

KAYENTA TODAY

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

JUNE 2005

VOLUME V NO. 3 - A FREE PUBLICATION



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Kayenta's Forgotten Cemetery

By Richard Mike

At the behest of Harvey Leake, grandson of John and Louisa Wetherill, we went to the old Kayenta Community Cemetery located immediately west of the Kayenta Primary School and north of their huge scrape and savage yard. Even when I was in the 6th and 7th grade, I use to wonder who was buried there? Even in those days more than 50 years ago, the graves were unmarked although they had a fenced perimeter around them. When we went there, there were a number of old gray weathering fence posts defining about an acre tract of land. There was also another enclosed area, much smaller and the perimeter marked by a rusting wire fence. The enclosed area was perhaps 10 feet in width and 20 feet in length. There was one headstone upon which was written:

ELIZABETH LAVINA
ASHCROFT
Aug 21, 1925
Aug 21, 1925

Leaning against one of the west side fence post but immediately outside of the burial perimeter, was what looked like a sandstone headstone. There were no markings although it was cut like a headstone and there were some scratches here and there. Harvey said that he wanted to look at the gravesite because three of his relatives were buried there. The easiest way to explain Harvey's relatives who are buried there is to begin with a family tree beginning with John and Louisa Wetherill:

JOHN WETHERILL
Born: Sept. 24, 1866
Died: November 30, 1944
and
MARY LOUISA WADE
Born: Feb. 15, 1870
Died: Sept. 18, 1945

Two Children
Benjamin Wade Wetherill
Born: Dec. 28, 1896
Died: July 15, 1946
and
Georgia Ida Wetherill
Born: Jan. 17, 1898
Died: July 4, 1935

Georgia Ida married Victor Kilcrease in 1921. She miscarried two twin boys several weeks before term. The twins were buried at the Kayenta Community Cemetery with wooden crosses as markers.

Ben Wetherill married Kayenta schoolteacher Myrle Jeanette Davis in 1923. Ms. Davis was already pregnant with another's baby when they got married. The baby was stillborn and buried in the Kayenta Community Cemetery with a sandstone headstone. She was buried under her mother's maiden name – Myrle Jeanette Davis.

On the morning of May 14, 2005, I traveled to the Inscription House junction to the Crossroads Trading Post. The owner of the Trading Post is the daughter of James Ashcroft – Tauna L. Ashcroft. There I had an interview with Mr. James B. Ashcroft.

Mr. James Ashcroft started out by telling me that he lived in Hurricane, Utah and was leaving in a few hours for home. He told me that he still loved it on the reservation and missed some of his Navajo friends.

I was one of five children and I am 84 years of age. My parents were Charley and Myrtle Ashcroft and in 1920, they built Dennehotso Trading Post. They had five children and they were in rank order:

Charles Ashcroft Jr. (Buried in Gallup), Lelia (Buried in Farmington), James, that's me, Clyde who lives in Concho, Az., and Elizabeth who was stillborn.

Elizabeth was buried at Kayenta because it was the closest community with a community cemetery. Kayenta had a tuberculosis facility you know? Inside the community cemetery, which is still outlined by old gray wooded poles, my father made a separate wire enclosure to bury my sister. He made a wooden marker with her name and date of birth and death on it. However, like many of



the other markers, the wood simply faded away. I went back about 1995 to implant a new wooden marker that I made and as I was removing the weeds and bushes, I swept away some of the sand. Underneath the sand was the stone grave marker that is still there. Evidently, my father had it made and put it there around 1952 or '53. I still have the wooden marker that I made and never planted.

Originally, my sister was the only one buried within the enclosed fence inside the enclosed fenced community cemetery. Remember many infants died in those days since there were no respirators, especially for premature babies. Nowadays we take premature babies for granted but back in those days, premature and stillborn were the same. Everyone back in those days said "stillborn" when in fact a baby might have lived 5 or 6 hours because it was born a couple of weeks too early. Anyway, one of the Magnum babies was stillborn about 1926 and they wanted their baby buried inside "our" small fence. Back then, Mr. Mangum worked for the government. Later, a Navajo infant was buried in our small family plot.

Question: What about the Wetherill infants?

No, they were buried right next to our family plot but not inside. One of their children had a sandstone marker but all of the writing wore off. I tried to make out the markings many years ago but I couldn't.



I boarded 8 years with John and Louisa Wetherill because there were no schools at Dennehotso. The school at Kayenta only went up to the 8th grade with only one teacher. I went to school with Lillian (Smith) Bradley, the brothers and sisters of Jack Taylor (and names that I did not recognize.)

On June 8, 2005, I interviewed Sara Louise Rocha. One of her relatives is buried at the Kayenta Community Cemetery.

