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# THE KAYENTA TODAY

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

A Free Publication from the Kayenta Township



Kayenta Graduates  
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## Kayenta Forth Of July Rodeo Set To Become Premier Southwest Event

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – The Kayenta Fourth of July All Indian Rodeo and Festivities will be held July 01 to July 04, 2009 and is headed to become the premier All-Indian Rodeo in Indian Country.

The rodeo's website touts: "Kayenta has a long storied past of producing the best All Indian cowboys and cowgirls in all of Indian rodeo. It is with that same story we bring you the best All-Indian Rodeo in North America."

The Kayenta 4th of July Rodeo has grown over the years, and has set its sights on having the most contestants this year. "Since Window Rock will not be hosting an All-Indian Rodeo this year, we are expecting a record number of rodeo contestants," says the rodeo coordinator.

The Kayenta 4th of July Rodeo has been recognized 6 times as the Rodeo of the Year and twice as the Outstanding Rodeo by the All-Indian Rodeo Association, making it one of the premier rodeos to attend here in the Southwest.

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## EDC Delegates Authority To Township

By Malcom Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – The Economic Development Committee held its second regular meeting at the Kayenta Town Hall on Wednesday, June 03, 2009. Over 60 people packed the Town Hall as they waited patiently on this historic day in Kayenta, Arizona as the EDC approved and delegated its Business Site Leasing authority to the Kayenta Township.

Around 10:00 pm, community leaders and long time supporters of the Kayenta Township began to arrive, some from as far away as Wolf Creek, CO, Albuquerque, NM, and Phoenix, AZ. Some came early to meet the Town Manager, Jarvis Williams and the current Township Commissioners whose administration has now been at work a little over six months.

The day's audience patiently milled around and chatted until about 10:40 am when the Navajo Nation Economic Development Committee Chair Lawrence Platero called the meeting to order. After accepting the day's agenda items, roll call, public announcements, and

## Kayenta Township Staff and Commission Move Forward After Six Months

KAYENTA, AZ – After three Town Hall meetings, work sessions, and special meetings to coordinate plans with inter-agencies, the Kayenta Township Commission and staff are finishing up the groundwork for several projects to go into construction, or begin in-house surveying and/or design work.

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Signing of the Resolution: front and center Lawrence Platero, EDC Chairperson. Front Row Left to Right: Mel R. Begay, Katherine Benally, Tom LaPahe, Helen Bonnaha. Back Row Left to Right: Jarvis Williams, Town Manager, Delores Greyeyes, Roy Dempsey, Jonathan Nez, Lorenzo Isaac.

and acknowledging the previous meeting minutes, the Committee got down to business.

KTNN, the voice of the Navajo Nation, was on-site for a 3 hour live remote broadcast.

The Committee Chair and the Township acknowledged current and past

leaders in the audience including the Chapter delegation from Sheep Springs, NM, former Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah, Dr. Gerald Knowles from Wolf Creek, CO, the current Township Commissioners, Navajo County Board of Supervisors for District I/Navajo Nation Council Delegate Jonathan Nez

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## Town Managers Message: Taking the Next Step

By **Jarvis Williams**  
**Kayenta Town Manager**

There was a time when I thought that the economic times of the Depression would never resurface in the United States. I had thought that the stock market would not be allowed to drop as much as it has. However, since the crash of the housing market those thoughts have become more real as we've seen or know of many families that feel the effects as they struggle to make ends meet.

In Kayenta, that struggle is all too familiar as it has become a way of life for many families. Some even joke and say that the Depression never left the reservation.

Some might ask why is it that way? Does it have to be that way? What is left is a feeling of frustration and the need to see change.

In the recent book titled, "Rebuilding Native Nations" the authors discussed reasons why economic development is struggling on reservations and wrote about seven challenges that tribal governments faced over the last few decades. Organizational Weakness, Functional Overload, Financial Dependence on Outsiders, A Primary Focus on Program and Service Delivery were all mentioned as challenges that "handicapped" tribal governments.

They said that in the past, tribal governments wanted to assert their tribal authority but were hampered by federal policy that limited their actions and created a sense of dependency while at the same time tribal people saw their government as a "fix everything for everybody" approach. With these perspectives dominating the scene it was difficult for tribal communities to move forward.

Former leaders of Kayenta, such as Albert Bailey, Elwood Saganey and the late Keith Smith, had seen and experienced the aforementioned challenges in their local government.

Knowing that Kayenta sat in a place where the existing laws did not favor economic

sibilities the local Kayenta leaders put their thoughts together to draft a form of government only practiced outside the boundaries of the Navajo Nation.

Dr. Gerald Knowles stepped into the picture, gathered the ideas from the local leaders and drafted a concept paper that by and large provided the framework of a government that would eventually become the Kayenta Township.

It began as a simple concept, local governance. Local governance meant more local control, which meant an opportunity to determine a new direction that would hopefully improve the quality of life for its residents.

Since then, the Kayenta Township has matured from a planning board to a Commission which has implemented ordinances, sales tax collection, a solid waste transfer station, Recreation Park, street lights and other initiatives that will benefit the community.

Today, the Kayenta Township is ready to take the next step by obtaining the authority to conduct Business Site Leasing within its boundaries. Obtaining the delegation of authority to approve and manage business site leasing is a tremendous step towards the exercise of local governance.

In addition, it will improve the way business is done on the Navajo Nation as the business lease process is tremendously shortened which is a benefit to the business community and to the Navajo Nation overall.

In looking at the bigger picture, the Navajo Nation has also recognized the need for change in the way that it perceives economic development. In the last 10 years, we have seen the Navajo Nation take tremendous strides in passing legislation that creates an improved environment for economic development.

One of the first things they did was shorten the lease process by removing the BIA from the leasing process and then creating legislation that would allow local communities the opportunity to approve and manage their leases.



