

KAYENTA TODAY

Volume III No. 15 :: a free publication ::



The Newspaper of the Kayenta Township and Community

Tribal Members and Citizens Protest San Francisco Peaks Snowbowl

Flagstaff, AZ Concerned citizens and tribal members gathered on January 2nd at the base of the San Francisco Peaks in Northern Arizona to protest a ski resort plan to expand and make snow with wastewater. About 30 people held signs and sang traditional Navajo songs while hundreds of cars filled with skiers and snowboarders came down the mountain from the Arizona Snowbowl.

"We are here to let people know what the ski area is trying to do to this sacred mountain, we want to bring in the New Year with respect!" said Jeneda Benally of the Save the Peaks Coalition. "We are not here to tell people what they can or can't do, we want people to know that there are respectful uses of the mountain and snowmaking with 180 million gallons of contaminated wastewater and clear cutting 74 acres is certainly not one of them."

The Save the Peaks Coalition, which coordinated the event, was created February 2nd 2004 to address human rights and environmental justice issues with the proposed development. Continued on page 5



Two boys hold a sign during the protest in Flagstaff.

A New Town Hall for Kayenta Township



Former Navajo Nation President, Peterson Zah addresses Kayenta community members at the Kayenta Town Hall Dedication.

Kayenta community members and invited guest joined the Kayenta Township to celebrate the dedication of its new 2700 square foot Town Hall on January 10th, 2004.

Kayenta Unified School District Superintendent, William L. Allbrooks had the honors of being the Master of Ceremony for the dedication.

"I'm really quite excited to see this facility here in Kayenta. Most meeting facilities here in Kayenta are in high demand and are usually booked, the new Kayenta Town Hall will fill this gap." said Allbrooks.

Allbrooks went on to state that the Kayenta Township, Chapter, Schools, and Clinic need to work together. The dedication today signaled a new beginning in this, working together for one common cause, to make Kayenta a better community.

"I have seen a lot of growth in this community in the past five years, this is one step. I see more to come." said Allbrooks.

Kayenta Township Manager, Gary Nelson gave the welcoming address to the community and guest at the dedication. "I am honored to have everyone here today. It's really good to have everyone working together. Our focus is what will get us to the next level. You are going to see the face of Kayenta change. Kayenta has the potential to become a community like Sedona." said Nelson.

Nelson went on to say that, "There are still laws that need to be changed so Kayenta can go even further, we need to learn how to play the game of economics and work together to become one in order for our community to grow." Continued on page 3

Western Navajo Agency Inauguration



Navajo Nation President, Joe Shirley at the Western Navajo Agency Inauguration. Pages 6-7

My Troubles with the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

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

My name is Richard Mike and I am a Commissioner of the Kayenta Township. I wanted to put my frustrations to paper frustration with the very poor customer services by the Kayenta NTUA. Everything I write here is the truth as I know it and I don't have an axe to grind with the NTUA. As a matter of fact, I like most of the people who work there. Perhaps NTUA has a problem with commissioners or businesspersons but I don't think so. I believe that the simple truth is that they have no concept of customer service. I can't help but wonder if services for me are this bad, what's it like for other persons? For the general public, is NTUA services really as bad as I write here on these pages or is it just me? NTUA says it's me. If actions speak louder than words, then they've already made my point.

At first, I wanted to move one of my trailers off of Wetherill Heights and establish it next to the Burger King restaurant. I even paid ten thousand dollars to have a manhole constructed connecting the trailer into the sewer line immediately north of the Wells Fargo Bank. My original idea was to station a new bookkeeper's office next to the Burger King of Kayenta and the move would save on monthly rental payments. I also knew that the Kayenta Township Commission (KTC) passed an ordinance that basically said that all buildings within the parameters of the Hampton Inn, Burger King and Shopping Center had to have an Indian Architectural façade. I thought I could pass the ordinance by redesigning the front of the trailer and stucco it, giving it a "pueblo look". So I telephoned Royal Churchill who told me that he could move the trailer. We agree on a date in August. On the appointed day, nothing happened. So I telephoned a trailer-moving company from Farmington, New Mexico and we agree on another moving date. The trailer-moving company moved the trailer from the Wetherill Heights in October next to the Burger King restaurant at a cost of \$1,500.00. I have to make a comment here about competition and the nature of small businesses. One good thing about private businesses is that if you don't get services when you want it, you can always telephone the competition.

Nina Heflin, my business partner and significant other received a telephone call from the Kayenta Township Engineering Department, "You need to remove that trailer next to the Burger King restaurant as it doesn't meet the Indian Architectural standard". So Nina informed me of this message and I told her, "I know about the ordinance and I will stucco the trailer". Nina retorts back to me, "You're a member of the Commission so you should be an example of upholding your own rules". Therefore, I telephoned back the Farmington trailer moving company and told them that they had to move the trailer again. So another \$1,500.00 dollars later, I had the trailer moved to my daughters home-site lease - it's early November now.

I went to the NTUA and signed a work order form for the installation of two electrical poles and two security lights on September 22, 2004.

I have to break in again and briefly change the subject. I believe that the majority of the Navajo people believe that our institutions are run by Indian people seeking job security and are not customer focused at all; that's why they cannot meet their own deadlines.

They want a government job so they can earn annual leave, sick leave, and vacation. It's a job, not a career! Add to this, the fact that most of our utility companies in the USA are monopolies, a market situation in which there is no direct competition. These firms are usually regulated by agencies of the state government, or as in our case, the Navajo Nation Council. There are few directly competitive products in a regulated monopoly and the Navajo Nation government restricts entry into the industry. However, in some states but not the reservation, a public utility must periodically seek voter approval to continue its service. We already know that our institutions don't work beforehand and yet we do the foolish thing and ask our institutional workers - why don't things work? Why are you late? What happens then is that we have to listen too all of their problems about why they can't serve us. The Navajo Police Department as an example, we already know that they have no budget, no jails and our Kayenta Prosecution Office burned down. You see, in my Burger King training, I was always taught that the customer doesn't care about my problems; they only want their hamburger served correctly, served hot and served now! He/she doesn't really care to hear your excuses. However, go to the NTUA, Police Department or any Navajo institution and you'll hear the saddest stories about why they can't serve you. I believe that most of us don't expect too much from them anyway.