Which of your relatives is buried at the Kayenta Community Cemetery?

She would have been my Aunt, Lucy LaPahe from Shiprock, New Mexico, my mother's sister. She died of TB at 18 years of age in the old hospital. She died in the old hospital, which was later converted to a TB sanitarium. (Note: The Kayenta Tuberculosis Center was converted from a small hospital in 1934 until 1944.)

Basically the Navajo people were afraid of death and you know how after 4 days, they don't want to talk about the dead person anymore? So they didn't care to go to the grave or talk about it. It was the hospital people who took care of the graveyard. They would put up wooden crosses with the names painted on but eventually, the crosses would fall down and the Navajo families didn't care to take care of the crosses. They wouldn't go into the graveyard or even talk about it. For my aunt, my father made a wooden casket. The TB victims were usually just wrapped in a blanket and buried.

What to do? I think that we should put up several historical markers, one at this site telling about the community cemetery and another at the John Wetherill grave site. Perhaps in the next issue of Kayenta Today, I'll tell about the John Wetherill grave site and its various occupants.

INSCRIPTION HOUSE HEALTH CENTER AND FACILITY MANAGEMENT RECEIVE AWARDS

The Inscription House Health Center received the 2004 National Directors Award for constantly doing an outstanding job and always dedicating their time to the patients, staff and the Clinic tenants. The ceremony was held April 22, 2005 in North Bethesda, Maryland at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

The award was received by Mr. David Curley on behalf of the Inscription House Facility Maintenance Department. Mr. Curley extends his gratitude for your support and acknowledges his staff for their continuous demonstration with respect and teamwork. Their service collaborates with all departments, they are always prompt and always deliver with a smile. They also assist in housekeeping and administrative needs such as facilitating patient care, maintaining clinic workflow and late patient transports.

The internal and external grounds upkeep and facility up-grades reflect on David's staff and he's very proud of his team.

Also, the Inscription House Health Center Facility Management Staff received the 2005 National Secretary's Award, for their distinguished service. Each year, the Secretary recognizes employees who have significantly advanced the Department's mission and goals at the Department Honor Awards program.

The Ceremony was May 25, 2005 in the Great Hall of the Hubert Building in Washington, D.C. Mr. Lee Austin received this award on behalf of the Facility Maintenance Staff. Let's congratulate the entire maintenance staff at Inscription House.



KAYENTA TOWNSHIP RECIEVES 49 NEW RADIOS FOR KAYENTA EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

On June 2, 2005, the Kayenta Township received forty-nine new two-way radios valued at over \$36,000.00 from the Northern Regional Advisory Council. Larry Dunagan from the Navajo County Management Services in Holbrook, Arizona delivered the radios to the Kayenta Township office.

“Over 600 new radios have been purchased for all agencies across Navajo County with Homeland Security funding.” said Larry Dunagan.

An intergovernmental agreement was needed in order to receive the new radios. Larry Dunagan said, “An intergovernmental agreement and the review process between the Navajo Nation and the Northern Regional Advisory Council would have taken too long, so we decided to work with the Kayenta Township instead. The Township is a local government on the Navajo Nation, and the agreement and review process went through very quickly.”



Kayenta Township Community Involvement Coordinator Phil Zahne, who is also a member of the Navajo County Homeland Security Task Force, conducted an inventory of all radios over five years old utilized by emergency personnel in Kayenta. This included the Kayenta Police Department, Kayenta Fire Department, and Emergency Medical Services. The total count of old radios that needed to be replaced was ninety-seven. This was nearly every radio currently being used by emergency personnel in Kayenta.

Phil Zahne then put together a proposal and brought it forward in February 2005 to the Northern Regional Advisory Council requesting ninety-seven two-way radios for Kayenta Township emergency personnel.



In May 2005, the Northern Regional Advisory Council sent the Kayenta Township five new radios for testing purposes. The Township gave the new radios to the Kayenta Police Department to test them in the field. Police officers said that the new radios performed very well and were more reliable than the older radios they were using.

Of the ninety-seven radios requested, the Kayenta Township was awarded forty-nine. The radios are fully programmed and ready to be distributed to Kayenta emergency personnel. Phil Zahne will submit another proposal to the Northern Regional Advisory Council next week requesting an additional 48 radios.

