KAYENTA TODAY

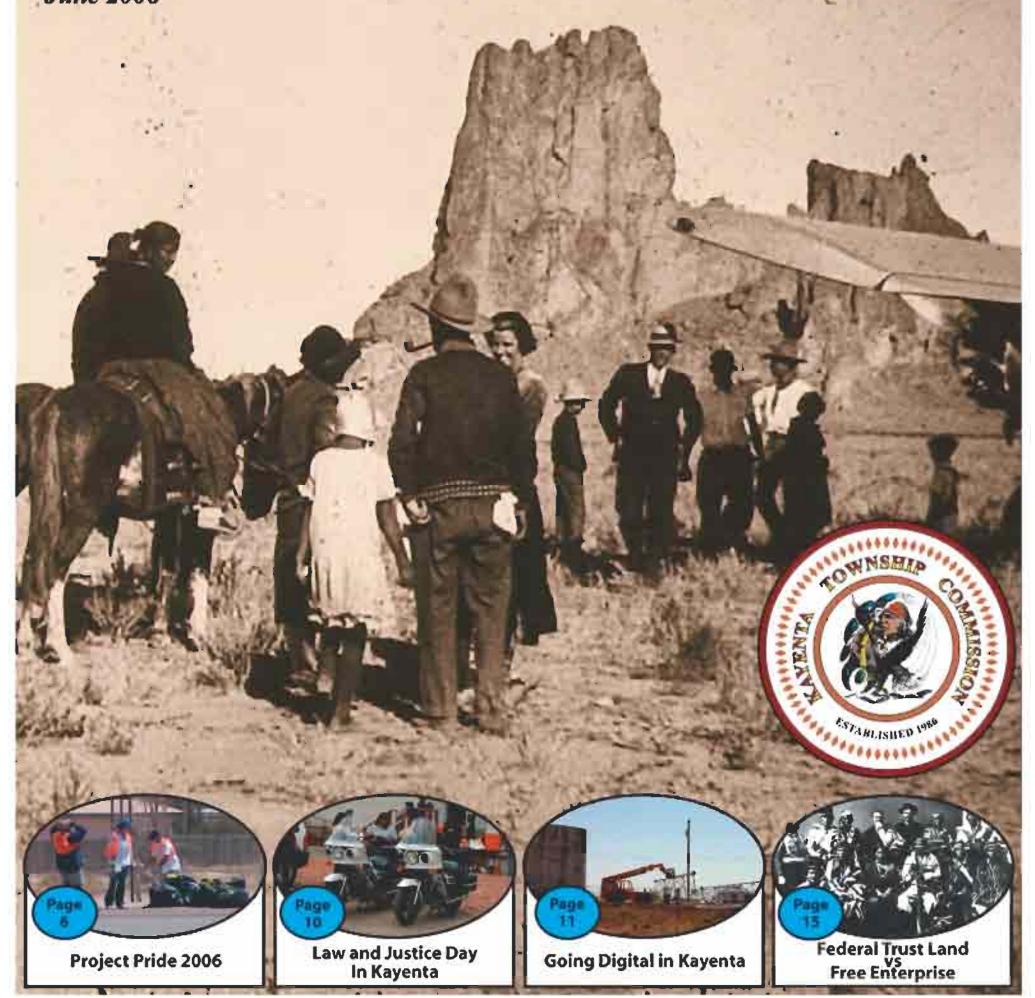
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

A Free Publication from the Kayenta Township

* AAAA

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June 2006



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Kayenta Town Manager

Report - June 2006

The Navajo Nation Government must by necessity make a decided change in the structure and the administration of its governmental functions in order to better nurture the development of local autonomy for the Navajo people.

The present form of the Navajo Nation government which was first formalized under the guidance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the 1920's is not decentralized like the US Government. The U.S. Government consists of a central government divided into a three branch system with reserved powers delegated to the states and the local governments (cities and towns). Whereas the Navajo government consists of a centralized government consisting of the 88 member council as the governing body with the Executive and Judicial branches as more or less subsidiaries of the council.

All decisions, including those affecting the executive, legislative and judicial are made by the council. This Unitarian form of government does not allow for a true checks and balances between the three branches and does not allow for a truly locally autonomous governments.

The funding and the allocation of funds between the three branches of government is a good indication of the true powers of the legislative branch. The Council allocates funds for all tribal government programs and had direct oversight authority over the use of such funds. The Council also makes rules and regulations for overall programs which results in a very bureaucratic control of all programs.

The Chapter government, which started with one chapter in Leupp in 1925, grew to 110 chapters today, yet without local controls and local self-determination, these 110 local governments are mostly in names only. They have no means to establish a true local government.

Under LGA, the Chapter governments can manage its own internal affairs, however to do so requires the chapter government to have Local revenues and incomes to implement local jurisdiction. There are token piece meal funds made available to the chapter governments but these funds are inadequate to implement a true self government with administrative capabilities.





The Township concept which the council enacted in 1985 for one community is the first real step toward self government, however in many respects even the one township government is still subject to the whim of the central government through sometime subversive tactics of the central government such as the recent questioning of township's internal activities by a public hearing by the council committee, a court decision and legal opinion that undermine the true efforts to develop a real local self-government or town government. With these constant and sometimes unwarranted interferences with a still struggling local government, one can wonder whether the 110 chapter government can truly attain a degree of self- government under the LGA.

