

Kayenta's newest fitness center provides affordable service to community

Dec. 8, 2012

KAYENTA, Ariz. — If you want to burn some calories or build some muscle, consider going to the new Kayenta Fitness Center. The new center, opened in early-June 2012, offers a new place for exercise enthusiasts to get their heart

the Indian Health Service (IHS), NTUA and the high school, so we have a lot of people coming in during their lunch hour," said Begay. "A monthly membership is only \$15 and an all-day pass is \$1. It's something the community needed and people can afford it."

Susanna Staley, a fitness

gling with diabetes or other health problems, come to the fitness center in the evening time, to work out and that's good," Staley added.

The Kayenta Fitness Center is a component of the Kayenta Township's Capital Improvement Projects and it was funded primarily by the Kayenta Town-



The Kayenta Fitness Center is a 1,500-square-foot facility located in Kayenta, Ariz. The center was opened in early-June 2012.

rate pumping for a small fee.

The 1,500-square-foot fitness center is conveniently located on U.S. Route 163, adjacent to the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) in Kayenta. The center includes

aid at the Center, utilizes the facility after work and says the new gym is a great addition to the community.

"It's such a small community, a lot of us know each other, and when we see each

ship, whose overall vision is to achieve community development and to implement economic growth.

The center is open Monday through Saturday and is closed on Sundays. The hours

"A monthly membership is only \$15 and an all-day pass is \$1. It's something the community needed and people can afford it."

— Joann Begay, manager of Kayenta Fitness Center

a treadmill and elliptical trainer for aerobic workouts, as well as various weight machines and dumbbells for strength conditioning.

Joann Begay, facility manager, explained anywhere from 25 to 50 people come to exercise at the fitness center every day.

"The gym is very accessible. We're located right by

other at the gym, we work off of each other's energy and it motivates us," Staley said.

Staley recognizes the important health benefits gained from using the facility, especially for those suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure and other health-related issues.

"I see a lot of older people, some who are strugg-

ing with diabetes or other health problems, come to the fitness center in the evening time, to work out and that's good," Staley added.

of operation are Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and closed on Sundays.

For more information, contact the Kayenta Fitness Center at 928-697-8487. ■

Township Provides Services for trash collection

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has 40, 20 and 8-cubic-yard bins available for rental," Whitewater explained.

"We encouraged the residents and other entities in the community to work with us, so we could help them," added Whitewater. "We provide them this service, so they don't have to worry about where to dump their trash."

Illegal dumpsites and litter in the community also prompted the Township and staff to expand services for trash collection. The transfer station now collects debris, such as wood, weeds, concrete pieces, metal, tires, household appliances, mattresses and used car oil.

Whitewater stressed the need for more public education about illegal dumping.

"We need more public ed-



utilize our services."

Services have also been expanded to some surrounding communities.

"We contract with neighboring communities like the Dennehotso Chapter and community school, the Chilchinbeto Chapter, as

discussion of a future purchase of a recycling baler and a wood chipper is for future improvements and developments."

"We are always looking for new things, so we can grow and enhance our operation," Whitewater said.

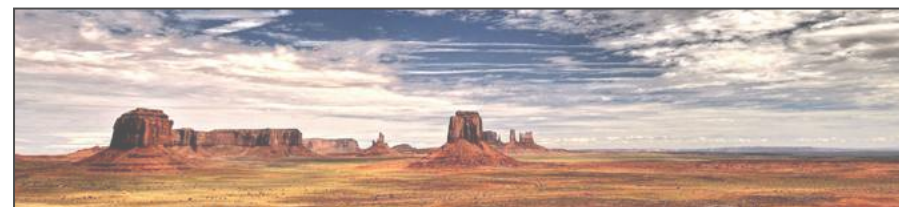
"We need more public education about illegal trash dumping and improper disposal of hazardous materials in our community. Hopefully, the public will become more aware of what services we offer at the transfer station, and we encourage them to utilize our services."