With all these improvements in the laws what remains to be seen is if the changes in the law will be enough to see a dramatic impact on the economic activity within the Navajo Nation.

The effects or impacts may take a few years before an accurate assessment of increased economic activity is made. However, there is another contributing factor that has and will continue to hinder the progress of economic activity on the reservation, which is the need for new or improved infrastructure.

For businesses wanting to locate on the Navajo Nation the cost of additional infrastructure is sometimes a determining factor of whether they will locate on the reservation or not.

Costly infrastructure has always been one of those challenges that have plagued the progress of economic activity within communities of the Navajo Nation. Combined with recognition and action on the need to add or improve the existing infrastructure and the addition of leasing authority communities can increase their opportunities for economic development.

Although, the cost of infrastructure is high there are Navajo communities, such as Tuba City, Chinle, Fort Defiance and Shiprock that sit in a better position to obtain resources necessary to add or improve the existing infrastructure.

Certainly, there are other LGA-certified chapters, such as Nahata Dził, Sheep Springs, Tuba City, that will seek the same

leasing authorities that will bring more local control to their areas but for now it is Shonto Community Governance and Kayenta Township that have obtained that authority.

Good leadership, community support, proper planning, guidance, and a hard-working staff are essential for local governments to move forward. We know that there has to be participation at all levels of government and community for these types of initiatives to be achieved.

The Kayenta Township could not have moved forward in the 24 years of existence if not for the hard working committed people that envisioned what the leaders had sought and putting it into action.

So, to answer the question mentioned at the beginning, it doesn't have to be that way. The recent approval by the Navajo Nation Economic Development Committee for the delegation of leasing authority to the Kayenta Township is an example of the new laws taking action. Communities have the potential and opportunity to change their current situation and current Navajo laws are changing to become more community and business friendly.

In closing, I believe it is proper to acknowledge the efforts of so many people that assisted in the delegation of authority to approve and manage business site leases within the boundaries of the Kayenta Township.

We would like to thank:  
 Registered Voters of the Kayenta Township  
 Registered Voters of the Kayenta Chapter  
 Present and Prior Township Commissioners  
 Kayenta Planning Board Members  
 Present and Prior Township Administration  
 Present and Prior Chapter Officials  
 Present and Prior Chapter Administration  
 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st  
 Navajo Nation Council Members  
 Office of the Navajo Nation Chairman and  
 President  
 21st Navajo Nation Economic Development  
 Committee  
 Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development  
 Kayenta Business Association  
 Navajo Nation Department of Justice  
 Stella Saunders, Frye Law Firm  
 Patterson Joe



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NN Council Delegate Roy Laughter, members of the EDC, Karis Begay from the Department of Justice, and Jeanette Jones from the Department of Economic Development, and the Kayenta Township staff.

A group from the Sheep Springs Chapter also came out from the Eastern Navajo Agency to do a report on the construction of a Tourism and Welcome Center in Sheep Springs, NM off U.S. Highway 491 near Nashchitti, NM. The Sheep Springs Chapter received its Local Governance Act certification on August 24, 2007 from the Navajo Nation.

After the Committee passed a resolution for NTUA, Committee Chair Lawrence Platero got down to business to address delegation of business site leasing authority for the Kayenta Township. Sitting on the panel for the Township were Legislation sponsor and Committee member Roy Dempsey, Town Manager Jarvis Williams, and Council Delegate Roy Laughter. They sat on the panel with the Navajo Nation DED Review Team; Karis Begay, Department of Justice; Jeanette Jones, Department of Economic Development, and Sally Begay from the Regional Business Development Office.

The Navajo Nation Economic Development Committee resolution #0268-09 (that was considered in conjunction with approving the Business Site Leasing Management Plan/Administrative) read as follows: An Action: Relating to Economic Development; Authorizing The Delegation Of Approval For Business Site Leases To Kayenta Township Administrative and Business Site Leasing Management Plan And Part II, Standard Terms And Conditions For Kayenta Township Business Site Leases (Navajo Trust Land).

Town Manager, Jarvis Williams, in introducing the delegation of authority addressed the Committee, "I want to thank the EDC for creating opportunities for communities to go through this process. It's good that the Navajo Nation has the authority to address these things. We have

worked extremely hard. It's been a long time coming. We want to take the time to thank all the leaders who took the time to make a push to make a better quality of life for our residents. The guidance from our past and previous Commissioners has been extremely helpful. Certainly it's a milestone, a stepping stone to a lot of other opportunities. We are looking forward to seeking your approval," he said.

After some deliberation as the role the Township would take in regards to the lease Navajo Shopping Centers has with the Navajo Nation, Department of Justice attorney Karis Begay discussed several scenarios in which issues of management would be overlapping. So, once the conditions as to how the Navajo Shopping Centers would be "treated" in negotiating its future lease agreements were addressed, the Navajo Shopping Center lawyer said that the amendment is sufficient.

Committee member Katherine Benally made two amendments, one in regards to the Navajo Shopping Centers, and another of clarification to the resolution - without further discussion, Navajo Nation EDC Resolution # 0268-09 passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

"Now, I would like to challenge the Commission. First, I venture to say that maybe we could designate today, June 03 as the Kayenta Economic Development Sovereignty Day considering what has taken place today," she said. "I also have a challenge for the Commission, a challenge for the future commissioners: our neighboring communities bring in a lot of monies into this town. We would like to see some support, maybe part Parks and Recreations, maybe police enforcement... we ask that you look over us. And this is how I want to thank you. I am very thankful for this day. This is the first of its kind. Now we are truly looking at communities who are looking out for their best interests, in this way I want to thank the EDC."

As soon as the vote had taken place, the chair, Mr. Platero, spoke in closing: "I want to remind everyone that



The Kayenta Town Hall was filled nearly to capacity during the EDC meeting held on June 3, 2009 in Kayenta, Arizona.

this day has taken weeks and weeks of preparation and is specifically focused on a review of business site leasing authority for the Kayenta Township. We are aware that there maybe some detractors and those who maybe in opposition to the actions we have taken today. However, I would like to remind them that they would have to find their own legislator who can address that."