Kayenta's Graduates of

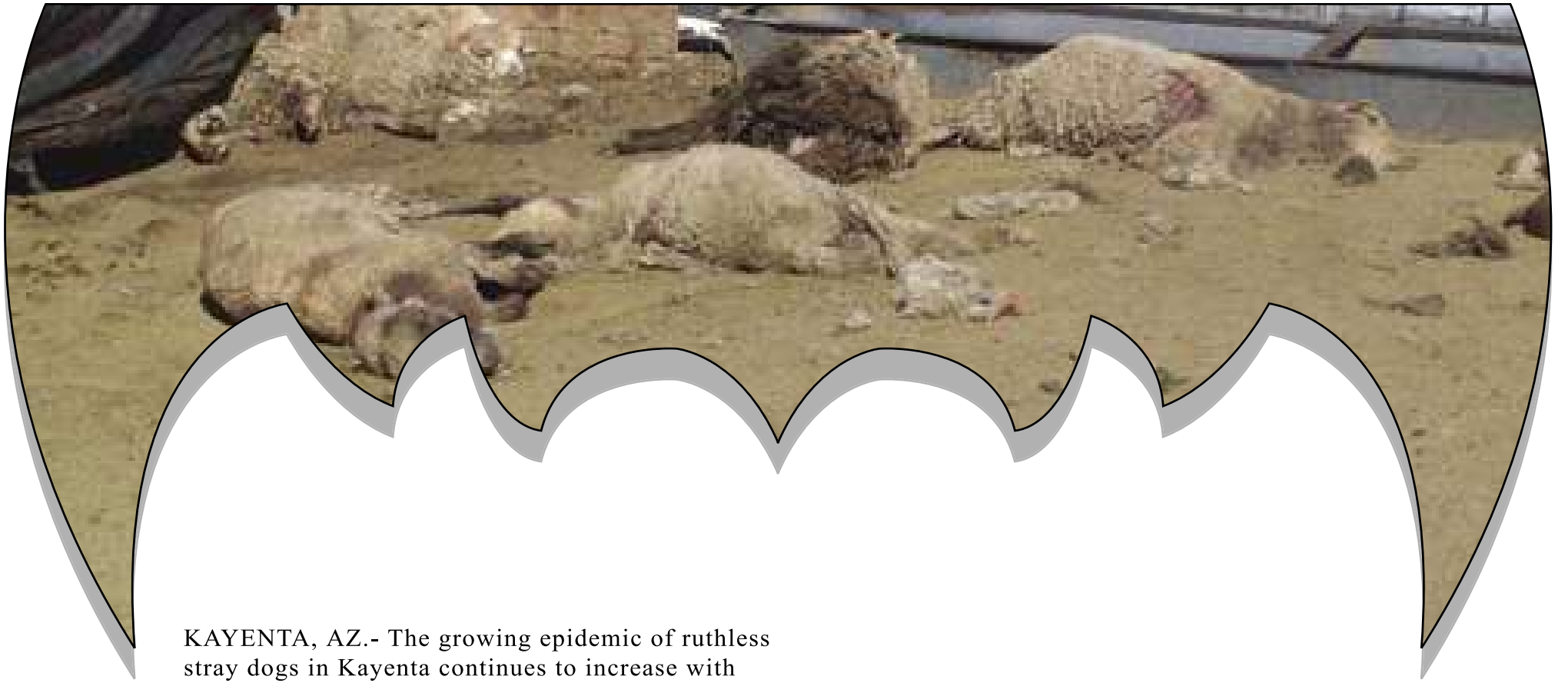


2005

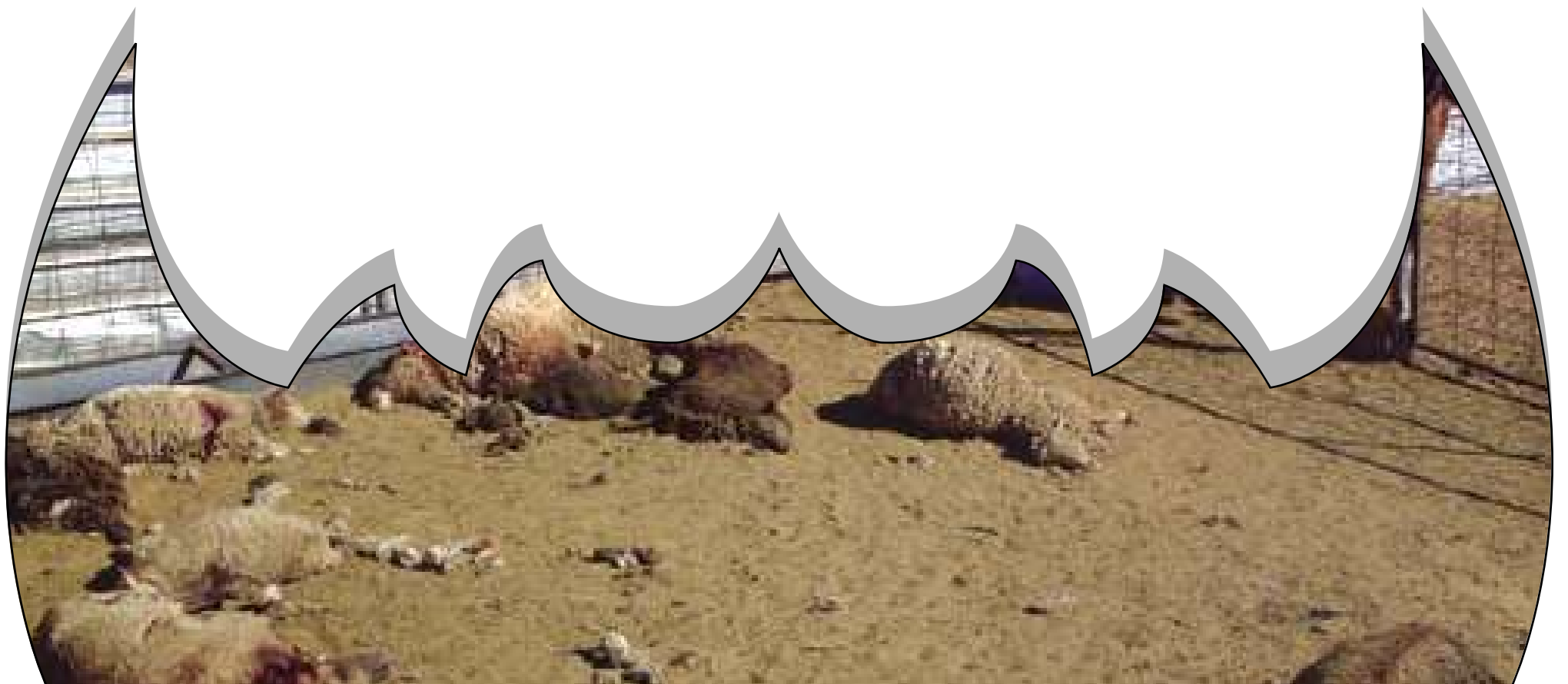
Congratulations

From The Kayenta Township





KAYENTA, AZ.- The growing epidemic of ruthless stray dogs in Kayenta continues to increase with the question on everyone's mind as to when an animal shelter will establish itself to combat the problem. A problem that was experienced in the community on May 7, 2005, when a herd of sheep were ravaged and killed in the blink of an eye. Intense casualties occurred resulting from their infamous existence. It didn't take but a few minutes for nearly 22 innocent sheep to become play toys for a posse of loose dogs. On May 5, the Thursday prior, 6 dogs were slaughtered, making the total casualties a stunning 28. Losing an enormous amount of livestock over night has raised great concern and skepticism for livestock safety not only for herds occupying the Kayenta Unified Scho



3rd KAYENTA ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND BUSINESS EXPO

JULY 26 - 28, 2005

Kayenta Town Hall

Kayenta, Arizona

Keynote Speakers