In October, I considered a fence for security purposes for the two trailers that I had moved into my daughters home site lease. I contacted Tom Lee who told me that he could install a fence around the home-site but first; I should have the ground leveled. I thereafter went to the Chapter House and found out the procedures on renting the backhoe and Operator. The Chapter Secretaries were very nice and cordial as they informed me that I would have to pay in advance and I would have to pay in either a cashiers check or money order - no cash and no personal checks! So I guessed that I needed four hours of work with the backhoe. I went to the bank and got a cashier check made out to the Chapter House for rental of the backhoe. So now, as things stand, the Chapter would send down the backhoe with a driver two days hence to begin leveling my daughter's home site. At 8:00 am of the appointed day, - nothing! At 9:00 am - nothing! So I went back to the Chapter House and the secretary told me, "Yeah, we have the backhoe reserved for you but you never told us what time"? So we agreed to one hour hence, 10:00 am. At 10:00 am, I hear the backhoe and there's a knock at the door. I walked the Operator around the home-site and showed him where I wanted the land leveled. Later in the afternoon, I go to the back lot and saw that the driver has finished only a portion of the leveling project. Nothing happened the next day so I returned back to the Chapter House where I was told, "the driver worked for four hours and you ran out of time". I pay for another four hours and nearly get the leveling done. I went back to Tom Lee and he installed a fence for me around the property.

I returned to the NTUA and inquired, "Where are the Power poles"? The Customer Services Representative informed me that my daughter's home-site boundaries did not fit the land survey and I would have to get a clearance letter from the KTC Engineering Department. I went to the KTC and they immediately dispatched a survey crew and discovered that Tom Lee installed the fence 5 feet beyond the official survey boundaries. They sent a letter to the NTUA granting me approval to have the power poles installed. In the meantime, I contracted a plumber from Snowflake to install water and sewer lines. The contractor wanted to go immediately to the NTUA to have them approve his sewer and water line plans. Of course they didn't approve it and he had to go back to Snowflake and back to his drawing board. They also gave him some water and sewer-line forms to fill. I remember this visit to the NTUA because Bill Grandson said that I always "whined and cried".

I didn't say anything to Mr. Grandson. Maybe I whine and cry a lot because I expect the utility company to immediately start on a customer request. Again, I had to rent the backhoe and Operator and eventually, the water and sewer-lines were installed. I returned back to the NTUA and inquired again, "So, where's the power poles"? The Customer Services Representative again informed me that my daughter's home-site boundaries did not fit the land survey and I would have to get a clearance letter from the KTC Engineering

Department. I told her, "I already got a clearance letter and they, the KTC Engineering Department even hand carried it to this office". She said, "Well, I still don't have one"? So I went back to the KTC and received another clearance letter which I hand carried back to the NTUA Engineering Office. The NTUA Engineer returned to the home site with me and we discussed the desired poles. The Engineer stated to me that the poles would be installed on Monday, November 28, 2004. On Monday, nothing happened. Two weeks passed and nothing happened.

So I returned back to the NTUA in mid-December and I was told, "You didn't make a deposit or a work order". I told them, "I made a work order out on September 22nd". The Customer Sales Representative retorts, "Well, we still have no deposit"? I made out a check in the amount of \$3,869.70 on Tuesday, December 21, 2004. On Monday, January 3, 2005, the poles are trucked in and were laid out next to my daughter's home site. On Wednesday, January 5th, the poles were finally installed. Then on Thursday and Friday, the electrical lines were installed. In addition, on Friday, January 7th, I made my oath before a Judge in Tuba City that as a Commissioner, I would do my best to serve the Navajo people.

Here's what's bothering me. How does the NTUA get paid? In my business, if I don't serve the public, I will go hungry. I could never tell my customers to buzz off from September 22, 2004 to the present, January 7, 2005. That is four months. As a business person, I would have installed the electrical poles four months ago so that to the present, I would have collected four months of electrical charges as well as the security light rentals. Obviously, NTUA doesn't need me as a customer as a matter of fact, I don't think they liked seeing me in their office. So how is the NTUA getting paid? Are they getting federal subsidies? Are other members of the public getting the same treatment as me from the NTUA? Who does NTUA answer to? Obviously not the Navajo public?

In the meantime, I only have one more problem caused by the NTUA. All I have to do is contract an electrician to run the wires from the poles to the meter loop and from the meter loop to the trailers. My electrical contractor has already given up on me. He thinks that I'm a liar because I've already told him several times, "the Poles will be installed this week, and I'll call you as soon as they're in". I telephoned him this Friday, "You won't believe it but the poles and electrical lines are in"! He said, "Yeah....right!"



"How does the NTUA get paid? In my business, if I don't serve the public, I will go hungry. I could never tell my customers to buzz off."

- Richard Mike

Dedication continued from page 1



Former Kayenta Township Commissioner - Helen Bonaha

The introduction of guests was done by former Kayenta Township Commissioner Helena Bonaha. Helena thanked everyone for attending the dedication and stated to the audience that the rumors going around stating that the Kayenta Township and Chapter are continually fighting and not working together are not true. "We have been working very closely with the Kayenta Chapter House and will continue to work together to help the community. I encourage everyone to attend Kayenta Township and Chapter House meetings. A lot can happen if we all work together." said Bonaha.

Bonaha also said, "Kayenta is on the 2005 priority list for a new hospital." The new hospital will be located on a 100 acre lot by the Kayenta Rodeo Grounds.



Miss Western Navajo Agency, Sherrie Yellowman attended the dedication of the Kayenta Town Hall.

Speaker for the dedication was Kayenta Chapter President, Albert Bailey. Bailey was actively involved in the planning of the Kayenta Township in the 1980's. "This is a great way to take the right step into the New Year. Kayenta is on the map because of our past leaders, we need to believe and support our leaders." said Bailey.



Kayenta Chapter House President, Albert Bailey addresses Kayenta community members at the Kayenta Town Hall Dedication.

Bailey went on to state, "I have seen a lot of our younger community members attending Township and Chapter meetings, they are our future leaders, and they will help mold our future. We need the support of our younger people, they are the infrastructure of our community."

Bailey also noted that the Kayenta Township and the Kayenta Chapter House are at the same level and that they will continue to work together. "I like what I have seen with the Kayenta Township, Kayenta is a community and people to be self determined, as long as we continue to work together, we will go very far." said Bailey.