— Ed Whitewater, transfer station supervisor

ucation about illegal trash dumping and improper disposal of hazardous materials in our community," said Whitewater. "Hopefully, the public will become more aware of what services we offer at the transfer station, and we encourage them to

well as construction companies working inside and outside the community, spanning out about 30-miles," explained Whitewater. "Future improvements and enhancements to the operational services are needed, but require planning and funding. The

For more information, contact the transfer station at 928-697-8404 or access information via the website of the Kayenta Township at www.kayentatownship.net. ■



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New Kayenta Town Center highlights Navajo culture, local attractions to visitors

Nov. 30, 2012

KAYENTA, Ariz. — The Kayenta Township now has a visitor's center called the Kayenta Town Center that accommodates the more than 500,000 annual visitors to the Kayenta and Monument Valley-areas.

The Center opened in March 2012 and is housed at the old Kayenta Post Office, which underwent some major renovations.

The Township hosts a majority of the 500,000 visitors to the Monument Valley Tribal Park and other scenic attractions in the area every year, so they recognized a need for a place that would disseminate information on local attractions, eateries, hotels and services offered in the Kayenta-area. The Center has been popular.

"It's been very successful, because we're having more visitors come into the town center and getting to know Kayenta," said Andre Cordero, Kayenta Township Manager. "At the same time, the visitors are able to help the local businesses by telling other people what it is that we have here. Come tourist season next year, the town center is sure to be utilized a lot more."

Marty Bailey, secretary at the Kayenta Town Cen-

ter, says the town center has been averaging 40 to 50 people a day, many asking questions about local attractions and most of them signing a guest log book in her office.

"We have a guest log book that visitors from England, India, Australia and other places throughout the U.S. have signed. It's interesting to meet people from around the world," Bailey said.

"The cultural demonstrations at the Center will be imbedded in the minds of these individuals, and they'll walk away thinking how beautiful we are and how rich we are -- culturally and traditionally."

—Andre Cordero,
Township Manager

The Center staff is anticipating a busy season next year and they are preparing to offer the general public and visitors a glimpse at Navajo cultural perspectives by offering weaving, pottery and basket-making demonstrations sev-

eral days out of the week.

Cordero explained the demonstrations will offer a positive view of what Kayenta is all about, but even more so, what Navajo is all about. He said, "it is real important we continue to hold on to our cultural perspectives, but even more so, to share its true meaning with everybody else."

"The cultural demonstrations at the Center will be im-

bedded in the minds of these individuals, and they'll walk away thinking how beautiful we are -- culturally and traditionally," Cordero added.

The Center is a product of the Kayenta Township's Capital Improvement Projects, which promotes a vision to achieve community development and to progressively implement economic growth. Renovations

for the Center were done by local laborers and funded by Kayenta Township dollars.

The Center is perhaps one of a kind on the Navajo Nation.

"We don't really see this type of facility anywhere on Navajo. This is the first time I've seen us using the town center concept for the benefit of the community and it's all done by taxpayer's dollars," Cordero explained.

The Center also provides

community information about types of schools and hospitals accessible within the area and it also offers a computer lab for the public to check email and access local information.

The Center is located on Arizona Highway 163 North, en route to Monument Valley. ■



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Kayenta Township voters elect new commissioners Nov. 6

Greyyeyes, Todecheene, Seaton elected

Nov. 29, 2012

KAYENTA, Ariz. — The Kayenta Township elected its new commissioners on Nov. 6: Delores Greyyeyes, Carol J. Todecheene and Edward Seaton. The new commissioners were sworn into office on Jan. 10 during the Western Navajo Agency Inauguration held in Tuba City, Ariz.

The new commissioners will serve a four-year term.

Incumbents Greyyeyes and Todecheene were re-elected, and newly elected Edward Seaton will serve in his first term. The newly elected commissioners will join current commissioners Roger Grey and Jodonna Hall Ward in continuing the task of governing and helping to improve the welfare of the Kayenta Township, its residents and to help oversee the township's economic and community development projects.

Greyyeyes, originally from



Black Mesa, Ariz., was re-elected. She currently works for the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety as the director of the Navajo Department of Corrections in Window Rock, Ariz.

Also re-elected was Carol Todecheene, a long-term resident of Kayenta and a graduate of Monument Valley High School. Todecheene worked for the Kayenta Unified School District in several capacities, as a teacher's aide for the special education department and as a transportation supervisor. She also serves on the Arizona School Bus Advisory Council for the state of Arizona.

