



# KAYENTA TODAY

The Newspaper of the Kayenta Township and Community

SPECIAL EDITION  
::a free publication::

## Broadband on the Navajo Nation.



The Broadband Initiative is an evolutionary product of several years of Navajo Nation administrative technology efforts; the Navajo Nation's Council's enactment of the Local Governance Act; and the merger of programs between the Legislative and Executive Branches. During the tenure of President Kelsey Begaye and Vice-President Dr. Taylor McKenzie, the Division of Community Development assumed responsibility for the 110 Navajo Chapters and the implementation of the Local Governance Act. A strategic planning process, begun under the direction of then Division Director, Benjamin Jones led to the creation of a "Tech Team" comprised of departmental and IT staff. The focus of the team was finding solutions on "How technology will improve the lives of our Navajo people". The common thread that

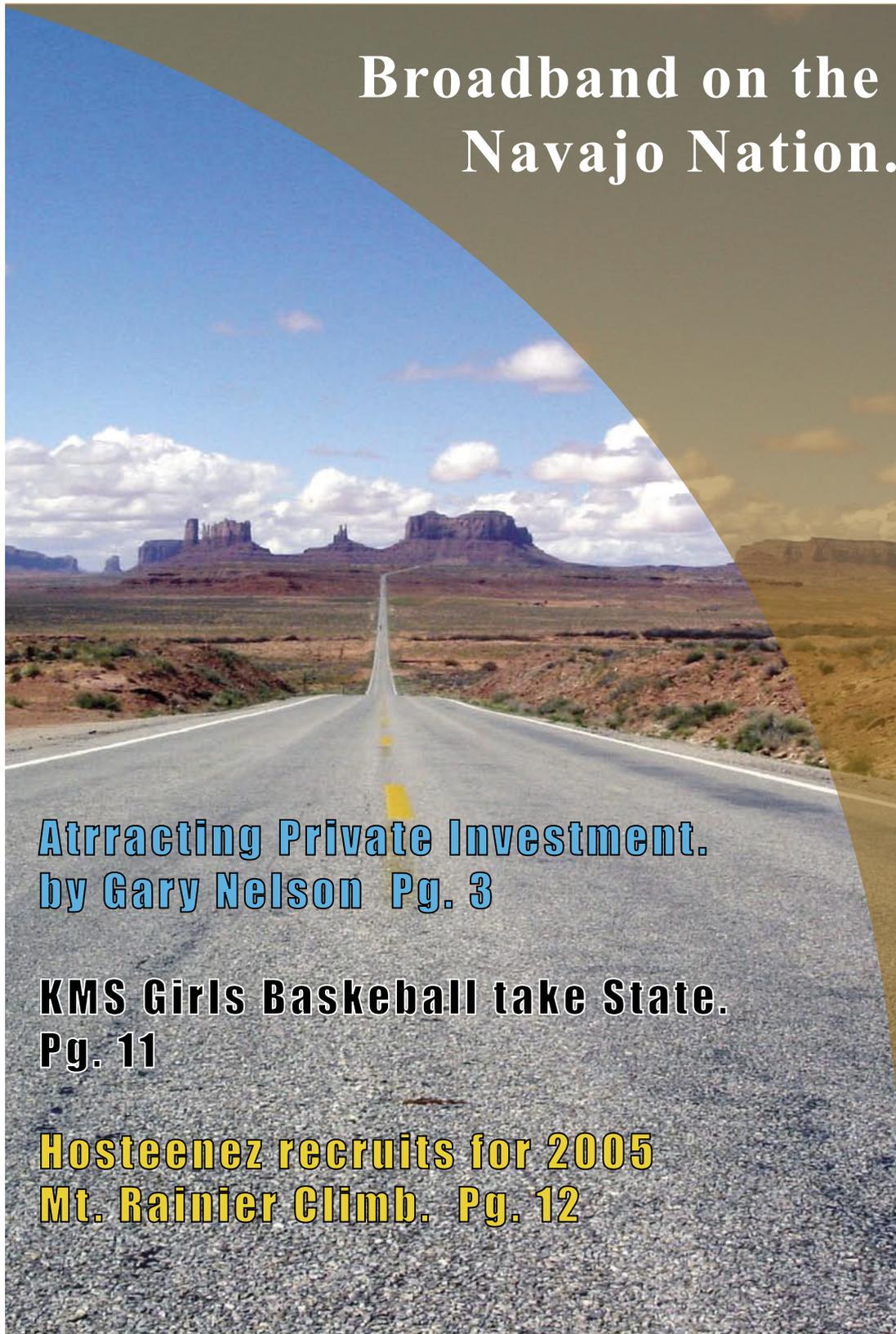
inhibits the growth of the communities is communication. The lack of accessibility to vital information from programs and services at the Central Government prevented adequate services to the Navajo public; inadequate flow of information between various key entities prevented proper planning and development activities; and the daily governmental tasks of conducting business was costly to local Chapters due to the extensive travel that needed to be done over wide geographic distances, for example. The group started to develop plans to establish a communications network from the central office in Window Rock to each Chapter. They approached the local communications companies and were told the endeavor to connect each Chapter would be too costly and the tedious bureaucratic