Kayenta Town Manager, Gary Nelson "Our focus is what will get us to the next level"

Former Navajo Nation President, Peterson Zah was the Keynote Speaker for the dedication. Zah addressed the crowd with the memories of 1984 when the Kayenta Township was in its planning phase.

"In 1984 Albert Bailey and other leaders from Kayenta met with me to discuss the idea of Kayenta becoming a township and creating a government to accomplish things in the community that the Chapter House was unable to do." said Zah.



Former Navajo Nation President, Peterson Zah

"Chapter houses may be out living their usefulness, maybe what we need is to shift into second gear and have Navajo communities self govern themselves. We have non Indians that work in our communities and own businesses, this is a really good opportunity to have a local government such as the Kayenta Township to work with them to improve community development." said Zah.

Zah also gave thanks to Elwood Sagony for his thirty plus of years of service to the community of Kayenta.

"Chapter houses may be out living their usefulness, maybe what we need is to shift into second gear and have Navajo communities self govern themselves."

-Peterson Zah



Kayenta Township Commissioner, Charles Young

Closing remarks were given to the audience by Kayenta Township Commissioner, Charles Young. "This is my third term in the Kayenta Township Commission, and I am happy to come back and contribute to the community. We need to move forward and exchange ideas in order for our community to grow." said Young.

Young also went on to say, "We have a lot to celebrate, we have achieved national recognition with an award from Harvard University. We will always have to believe in one thing, "Respect". With respect we can achieve anything."



Kayenta Township Construction Crew, left to right: Dever Nash, Virgil Dalton, Jonny Beyale, Kayenta Town Manager Gary Nelson, and Calvert Schnally.

Construction of the Kayenta Town Hall began in mid August 2004. "It turned out great! We had very few obstacles and any that rose, we over came." said Kayenta Township Carpenter, Virgil Dalton.

Dalton went on to give recognition to his fellow co-workers that also worked on the project. "Denver Nash, Jonny Beyale, Calvert Schenally, and Tom K. Yazzie contributed so much in this project. They are really great workers. Everything that was asked of them, they did very well."

"There was some negative talk from a few people in the community, but we didn't let that bother us. We kept on working knowing we were making something great." said Dalton.



The original dimensions of the Kayenta Town Hall were originally 30 feet by 34 feet, but Kayenta Town Manager, Gary Nelson knew it had to be larger to accommodate the number of people projected to attend township meetings and other community event, so Nelson decided to have the town hall enlarged to 34 feet by 55 feet.

The Kayenta Town Hall consists of a large meeting room for monthly township meetings, men and women restrooms, and a smaller meeting room to accommodate other smaller meetings.

Fire Destroys Kayenta Office of the Prosecutor



On December 13 2004, the Kayenta Fire Department and the Kayenta Police Department responded to a fire at Kayenta's Navajo Nation Office of the Prosecutor. The Kayenta Police Department stated that the fire may have been caused by an electrical problem in the main electrical box, but is still under investigation.

Juvenile Presenting Officer, Kee Yazzie Mann stated, "Indian Health Service warned our office that our facilities were contaminated with asbestos and that the facilities pose a health hazard to the people that work there."

The Kayenta Navajo Nation Office of the Prosecutor was fourteen feet by sixty feet trailer that was once Kayentas Norwest Bank a number of years ago is a total loss. "This fire affects a lot of cases. We had over 2000 pending case and well over 300 pending juvenile cases." stated Prosecutor Dorthea Denetsosie.

Kayenta Senior Police Officer John Silas Jr. had 5 Navajo Nation police recruits help with the clean up. Thousands of critical papers, burnt and wet from the ordeal were gathered up and put into boxes and plastic bags. "We have to go through all these papers, organize, and salvage what we can, it will be a time consuming process." stated Kee Yazzie Mann.

Kayenta Police Department Suffers Minor Fire

Around 7:00 pm on December 28, the Kayenta Police Department experienced a small fire. Detention Officer Johnson Holiday smelled something burning, and went to investigate. Holiday asked other personnel in the building if they could smell smoke. The interior of the building was checked, but no fire was discovered in the building.

Holiday decided to check the exterior of the building, upon checking the north end of the building, Holiday discovered smoke coming from the air conditioning/heating unit outside.

Navajo Nation Acting Chief Prosecutor Roger Shirley and Prosecutor Lorenzo Shaw immediately left Window Rock this morning to Kayenta to survey the fire damage at the Kayenta Prosecutor's office. Upon arriving to Kayenta and after surveying the damage, they met with Kayenta Township Manager Gary Nelson.

"We, the Kayenta Township have stepped up to help in this time of crisis for the Prosecutors Office. We will work with the Prosecutors Office to provide temporary office space until another building is provided for the Prosecutors Office. This is a perfect situation to demonstrate how a local government, such as the Kayenta Township, vested with local empowerment authority can step up in a time of need." said Gary Nelson.

The Kayenta Township recently committed \$600,000 towards the construction of new police department and detention center facilities in Kayenta. The public Safety Committee of the Navajo Nation Council has also made a commitment to come up with another \$600,000.00 in matching funds to assist the Township in constructing a 4500 SF Police Department, and a 6000 SF Detention building.



The Kayenta Volunteer Fire Department was immediately called after the detection of smoke in the building. The Kayenta Police Department was immediately evacuated, detainees were removed from holding cells and put in Police vehicles that were parked at a safe distance in front of the Kayenta Criminal Investigation building.

Personnel from the Kayenta Police Department armed with fire extinguishers were in the process of putting out the fire when the Kayenta Fire Department arrived. Response time for the fire department was very prompt, arriving at the scene less than 5 minutes after the call was made.

The Kayenta Volunteer Fire Department had the fire extinguished within 30 minutes. Fire fighters determined the cause of the fire was due to a short in the air conditioning/heating unit that was located on the north side of the building.

Kayenta EMT personnel were on the scene to check Kayenta Police Department personnel and detainees for smoke inhalation. Fortunately no one was injured or

After reviewing the construction budget, the numbers will have to be increased by \$150,000 from both the township and the Public Safety Division to raise an additional \$300,000 towards the project thus raising the total project budget to \$1,500,000 for Phase 1 of the Kayenta public safety complex development in Kayenta. Phase 2 and 3 will comprise of a new criminal investigation and judicial court building.