Edward Seaton, is a newcomer to the commission and is a long-term resident of Kayenta. Seaton is a grad-

uate of Haskell Indian Nations University where he studied to be an automotive technician. Seaton received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history at the University of California-Berkeley. He is a certified court interpreter and certified in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and California courts.

According to the township's plan of operation, the commission will continue its course to formulate plans for development and projects, and to monitor the implementation of projects involving solid waste, drainage systems, airport facilities, fire protection, street layouts, recreation, planning and zoning ordinances.

The Kayenta Township Commission meets monthly to consider plans, to review developments and to consider individual requests or concerns of the community. All township meetings are open to the public. ■

Kayenta Township offers residential trash collection, car oil recycling to residents, some surrounding communities

Dec. 6, 2012

KAYENTA, Ariz. — The Kayenta Township is offering residential trash services within its township limits. The Township introduced trash services to the community of Kayenta, inclusive of residential, private sector and public entities, while still providing regular solid waste disposal services.

Since 1999, the transfer station has been operating as a self-sustaining enterprise of the Kayenta Township and is recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

as a Small Quantity Generator. The transfer station is the only one within the Kayenta-area and it operates with one dump truck, two compactors, four stationary dumpsters and an oil recycling tank.

All local residents of Kayenta were given the opportunity to utilize the rental services offered by the Township. For a small monthly fee, residents received a 96-gallon garbage bin to fill, placed by their curb near their house, so it would conveniently be hauled away by a dump truck


to the local transfer station.

Other community entities, such as the Indian Health Service and the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority utilize the solid waste trash collection services as well.

Ed Whitewater, transfer station supervisor, said they were pleased to assist residents and other programs by offering this service.

"Community entities are welcome to utilize the Solid Waste Transfer Station's services. The transfer station

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The Kayenta Township
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<p><u>Kayenta Township Commission:</u></p> <p>Carol Todecheene</p> <p>Delores Greyyeyes</p> <p>Roger Grey</p> <p>Jodonna Hall Ward</p> <p>Edward Seaton</p> <p><u>Town Manager:</u> Andre Cordero</p> <p><u>Executive Assistant:</u> Natalie Joseph</p>	<p><u>Finance Department:</u> Selena Begay</p> <p><u>Principal Leasing Agent:</u> Geraldine Laughter</p> <p><u>Information Technology Department:</u> Shonie De La Rosa</p> <p><u>Kayenta Fitness Center:</u> Joann Begay</p> <p><u>Community Development Department:</u> Director - Gabriel Yazzie</p> <p><u>Public Works Department:</u> Bradley Boaz Blair</p>
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www.KayentaTownShip.net



The Kayenta Township's transfer station is the only one within the Kayenta-area and it operates with one dump truck, two compactors, four stationary dumpsters and an oil recycling tank.

Kayenta Animal Care Center a success, providing shelter, preventative care to stray animals

Dec. 15, 2012

KAYENTA, Ariz. — With a noticeable need for animal shelters across the Navajo Nation, the Kayenta Township stepped up to the plate and opened its first animal care clinic in late-2010, providing sheltering facilities, adoption services, preventative care and animal control for Kayenta's furry, four-legged friends. The Kayenta Animal Care Center (KACC) has been accommodating up to 50 dogs and cats at a time and providing preventative care, such as: vaccinations, de-worming, low-cost spaying or neuter-

an application, a \$25 adoption fee and a small deposit, which is used to spay or neuter the new pet.

The KACC also serves as animal control for the community. They set up traps in the community, usually by the local grocery store, which humanely lures stray dogs in. Once the animals are caught, they are brought to KACC to be examined and sheltered there, usually contributing to a full house.

"People have no idea how hard it is to take care of a building full of animals. My staff gives their full effort, making sure the animals are well-kept and that all areas

and help rather than go home and play video games — they're just wonderful!" Although there are still improvements to be made to

"The Kayenta Township should be highly commended for establishing the animal care center, because there is a definite need for it here. It takes a lot to run a program like this, especially when there are other things competing for funding. Yet, the Township had the courage to establish this."

— Dr. Charletta Begaye, veterinarian

ing services.