In closing, Madame Chair Helen Bonnaha thanked everyone for coming and gave the floor to Peterson Zah, who is currently the special advisor to the President on Indian Affairs at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ. He began with some humor, "I was writing notes to my girlfriend when you called on me" he joked. He acknowledged the women and men on the EDC. "Ashiike, when you address them as boys, they will usually vote in your favor" he joked.

"It has taken 24 years. Back then, there are many council delegates who supported this concept. Some of them are no longer with us. But, today we have with us a handful who continue their support: Albert Bailey, Thomas Bailey, Jim Store, I want to thank each one of them. There are a lot of things that are happening here in this community. There were

children there who were skating yesterday at the skate park. I came to recruit them. In fact, Monument Valley High School is the highest number of Gates scholars. I'm taking over one half of them with me, back to ASU," he said.

Mr. Zah continued, "The youth I spoke with, they really appreciate what the community has done. I spent the night at The View hotel. That was beautiful. There a lot of tourists. They were from all over America. That's what it means: when you do good work, good things happen. I want to say a lot of things are happening here. I can tell you some more stories how well some of these kids are doing today who are from this community."

"It is serious business when people give you authority. The EDC has been kind enough to give it to you. It is important how you treat people in the community from now. You now have a big responsibility. I'm going to be very happy as I drive back into 105 degree weather." And with this a traditional meal was catered by the Manymules family, the people ate Blue Corn meal, hominy stew, watermelon, and their choice of tortillas or frybread.

## "Day of the Lady Mustangs" Declared By Navajo County Supervisor Jonathan Nez



**Pictured: L to R Mustang Head Girls Basketball Coach Robert Nash, MVHS Athletic Director Jacob Holiday, and Navajo County District 1 Supervisor Jonathan Nez (All are Mustang Alumni)**

KAYENTA, AZ - The Navajo County Board of Supervisors Notice of Public Hearings, Meeting, and Agenda for Tuesday, May 26, 2009 seemed like business as usual, but on this day at the Kayenta Navajo County office, "the historic event" paved a new trail three-fold as District 1 Supervisor Jonathan Nez sat with Kayenta locals and attended the meeting by video conferencing.

After going through a normal Board of Supervisors Meeting agenda items: Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, Call to the Public, Consent Agenda, and Human Resource items, the District I Supervisor sat alongside the Honorable Susie Nelson and asked via video conferencing for the Navajo County Board of Supervisors to consider approving his Proclamation that declared May 26, 2009 as the "Day of the Lady Mustangs." It passed to huge applause from the Kayenta audience which packed Susie Nelson's chambers. Normally, the meeting room is a court room where non-Navajos go before the Judge for traffic citations or other court violations.

The Monument Valley Lady Mustangs clenched the 3-A State Champions after defeating #1 ranked Winslow Bulldogs 47-46 at the

Jobbing.com Arena back in March 2009, in a put back shot in the final 3-seconds of the championship game. The season was considered one of the biggest comeback seasons for the young Lady Mustangs basketball team. Lady Mustangs Coach Robert Nash also topped the season off with Coach of the Year honors. The lady Mustangs ended their season with a 22 wins and 9 losses (the lady Bulldogs, top seed all season long ended their season with 29 wins and 2 losses against the Lady Mustangs).

The Lady Mustangs who were in attendance for the days festivities were: Kenisha Begay, Nicolette Parrish, Chelsea Holiday, Anjilave Black, Destinee Holiday, Phillisia Begay, Deonna Yayzie, and Mariah Gilmore.

The Lady Mustangs were presented with a plaque acknowledging their achievement along with Coach Robert Nash and Athletic Director Jacob Holiday. Afterwards, the Lady Mustangs, 9 of the team members who were in attendance, sang "Happy Birthday" to Mr. Jonathan Nez as his family members and his wife looked on. But, when asked later about his age, he smiled and shook his head, "No Comment."

At the same event, Mr. Nez also recognized the Navajo National Monument for their 100-Year Centennial. From the Navajo National Monument, three staff members were in attendance and they were able to address the Board of Supervisor about their upcoming activities. Staff members from the National Park who were in attendance were: Nancy Skinner, Supervisor; Rueben Abrego, Facility Manager, and Rose James, Administrative Officer.

To save time for people traveling to the event, Mr. Nez asked for consideration and discussion of the Kayenta Township to receive the Suburban (from the Navajo County District I Local Transportation Assistance Fund II) on behalf to the Kayenta Veteran's Association. However, after a short discussion, the legal counsel for the Board of Supervisors wanted some clarification. It was requested that the Kayenta Township specifically pass a resolution accepting the Suburban on behalf of the Veteran's instead of the Kayenta Chapter. And, the next agenda item, they all agreed, should also note the Kayenta Township as accepting the suburban.

Mr. Nez then spoke to those in attendance that the reason the Suburban would be relinquished to the Kayenta

Township was to cut the red tape. If the Kayenta Chapter accepts the Suburban, it could be another year or two before the Veteran's could use the vehicle for transport. Mr. Nez stated that, "The Suburban will first have to go to the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation and Fleet Management." He also cited an instance where the Nation then leased the vehicle to another chapter after "processing the gift into their inventory" when the Chapter had received a vehicle as a donation, to begin with. "In the end, if the Kayenta Chapter ends up leasing the vehicle from the Navajo Nation, it will cease to be a gift from Navajo County," he said.

Jarvis Williams, the Kayenta Town Manager, said his staff will do the necessary paperwork and get the resolutions in place by June 8, 2009, in time for the next Board of Supervisor's meeting. Then local Veteran Rick Grey added to the dialogue and told the audience that, "The Veteran's Suburban will be used and made available for all Veteran's in District 8, not just within the Kayenta Chapter community. Any Veteran that needs assistance with transportation to a Veteran's Hospital can request transport and we will take them," he said.