"Now that the Prosecutors Office is without a office, they will now be included in the Phase 1 Kayenta Police Department and Detention Center plans." said Gary Nelson. Phase 1 development will start in March 2005, immediately after the completion of the architectural and engineering design

"For all the Kayenta Township has done for us in this time of crisis goes to show what a local government initiative is all about. A centralized Judicial Complex is a great idea it would save a lot of time to have everything in one centralized location." said Lorenzo Shaw.

The Kayenta Prosecutors Office has already begun moving into the temporary office provided by the Kayenta Township.

"We, the Kayenta Township have stepped up to help in this time of crisis for the Prosecutors Office."

- Gary Nelson
Kayenta Town Manager



suffered smoke inhalation in the incident.

Navajo Nation Risk Management and Facility Maintenance arrived Wednesday morning to survey the damage. Estimate of the fire damage is at \$10,000.00. Due to the rain, Navajo Nation Facility Maintenance made temporary repairs to the roof to prevent further water damage to the building.

The building in which the Kayenta Police Department is housed in is well over 20 years old and is in dire need of replacement. The Kayenta Township is in the process of designing the new Public Safety Complex which will include facilities for the police department and the Office of the Prosecutor. Additional facilities within the new Public Safety Complex include a detention center and later phases of development will include a court house and criminal investigation building.

This is the second fire in Kayenta this month which has claimed a judicial building. In the early morning hours on December 13, the Kayenta Office of the Prosecutor had caught fire due to electrical problems.

Kayentas Capital Improvement Project Plan Approved

Indian country communities all across North America are different than the majority of rural America in that it's traditional for Anglo and other non-Native American people to leave their hometowns seeking education, often not returning but headed for the big city once they have finished with their education. Native American communities have higher population growth rates as our young people are beginning to seek education and employment right on the reservation, build their homes, and raise their own families because of the ties filled with tradition.

The Navajo Nation population is just a little over 264,000 tribal members with 60% living within the reservation boundaries. With this kind of statistics it is vital to the local governments of each chapter within the Nation to create realistic goals and objectives to meet the demands and needs of community.

The Kayenta Chapter is fortunate that years ago people had the vision to create the Township organization and the support by the Navajo Nation government to allow a 5% sales tax. The revenue from the sales tax to the Township is the advantage other Navajo Nation Chapters do not have to use as leverage in community development. Within the organizational structure of the Township there is a Planning Department with a Grant Writer. In the planning and grant writing process for community building there are criteria for municipalities when requesting financial support to local, state, and federal government agencies.

First, there must be a "Need" identified and it has to have some formal record with public, private, and government involvement. The Kayenta Township has identified community "Need" with the recent "Needs Assessment" survey and from that developed a prioritized Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list. The CIP list was presented to the Kayenta Township Commission (KTC) at the regular scheduled monthly meeting on January 10, 2005 and it was supported with resolution by the commissioners.

The CIP list is identified and sorted according to what are construction ready, project ready, and planning phase projects. Projects that are selected according to a criteria based upon completed land withdraw, right-of-way & easements, Environmental Assessments (EA), Archeological Clearances, resolution-of-support, Architect & Engineer (A&E) plans & design, and full funding identified & secured a project is categorized as "construction ready".



Kayenta Township Grant Writer/Planner, Darren Snake completed the Community Needs Assessment which the CIP Plan is based on.

This CIP list identifies only development and construction of public service facilities to the community. The list is as follows:

Construct Ready Projects:

Airport access road
Sewer line extension behind Police Department
Fencing Township boundaries project
AZ 1206 streets
Women shelter

Project Ready Projects:

Airport Master Plan / Kayenta Market Feasibility Study
Public Safety – Phase I
Hospital Infrastructure development
Animal control building
Head Start building
Skate-park / Recreational park
Kayenta Township Bus Route Loop Road development
Re-seeding project
Electric line extension to transfer station
Demolition of old buildings
Drainage study and plan

Planning Phase Projects:

Court building
Waste water treatment facility
Well and water storage tank
Incubator building
Street lights -- 160
Public library
Nursing home
B.I.A Roads - NI06
Wetherill Heights roads & infrastructure
Cemetery
Vocational & Higher Education building
War memorial
Natural gas
Access to TID
Chilchimbeto road
Fair grounds / multi purpose building
Broadband telecommunications / radio station
Kayenta Stockyard

There is great need for Capital Improvement Project (CIP) plans for immediate and future development of public service facilities, and many of these identified projects have had past effort but lack the concentrated drive to follow through completion and construction.

Now that there is a process with community and KTC support the Township direction is to use the CIP list as a guiding instrument for community development, building partnerships, and for the purpose of submitting grant applications. The Township would like the community to be aware that the list allows for change as our environment changes and opportunities come along that we may take advantage of in the future.

Kayenta is a Navajo community that will sustain itself with growth and meet the community needs through use of planning efforts and that is a very positive direction in the New Year 2005.

Snowbowl Protest

Continued from page 1

The Arizona Snowbowl has proposed an expansion plan that would clear cut 74 acres for new runs, create new lifts, a snow play area, new lodges (including a Native American cultural center), and snowmaking with wastewater, which will be sold to the Snowbowl by the City of Flagstaff, that would require a 14 mile pipeline and a 10 million gallon wastewater storage pond.

Since the Snowbowl is part of the Coconino National Forest they are required to undergo a process that analyzes potential environmental impacts before any development is initiated. After the final environmental impact statement (EIS) is completed, the Coconino Forest Supervisor will make a decision if the development will go through or not.

Tribal officials, medicine people and concerned citizens charge that the Snowbowl, Forest Service and City of Flagstaff are disregarding Native American religious beliefs, public health issues with contaminated wastewater and environmental concerns.

"This development will be a severe desecration if it is to be allowed," Wahleah Johns from the Black Mesa Water Coalition said at the demonstration. "This Mountain is sacred to 13 tribes, how can it be ignored? They want to build a cultural center to say its ok, but you cannot desecrate a site to teach people how sacred it is, it's a horrible contradiction. If they put this sewer water on the mountain, what's going to happen to the animals, the medicinal plants and kids who play up there?"