Janet Napolitano

Governor, The State of Arizona.
(Has been invited, not confirmed)

Topic:

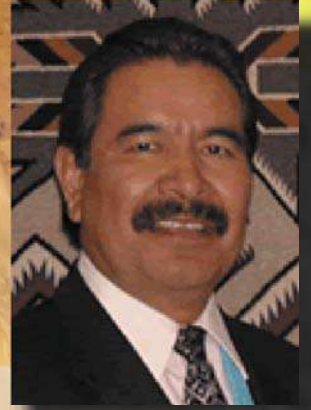
“State of the State Address and What the State is doing to Improve Relations with the Navajo Nation”

Mr. Albert Hale

Senator, District 3, Arizona State Legislature
(Has been invited, not confirmed)

Topic:

“Key Native American Issues at the State Level “



Mr. Gilbert Jimenez

Director, Arizona Department of Commerce

Topic:

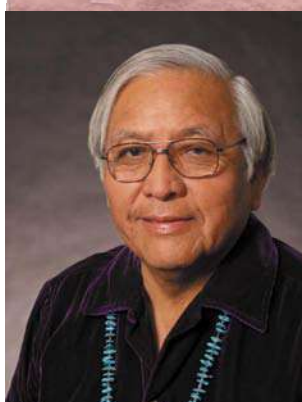
“Forging a New Economic Relationship between the State and the Navajo Nation”

Ms. Ann Kirkpatrick

Representative, District 3, Arizona State Legislature

Topic:

“How the State and the Navajo Nation should Formulate their Relationship for the Future”



Peterson Zah

Former President of the Navajo Nation

Topic:

“How the Navajo Government must Change its Role to Enhance Greater Economic Development”

Mr. Eddie Browning

USDA - Arizona

Topic:

“Creating Rural Economies in the Navajo Nation”



Introductory Speakers



Gary H. Nelson

Town Manager, Kayenta Township.