Dr. Charletta Begaye, director of the KACC, says their facility fills up fast. However, adoptions of their dogs have been on the rise in the past couple of weeks, making more room for the stray dogs they pick-up in the community.

"We adopted out three dogs last week and about four dogs the week before -- for us, that's really good," Dr. Begaye said.

The adoption process involves the completion of

are always sanitized," said Dr. Begaye. "They do a tremendous job and deserve some recognition."

With only four employees at the KACC, they also rely heavily on volunteers who come to walk the dogs in the afternoon.

"The kids that volunteer here are hard workers. They're really intuitive and they put their entire heart into what they're doing," explained Dr. Begaye. "I think it's incredible that these kids take the time to come here

enhance the operation, Dr. Begaye is happy the Township and community came together to make the center possible.

"The Kayenta Township should be highly commended for establishing the animal care center, because there is a definite need for it here," added Dr. Begaye. "It takes a lot to run a program like this, especially when there are other things competing for funding. Yet, the Township had the courage to establish this."



The center is funded by the Kayenta Township. Community members also contribute to its operation by donating food to the Center, donating Wal-Mart gift cards, newspapers, or whatever they can to help offset costs.

For more information, to volunteer or make a donation, contact the Kayenta Animal Care

Center at 928-697-8444. ■

Kayenta Township funds volunteer fire department, provides critical service to community

Feb. 8, 2012

KAYENTA, Ariz. —The Kayenta Volunteer Fire Department proves to be a critical asset to the community, operating with the full support of the Kayenta Township.

Since September 2011, the Township began supplementing 100 percent of the fire department's operation, which includes its insurance, utilities and equipment costs.

At one time, area businesses and entities, such as the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA), the Kayenta Unified School District, the local grocery store and other organizations paid fire dues in order to fund the operation of the fire department.

Andre Cordero, town manager of the Kayenta Township, says the work the volunteer firefighters do for the Township is irreplaceable and crucial.

"We recently finished painting the fire department building and we are happy to give support to such an



essential part of our community," Cordero said.

Volunteer Firefighter Capt. Odie Peshlakai says the Kayenta Township purchased a fire truck for them and they are now able to respond to calls within an 80-mile radius. He explained that due to a mutual agreement with surrounding communities like Monument Valley, UT, and Bluff, UT, the fire department can now respond to emergency situations there.

"The fire department can go without calls for several weeks, then all of a sudden be handling back-to-back calls for a couple of days straight," said Peshlakai. "The types of calls vary

from search and rescues, to accidents, to fires."

Peshlakai explained last Tuesday afternoon, the fire department responded to a roll-over involving a truck hauling a stock trailer full of cows on U.S. Hwy. 160 near Dennehotso, Ariz.

"We had to cut-off the top portion of the stock trailer to release the trapped livestock. About five cows were dead and six were injured," explained Peshlakai. "We were on the scene for about seven hours."

Firefighters, thinking quickly, immediately contacted Clyde McBride, director of the Career and Technical Education Pro-



gram at Monument Valley High School, to assist the firefighters.

"They were able to save two cows that night," Peshlakai said.

Kayenta resident April Slivers recognizes the sacrifices the volunteers make.

"All the volunteer firefighters aren't paid, they do this all on their personal

time," said Slivers. "What would happen if they weren't here? Who would put out fires? They are an integral part of the community."

Peshlakai is aware and acknowledges the efficiency of his personnel.

"My crew saves lives, they don't hesitate, they're capable of thinking on their feet and are able to make quick

decisions and turn tough situations around," Peshlakai said.

The fire department is seeking volunteers. For more information, contact the Kayenta Township at 928-697-8451 ■

Kayenta Township plans road improvement, drainage system project for Wetherill Heights

Feb 8, 2012

KAYENTA, Ariz. — Flooding in the Wetherill Heights neighborhood will soon be a problem of the past. The Kayenta Township will soon start a \$1.6 million road improvement and drainage system project to remedy constant flooding during the monsoon season.

For the past couple of years, the Wetherill Heights community suffered poor conditions every time it

rained. After micro-bursts of continuous rainfall, some of the resident's homes and yards would start to flood.