The Navajo People were truly self-governed for hundreds of years up to the 1920's under a system of a local headman and a war chief but it was the B.I.A.'s concept of government that has put the Navajo People in a strait-jacket since the early part of the 20th century.

The 21st century is here, and the people around the world are rebelling against centralized authority

and this is becoming a struggle for survival for all oppressed people. The Navajo People in many respects fall under this category of oppression and constraints.

The 20 year experiment of Kayenta Township demonstrates that it is a constant struggle to become self sufficient and self determined. It is like a family. If a family is to become self-sufficient, it must set out on its own course and not depend on relatives for survival. So it is with a local government. To be truly selfdetermined, a local government must have jurisdiction over its internal affairs, the power to make its own rules and regulations and to enforce them. Only this way is there freedom and opportunities as well as responsibilities in managing ones own affairs without external controls.

With many Navajos having college education, it is time to put the destiny of the Navajo Nation in their hands so they can shape the future of the Navajo people for generations to come.

Daniel Peaches, Town Manager Kayenta Township

18 holes of golf in Kayenta?

It may be hard to believe, but it's true. Just west of Kayenta, outside the Kayenta Township boundary exists a little known secret to the locals of Kayenta, an eight-teen hole golf course.

The Kayenta Today had only heard rumors about this local oasis from local golf enthusiast and decided to check it out. After a short, but bumpy drive down a few dirt roads, we came across what most of us locals call Dry Lake. After a closer examination of the area, we noticed a few sticks with brightly colored flags placed in holes in the ground. These holes were carefully carved into the ground and sleeved with plastic inserts.









Looking into the distance we could see a number of people enjoying the day playing golf. The rumor was true. There actually is a full eight-teen hole golf course in Kayenta, it may not have the lush green turf and putting greens of an expensive golf resort, but the challenge of playing in an unspoiled natural environment with spectacular views of Black Mesa in the south and beautiful red sandstone formations in the north make up for it.

Many locals of Kayenta have said that they enjoy playing golf at Dry Lake because they feel it is something they can call their own, a place where everyone can enjoy a nice day playing golf with friends and family.



Tohdenasshai Shelter Home is sponsoring our 16th Annual Tohdenasshai Shelter Home golf tournament on July 3, 2006 at lake Powell National Golf Course. This golf tournament supports a great cause. Registration is \$100.00 per player or \$360.00 per team (foursome). It begins with an 8:00am shotgun start. A BBQ is included in the registration for players.

If you would like to register, volunteer or sponsor a hole, please contact Geri at (928) 697-3635.

For more information please call (928) 697-3635.

16TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

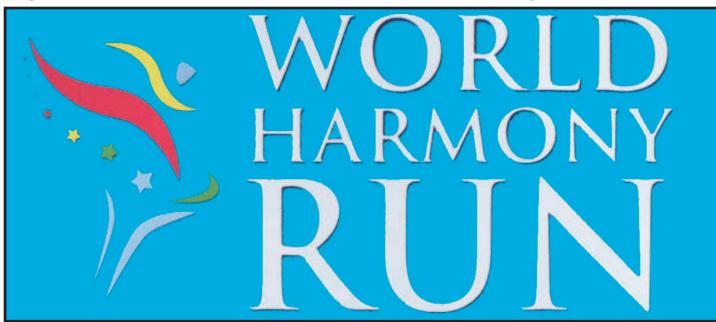
Monday, July 3, 2006 8:00 a.m. (mst) Shotgun Start 4 player scramble - BBQ Dinner - Raffle - Prizes

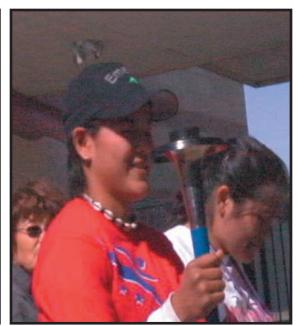
Lake Powell National Golf Course Page, Arizona

Registration Fees - \$100 per player or \$360 per team (4-some)

Name	Phone		
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Name	Phone	St	Zip
Address		St_	Zip
Mail entry form and contribution to:	F	or moi	re information contact:
Tohdenasshai Shelter Home	Geri at (928)697-3635 or		
P.O. Box 1510 Kayenta, AZ 86033	g	laught	er-tsh@citlink.net

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The World Harmony Run organization ran through Kayenta on May 28, 2007. The Kayenta Township, Kayenta Chapter, and local businesses, organizations, and community members welcomed them to Kayenta at the Kayenta Visitor Center. The welcoming ceremony was organized by Jarvis Williams of the Kayenta Township and Christine Tso of Wells Fargo Bank. Many local runners volunteered to participate in the run from El Captain to Tsegi Canyon. This was the second time the World Harmony Run has come through Kayenta.





