Topic:

“The Importance of the Grassroots Communities in Navajo Nation Economics “

Mr. Eugene Badonie

Chairman, Kayenta Township Commission

Topic:

“Local Empowerment, the Path to Navajo Economic Prosperity”



PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA



Tuesday Evening, July 26

6:30 – 9:00

Welcome Reception & Registration

Hors'd'oeuvres

Entertainment by: Toh Di Nesh Zhe' Singers

Wednesday, July 27

8:00 – 8:15

Welcome & Recognition of Guest(s)

8:15 – 8:30

Traditional Prayer Ceremony

8:30 – 9:30

Introductory Address by:

- Mr. Eugene Badonic, Chairman, Kayenta Township Commission. Topic: "Local Empowerment, the Path to Navajo Economic Prosperity"
- Gary H. Nelson, Town Manager, Kayenta Township. Topic: "The Importance of the Grassroots Communities in Navajo Nation Economics"

9:30 – 10:30

Morning Keynote Speakers:

- Ms. Ann Kirkpatrick, Representative, District 3, Arizona State Legislature. Topic: "How the State and the Navajo Nation should Formulate their Relationship for the Future"
- Mr. Albert Hale, Senator, District 3, Arizona State Legislature. Topic: "Key Native American Issues at the State Level"

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:00

Morning Keynote Speakers ... Continued

- Mr. Gilbert Jimenez, Director, Arizona Department of Commerce. Topic: "Forging a New Economic Relationship between the State and the Navajo Nation"

11:00 – 11:45

Raffle Drawing

12:00 – 1:30

Lunch Keynote Speaker: Janet Napolitano, Governor, The State of Arizona. (Has Been Invited)
Topic: "State of the State Address and What the State is doing to Improve Relations with the Navajo Nation"

Entertainment by: TBA

1:30 – 3:30

- Work Session: "What are the Restrictive Legislations and How do We Amend them so they Enable the Navajo People?" Discuss & Identify Restrictive Navajo Nation, State and Federal Laws
- Establish Taskforce to Move Amending Legislations
 - Alternative Methods to Local Empowerment
 - Other

3:30 - 3:45

Break

3:45 – 4:00

Raffle Drawing

4:00 – 5:30

Work Session ... Continued

6:00 – 9:00

Dinner Keynote Speaker: Peterson Zah, Former President of the Navajo Nation (Has been invited):
Topic: "How the Navajo Government must Change its Role to Enhance Greater Economic Development"

Entertainment:

- Native Fashion Show
- Aztec Dancers

Thursday, July 28

8:00 – 8:15

Welcome

8:15 – 8:30

Opening Prayer by Invitation

8:30 – 9:00

Introductory Address by:

- Mr. Albert Bailey, President, Kayenta Chapter. Topic: "How the Chapter and Township are Working together to Build a Local Economy"

9:00 – 10:30

Morning Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. Gerald Knowles, Consultant. Topic: "The Chapter and Township - Why form a County-Municipal Type Relationship and Governmental Structure?"
- USDA. Topic: "Creating Rural Economies in the Navajo Nation"
- BIA, Washington DC. Topic: "What the BIA is doing to Enhance Economic Opportunity in Indian Country"

10:30 – 10:45

Break

10:45 – 11:45

Question and Answer Session

11:45 – 12:00

Raffle Drawing

12:00 – 1:30

Lunch Keynote Speaker:

AZ Department of Commerce. Topic: "How to do Business with the State of Arizona through Procurement and Competing for Industry Expansions and Relocations"

Entertainment by: TBA

1:30 – 4:30

Work Session: "Doing Business with the State and Federal Governments"

- State and Federal Procurement Contracts
- DOD Contracts
- Other

4:30 PM

Adjourn Economic Summit

"Building a Nation from the Grassroots Up"

**Jointly Hosted by:
The Kayenta Township
and
Arizona Department of Commerce**

3rd KAYENTA ECONOMIC SUMMIT & BUSINESS EXPO REGISTRATION FORM

Kayenta Township is proud to announce the Third Kayenta Economic Summit to be held in Kayenta (at the new Town Hall) on July 27-28, 2005. Due to the great success of the first Kayenta Economic Summit held April 8-9, 2004 and the second economic summit held Tuba City (or Toh Nanees Dizi) on July 14-15, 2004, it is time to revisit the issues and to press forward the necessary changes.

This year, the Kayenta Township will be teaming with the Arizona Department of Commerce and the USDA to bring forth new insights on how we can address economic issues facing our nation. Our objective is to forge a stronger government to government relationship with the State of Arizona; whereby we may assist one another in building stronger economies for our communities. Through the establishment of a strong relationship with the state it is our intent to participate with other Arizona communities in attracting some industry relocations and expansions to the Navajo Communities. We must become proactive in turning what are only dreams into economic reality for the Navajo People; we can change our economic situation we set our minds to it.