**Pictured: MVHS Athletic Director Jacob Holiday addresses Navajo County Board of Supervisors using the newly-installed teleconferencing system.**

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After several planning sessions, the Township got reassurances from Navajo Tribal Utility Authority on their commitment to move forward on several capital improvement projects. At the meeting at The View in Monument Valley, NTUA presented information on their Three-Phase natural gas line project in Kayenta which was prioritized in several meetings with the previous 2005-2008 Commission.

The 9.16 mile natural gas line project will now move into its 2nd phase and bring natural gas to the southwest end of Kayenta business district. The 1st phase hooked up natural gas lines to Holiday Inn, Kayenta Unified School District # 27, and the Kayenta Community School.

When questioned why a lot of time businesses and residents alike have to pay out of pocket for utility set ups, NTUA Manager Wally Chief stated, "NTUA tries to keep its costs lower for its customers, but the challenge we face," he said, "is that we have to cover 25,000 square miles of the Navajo reservation. A lot of times, it is travel alone that takes up a lot of their budgeting for operational costs."

The entire Three Phase natural gas project for the Kayenta community will take up 9.16 miles of natural gas line infrastructure, Jason Denny of NTUA reported. The 3rd phase of the project will focus on the tract lands and site of the new hospital that is to be located off N-591 near the current Kayenta rodeo grounds.

Since the March 23, 2009 work session and meeting at The View in Monument Valley, UT, NTUA right-of-way agent Bernice Tsosie has continued to work closely with the Township staff.

After the NTUA presentations, Stanely Clitso, Kayenta Chapter President stated the need for the Kayenta Chapter and the Township to come together to begin addressing several Capital Improvement Projects. Because the Navajo Nation has put sanctions on the Kayenta Chapter, "A lot of authority has been relinquished to the Township, so we need to come together," he said.

**Dry Lakes Estates**

Dry Lakes Estates received a \$2.5 million grant award from NAHASDA through the Navajo Housing Authority to construct twenty (20) single-family low-income housing on the west end of Wetherill Heights within the Kayenta Township boundaries on a 10-acre tract of land.

Keyah Construction, LLC, a 100% Navajo owned company, was awarded the contract. Given the NAHASDA funding alone, Keyah Construction estimates it can only build nine [9] homes. The Dry Lakes Estates Subdivision Development will include 1) architectural design, 2) civil engineering (including paving design), 3) survey (design), 4) record revised plot with Navajo County, 5) KTC development tax, 6) site development, 7) home construction, and 8) roadway and driveway construction.

Due to current construction costs, the Kayenta Township needs an additional \$2,500,000 million in stimulus or other funding to meet the goal of constructing 20 home sites.

Conversation turned to the planned 20-housing units called the Dry Lakes Estates. The Navajo Housing Authority committed \$2.5 million to complete the project, but due to the recent economic downturn and the rising costs of construction, the project will need an additional \$2.4 million to complete all 20 homes.

The issue of gang activity within NHA housing units was voiced all around as a huge concern. "When we construct new housing units, we need to create an infrastructure for that community," Mr. Clitso stated. "Scattered homes projects like Dry Lakes Estates only invites more gang activity and juvenile delinquency," he said.

While concerns were discussed at length, participants at the meeting all agreed that the Dry Lakes Estates is a project that is inherited and handed down from the previous Commission through its community planning. Commissioner Richard Mike stated that the only way to address gang activity in any community is, "The only thing that will cure the problem of gangs is to create businesses and jobs."

**Kayenta Public Facility Projects**

Architect David R. Sloan has been given the task of completing the Master Plan architecture and design for the Kayenta Public Safety Facility by early May 2009, so the Kayenta Township can be responsive to the stimulus funding provided by current U.S. President Barack Obama.

Currently, the Commission is focusing on securing \$16 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to build and develop the Kayenta Public Safety Building Complex, designed by David Sloan Architects of Albuquerque, NM, which consists of

a 32-bed adult detention facility with a 7-bed juvenile holding cell. Phase I of this project is construction ready. A \$750,000 grant from the Navajo Nation was earmarked and used for design and architecture. The Kayenta Township will provide an additional \$750,000 in matching funds for the project for construction costs.

The Public Safety building which follows a master plan, passed by a previous Kayenta Township Commission, will be located on 24-acres of land behind the current Police Department buildings. The overall master plan, a three phase project will include a detention facility, public safety administration offices, criminal investigations department, court facilities, prosecutor's office, and possibly a juvenile detention center. The total costs for the Three Phase Public Safety project is projected to cost between \$35 to \$38 million dollars.

**Sewer Line CIO Funding**

The Kayenta Township would like to construct a sewer line for a prime business site area located directly east of Highway 163 between the Amigos Café and Kayenta Family Chiropractic. The Kayenta Economic Development Office has stated that this site has been in demand for small businesses who want to negotiate a business site lease in this area. With current growth projections, the Kayenta Township is expected to create anywhere from 30 to 50 new jobs within the next few years. Infrastructure development is one of the main obstacles in attracting businesses to locate in Kayenta. The Kayenta Township has committed \$80,000 in infrastructure development monies towards this goal.

To realize the goal of infrastructure and centralizing a business district area within the Kayenta Township, the infrastructure development project needs \$68,052.00 in stimulus funding to construct 750 feet of sewer pipe and install 4 Pre-cast Manholes in the prime business site area.

**Head Start Project**

The development of a Head Start Center here in Kayenta can begin to serve the needs of our Navajo students and future leaders. Currently, over 200 children are on a waiting list to receive a Head Start education.

The Kayenta Head Start will be located just west of the Post Office. The Navajo Nation Capital Improvement Office (CIO) allocated \$276,000 to the Kayenta Chapter for the Head Start project. Water and Sewer mains have been

constructed at the site designated for the future Kayenta Head Start.