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Y.E.S. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

A 2-day mountain bike trip in southern Utah, a hip hop event at a local school, Tour de Rez planning sessions. . . . it's all a week in the life of Y.E.S., the Youth Empowerment program serving the Navajo Nation out of Kayenta. The project has been around since 1994 and is now reaching out to over 20 communities across the Nation. Y.E.S. is best known for its outdoor adventure programs, such as the Tour de Rez and Chuska Challenge, but the organization also is implementing a youth leadership project in schools, conducts community education and occasionally brings positive music acts into the schools and communities in which in works.





The Paradise Loop Ride mountain bike trip led off this action-packed week for Y.E.S. The Loop Ride is a dramatic 88-mile mountain bike ride beginning and ending in Shonto, traversing some of the most rugged country on the Navajo Nation. The route covers the Tall Mountain area, Sage Valley, Piute Mesa and Piute Canyon, with an overnight camp at Navajo Mountain. The hearty riders who took the challenge were treated to a perfect weekend - ideal spring weather in the canyon country, stunning scenery, a crystal clear night for star-gazing, a scrumptious menu all weekend and cozy accommodations at the "Lodge at Naatsisaan". This ride was geared toward strong adult riders who rode as a benefit for Y.E.S.' youth programs and brought together folks from around the rez, plus as far away as Flagstaff and Prescott. The other benefit ride on Y.E.S. calendar that is created for the general public is the Chuska

Challenge in the Chuska Mountains east of Tsaile. This year's Chuska is set for Saturday, October 7.

The "C.I.B. Tour - Native Hip Hop Movement" was a groundbreaking tour of some of North America's hottest hip hop artists. The tour hit venues in L.A., Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, with Kayenta in the middle. The Kayenta events including two shows at Kayenta Community School (KCS) and an evening gig at the Golden Sands. Acts such as Quese iMC, Red Cloud, Camp Culture Shock, RezOfficial and others received rave reviews from the Kayenta crowds. Organizer Larry Price says this event was the first of its kind, and will likely spawn other similar events in the future. A hip hop music festival is among the possibilities. Y.E.S., KCS' Leadership Team and Golden Sands were the local sponsors of the events, but it was the crowds that made them a big hit.



The focus of Y.E.S. now is on the Tour de Rez, a 22-day, 1000-mile journey around the Navajo Nation in June. The Tour brings together schools from around the Nation on a relay-style event in which riders will trek on for two or three days each. Students from Ganado, Whitehorse, Kayenta, T'iis Naazbas, Red Mesa, Navajo Mountain, Seba Delkai, Red Valley, Lukachukai, Rocky Ridge,





part on this fantastic journey through some of the most amazing country on the reservation. Beginning at the Four Corners, this year's route travels down the San Juan River to Montezuma Creek and on bike through Red Mesa and Mexican Water en route to Monument Valley. From MV, riders will tackle an arduous route through "no man's land" to Navajo Mountain and on to Rainbow Bridge. The journey continues to Marble Canyon and on foot across Grand Canyon. Back on the bikes, riders head toward Cameron and along the Little Colorado River, past Grand Falls and across the southern reservation to Ganado and on to Window Rock. The journey ends with a climactic four-day stint in the Chuska Mountains.

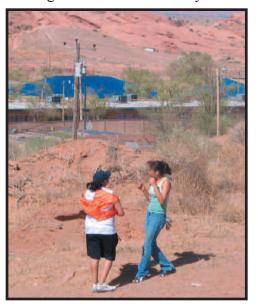
If you are interested in any of Y.E.S.' programs, you can visit the organization's website at www.navajoyes.org.



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ROJECT PRIDE 200

On a sand-blasting Saturday, April 22, the Project Pride group and its volunteers sought out to clean the community armed with gloves, trash bags, water, and a lot of motivation. In addition to its 4-member group, Project Pride enlisted approximately 112 community members to help clean the community of Kayenta. It was a tough task to conquer but at the end of the day the group had managed to brave the wind and sand to accumulate over 100 bags of trash. When asked about the success of the project, Project Pride director, Jarvis Williams had this to say, "Last year, we had 68 volunteers and this year we had over 100 volunteers. It's all about the volunteers, because the more volunteers we have the bigger voice it creates when it comes to valuing a healthier community."



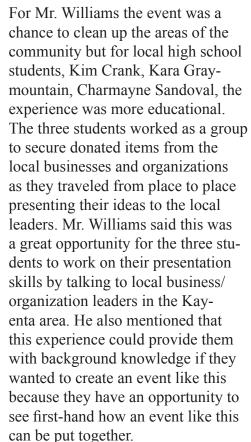
A clean community is just what the volunteer group was aiming for when they decided to continue with this event, which is in its third year. In the spring of 2004, social studies teacher, Jarvis Williams, created Project Pride as a way for his students to get involved with the community and since then Project Pride seems to be annual event in conjunction with Earth Day. Every year as Earth Day (April 22) nears Mr. Williams and a few of his students visit local businesses and organizations to generate support for the local event.











Following the event the three students were asked about what they had learned and what they did to prepare, they all agreed that they had to learn how to present the information to people they did not know, which made them nervous, excited, and a little scared. After it was all over they said they would do it again because of the experience and opportunities.