The Flagstaff City Water Department claims that the wastewater water is clean enough to drink although recent findings by scientists have found Pharmaceuticals and hormones in the wastewater. The effects of endocrine disruptors on local plants and animals have not yet been determined and are still being studied.

"Flagstaff conveniently ignores the fact that so many people come year round from the reservations to shop and that many tourists come here to see native culture," Jeneda Benally said, "It looks like they care more about a seasonal business and skiers from Phoenix than us. We need to stand up and let our voices be heard!"

Last February Cora Maxx, aid to Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. stated at a press conference that she felt the issue was serious enough that a boycott of Flagstaff might be in order. In his comments to the Forest Service, President Joe Shirley Jr. stated "The San Francisco Peaks is the essence of who we are... The United States of America will commit genocide by allowing the desecration of the essence of our way of life."

Many Businesses in Flagstaff support snowmaking for the potential increased winter revenue, although Snowbowl is outside of city limits.

Coconino Forest Supervisor Nora Rasure is expected to issue her decision whether or not the ski area will be allowed to expand and make snow from wastewater in late January or early February.

There is also new feature documentary called "The Snowbowl Effect" that addresses the controversy. It is currently being screened across Arizona and can be seen at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock on Friday, January 14th at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

For more information on the Save the Peaks Coalition and the documentary "The Snowbowl Effect" please visit: www.savethepeaks.org

Chapter House Vice Presidents

2005



WESTERN



NAVAJO

Grazing Committee Members



President Joe Shirley, Jr.



Chapter House Secretaries & Treasurers



School Board Members





Kayenta Town Mgr. - Gary Nelson



Kayenta Township Commission

AGENCY

CHAPTER

Elections

-Oath of Office Ceremony

Farm Board Members



Chapter House Presidents

Is your New Year Resolution Realistic?

With the new year of 2005, some of us may be taking on a New Year's resolution or two. Some of the resolutions we make may be for our health, family, environment, etc. What ever your New Year resolution may be, please be realistic and do what you can to the best of your ability as long as it's safe and healthy. Below are some suggestions for New Year resolutions.

Quit tobacco products, cigarettes, chewing tobacco

Smoking is a chronic condition that affects more than 46 million Americans. People who smoke are at risk of heart disease, cancer, and other smoking-related illnesses that cost more than \$50 billion annually to treat, and an additional \$47 billion in indirect costs from lost time at work and disability. Smoking is the single greatest preventable cause of death and illness in the United States. An estimated 420,000 people die every year from smoking-related illnesses.

The only way people can prevent these smoking-related illnesses is to quit smoking. Studies show that over 70 percent of adult smokers would like to quit, but only half of them have ever been urged to quit by their health care provider. Some people believe that using chewing tobacco or snuff is safer than smoking. There's no burning cigarette at your mouth or cloud of smoke--just a "dip" of finely-ground tobacco (snuff) placed between the gum and cheek or a "chew." In 1986, the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that the use of smokeless tobacco is not a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes or cigars, as these products can cause various cancers and non-cancerous oral conditions, and can lead to nicotine addiction.

The most serious health effect of smokeless tobacco is an increased risk of cancer of the mouth and pharynx. Oral cancer occurs several times more frequently among snuff dippers compared with non-tobacco users. The risk of cancer of the cheek and gums may increase nearly 50-fold among long-term snuff users.

Studies have shown that about 7% to 27% of regular smokeless tobacco users have gum recession and bone loss around the teeth. The surface of the tooth root may be exposed where gums have drawn back. Tobacco can irritate or destroy the tissue.

Quitting tobacco products will greatly increase your health. If you want to quit, there are many products on the market today such as gums, patches, and pills that can help reduce withdrawal symptoms that can help you quit. Consult your doctor or clinic for professional help.

Quit drugs and alcohol

Alcohol has long been a problem on the Navajo Nation, statistics on alcoholism on the Navajo Nation are horrifying. There is not a single person on the Navajo Nation that is not affected by alcoholism. Unfortunately, many of our close family members, children, grandparents, and friends battle with alcoholism everyday.

Drugs also plague the Navajo Nation, Marijuana has been a problem for quite some time, and unfortunately more highly addictive drug use such as cocaine and methamphetamine have begun to spiral out of control on the Navajo Nation.

Methamphetamine (also known as "G") use among Navajos has skyrocketed in the past two years and has shown no sign of decline. It is estimated that 25-30% of Navajos, male and female, ages 13-40 years of age have tried or are using methamphetamine.

The use of drugs and alcohol have never benefited the Navajo in any way. Alcohol and drugs destroy families, lives, and friendships. The majority of all crimes committed on the Navajo Nation are directed related to drugs and alcohol.

If you believe that you have a drug and/or alcohol problem, please seek professional help. There is help out there for you.

Loose weight, diet

Millions of people across the United States battle with their weight. Here on the Navajo Nation, it's no different. Mutton stands, fast food, flea markets, fried potatoes, and the infamous fry bread are hard to resist. The bottom line is that there is no magic pill that will take the weight off and keep it off forever.

Weight loss is a multi-billion dollar industry. Diets pills come and go new diets such as the Atkins and the South Beach diet claim great results. Unfortunately many people try these pills and diets only to give up time and time again. Some go even further with potentially risky surgeries such as Gastric Bypass and Liposuction to name a few.

Other unconventional methods of weight loss that is widely practiced include Anorexia in which people starve themselves to dangerously thin levels, at least 15% below their appropriate weight, and Bulimia in which people binge uncontrollably on large amounts of food-sometimes thousands of calories at a time-and then purge the calories out of their bodies through vomiting, starving, excessive exercise, laxatives, or other methods. Both of these methods are highly dangerous to your health.

If you want to loose weight, please do it safely and consult your doctor, clinic, or weight loss professional.

Clean your yard

All across the Navajo Nation there are areas of residence that are in need of serious attention. If we all took a little time to clean up our yards, hoe some weeds, haul away the old chiddy(s) imagine how much better our communities would look.

A clean yard will deter unwanted critters such as snakes, spiders, and mice that love a nice old vehicle, trash or wood pile to call home. What's even better is that you won't be so embarrassed about your yard next time visitors pay you a visit.