We welcome you back again to Kayenta to revitalize our enthusiasm for change and to set the foundation and path for greater economic development in the Navajo Nation. Your presence and participation in the upcoming event is important and will be greatly appreciated. In that regard, an agenda is forthcoming in the next several weeks and will contain the topics of discussion and also the presenters.

Please complete the following registration form, and return via fax or mail. Should you have any questions regarding this event contact Phillip Zahne, Community Involvement Coordinator, Weylon Singer, or Shaylin Shabi at (928) 697-8451.

Sincerely,
Gary H. Nelson, Town Manager



3rd Kayenta Economic Summit & Business Expo

“Building a Nation from the Grassroots Up”

July 26 – 28, 2005

Participant Registration

Please print or type the information requested below and retain a copy for your records.

Name (First/Middle/Last)

Name preferred on conference badge (if different)

Company Name

Your department (if any)

Your position/Title

Address

City

State

Zip/Postal Code

Country

Fax

Email

Telephone

REGISTRATION FEE: \$149.00 Per person, \$135.00 per person for groups of five or more. Registration fee includes refreshments during morning sessions as well as lunch and dinner. Registration form can be faxed in and payment made on-site during conference registration.

METHOD OF PAYMENT *(check one)*

Check, purchase order, cash must accompany mailed registrations. Make payment to Kayenta Township.

Check number _____

Purchase Order Number _____

Cash

On-Site Payment

Registration Confirmations- Confirmations are mailed within 72 hours of receipt.

Cancellation Policy- Cancellations must be submitted in writing and be postmarked or faxed by July 20, 2005 for a full refund.

Questions- contact Phillip Zahne, Weylon Singer, or Shaylin Shabi at 928.697.8451 or email kayentatownship@mail.com

Mail: Kayenta Township
P.O. Box 1490
Kayenta, AZ 86033

Web: www.kayentatownship.com

Fax: 928.697.8461

USDA VISITS THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP

On April 27, 2005, directors and representatives of the USDA paid a visit to the Kayenta Township to learn how the Kayenta Township is providing economic growth for the community of Kayenta. Kayenta Town Manager, Gary Nelson gave an informative presentation to the USDA.

“Prior to 1920, the Navajo had complete control of their land, after 1920, the Navajo had to answer to the BIA and the Navajo Nation Council, the new control power.” Mr. Nelson stated to the USDA.

Mr. Nelson gave a brief history of how Kayenta became a township and the obstacles the township had to overcome to get where they are today. He also described how a sales tax was initiated to generate revenue, and how the Kayenta governing body was formed.

“Unfortunately, certain barriers keep getting in the way of growth, but we keep doing all that we can to overcome these barriers.” said Mr. Nelson.

A few years later the Kayenta retail sales tax increased from 2.5% to 5% in 2005 to provide more revenue for the Kayenta Township.

Mr. Nelson also informed the USDA of Kayentas CIP (Capital Improvement Plan), which the Township approved \$2.5 Million last year in May. Some of the CIP Projects include:

- Jail and Judicial Complex
- New Water Tower
- Woman’s Shelter
- Animal Control
- Reseeding Project
- Fire Truck

Mr. Nelson told the USDA, “The Navajo Nation matched the Kayenta Township \$750,000 in funds to help build the new Jail and Judicial Complex. Kayenta needs quality law enforcement for the people of the community.”

Further into the presentation, Mr. Nelson stated, “The Kayenta Township still have no say over the land and that the Township still has to go through the Navajo Nation for

approval on land use for future businesses.”

Mr. Nelson said, “One way the Kayenta Township is working to alleviate this problem is with the proposed “Kayenta Master Lease Plan.”

The Master Lease gives business owners a 99 year lease instead of the current 25 year lease from the Navajo Nation. This new Master Lease gives business owners a sense of ownership. Business owners are able to transfer and sell a business site lease.

The response from the USDA to Mr. Nelson’s presentation on the Kayenta Township was phenomenal. The USDA stated that the Kayenta Township qualifies for loans and grants

from the USDA to help the Township with its CIP Plan. The USDA also stated that Kayenta qualifies as a Rural Development Pilot Project for the USDA.

Many of the USDA representatives said that they would definitely come back to Kayenta and work directly with the Township. “Kayenta has an impressive plan, what Mr. Nelson laid out for us here today is fascinating.” said one USDA representative. Many other representatives of the USDA said:

“Mr. Nelson and his group are doing a marvelous job here.”