Continued on Page 7



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"This year we decided to make it bigger by increasing the amount of organizations we visit for support and ordering t-shirts for the volunteers", said Mr. Williams. With assistance from Wells Fargo, Project Pride was able to order 100 t-shirts for the volunteers as incentive for volunteering their time for the community. In addition to the increased enlistment of local support, the group even invited KTNN radio, Dr. Shirley, and Miss Navajo Nation to attend the event. Mr. Williams mentioned that even though KTNN was unable to attend the event they had sent some donations for the group, which was greatly appreciated. A representative from the Shirley group also sent some donations in support of their event. Miss Navajo had prior engagements so she was unable to attend the event; however she was a participant of previous Project Pride events.











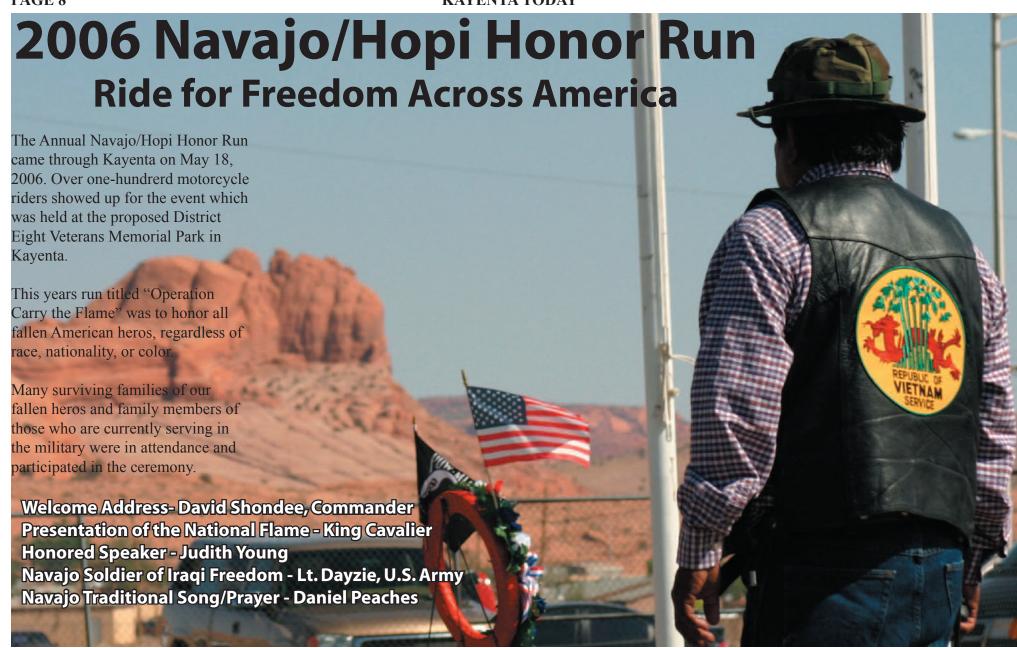
The local businesses donated trash bags, gloves, and water. The Kayenta Township took care of the luncheon and the Chapter House brought some pizza for the participants. The Cancer Center of Flagstaff donated sunscreen towelettes to the volunteers, as well as, brochures about the importance of sunscreen. The Project Pride group would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and effort in cleaning-up the community. The event would not have been possible without the assistance of concerned citizens of the community. Next year, we would like to invite more people to participate and join us in creating a healthier community. Project Pride would like to recognize these businesses and organizations for their contribution to maintaining a healthy community.

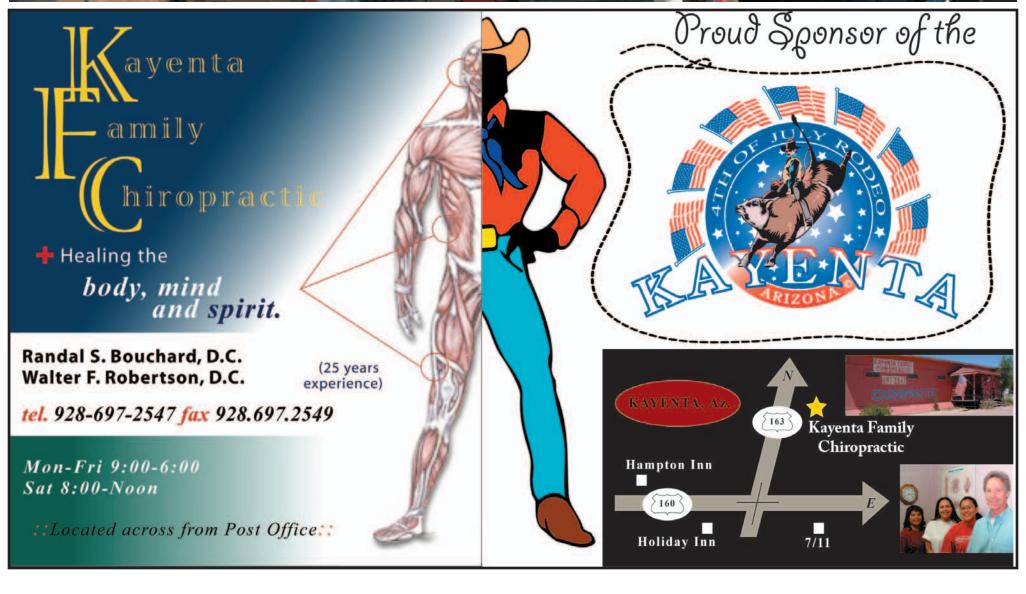
Project Pride thanks the following: Kayenta Township Wells Fargo Bank-Kayenta Bran