The site for the Kayenta Head Start facility is located ¼ mile north of Highway 163, directly west of the Kayenta Post Office, east of the Tohdenasshai Shelter Home and Day Care Center. Its location is in close proximity to utility lines and has direct access to an improved road system, which connects from Highway 163 to a local housing complex.

The Kayenta Township Commission, the Kayenta Chapter, and local community are respectfully requesting stimulus funding in the amount of \$4,000,000 to provide these critical facilities for a new Head Start program.

**The Downtown Kayenta Business District**

The most exciting project currently being undertaken by the Kayenta Township Staff and Commission is the Infrastructure Development on 3-tracts of land to be the future business district of Kayenta, Arizona. Partly, because it is based on vision and because it is based on diversifying the business district of Kayenta, the April 06, 2009 Strategic Planning session at the Town Hall created a lot of interaction between staff and community members.

Community Development Director Gabriel Yazzie, Civil Engineer Don Jackson, and Planner Adrian Holiday provided a Power Point Presentation on developing retail, business, and doctor's offices near the future Kayenta Hospital.

The Planner Adrian Holiday's presentation focused on creating a community that is sustainable, active, and showcases its history through its buildings, walking trails, and architecture.



“The awards, the saddles, horse trailer, and the added money we’re putting up this year for the contestants is making this year’s event exciting and we are really looking forward to it,” says JJ Young.

In addition, a Jumbotron TV screen will be set for instant replays along with a professional rodeo announcer who will serve as the Master of Ceremony. The rodeo has gone all out to accommodate a capacity crowd this year with a Free-Pancake breakfast open to the public on July 1 and July 3, it will be held at the Rodeo Grounds beginning at 8:00 am. Then on July 4th, the Free-Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Bashas’ Shopping Center parking lot beginning at 8:00 am.

For the Rodeo events, Saturday night will showcase the Best of the Best. Each event in saddle bronc, bull riding, steer wrestling, etc., will showcase top stock for competition. The Kayenta 4th of July has secured top stock from the Willie Cattle Company of Twin Lakes, NM and from the Tsosie Brothers of Table Mesa, AZ.

Although, still in the planning stages, the Fourth of July attendees can see the first Kayenta 4th of July parade down main-street on Highway 163. The annual Kayenta Rodeo is known for its 4th of July Fireworks display, which will be held this year on Saturday night.

“I’m not a big rodeo person, but each year, I go to the 4th of July festivities mainly to see the fireworks and to watch films at the Monument Valley Film Festival, which I really enjoy,” says Carol Todecheene, Kayenta

Township Commissioner and local resident.

She explained that in the years past, she went to Page, AZ, or to Farmington, NM for the 4th of July weekend. But, one year the Bus Drivers for KUSD #27 (the department she supervises) were being recognized at the 4th of July Pow-Wow, she decided to attend. She was surprised, and has since stayed to enjoy the festivities.

“I can’t believe how many talented people we have in this community. I really enjoy the film festival, I watch the fireworks, and the fact that the rodeo organizers recognize people from the community for their work is really neat,” Mrs. Todecheene says. This year she has invited friends and relatives from as far away as Kansas and Las Vegas, to come and see the festivities.

The Kayenta 4th of July Rodeo will also host a VIP hospitality suite to receive dignitaries, leaders, and notable visitors. Extra bleachers will be rented this year to accommodate a growing audience and crowd.

This year on July 4th for the Saturday night evening show beginning at 7:30 pm, the Best of the Best show, contestants and attendees are asked to participate in a program called Tough Enough To Wear Pink. The Kayenta Rodeo organizers are asking and encouraging all rodeo contestants and attendees to wear pink in support of, and to raise awareness for breast cancer.

For more information about the Kayenta 4th of July Rodeo, visit the website for updates at [www.kayentarodeo.com](http://www.kayentarodeo.com).

## Navajo Elders Bring Their Traditions To Kayenta, and Celebrate

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – It was a warm and cool sunny morning in Kayenta, and the blue sky was scattered with distant cumulus clouds promising more rain in various parts of Navajo land, as the Elders came into town from various parts of the Navajo Nation to participate in the Western Navajo Agency 2009 Elder Fest. This year, the Elder Fest was held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 courtesy of the Kayenta Township at the Kayenta Recreation Center. The event was hosted, organized, and coordinated by the Kayenta Senior Center staff.

By 10:30 am, the Kayenta Recreation Center began to fill with grandmas and grandpas in their traditional attire. According to the Kayenta Senior Center registration log, over 20 Chapters participated in the mini-Song and Dance festivities: Many Farms, Oljato, Jeddito, Leechee, Tonalea, Coal Mine, Kaibeto, Inscription House, Hardrock, Rough Rock, Chinle, Black Mesa, Shonto,



The Elders brought their own comfortable chairs, sipped water, chatted with their friends, and enjoyed the company of those milling around. Or, they danced in the song and dance competitions. They played games like musical chairs, cake walk, gift boxes, played a dress up game, musical chairs, balloon bust, dancing with the broom, hair tying competition, and for each competitive event, participants won prizes donated by various local organizations.

In a short letter to the Kayenta Township inviting Township staff, Pearlina Chiquito writes that the Elder Fest Day is in celebration and acknowledgement of the month of May as Older American’s Month. “This national celebration of the contributions and reverence for older  
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Americans was launched in 1963 by then U.S. President John F. Kennedy. Each successive U.S. President has continued this tradition of honoring these contributions of our older population, and we are proud to join in this national salute to our Elders on the Navajo Nation," she wrote. For the day's highlights, Mr. Yodell Billah from Tonalea, AZ is the new Mr. Elder 2009. He was also the Oldest Male Elder at 95 years old. Miss Elder 2009 is Rose Marie Johnson from LeeChee Chapter. The Oldest Female Elder was Katherine Wallace, 95 years old. Best Dressed honors went to Eunice Manson from Hardrock, AZ, and the Male Best Dressed Elder went to Yodell Billah from Tonalea, AZ.