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# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WORKING TO ADDRESS BOOTLEGGING

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In a memorandum to Council delegates, LoneTree commended the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation and numerous grassroots organizations, and various regional law enforcement agencies for their steadfast efforts to address alcoholism and its related crimes on the Navajo Nation. Chairperson LoneTree would especially like to thank the Tuba City Police Department and Criminal Investigation for their relentless and tireless work that ultimately resulted in the busts of Hank's Trading Post and Wauneta's Trading Post.

In a press release sent out March 4, 2005, the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control announced the state's first bootlegging bust by its department. The Department of Liquor investigation indicates that three licensed establishments in northern Arizona were knowingly selling alcohol to bootleggers, including Hank's Trading Post, Wauneta's Trading Post, and Hatch's Quick Stop.

According to the press release, on several occasions during the 18-month investigation, undercover law enforcement officers purchased large amounts of alcohol from those stores and said during the purchase that the alcohol was going to be resold or bootlegged on reservation land.

The investigation was a joint investigation with the Navajo Department of Public Safety, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Coconino County Sheriff's Office, Flagstaff Police Department, Navajo County Sheriff's Office, Winslow Police Department, Holbrook Police Department,

Apache County Sheriff's Office and the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Chairperson LoneTree said that the bust was significant because it is the first time that the State Department of Liquor is addressing issues related to border town alcohol sales and bootlegging on Indian reservations. To further address the issue, amendments are being proposed to Arizona state law that would regulate alcohol sales that are purchased off reservation land and subsequently sold, consumed, possessed or transported onto Indian reservations. The proposed amendments would make the violation a Class 6 felony.

"To date, the Department of Liquor License and Control has had few options in penalizing off-sale liquor locations that are knowingly selling large quantities of alcohol to people who are transporting and selling the same product to Native American people," Hope MacDonald LoneTree, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, stated.

The Committee established a subcommittee in 2003 to review matters of border town liquor establishments and alcohol-related incidences. Since then, the subcommittee has been receiving reports from cross sections of the nation, ranging from grassroots organizations to law enforcement agencies, with the purpose of developing short-term and long-term plans to deal with alcohol-related matters on Navajo land. The subcommittee members are Chair Lorenzo Curley (Houck/Lupton/Nahata Dziil), Vice Chair Pete Ken Atcitty (Shiprock) and Harry Clark (Chinle).

"These organizations and the police department have been working on this for years where they were able to identify certain liquor establishments that were selling alcohol illegally and knowingly selling to bootleggers. The grassroots organizations were successful by working with their local Navajo police departments, county sheriffs, the special investigator and others to look into these allegations," LoneTree said. "The result is the proposed amendments to state liquor laws and the bootlegging busts by the Arizona state department of liquor.

Morrison for her concern and willingness to bring us together in combating alcohol-related problems on Navajo land and seeking to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with these issues long range," LoneTree stated.