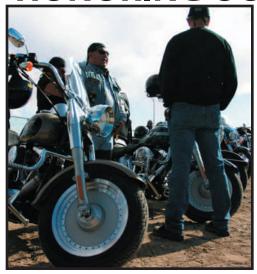
Kayenta Township
Kayenta Chapter House
Bashas'
Kayenta Trading Post
Holiday Inn
Conoco/Mustang Gas Station
Mario Dominquez
Office of Environmental Health
Mine Safety Health Administration
National Honor Society(MVHS)
Parents of Kim Crank(for the use of their truck)

Wells Fargo Bank-Kayenta Branch Kayenta Indian Health Service True Value ADOT- Kayenta Maintenance Navajo Arts and Crafts N.T.U.A. Office of Behavioral Health Kayenta Women's Shelter Cancer Center of Flagstaff KTNN Radio Station PAGE 8 KAYENTA TODAY





HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROS - YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

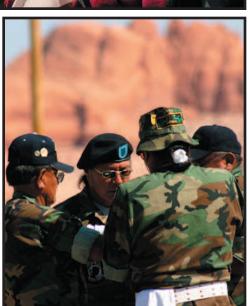




















Kayenta Burger King, The Largest Navajo Code Talkers Exhibit in the USA



Kayenta - Chinle - Shiprock - Burnside Juction

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JUSTICE AND LAW

DAY IN KAYENTA

The Kayenta District Court held its Annual Justice and Law Day on Friday, May 5 in Kayenta at the Kayenta Judicial District. The purpose of the Justice and Law Day was to inform and educate the public about the services the **Kayenta Judicial District provide to its** local and surrounding communities. The theme for this years Judicial and Law Day was "What is my Right? Bilagaana Law v. Laws of the Dine". This theme emphasized the community's role in addressing its social problems. A free luncheon and an open house was also provided to all that attended the event.



"What is my Right?"
Bilagaana Law v. Laws
of the Dine'



KAYENTA GOES DIGITAL

Show Low, AZ- CellularOne is pleased to announce a new digital cell site in Kayenta, AZ. The digital tower has long been awaited in Kayenta and the surrounding areas.

Digital service offers many new and exciting features to the user experience. A wider variety of cellular phones is available on the GSM network; also battery life is greatly improved plus features such as caller ID and text messaging are available. CellularOne has worked hard over the last ten years to offer cellular service to the Navajo Nation. In the next six months, Cellular One will offer data services to all of its customers, which will allow them to surf the internet, play interactive games, and watch TV right from their cell phones. Richard Watkins, CellularOne CEO, states, "Our company is committed to providing state-of-the-art digital, wireless communications to the Navajo Nation, the days of waiting for the latest technology are over for the largest Native American tribe in the country. I believe that everyone needs telecommunication infrastructure for health and safety reasons and as a fundamental foundation for economic growth."





"The township of Kayenta should be congratulated for their vision and action in acquiring these communications assets for their citizens. In addition, the Resources committee of the Navajo Tribal Council has greatly improved the process for granting permission to build telecommunications infrastructure on the Navajo Nation. Their progressive view working with many companies will only serve to accelerate the telecommunications offerings to the Navajo people," Watkins states.

Cellular One pioneered a radical change in the way the federal government provides subsidies for telecommunications services. Cell One successfully convinced the Federal Communications Commission that the only way to provide basic telephone services to the vast majority of households on the Navajo Nation would be to do so wirelessly. In the year 2000 Cellular One became qualified to offer subsidized wireless service and the Vision One program was born. There are now thousands of Vision One customers, most residing on the Navajo Nation. The percentage of Navajo households with some form of telecommunications service has grown from 20 percent in 2000, to over 80 percent today.





Network and Real Estate Director, Brian Gilbert, stated "This program is one that will greatly improve the safety and welfare for thousands of Native Americans in northern Arizona. CellularOne is committed to making this program a total success as well as improving cellular services to the people on the Navajo, Hopi, and White Mountain Apache tribal lands". CellularOne Chief Executive Officer, Richard Watkins, also echoed the benefits of this "first of a kind" program, stating, "We have been working very aggressively with the FCC and the Arizona Corporation Commission officials to be the first in the cellular arena to have access to funds traditionally used by landline companies. Our VisionOne program will be bringing a service that others take for granted. Thousands of Native Americans within our serving area will be able to have affordable, reliable cellular service so they can call for emergency services and be able to communicate with other family members. Additionally, by having the availability of state-of-the-art cellular communications service, the overall economic development picture for these reservations will greatly improve. This partnership is clearly a "win-win" for everyone".



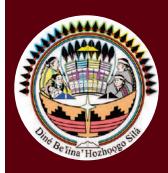




To reach more people, Cellular One embarked on an ambitious plan to overlay the existing analog network with digital coverage. In 2003, GSM digital technology was introduced to our customers. The past three years have been spent building out this new network throughout the Navajo Nation. Now CellularOne has more than 120 cell sites deployed with 38 of those on the Navajo Nation, and plans to have as many as 47 towers in this region by the end of 2007. CellularOne together with the Navajo Nation is pleased to be accomplishing the great mission of Diminishing the Digital Divide.