The road project entails road stabilization, along with the addition of 3 to 5-foot detention basins, which will capture run-off from the roadways. The basins will be in place to reduce the speed of water, therefore reducing the amount of corrosion adjacent to the roadways and flooding of home-sites and schools downstream from

the project.

Gabriel Yazzie, department manager for the Kayenta Township Construction and Developments Department, says the project was the result of concerns expressed from the community. When it rained, the township would take matters into their own hands and set up barricades to redirect the water. However, the water would be directed into other home-sites, so that is when the Township decided to bring in

the help of an engineer and a contractor.

The Township, with the assistance of engineers from Coe & Van Loo Consultants Inc. and contractors from BITCO-Kitchell of Albuquerque, N.M., worked together to complete construction documents for the Wetherill Heights project. The group hopes to complete necessary documents by February 2013.

In order to get things started, a drainage analysis was devised, requiring an aircraft to fly over the township to collect photos of its topography, and then inputting the information into software that could project a 100-year flood event. The

software then emphasized areas of the community that are subject to flooding and determined the sizes of the washes and basins, direction of the water flow and where it can be redirected.

"Community members will no longer have to travel along bumpy or make-shift roads. They won't have to worry about water shedding into their home-sites or about mud build-up. This will also allow ease of access for safety vehicles," explained Yazzie.

The road improvement and drainage project was initiated this past summer as part of the Kayenta Township's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and is solely funded

by the Township's general funds, which are tax-payers' dollars.

The CIP contains a list of significant projects of priority that are in the beginning stages, are in the works, or have been completed for the purpose of improving the community. The CIP projects involve roads, sidewalks, utilities, parks and recreation, and new facilities. ■



Construction of Kayenta Multi-Purpose Justice Center in full swing, completion early 2014

Feb 8, 2013

KAYENTA, Ariz. —The Kayenta Multi-Purpose Justice Center construction project is in full swing, on schedule and is anticipated to be completed by early 2014.

The Justice Center, a \$34 million campus-style project, will consist of two single-level buildings. The first building will be a 54,000-square-foot corrections building that will contain 84 beds and act as a short-term holding facility for male and female inmates, adult and juvenile offenders. The second building will be a 16,500-square-foot support building, which will

house the dispatch, police and criminal investigation departments.

The Center is long overdue.

Gabriel Yazzie with the Township's Construction and Development Department said the community is in dire need of a new justice center, because the Kayenta Police Department is currently operating out of a condemned building with a jail cell that only holds ten individuals at a time.

Yazzie explained problems associated with the current overcrowded facility.

"During the annual Fourth of July festivities or any other major community event, the

jail is always full and officers have to either let the offenders with the lesser-offense go or they will make a transfer to the Window Rock or Tuba City Police Districts," said Yazzie.

Yazzie explained the law enforcement component already covers a large base in-and-around the Kayenta community and one of the many benefits of the new facility will be its location.

"Violators will now be coming to this community instead of being transferred to Flagstaff or other areas off the reservation," Yazzie said. "Family members will be able to come here to visit, rather than having to save up

their money to make a trip off the reservation."

Al Sherman, field project manager with Parsons Corporation, said another benefit of the facility will be the availability of cultural activities for inmates to participate in.

"We're working on incorporating a sweathouse, a teepee ground and a hogan," Sherman said. "Basically accommodations for those inmates who want to keep to their traditions -- they'll have the ability to do that."

Sherman says they are on schedule and working toward the completion date of March 2014. The underground electrical and plumbing

installations are now completed, they have laid the foundation and they will soon start installing the mechanical equipment.

The project is fully funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), a stimulus bill enacted by the Obama Administration in 2009, which makes supplemental appropriations for shovel-ready projects, for the purpose of saving and creating jobs and for infrastructure investments, in order to stimulate the economy. One stipulation requires that all materials purchased with ARRA funds need to be U.S.-made, thereby satisfying the Buy

American Act.

Sherman says the ARRA grant is intended to put local people to work and the contractor, BITCO-Kitchell, has made that a high priority.

"BITCO-Kitchell did a job fair at the Kayenta Township office and it received a great turn-out," Sherman said. "We'll be having another job fair for the community in the spring when we get to the point in construction -- we will need more people then."