Samuel Holiday, who will be 85 years old in June 2009, was one of the main speakers at the Elder Fest Day. He recounted his early childhood to an audience of almost 400



people, and his eventual odyssey as a Marine. He is one of 280 Navajo Code Talkers who served during World War II. He was born in Monument Valley, Utah in 1924.

In this short excerpt from his talk at the Elder Fest, Samuel Holiday mentioned he was about 12 years old when he saw a White Man for the first time. The White Man who was a BIA agent around that time, eventually signs him up for school at Tuba City Boarding School. When he turns 18, he is promised a new home for his Mom, he signs up Semper Fi, and is off to Camp Pendleton, CA to become a future Navajo Code Talker, eventually to be recognized with a Congressional Medal of Honor for his service to the United States in April 2000.

So, the Western Navajo Agency 2009 was filled with history, education, culture, and a deep reverence for the Navajo language. Today, Samuel Holiday is a medicine man.



Samuel Holiday éí Tsébiinidzigaidóó naaghá. Tseebíiin dóó bi'ąąn ashdla' bináahai. Tódichíiníi niljo Bit'ahnii yáshchíín. Tłízí Łání dabicheii dóó Tsi'naajinii dabináíí. Ániid Elder Fest Tódineeshzhai'gi baanisiikaigo nihicheii saad ła' yee nihichj' kóyiilaa. Díí éí t'óó ch'ídaat'ąnigo olta'góó bá ha'dilyaago yaa'hoolne'.

Shimá t'óó, díí t'éí shaa'áhalyą, "Díí shá na'niiikaad" jinio shj' t'óó nashizhni'in nít'ée. Ako shąąh dahoo'a'igi binahjí' Tónaneesdizídi Boarding School ákqó shi'deegj. Áadi "beginner" áádóó haiyá. Ałchiní ádaaltsíisí bił da'íinishta' shít'ei áyóí 'inisnéezo. Áadi éí niléi t'ah nít'ée k'ad éí kodóó bilagáanaa bóhoo'aa', "bilagáanaají t'éiyá yánílti'doo" shi'doo'niid. Ako, "I had the hardest time of my life from here." Bilagáanaa éidigo índá bóhoosh'aahgo. Áádóó t'áá doole'é díí sodizinda ádaat'é, "Éi t'éí dooda bilagáanaa k'ehjí t'éiyá" shi'di'nió. Díí Diné k'eh yáti'ígí t'éí shił bééhózin. Áádóó bilagáanaa k'ehjí háá'doodzihígí doo shił bééhózinnda ádin.

Ákóho díí' át'áo, "I tried to learn." Bilagáanaa bóhóosh'aah nít'ée' honi'ąądi.

Éi biniinaa nihizaadígí ts'ídá nizhónigo át'éełá. Bee honeezná. "It shortened the war, and saved my life."

Samuel Holiday is from Monument Valley, UT. He is 85 years old. He is Bitter Water born for Folded Arms people. His maternal grandparents are Many Goats and Black Forest clan are his paternal grandparents.

Recently, the Elder Fest was held in Kayenta, AZ and he was a Keynote Speaker. This small portion of his speech talks about going to school.

My mom, she protected me from the BIA agents, "He herds sheep for me," she said to them and hid me. It was because I became sick that was why I went to Tuba City Boarding School. I started school as a "beginner." All the children were small and I was the tallest one in school. At that time I was told I had to learn a whole new way of life, "You will speak English only" I was told. So, I had the hardest time of my life from here. I had to assimilate as a bilagáanaa. Everything here like the prayers, "This is not allowed, speak English only" I was told. The Navajo language is all I knew. It was not possible for me to respond in English.

So this is the way, "I tried to learn." I learned to speak English away from home....

I realized the Navajo language is beautiful. We won the war. "It shortened the war, and saved my life."



## 2nd Annual Kayenta Skate Competition



By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – The Kayenta area local skateboarders want to host for this year the Second Annual Kayenta Skate Competition on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at the Kayenta Recreation Center. This year, as an addition to the Skateboard competition, the event will feature the Battle of the Bands which will all take place from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Some of the bands who are scheduled to perform as a part of Battle of the Bands are My Philosophy Of Euthanasia, Ashtaroth (Tucson, AZ), From The Depths Of A Nightmare (Phoenix, AZ), One Bullet Away (Local Band), F.A.M.E., Implicit (Local Band), Firewater, Regicide, Five Cellars Below, Let The World Die, The Braskies, and F-Holes.

The Skate Competition will begin warm-ups at 10 am. The Competition will include categories for 12 and Under, ages 13 to 17, and ages 18 and Up. The Competition and Battle Of The Bands will be FREE and Open to the Public.

The day's events are sponsored by Apache Skateboards from San Carlos, AZ. Douglas Miles, owner of Apache Skateboards will be part of the judging of the competition and his business will provide prizes for competition winners.

Rezolution Skateboards hailing from Oakland, CA is another sponsor to this year's event. This is their first year as a part of the competition.

Talk of Skateboarders who will compete this year will come from as far away as Fort Duschene, Utah, and from California. Last year, the skateboard competition had 35 competitors, and is expected to grow this year.

As a Skater, Cheyton Kelsey has traveled throughout Arizona, Louisiana, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, and California to promote the event and to participate in skate competitions. He said he's received a really good response so far and many of his contacts are planning to come to Kayenta this year, or sometime in the future.

Cheyton says, "The purpose of the event is to give back to the local youth in our communities. To show positivity through the expression of skateboarding, ages 7 – 18 years old are eligible compete."