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Navajo Department of Behavioral Health Services Restoring Healthy Families Using Culturally Appropriate Behavioral Health Services



The Navajo Nation DBHS shall increase years of healthy, productive and functional lives of Navajo individuals by preventing, reducing or eliminating use, abuse, and addiction of alcohol, other mood altering substances/ drugs, which in return will also reduce or eliminate mental disorders, domestic violence and other abuses.



"The Beauty Way of Life" - A Life Without Alcohol or Harmful Substances.

Kayenta DBHS Program

The Navajo Nation currently provides alcohol and substance abuse services to the Navajo people in the Kayenta, AZ region through an office established in Kayenta AZ.

The services available include prevention, education, alternative treatment services, and clinical treatment.

DBHS is committed to providing services that are culturally appropriate and respectful of the individual need of the person receiving treatment. Privacy and respect are the guiding principles of treatment.

In 1953, PL83-277 lifted prohibition, permitting Native Americans to drink in bars and have possession of liquor off-reservation. Since that time, alcohol-related mortality, morbidity, and violence began to increase. Alcohol is not allowed on the Navajo Nation today.

Alcoholism has negatively impacted the Navajo people. In a five year period from 1998 to 2003, there were a total of 44,628 arrests on Navajo Nation for drunk driving. In 2005, the Navajo Nation Department of Highway Safety reported 8,000 arrests for DUI/DWI.

The health and social consequences of alcohol and substance abuse continues to rise and negatively impacts the lives of Navajo youth, adults and families.

However, the Kayenta DBHS envisions a sober and healthier Navajo Nation. Why? Alcoholism and drug addiction are diseases that are treatable.

Many people literally lose their lives to alcohol or substance abuse. In the Navajo philosophy, people can by restored to the "Beauty Way of Life". Providing treatment services has made a difference. Kayenta DBHS have seen many men and women restored in their roles as: grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers, mothers, brother, and sisters.

Through receiving treatment services, individuals can once again become contributing members of their families and communities. The Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services envisions a sober and healthier Navajo Nation.



The Kayenta DBHS Prevention Specialist teaches young people about how alcohol affects the body

If you are a parent, grandparent or any other person who cares about a child's future... here is an important fact you should know. Kids who learn from their parents about the dangers of harmful substances are less likely to use those substances. In other words, you have the power to keep the child you love... safe, healthy, and drug-free.

Children look to their parents for life decisions and choices. Two-thirds of kids say that losing their parents' respect and pride is one of the main reasons they don't smoke marijuana or use other drugs. Your words and action matter to them. Its your responsibility to teach them to live a drug-free life!

"Keeping Your Kids Drug-free:A How-to-guide for Parents and Caregivers" National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign

Kayenta Outpatient Treatment Center

Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services P.O. Box 487

Kayenta, Arizona, 86003

Phone: (928) 697-5570

Fax: (928) 697-5574

SATURDAY July 1st - ACE'S WILD

MONDAY July 3rd - ACE'S WILD

SONS OF WAYMORE

SONS OF WAYMORE

FRIDAY June 30th, COUNTRY JAM

9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m MVHS OLD

COUNTRY DANCES

entral Rodeo Entry System







Year 2002 Rodeo 2003 ₫

INFR ALL INDIAN TOUR RODEO
Entry Fee Added Money Long & Short

Trophy Saddles for each event champion

Sponsored by Kayenta Burger King / Kayenta Hampton Inn

Four Night Performances

7:30pm 7:30pm 8:00am Monday July 3rd, 2006 Fuesday July 4th, 2006 (Short go Top 10)

J.R.A. RODEO

July 4th 2006 8:00 A.M. Sharp

CES: Victoria J. Pablo © 505-786-5586 6:00 P.M. Walk In July 3, 2006 From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Money must be in by July 3, 2006 6:00 p.m.

(Prior to Rodeo Performance)

James & Ernie July 02, 2006 6:45 P.M.

FREE B-B-O

Kayenta Rodeo Grounds Info: Johnny Hollister **June 30th, 2000** 5:00 p.m.

(928) 697-2234

Rodeo Announcer: Jay Harwood 5 Time NFR Announcer

Saddles will be awarded to event champions

Non-Members will have to purchase a one time PERMIT FEE of \$30.00

IuIy 4th 2006

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Proudly Sponsored By: Kayenta Township Kayenta Chapter

ily Chiropractic, C & I Show Hardware, SSPW, Kayenta Wells Fargo Bank UMWA 1924, Computer Assets Inc., Hufford & Horstman Law, Plateau Engineering, Kraemer Engineering, Grommes & Mead Engine Rodeo Sponsors Will Not Be Held Liable For any Damages, Accidents, or Theft That Occur Before, During and after the Rodeo.

Holiday Drn

Kayenta Holiday Inn Official Rodeo Headquarter For Reservations Call. (928) 697-3221 Contestant W

www.KayentaRodeo.com

Official Rodeo Sponsors

on Industries, Inc. Kayenta Township, Ka PAGE 14 KAYENTA TODAY

Film festival offers unique offerings by contemporary Indigenous film makers

Flagstaff, AZ - The 3rd Annual Southwest Native American Film and Video Festival recognizes and emphasizes the Southwest's unique offerings by contemporary Indigenous media makers.