For more information contact the Kayenta Township at 928-697-8451. ■

Kayenta Health Care Center meet half-way point of construction

Feb 8, 2013

KAYENTA, Ariz. —The new Kayenta Health Care Center has been starting to take shape over the past two years. In December 2012, the construction met its half-way point, leaving Kayenta Township and its surrounding communities monitoring its progress and building anxiety as new services will soon become available.

The new hospital will provide much-needed services for communities who have out grown the current Indian Health Services (IHS) clinic in Kayenta. As the population of Kayenta and its surrounding communities continue to grow, patient volumes have exceeded the current facility's capacity and some patients' demands are not being met.

Deswood Etsitty, project site representative with Dekker-Perich-Sabatini, says there has been an extensive study on patient volumes to determine the health care needs of the current and projected populations.

"This 183,000-square-foot facility has been planned to accommodate the existing and the forecasted needs, projecting as far ahead as 20-years," Etsitty explained.

The design layout includes the expansion of all existing clinics, such as dental, optical and radiology, as well as the addition of several new departments, which include inpatient care, ambulatory surgery, wellness and physical therapy, audiology and a maternity ward. There will also be a helicopter landing pad for emergency medical



flights.

Etsitty said this project has been a collaborative effort from the current clinic

IHS.

"They've all been advocating for this new facility for a number of years – it's been

-- Flintco, LLC -- a Native American-owned construction company, began construction of the facility in

infrastructure for the sewer and water systems, the foundation and the exterior shell of the building. Once phase

of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment. The expected completion date for the hospital facility is scheduled for August 2014.

Flintco has made a conscious effort to build sustainably, to purchase locally, and to maintain a good working relationship with the Office of Navajo Labor Relations, having more than 90 percent of its workforce made up of Navajo employees.

For more information, contact the Kayenta Township at 928-697-8451. ■

“The new hospital will provide much-needed services for communities who have out grown the current Indian Health Services (IHS) clinic in Kayenta.”

administration, the hospital steering committee, the health board, the local community and the Navajo Area

in the works for a long time, it's been needed for a long time," Etsitty said.

The general contractor

late December 2010 and is hoping to end phase I of the project on March 31. Phase I includes the underground

I is completed, phase II activities will commence and will include constructing interior framing and the installation



Kayenta Community Beautification Project

Feb. 13, 2013

KAYENTA, Ariz. — The Kayenta Community Cemetery received a much-needed upgrade, made possible through the Kayenta Community Beautification Project of the Kayenta Township.

Gabriel Yazzie with the Township's Construction and Development Department said the Beautification Project of the cemetery was greatly needed. Yazzie explained he was up for the challenge to help revive the local cemetery.

"Before changes were made, there was old barbed wire fencing everywhere, livestock roamed freely on the cemetery grounds, plots were unorganized, there were weather-damaged grave sites, access to the cemetery was rough and the biggest problem was drainage of water from storms," Yazzie said.

In May 2012, the cemetery project was made a priority and improvements to the grounds began. Initially, the project was designed similar to the Flagstaff Cemetery in

Flagstaff, Ariz., but the project was scaled down due to a limited budget.

Yazzie, with direction from Town Manager Andre Cordero expedited the project.

"It was overwhelming at first," explained Yazzie. "But we knew the community wanted a new cemetery to place their loved ones at."

The cemetery is now fenced in with beautiful white three-rail fencing, a custom-made 16-foot iron gate with a walkthrough gate and a redirected drainage

system. The site improvements also include a much larger gravel-lined parking area.

Yazzie explained the biggest challenge with this project was identifying the unnamed existing grave plots.

"We encourage individuals or families who have loved ones buried at the cemetery to come forward and help us in identifying the sites," said Yazzie. "To help with organizing future plots, the Township offers assistance by meeting with family

members, help them locate an area and help prepare the site — all with no fee required."

Yazzie said the community has shown their support and gratitude, many have offered their help by volunteering to pick up trash around the cemetery. The Township has placed dumpsters at the cemetery for trash disposal.

"Improvements to the cemetery continue and the project has come a long way. This was made possible with patience and hard work," said Yazzie. "The new ceme-

tery is clean, organized and is a place for Kayenta community members to place their loved ones."

For more information, contact the Kayenta Township at 928-697-8451. ■