competition is open to every person with intellectual disabilities who is at least eight years of age and who is registered with the state office.

Q. How do the local athletes perform compared to other schools in the area?

Our S.O. Kayenta athletes fair very well at both the area and state levels. We have a little saying, "We'll play anyone, anywhere, and any time. If there is a program willing to lace them up, we'll be there."

Last year our basketball team brought back two silver medal finishes from area tournaments. (We didn't play in the state tournament.) In track & field the team brought back 5 gold, 8 silver, and 3 bronze individual medals, as well as 2 team silver medals from the state competition.

Q. What is the satisfaction you receive from the experience of being involved with Special Olympics?

After coaching these student/ athletes for the past four year, I feel that I have grown with each of them. When I first started off, watching these athletes was amazing. They have tried harder than most athletes that I was accustomed to watching or coaching. After I started coaching, the satisfaction I received was from watching how far these athletes had grown. In the short amount of time that I have known them, they have become great ambassadors to their school and community. Not only do these athletes try hard in their respected events, but in every in their everyday lives. Special Olympics is now a way of life for all the athletes.

Q. In addition, what would you say is your overall philosophy in coaching or regarding the program in general?

Coaching SO differs from coaching any other sporting event. The philosophy of Special Olympics is to bring SO athletes into the larger society under conditions whereby they are accepted, and given the chance to become useful and productive citizens. This is done through sport training and social integration. The Special Olympic Motto is: "Let me win, but if I can not win. Let me be brave in the attempt." I think that everyone could benefit from this motto, regardless of disability or not.

Q. How did our students place this season?

Right now we are participating in basketball. (We currently have a 6-2 record.) We have games throughout the month of February. Our regional tournament is on March 1st in Window Rock, and our state tournament is on April 7th thru the 9th. Our track season begins before the basketball season has concluded, with our first meet on April 5th. The S.O. Arizona state meet will be held May 6th thru the 8th, in Tempe.

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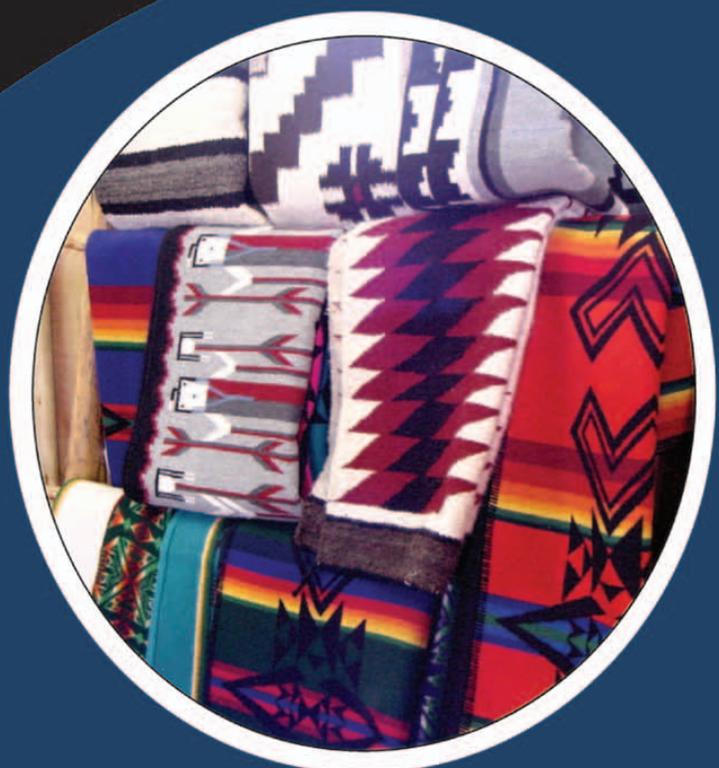
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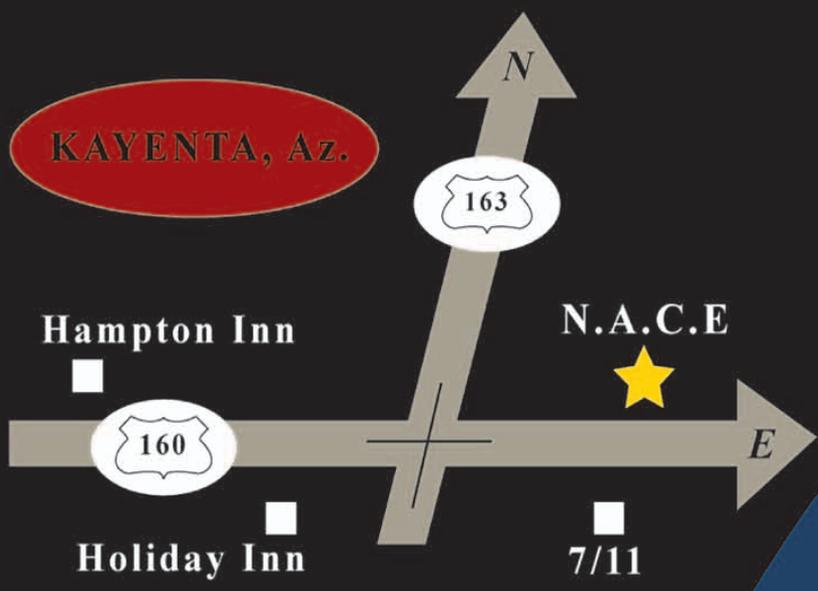
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