Held in Flagstaff, Arizona at the Museum of Northern Arizona, July 14–15, 2006, this two day festival features video, film and animation as well as a panel discussion exploring issues surrounding Native filmmaking. Invited filmmakers will be in attendance to answer questions about their work.

Presented by Indigenous Action Media, Flagstaff Cultural Partners and

the Museum of Northern Arizona, the festival also seeks to provide an opportunity for audiences of all ages to further their understanding of Indigenous cultures today.

Screenings will be held at the Museum of Northern Arizona in the Branigar/Chase Auditorium. Weekend festival passes can be purchased in advance for \$18 (\$14 for students) and general and student admission fees will be collected at the door. Please call 928/779-2300 for additional information or visit these websites for a schedule of events: www.indigenousaction.org, www.musnaz.org, and www.culturalpartners.org.



The award winning film "Trudell" directed by Heather Rae will be screening at this years Southwest Native American Film and Video Festival.

TRUDELL follows the life work of Native American poet/activist John Trudell. Filmmaker Heather Rae has spent more than a decade chronicling his travels, spoken word and politics in a poetic and naturally stylized manner. The film combines archival, concert and interview footage with abstract imagery mirroring the coyote nature of Trudell himself. Incorporating years of work, 16mm and Super 8 film, video, and archival footage, TRUDELL begins in the late sixties when John Trudell and a community group, Indians of All Tribes, occupied Alcatraz Island for 21 months creating international recognition of the American Indian cause and birthing the contemporary Indian people's movement. The film goes to Alcatraz, returning to what John refers to as his "birth." From Alcatraz we follow John's political journey as the National Spokesman of the American Indian Movement (AIM)--this work making him one of the most highly volatile political 'subversives' of the 1970's with one of the longest FBI files in history (over 17,000 pages.)

In 1979, while protesting the US government's policy on American Indians, John burned an American Flag on the steps of the FBI head-quarters in Washington DC. Within a matter of hours his pregnant wife, three children and mother in law were killed in a suspicious arson fire on a Nevada reservation. This ended John's involvement in organizational politics. He spent the next four years

driving America in a car given to him by his friend and fellow activist, Jackson Browne. It was during this period that John's voice as a poet began to surface. His gift as an orator carried him through his pain and he found a new way to represent his manifesto and cause.

In 1983 he began to put his words to music with the help of Kiowa guitar legend, the late Jesse Ed Davis, and Jackson Browne. Even his early recordings reflect an articulate sensibility and eloquence about the state of the world, moving him into the realm of social theorist and philosopher. John does not adhere to a dogma or school of thought but has created his own diatribe based in experience, having lived through and taken part in some of the most turbulent American political events of the past century. In an interview with Native actor, Gary Farmer (Dead Man), he referred to Trudell as "the Native people's prophet of these times, our Socrates."

The film combines interviews with his allies from the entertainment community, the 'movement' days, and his friends and family with archival footage, concert footage from all over the world and abstract imagery. TRUDELL is intended to be a film that steps outside of traditional forms, even for Native films, and explores a figure of our contemporary history in a way that fairly represents the evocative nature of his work and significance.





The film begins with Pearl, a young runaway, who has just arrived unexpectedly at her aunt's reservation home. Indolent and bored, Pearl meets Grace, a poor woman who sells banana bread at the local government offices. From this first encounter with Grace, Pearl gets the idea that she can sell the bread herself. What ensues is a life lesson Pearl learns by observing Grace and her inherent goodness - her grace.

Change is imminent within all cultures and nothing shows this more clearly than with the growing youth of indigenous peoples. And to meet the ongoing ebb and flow of life, the Diné must retain lingual and cultural teachings to ensure their path to Sa'ah Nagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón (Walking in Beauty into Old Age). In essence, this is the fundamental pursuit of all Diné: to live a long life. This short documentary was initially thought to provide a glimpse of a remarkable young Diné man's life on the reservation.





Federal Trust Land vs Free Enterprise

Daniel Peaches - Kayenta Town Manager

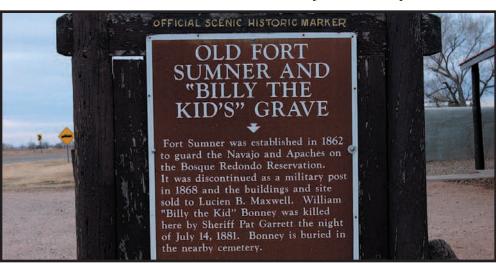
The Federal Government put Indians on Federal Trust Land to protect them form white settlers in the great westward migration in the latter part of the 19th century. For the Navajo, it was the Treaty of 1868 when the cast Navajo territory was reduced to two to three million acres of land. The rest of Navajo homeland, some 50 million acres were open to settlers and prospectors.