“This is the most impressive plan I’ve seen in my travels.”
- USDA Representative



Kayenta 4th of July Rodeo

July 1st - July 4th, 2005

2003 & 2004 NNRCA Rodeo Of The Year

Four Night Performances

Friday July 1st, 2005	7:30pm
Saturday July 2nd, 2005	7:30pm
Slack Sunday July 3rd, 2005	8:00am
Sunday July 3rd, 2005	7:30pm
Monday July 4th, 2005	7:30pm

(Short go Top 12)

I.J.R.A. RODEO

Kayenta Rodeo Grounds
July 4th 2005
8:00 A.M. Sharp

CES:

Victoria J. Pablo @ 505-786-5586 6:00 P.M.
Walk In
July 3, 2005 From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Money must be in by July 3, 2005 6:00 p.m.

Saddles To High Point Winner to Cowboy & Cowgirl

FREE B-B-QUE

July 1st, 2005
5:30 p.m.
Kayenta Rodeo Grounds
Info: Johnny Hollister
(928) 697-2234

NNRCA / AIRCA MULTI - SANCTION RODEO

Events	Entry Fee	Added Money	Slack & Other Info.
Bareback	\$115.00	\$1000.00	Two Go Rounds (Limit 15)
Saddle Bronc	\$115.00	\$1000.00	Two Go Rounds (Limit 15)
Bullriding	\$140.00 (Day Money)	\$1000.00	60 total limit (20 in each perf)
Calf Roping	\$115.00	\$1000.00	No Limit (10 in each perf)
Steer Wrestling	\$115.00	\$1000.00	No Limit (10 in each perf)
Team Roping	\$230.00 Enter 2x	\$2000.00	No Limit (15 in each perf)
Barrel Racing	\$115.00	\$1000.00	No Limit (10 in each perf)
Break Away	\$115.00	\$1000.00	No Limit (10 in each perf)

Rodeo Stock fee included

If necessary slack on Sunday July 3, 2005 Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Break away, Calf Roping and Barrel Racing.
BULLRIDERS - Day money included (\$25.00) Two Sections of Bullriding
SADDLE BRONC & BARE BACK RIDERS - If Less Than 15 Entrees 2 Full Go Rounds
If More Than 15 Entrees Long & Short Go Round Format

Saddles will be awarded to event champions

Rodeo Announcer: Jay Harwood 4 Time NFR Announcer

All Around Award - 3 Horse Slant Trailer

Sponsored by Kayenta Burger King / Kayenta Hampton Inn
Trophy Saddles for each event champion

Rough Stock Event: June 20, 2005
Timed Event: June 21, 2005
Call Backs: June 22, 2005 Call Back # (505) 726-1411
Stock Contractor: Casper Baca Rodeo Company - Rough Stock
Willie's Cattle Company - Timed Event
ENTRY INFO: Rodeo Secretary: Ailee Dodson
Phone: (505) 726-1411

COUNTRY DANCES

Kayenta High School Old Gym
July 1st - 4th 2005
9:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.
FRIDAY - STONE COUNTRY
SATURDAY - STONE COUNTRY
SUNDAY - ACE'S WILD
MONDAY - ACE'S WILD

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Kayenta Rodeo Grounds
July 4th 2005
Proudly Sponsored By:
Kayenta Township
Kayenta Chapter

Official Rodeo Sponsors

Kayenta Township, Kayenta Chapter, Lake Powell Construction & Development, Inc.,
Navajo Nation Oil & Gas, Star Roofing, Chartwells, Norcon Industries, Inc.,
Kayenta Family Chiropractic, C & I Show Hardware, SSPW, Kayenta Wells Fargo Bank,
Pioneer Ford, UMWA 1924, Computer Assets Inc., Audio Video Resources,
Kayenta Mobile Trailer Park, Hufford & Horstman Law, Auto Safety House, Plateau Engineering,
Kraemer Engineering, Chief Propane, Inc.,



Kayenta Holiday Inn Official Rodeo Headquarter
For Reservations Call: (928) 697-3221
For More Information:
Call JJ Young at (928) 697-2130 (W) (928) 697-4885 (H)

Rodeo Sponsors Will Not Be Held Liable For any Damages, Accidents, or Theft That Occur Before, During and after the Rodeo.