As an active organizer for the local youth, he says the Skateboard and Competition "allows a showcase of local community skaters to compete and practice before the 4th of July Skateboard Competition", which will be open to the public and the Navajo Nation. "The primary people who will benefit from this competition are the kids in our local neighborhoods and their families. The youth will be given a day to give back, in exchange for a little exposure to show how talented they are" he says.

For more information about the event, please call (623) 313-6363.



### Wings of America Running & Fitness Camp

**DATE:** June 15-16, 2009  
**LOCATION:** Kayenta Recreation Center  
**TIME:** 9am – 3pm  
 (registration 8 am-9 am)  
**AGE:** 6-18 years old

**Highlights**

- Lunch will be provided.
- Cost: FREE
- FREE NIKE t-shirt
- Lots of FUN!

Sponsored by Wings of America & NAIHS Health Promotion

Persons to contact:  
 Joann Begay @ (928) 697-8487 or  
 Health Promotions, (928) 697-4249

# JUST MOVE IT

T'áá hwo aji t'éego

## Kayenta 2009 JMI Schedule

| DATES   | LOCATIONS                     |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| June 4  | Chilchinbeto Chapter House    |
| June 10 | Peabody Central Warehouse     |
| June 11 | Dennehotso Chapter House      |
| June 19 | Navajo Monument National Park |
| June 25 | Monument Valley Tribal Park   |
| July 3  | Kayenta Wells Fargo Bank      |
| July 8  | IHHC Trail of the Sage        |
| July 9  | Oljato Chapter House          |
| July 16 | Mexican Hat Elementary School |
| July 23 | Shonto Preparatory School     |
| July 31 | Navajo Mountain Pioneer Day   |

**Registration starts at 6:00PM and start times are at 7:00PM at all locations.**

**All participants will receive a 2009 Just Move It T-shirt!**  
 All Events are non-competitive and free. Some JMI Sites may include a 5K Run and Screening.  
 Please eat a healthy snack before JMI. Wear sunscreen and a hat and bring water.

**JMI Partners/Sponsors:**  
 Hooghan Project, Nutrition Department, IHS Security, Navajo Health Education Program, CHR, KPHN, Breast & Cervical Cancer Prevention Project, Navajo Family Planning Network, Navajo EMS, Kayenta Police Department, Kayenta Township Commission, 7 Local Chapters, National Monument Park Service, Shonto Trading Post, Crossroads Trading Post, Inscription House Market Trading Post, Shonto Preparatory Schools, NaaTsis'aan Community School, Navajo Mountain High School, Ts'ah Bii Kin Senior Center, Utah Navajo Health Systems Inc., Peabody Western Coal Company, Inscription House Health Center, Kayenta Health Center, Healthy Heart Project, Kayenta Family Chiropractic, Blue Coffee Pot, Holiday Inn, McDonalds, Kayenta Fourth of July Rodeo Committee, Kayenta Bashas, Bronston's Tax Service, Gouldings Lodge & Store, Kayenta Video Plus, Navajo Gas & Oil Company, and Local Partners

For more information, call The Kayenta Service Unit Health Promotion Program @ (928) 697-4249 or Hooghan Project @ (928) 697-4210. Ahe'hee.



## The 3rd Annual Monument Valley Film Festival Showcases the Talents of Native Film Makers

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ - The 3rd Annual Monument Valley Film Festival will be held this year at the Kayenta Town Hall on July 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 2009. For the past two years, the film festival has showcased Native filmmakers from throughout North America right here in Kayenta, Arizona.

This year, two feature films "Moccasin Flats," "Barking Water" and 10 documentary features: "The Graffiti," "Weaving Worlds," "The Battle for White Clay," "Our Spirits Don't Speak English," "Geronimo," "Wounded Knee", and "Waila: Making The People Happy", "A Journey From Spirit Mountain", "Aya: A Hero's Journey", and "We Shall Remain: The Navajo" will showcase and highlight the MV Film Festival.

All the films to be shown are made by Native people or are Native Themed films that deal with various political or social subject matters in Indian Country today. For this year, there are over 30 entries, including short films, feature films, and documentary features, which will be screened over a three-day period.

One of the most remarkable entries this year is from Yuma, AZ. "A Journey From Spirit Mountain" candidly deals with language and culture loss. All the directing, video-graphy,

and editing was done by Daniel Goulding, and produced by Ah-Mut Pipa Foundation. The documentary runs for 35 minutes, but explores critical issues for the Quechan people.

"Journey From Spirit Mountain" is a documentary about the Quechan traditional life ways and a close look at the oral traditions and songs of indigenous peoples. Preston Arrowhead, a Quechan elder, sings and describes the placement of the Lightning Song in space and time continuum of Quechan traditions, life ways, and migrations throughout time.

For those who missed the PBS We Shall Remain documentary series in the month of June, the MV Film Festival will screen "Geronimo", "Wounded Knee", and "We Shall Remain: The Navajo." A review of the We Shall Remain series received over 425 views on the Kayenta blog site: [www.kayentatownship.net/blog](http://www.kayentatownship.net/blog).

Another remarkable feature of the MV Film Festival provides is that it provides a venue for the youth, whereas other filmmakers are more competitive in nature. This year Outta Your Back Media, a non-profit organization from Flagstaff, AZ, deals with bringing "media justice" to the forefront of Native America.



Barking Water: Director Sterlin Harjo takes viewers on a road trip through his own personal Oklahoma, which includes an eclectic mix of humanity.



The Battle For White Clay: A campaign to end alcohol sales in the place Nebraska newspapers have dubbed "Skid Row on the Prairie." Filmmaker Mark Vasina has devoted 5 years to filming and reporting on this tragic and compelling story.

The organization provided workshops for the youth to get hands-on experience with filmmaking. This year, Outta Your Back Pack Media submitted 19-short films as public service announcements, short documentaries, music videos, and scripted narratives that showcases the very real talent of our youth today.