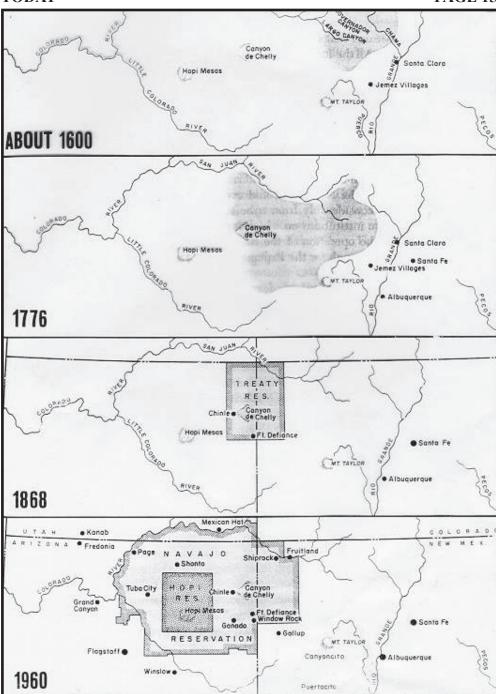
The trust status was first a blessing for it stopped white intrusion into Navajo land but in the latter part of the 20th century it became more of an enclosure than an opportunity for the Native People. The Federal Government failed to put the necessary development to support the growing population and instead sent Navajo children to off reservation boarding schools and relocated them to distant cities.

John Collier, a reform minded Secretary of the Interior tried to develop the land to support the Navajos but the Great Depression of the 1930's put an end to his efforts. World War

II put many Navajos in uniforms and shipped to foreign lands. Navajo attachment to land and his cultural heritage was broken. The farmlands and livestock management disappeared and idleness and alcoholism destroyed and is still destroying many lives. There has been lack of economic opportunities on the Navajo Nation the past 60 plus years. In the 1950;'s leaders such as Sam Ahkeah and Paul Jones tried to bring opportunities for the Navajo people using tribal funds, but federal and tribal programs only made the people even more dependent on the Public funds. Free enterprises such as farming and livestock's became a thing of the past.

In a large part, free enterprise such as commercial development became impossible because of the trust status of the land. Recognizing this, the border towns seized on this and developed shopping centers and auto dealerships in the border communities, further sucking the life blood of the Navajos into their pockets.





The Navajo Nation Councils Economic Development Committee came to Kayenta and held two days of Public Hearings on February 22-23rd, 2006, hopefully to address this issue yet it turned out to be more of a gripe session against the Kayenta Township.

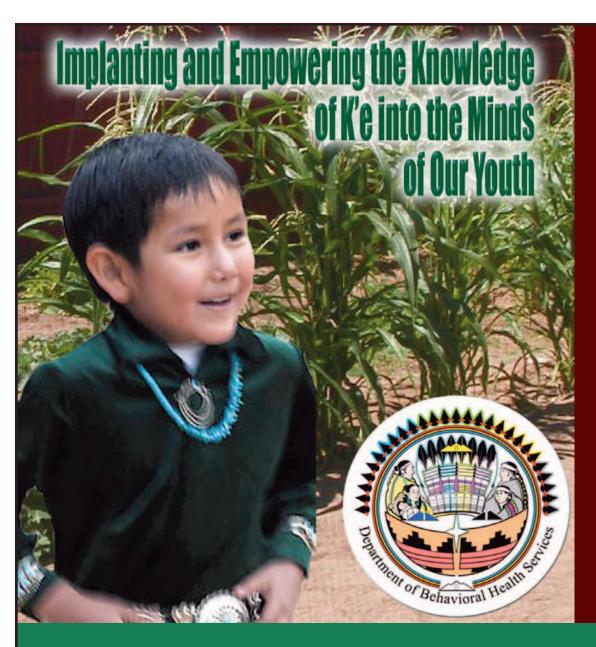
Nina Heflin, the daughter of three generations of traders on the Navajo Nation pleaded with the Committee, "We need 99 year leases from the Navajo Nation, not the 25 year leases in order to bring more investments onto the Navajo Nation". But the Committee appeared to want to know what was wrong with Kayenta Township, not what was right with this new concept of local control. Ms. Heflin plead for local control and local autonomy but the calls for doing away with the Township took center stage at the hearing.

In order for the Navajo People to survive, in order to keep the Navajo dollars on the reservation, local con trol and local self determination must be given to the Navajo People at the local level.

As Kayenta Chapter President Albert Bailey stated, "There will be growing pains at first, but in the long run, local control, including collection of fees and taxes at the community level will make the communities self-sufficient and self-sustaining".

Doing away with the Township would result in the local tax dollars leaving the community and ending up in the general fund in Window Rock, keeping the local communities dependent on the tribal government. Maybe this is what our tribal government wants, but that is not in the best interest of the Navajo People.

Private sector development is the key to Navajo Economics and Political Survival. And this is only possible through local initiatives and local efforts.



July 17 - 19, 2006

Dennehotso Community School in Dennehotso, AZ

If you would like to attend or want more information, please contact:

Dorothea R. Denetsosie Kayenta DBHS (928) 697-5570

2006 Dennehotso Youth Gamp

Dine Be'iina Hozhoogo Sila - Kayenta DBHS

July 24-25, 2006 Forest Lake Chapter House

For more information contact:

Kayenta Department of Behavioral Health Services Dorethea R. Denetsosie (928) 697-5570