If you really feel up for a challenge, organize a day for your community to get together and pick up trash in the community. Navajo land is our land, it's our responsibility to keep it clean and presentable.

Neighborhood Watch

We all have had to deal with crime at one time in our lives. Crime on the Navajo Nation is increasing, and law enforcement can only do so much. Bootlegging, drug dealing, burglaries, assaults, gangs, and all types of illegal activity happen in our community's everyday.

We all can make a huge difference by becoming proactive in our communities. Some of our communities have been over run by bootleggers, drug dealers, and gangs. By becoming proactive, we can take our communities back and make them safe once again.

The simple act of watching your neighborhood for suspicious or illegal activity and reporting it to law enforcement can

make drastic changes.

To organize a Neighborhood Watch program in your community, contact your local law enforcement agency.

Spay or Neuter Pets

The importance to the Navajo Nation of lowering the overall number of animals is important due to the rising number of animal bites last year. Over 50 bites were reported last year at the Kayenta Clinic alone, this does not include the rest of the Navajo Nation. Spay/neuter of your animals helps the total life span of your pet and regular shots help them fight off the diseases spread by non-inoculated animals and the Navajo Nations stray population.

There is a current effort on the Navajo Nation to help in the cost and overall welfare of our animals. This is headed up by the Navajo Nation Livestock and Veterinary Program. Every year in January a meeting is held to decide what areas and towns will receive services and what outside groups will be working on the Navajo Nation. Last year Kayenta was privileged to have five of the groups come to Kayenta to provide services in a group effort. This effort helped tremendously with last year's animal population in Kayenta alone.

Community effort must be taken in order to continue the depletion of over population of animals on the Navajo Nation. The Kayenta Animal Control Service has arranged for a group called SNAP to come this year to help the community of Kayenta in these efforts. SNAP will be providing the services free of charge and the Kayenta Animal Control Service urges Kayenta and the surrounding areas to take full advantage of these services.

Please help your community help itself by taking a positive approach to spay/neuter this year.



Happy New Year!

Commissioners Goals for 2005

Kayenta Township Commissioners, Eugene Badonie and Richard Mike were asked by Kayenta Today, "As a Commissioner, what do you wish to accomplish for Kayenta for the New Year 2005?"

Richard Mike, who is co-owner of the Hampton Inn of Monument Valley, four Burger King restaurants on the Navajo Nation and in his 3rd term as a Kayenta Township Commissioner answered:

"There are three goals I would like to accomplish. First of all, I would like a 99-year lease for businesses, home sites, and churches. On the reservation, we use our homes only as shelter. Off the reservation, homes can be secured by liens, mortgages, easements, and other covenants because they gain equity over time. We have no equity on the reservation except for old Navajo jewelry (dead pawn) if you were lucky to keep some. Our homes are basically worthless under the current BIA regulations.

"The main reason for a government is the general welfare and safety of a community."

-Richard Mike



Second, the main reason for a government is the general welfare and safety of a community. I would like to see the seeds of a Kayenta Municipal Police Force and Kayenta Municipal Court. The Navajo Government is looking to the BIA to fund our police whereas the BIA is looking back to the Tribe to finance the police. All reservation residents have watched and waited for both the BIA and the Tribal government to do something. In the meantime, our jails have closed and brutal crimes, rapes, and murders escalate. Laws operate through people and institutions and become effective only when applied and enforced by them.

And last, I would like street signs with street names. This seems like an easy thing to do. Making street signs would force the Post Office to deliver mail to your home address. This would benefit the elderly, handicapped, and health related immobile persons. I think that we should name our streets after renown persons who presently and historically have developed and lived in Kayenta. Lee and Frank Bradley for example. Lillian and Keith Smith, Lois and John Benally, H.T. Donald, Reuben Heflin, John Zufelt, John and Louise Wetherill, Bernie Maher, Bailey (Albert) Street, Saganey (Elwood) Street. When I was a kid, I remember a few families that use to live "on the hill": Lena Big, Roy Gray, Arnold and Agnes Bradley, Joe Rock's family. Then there were some families that moved to Kayenta that made a difference like; Walter Begay and Daniel Peaches."



"This town is still small requiring strategic leveraging of sales tax revenues and procuring competitive grants."

-Eugene Badonie

Eugene Badonie, who is in his 2nd term as a Kayenta Township Commissioner answered:

"I would sure like to accomplish a whole lot, but each of us can only do as much with what revenue sources we have available. This town is still small requiring strategic leveraging of sales tax revenues and procuring competitive grants. So, I wish to be a big part of the team effort to accomplish what the township commission and chapter can work on together. Personally, I will work on bringing in more competitive funding for various projects and work together with other township commissioners in getting the team to focus on positive issues for the benefit of the community.

I also will work on bringing in an incubator where local artisans can sell their wares for additional revenues and diversification of business."

The First Meeting in Kayenta Town Hall



Kayenta Township Commissioners at the first meeting in Kayentas New Town Hall

The Kayenta Township had its very first monthly township meeting in its new town hall on January 10th, 2005. Among some of the agenda items were:

Site Designation for the Kayenta Small Animal Shelter which will be located near the Laguna Creek bridge.

Site Designation for the Kayenta Church of Christ which will be located near the Navajo Housing Authority.

Approval of the Community Capital

Improvement Projects List.

The Kayenta Township Commissioners also drew straws to determine each others length of terms, also know as Staggered Term Lots. The Results are as follows:

Jimmy Austin - Four Years
Eugene Badonie - Four Years
Richard Mike - Two Years
Anthony Peterman - Two Years
Charles Young - Four Years



Drug abuse and addiction affects school aged children in many ways. Some kids live with an addicted family member while others have started using themselves.

If you suspect that someone is struggling with addiction call Narconon Arrowhead today.

Narconon offers free addiction counseling, assessments and referrals to rehabilitation centers nationwide by calling 1-800-468-6933 or logging onto www.stopaddiction.com.

HC 67 Box 5 • Canadian, OK 74425 • Phone: (800) 468-6933 / (918) 339-5903

Fax: (918) 339-5901 • E-mail: newspaper@stopaddiction.com

Web: www.stopaddiction.com

Copyright © 2001 Narconon of Oklahoma, Inc. All rights reserved.