KAYENTA HOSTS WORLD HARMONY RUN



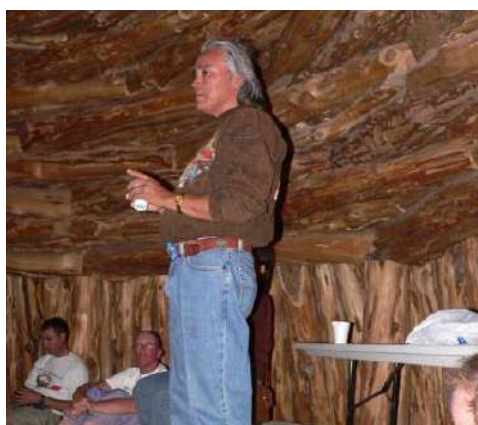
After a wonderful stay at the Desert Rose Inn, thanks to the generosity of Cindy and Amer Tumeh, we headed out of Bluff, Utah, knowing that the most incredible and unique vistas lie not too far ahead of us.

Just before entering what I would call a geographical wonder of the world, we were met by Phil Zahne, Community Involvement Coordinator of the Kayenta Township and Donna Leno from Kayenta and others from the Navajo Nation. They had arranged for us a blessing from a local 'Medicine Man', Lee Joe Gambler, down one of the banks of the San Juan River in the tiny town of Mexican Hat. It was a powerful ceremony conducted mostly in the native Navajo language. As we stood there with our new Native American friends being blessed for our safe journey, the harmony of the river and mother Earth itself seemed to bless us for the long miles ahead in the months to come.

With a multi-vehicle police and fire department escort into Monument Valley, we ran up the hills preceding the Valley with vast and colorful vistas of ancient rock formations revealing the ageless wonders of earthly time. It was a difficult run made easy by the life-giving energy of this ethereal place. With so much support from the Navajo Nation escorting us through their sacred lands, we felt the very essence of harmony and oneness as we made our way to Kayenta.

At the town limits, we were again met by escorts and runners alike, including Phil and Donna and her lovely daughter Dana. After a two mile slow jog into town, we were heartily welcomed by many of the townspeople of Kayenta and the Navajo

Nation. More prayers and blessings were offered mostly in Navajo native language, and we were transported by the wonderful comments made by people like Gary Nelson, Town Manager and Alice Yazzie, Kayenta Chapter Vice President and others.



The ceremony was both traditional and modern. We had a fire ceremony along with blessings with white Eagle feathers which was a very soulful and powerful experience. The speeches were very moving, reflecting a deep understanding by the Navajo people of the harmony and oneness that is needed in the world today. There was also a moment of silence for those who offered their services and even their lives for their country. Many Navajo were in the service for the U.S. and are being remembered and respected on Memorial Day. We were offered water and drinks and watermelon to make this day in Kayenta a very enjoyable and memorable one.

The incredible oneness and friendship did not stop there though. In the evening we were offered a big dinner of traditional fry bread with beans and vegetables. We were able to mix with the local Navajo who had worked so hard to get the welcoming ceremony for us together. We are so grateful to all of them including Andre Reville and all the great guys of the Volunteer Fire Department, Sgt. Phillip Clah and the Police Department did a superb job escorting us and taking care of all the traffic details. Dana Lee helped her mother Donna organize all the details of the event including printing out the beautiful flyers for the event. The radio station KTNN, Voice of the Navajo Nation, was there doing live interviews with many of the runners and some of the Navajo organizers. We also would like to thank Kristine from the Wells Fargo Bank who offered the parking lot for the ceremony and Geraldine with the Shelter Home for having volunteers to do so much work. So many other locals who were there that we may not have had the opportunity to meet all made this event for us very special.



After the dinner, Phillip, Donna, Dana, and Gary Nelson, the Town Manager and his lovely wife met with us in a traditional Navajo circular meeting structure built with an intricate design of logs covered with earth. They talked about the Navajo traditions and culture and taught us much about their way of life. I was particularly interested in the fact that they are against gambling and alcohol on the reservation. This seems to me to be very important in keeping the close knit extended family structure which is very important to the Navajo.



At the end of the meeting they offered us a traditional Navajo basket woven from real native grasses. The intricate design of various colors represented different aspects of our life on earth, including sky, clouds, mountains and earth. The patterns ended in a line that should always face east. Also the doorways on the Hogans should always face east to open to the new day and light of the rising sun.

It was a long and exciting day full of natural wonders and amazing local native people, all who made today's running to share harmony with the earth and its people a truly rewarding and memorable one.

With Gratitude, Harmony and Oneness,
Arpan and Team Harmony

CK has moved to Jim Babbitt Ford!

WE'LL DO YOUR TAXES FOR YOU!

Bring in Your 2004 Tax Information and use your Return as a down payment and combine it with our rebates!

\$500 CK Discount*
With Purchase of Vehicle

Coupon Only Good with 'CK'



+Free Window Tint



CALL CK TODAY!

PRESENTED TO:
CK'S CUSTOMER
MUST ASK FOR 'CK' TO RECEIVE THIS OFFER



Stop In & See 'CK'

CK'S SCOREBOARD:

SATISFIED
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