The Monument Valley Film Festival, now entering its third year, is the only film festival of its kind that is held here on the Navajo Nation. The purpose of the film festival is to bring Native made films to the people of the Navajo Nation who would,

otherwise, be unable to find a venue to view Native made films. Most of these films are usually not readily available to the general public and are primarily screened at other Native American film festivals far away from most Indian reservations.

In return, of showcasing the filmmaking talents in Native America, viewing of the films during the festival will be FREE. It should also be noted that a majority of the films to be screened are created and produced by the youth.

For more information, please visit [www.monumentvalleyfilmfest.com](http://www.monumentvalleyfilmfest.com)



The award winning film "Our Spirits Don't Speak English: Indian Boarding School" is a Native American perspective on Indian Boarding Schools.

# Celebrate

## graduation



# 3RD ANNUAL MONUMENT VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL JULY 3 - 5 2009 - KAYENTA, AZ

FREE ADMISSION - FILM SCREENINGS 10AM - 10PM DAILY  
KAYENTA TOWN HALL 100 N. HIGHWAY 163

SPONSORED BY  
SHEEPHEAD FILMS - THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP - MVHS GRAPHIC ARTS CLUB



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: [WWW.MONUMENTVALLEYFILMFEST.COM](http://WWW.MONUMENTVALLEYFILMFEST.COM)  
PARENTAL ADVISORY: SOME FILMS MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18

# KAYENTA 4TH OF JULY POW WOW

## JULY 3-4, 2009

### MVHS STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (928) 697-8445 OR (928) 697-3159  
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST ITEMS, THEFT, DAMAGES, INJURIES AND  
SHORT FUNDED TRAVELERS





# Kayenta 4th of July Rodeo

*Six Time Rodeo of the Year*  
2003 • 2004 • 2005 • 2006 • 2007 • 2008

## Rodeo Performances

Thursday July 2nd, 1st Performance 7:30 p.m.  
Friday July 3rd Morning Slack 8:00 a.m.  
Friday July 3rd, 2nd Performance 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday July 4th, 3rd Performance 12:00 pm  
Saturday July 4th, Final Performance 7:30 pm (Short Go)  
**TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK?** (Saturday Night)

## Major Events

| Events            | Limit        | Entry Fee                   | Added Money | Long & Short Go |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Bareback          | 20           | \$120.00                    | \$1500.00   | 2 Go-Round      |
| Saddle Bronc      | 30           | \$120.00                    | \$1500.00   | Top Ten         |
| Bulldozing        | 60           | \$140.00 Day Money Included | \$1500.00   | Top Ten         |
| Calf Roping       | No Limit     | \$120.00                    | \$1500.00   | Top Ten         |
| Steer Wrestling   | No Limit     | \$120.00                    | \$1500.00   | Top Ten         |
| Team Roping       | No Limit(2x) | \$240.00                    | \$3000.00   | Top Ten         |
| Barrel Racing     | No Limit     | \$120.00                    | \$1500.00   | Top Ten         |
| Break Away Roping | No Limit     | \$120.00                    | \$1500.00   | Top Ten         |

## Entry Information

Host AIRCA  
Co-Sanctioned: CNRA  
AIRCA Rules Apply  
Stock Contractor: Tommy Tsosie Rodeo Company - Rough Stock  
Timed Event: Willie's Cattle Company  
CES Rodeo Secretary: Benita Jaye  
P.O. Box 4197 • Gallup, NM 87305  
Home: 505-735-2117 • Cell: 505-860-1750  
Call In: June 15, 2009 : 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Call In: June 16, 2009 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Call Backs: June 17, 2009 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Walk In Entry: Wednesday, July 2, 2009 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
(Kayenta Holiday Inn Lobby)

## Awards

Trophy Saddles for each Major Event Champion  
All Around Award - Three Horse Slant Trailer  
(Proudly Sponsored by: Kayenta Burger King & Kayenta Hampton Inn)  
Belt Buckle to each Minor Event Champion

## Minor Events

| Events                    | Limit    | Entry Fee | Added Money |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Jr. Barrel Racing         | No Limit | \$65.00   | \$100.00    |
| Jr. Bulldozing            | No Limit | \$65.00   | \$100.00    |
| 50+ Sr. Breakaway         | No Limit | \$65.00   | \$200.00    |
| #12 Incentive Team Roping | No Limit | \$240.00  | \$300.00    |

## Country Dances

9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.  
Thursday July 2nd - Stone Country  
Friday July 3rd - Ace's Wild  
Saturday July 4th - Ace's Wild - Stone Country

## Junior Rodeo

July 1st 2009 • 8:00 A.M. Sharp  
Kayenta Rodeo Grounds

I.J.R.A. Rules Apply  
CES: Alfreda Bates / Vickey Pablo (505) 786-5586 or (505) 979-2744  
Call In: June 29, 2009 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Walk In: June 30, 2009 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
(Holiday Inn Lobby)

Entry must be in paid in full by June 30, 2009 6:00 p.m.  
Saddles To High Point Winner to Cowboy & Cowgirl

## Free Pancake Breakfast

July 1 & 3, 2009 • 8:00 a.m. Kayenta Rodeo Grounds  
July 4th, 2009 • 8:00 a.m. Bashas Parking Lot

## Fireworks Display

Kayenta Rodeo Grounds • July 4th 2009 • 10:00 p.m.  
Proudly Sponsored By: Kayenta Township & Kayenta Chapter

**Holiday Inn**

HOTEL RATES FOR CONTESTANTS  
Contestant Will Need To Show Proof for Rates  
Kayenta Holiday Inn Official Rodeo Headquarter  
For Reservations Call: (928) 697-3221

**KAYENTARODEO.COM**

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



# PARADE

Theme

"America the Beautiful"  
July 4, 2009 • 10:00 a.m.

Contact: 928.697.3571

Applications available at:

kayentarodeo.com, Kayenta Chapter & Kayenta Township

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