Narconon of Oklahoma, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation and is licensed by Narconon International

Kayenta Today currently seeking story contributions and Community Announcements. We also offer advertising at very resonable rates. Kayenta Today is a monthly publication and is distributed widely with the Navajo Times as an insert. Contact Information:

Kayenta Today P.O. Box 1490 Kayenta, AZ 86033

E-mail: tparty@hotmail.com

Phone: (928) 697-8451

From the reservations to Hollywood

AIFI celebrates another successful year

San Francisco: At any given time, in any given place, somewhere on the planet a film festival is most likely going on, none, however, as impressive and authentic as the American Indian Film Institute's Annual American Indian Film Festival. This year all expectations were met and many exceeded, as the highly anticipated 29th annual American Indian Film Festival unspooled November 6-13. From question and answer sessions at the festival's star studded premieres, to a packed house at The Palace of Fine Arts for the Motion Picture Awards Show on the final day of the festival, the highest of standards were met and even raised at one of the nation's longest running and most respected film festivals. From locations and logistics to the films themselves, the festival left exhausted moviegoers wanting even more by week's end, many of them leaving, knowing their only hope exists in the fact that there will be another festival next year. Many filmmakers, while taking some time to appreciate current success, of course, are already hard at work shooting and editing more stylish and award-winning film shorts, documentaries, exquisite animated shorts, as well as provocative and intriguing feature films for the 30th annual showcase.

As is its cinematic tradition, the American Indian Film Festival continues to nurture audiences with provocative selections and substantial topics from USA American Indian and Canada First Nation communities. Over 70 new works were included in this year's edition as the festival debuted short works, documentaries, animated shorts and feature films from some of industries most innovative and modern storytellers.

In addition to exciting nightly screenings at the UA Galaxy Theatre, 1285 Sutter Street (@ Van Ness) and The Palace of Fine Arts 3301 Lyon Street, as well as an Awards Show extravaganza, this year's festival highlights also included daily matinee screenings at the Galaxy Theatre, in addition to daytime Youth Educational Screenings and AIFI's Tribal Touring Program's Youth Film screenings.

The festival's November 6 Opening Nite excitement and buzz was unparalleled as the short film, Prayer for a Good Day, directed by Zoe Hopkins, in addition to two extremely powerful documentaries, A Tattoo on My Heart: The Warriors of Wounded Knee 1873, directed by Charles Abourezk and Brett Lawlor, and The Ghost Riders, directed by V. Blackhawk Aamodt and narrated by Benjamin Bratt all made their phenomenal debuts. Directors from all three films were in attendance. Zoe Hopkins addressed the audience prior to the screening of her film explaining its nature, which effectively addresses the subject of mid-life depression amongst men on today's reservations, as well as her inspiration for its completion, at the same time expressing her sincere and warm gratitude for being included in this year's festival. Charles Abourezk, Brett Lawlor and narrator Floyd Westerman were available to introduce their Wounded Knee documentary. Also, director V. Blackhawk Aamodt and actor Benjamin Bratt were on hand to introduce the insightful documentary, The Ghost Riders, a film following the Big Foot Memorial Ride, a 300-mile trek across the snow-covered plains of South Dakota, by a small group of young Lakota Indians during the month of December through the holidays. Following the screening of this award-winning documentary, both Aamodt and Bratt, the film's narrator, were available for a question and answer session, much to the delight of the opening night audience.

Tuesday night at the festival turned out to be a night of award winning classic premieres, including the debut of the 2004 American Indian Film Institute's winner for best documentary short, A Tribe of One, directed by Eunhee Cha. The night's headliner, On the Corner, a Canadian feature directed by Nathaniel Geary, featured the talents of Alex Rice in the title role of Angel and this year's best supporting actor, Gordon Tootoosis, for his role in the film. The film provided a timely glimpse into the world of drugs and teenage prostitution amongst native youth.

Another star studded night was in store for all festival goers on Wednesday night when the filled-to-capacity room was treated to a night of festival highlights which included the premiere of the provocative award winning live film short, Memory, directed by Cedar Sherbert and introduced by actress Tantoo Cardinal, as well as the riveting award winning Edge of America, directed and introduced by award winning, Chris Eyre. Also in attendance for the evening were the film's award winning actors Irene Bedard and Misty Upham. Edge of America explores the world of conflict between two cultures when an African American teacher reluctantly agrees to coach the girl's basketball team at a reservation high school. Response to the first night of American Indian Film Institute's annual Toy Drive benefiting American Indian Homeless Families in the Bay Area was overwhelming, with a large amount of gifts being generously donated by moviegoers.

Navajo Women Warriors, a film about Navajo women war veterans directed by Alice Carron, made it's timely debut on Thursday, Veteran's Day, at The Palace of Fine Arts. In addition, the animated short, Raven Tales, directed by Simon James, proved to be quite the visual spectacle and had fascinated moviegoers talking well into the night. Also, the American Indian Film Festival hosted the world premiere of the feature, The Reawakening, directed by Diane Fraher, which was met with an enthusiastic response. Actors Gordon Tootoosis, Mark Reed, and producer Elizabeth Obomsawin were in attendance.

Friday night lived up to its billing as: A Night of Law and Order, Reservation Style, with the world premiere screening of the Canadian feature, Distant Drumming, a North of 60 Sixty Mystery, a murder mystery directed by Dean Bennett. Award winning actors from the film, including Tina Keeper and George Leach, were in attendance. The feature, A Thief of Time, introduced by its award-winning director Chris Eyre, was faithful in keeping with the tone of excitement set on this eve to the final night of the festival.

Saturday night's climactic American Indian Motion Picture Awards Show was indeed special, and wrapped the audience in heightened appreciation to the wealth of Native American performing talent. In addition to awards honoring this year's American Indian Film Festival's highest achievements, this year's show treated the Palace of Fine Arts capacity crowd to magical performances from Native America's top talent. Faithful and eager fans witnessed stand out performances from singer/songwriter Pura Fé, classical violinist Swil Kanin, singer/songwriter/guitarist George Leach, comics James Junes and Ernie Tsosie III, comedienne Julie Bull, and the White Mountain Apache Crown Dancers.



Ernest Tsosie III, Gordon Tootoosis, and James Junes - San Francisco, CA

Awards show recipients included: Horizon Award, Misty Upham (Actress), Best Industrial, Plum Creek Reservoir (Steve Marks, Director), Best Music Video, Love Fades Away (Robert DeLeskie, Director), Best Public Service, G: Methamphetamine on the Navajo Nation (Shonie De La Rosa and Larry Blackhorse Lowe, Directors), Best Animated Short Subject, Raven Tales (Simon James, Director), Best Live Short, Memory (Cedar Sherbert, Director), Best Documentary Short, A Tribe of One (Eunhee Cha, Director), Best Documentary Feature, The Ghost Riders (Vincent Blackhawk Aamodt, Director), Best Supporting Actress, Irene Bedard (Edge of America), Best Supporting Actor, Gordon Tootoosis (On the Corner), Best Actress, Tina Keeper (Distant Drumming, a North of 60 Mystery), Best Actor, George Leach (Distant Drumming, a North of 60 Mystery), Best Director, Chris Eyre (Edge of America), Best Film, Edge of America (Chris Eyre, Director).

The 2004 29th annual American Indian Film Festival was sponsored by: Grants for the Arts, City of San Francisco (Platinum Reel Sponsor); Rudolph & Sletten, CA, (Platinum Reel Sponsor); Morongo Band of Mission Indians, CA, (Platinum Reel Sponsor); Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, CA; Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, CA; Seminole Tribe of Florida; Mille Laes Band of Ojibwe, MN; Tule River Tribe, CA; LEE Foundation, CA; Fort McDowell Indian Community, AZ; Table Mountain Rancheria, CA; Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, CA; Pechanga Indian Reservation, CA; Oneida Nation, NY; Screen Actors Guild; ABC Entertainment; CBS Television; Fox Entertainment Group; San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, CA; Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, CA; Ak-Chin Indian Community, AZ; San Francisco Bay Guardian; KQED TV-9; California Lottery; Wells Fargo Bank; The James Irvine Foundation; Zellerbach Family Foundation; and Lucasfilm Ltd..



Top Row: Tina Keeper, Best Actress; George Leach, Best Actor; Gordon Tootoosis, Best Supporting Actor; Misty Upham & Delana Studi accepting for Chris Eyre, Best Director
Middle Row: Best Industrial; Misty Upham & Delana Studi accepting for Chris Eyre, Best Film; Rhonda Larrabee & Eunhee Cha, Best Documentary Short
Bottom Row: Vincent Blackhawk Aamodt, Best Documentary Feature; Shonie and Andee De La Rosa, Best Public Service; Cedar Sherbert, Best Live Short; Misty Upham, Horizon Award

KAYENTA OFFICE COMPLEX. "TAKE TWO!"

by Rocky Tano

It's been an issue quite familiar to the agenda sheets of the Kayenta Township throughout the past few years. The Kayenta Office Complex is promised to offer courteous amounts of lease space to professional businesses anxious to contribute towards Kayenta's economy. Greater economic opportunities for both the businesses and consumers remain a primary focus in terms of foresight on behalf of the city Commission.

Bryce Holmgren of Queralt, Inc., and Kevin McAuliffe (Owner of the Kayenta Mobile Home Park) have joined forces to create Kayenta Commercial I, LLC. The newly established company plans to take the reigns of development and construction for this highly anticipated Office Complex. Holmgren assured the Commission at the December 13, 2004, township meeting, that the objectives between themselves and the Commission were in fact mutual.

"We feel that the goals are the same. We want to get people excited because they don't have to get up in the morning and have to worry about going to work in an old trailer. We need to get other great structures and companies in this town and help get Kayenta on the map," stated Holmgren.

The project now resides in the design and review stages which will then be presented to the review committee once certain discrepancies are ironed out. Such differences include finding a compromise relating to the legal issues surrounding Arbitration. Since the Kayenta Township (lessor) would be entering into a lease agreement with Kayenta Commercial I (leasee), members of both legal teams are faced with the reality that in case disputes arise, how should they be resolved? In this situation, the matter in question is which Arbitration law would be utilized, the (U.S) Federal Arbitration Act or the newly formed Navajo Nation Arbitration Act?

In the event that a disagreement or contract between entities are compromised due to whatever the reasons would be, the Arbitration route is often taken to avoid time consuming or expensive court hearings. Arbitration is an option that allows for both parties to then decide on Arbitrators who will then decide on the situation at hand. Once a decision is made, the terms are official and recognized in court if greater emphasis is needed to produce results.

Recently a compromise has been reached by the Kayenta Township and Kayenta Commercial I, outlining that since Federal Arbitration may not even prove valid since the lease is on Navajo Nation soil, the Navajo Nation Arbitration laws will then take effect.

Such compromises and clear understanding from the legal perspectives will lead to enhanced business relations; therefore, allowing the project to take its first few steps in a strong direction for Kayenta's business community.

TEN STAR ALL STAR BASKETBALL CAMP



Applications are now being evaluated for the The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The Camp is by Invitation Only. Boys and Girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from 50 states and 17 Foreign Countries attended the 2004 Camp. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp Locations Include: Prescott, AZ, Belmont, CA, Thousand Oaks, CA, Sterling CO, Bridgeport, CT, Babson Park, FL, Atlanta, GA, Carlinville, IL, Macomb, IL, Greencastle, IN, Atchison, KS, Baltimore, MD, Ypsilanti, MI, Hickory, NC, Schenectady, NY, Bluffton, OH, Doylestown, PA, Lebanon, TN, Commerce, TX, Blacksburg, VA, Lyndonville, VT, and Beloit, WI. For a free brochure, call:
(704) 373-0873



Kayenta
Family
Chiropractic

+ Healing the
*body, mind
and spirit.*

Randal S. Bouchard, D.C.
Walter F. Robertson, D.C.

(25 years
experience)

tel. 928-697-2547 fax 928.697.2549

Mon-Fri 9:00-6:00
Sat 8:00-Noon

Located across from Post Office::



NAVAJO ARTS & CRAFTS ENTERPRISE

A Non-Profit Business of the Navajo Nation



Quality & Design Since 1988



Purchase fabulous jewelry and fantastic rugs direct from the Navajo Nation and you will take home part of Navajo tradition that lives beyond generations.



Open 7 days a week!

(928) 697-8611

Window Rock • Cameron • Chinle • Grants, N.M.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DESIGN: FORREST N. ROGERS, TAVO