"The Committee would like to send our gratitude to Director Berens Morrison for her concern and willingness to bring us together in combating alcohol-related problems on Navajo land and seeking to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with these issues long range," LoneTree stated.

The Public Safety Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is asking the public to send letters supporting the proposed amendments to:  
Leesa Berens Morrison, Director  
Arizona Department of Liquor, License and Control  
800 West Washington  
Industrial Commission Bldg., 5th Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Fax number: (602) 542-9020

## Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., signs three bills into law

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., on Thursday

signed three pieces of legislation into law to give Leupp Chapter land, to allow the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry to create wholly-owned subsidiaries, and to allocate funds to Shiprock and Kayenta for construction.

At 4 p.m., the President signed Resolution No. CF-17-05 which allows a transfer of land, facilities and infrastructure from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Navajo Nation. The land, within the Leupp Schools campus, will eventually be transferred to the Leupp Schools, Inc.

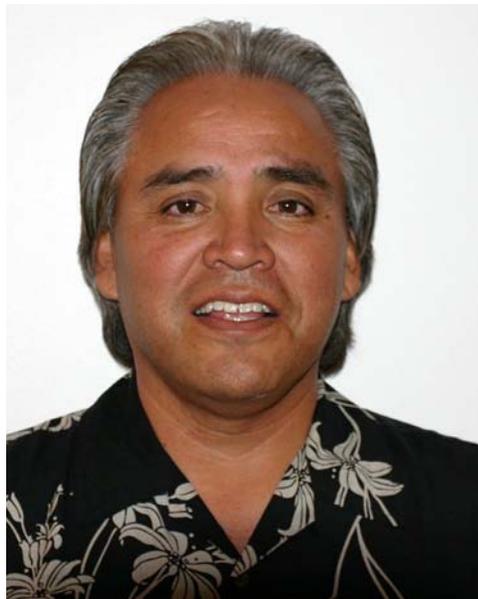
Federal law requires that property transfers be first given to the Navajo Nation before it can be given to another organization.

At 4:02 p.m., the President signed Resolution No. CF-15-05 to amend the NAPI plan of operation. This will allow NAPI to create wholly-owned, for-profit subsidiaries.

At 4:05 p.m., the President signed Resolution No. CF-14-05. This is a two-part bill that appropriates \$2.5 million of matching funds for the demolition phase of the remodeling of the former Shiprock Hospital. The facility is to become a 72-bed, residential substance abuse treatment facility to serve all Navajo clients. The State of New Mexico will provide a \$2.4 million match.

Also attached to the bill as a rider is \$750,000 match fund appropriation for the construction of the Kayenta Police Station and Detention Center.

# ATTRACTING PRIVATE INVESTMENT TO A NAVAJO NATION COMMUNITY



**Gary Nelson**  
**Kayenta Town Manager**

Kayenta Township (“Township”) is the first Native American community to become a “Home Rule” municipal government in the United States. This status was granted to the Kayenta Township by the Navajo Nation Council in August 2003 after eighteen (18) years of operation as a pilot project.

As an empowered local government, having authority from the Navajo Nation to create its own governing ordinances, the Township demonstrated great success. One of these successes was the implementation of a municipal sales tax program, and utilizing the locally generated sales taxes revenues to leverage outside capital investment to pay for various capital improvement projects desired by the community.

## **Is creating a town government easy?**

No, it takes a great effort and great sacrifice by an Indian Town to forge out a new economic environment that would provide for a better standard of living in contrast to what is now provided under an old prohibitive and bureaucratic system administered to the Native American nations by the federal government through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”).

Therefore, the Township represents a new fighting spirit that has revived in the midst of the Navajo Commu-

nities, and it requires and demands the same quality of life and economic prosperity that is enjoyed by all other American citizens. It has demonstrated that reservation life can be greatly improved if the Native American communities can make the necessary challenges to Tribal and Federal laws, and remove the bureaucratic restrictions that keep them in economic bondage.

## **What is the Mission and Focus of the Kayenta Township?**

It has often been stated by the Navajo Nation, Kayenta Chapter and Kayenta Township Commission (the “Leadership”), that the purpose of the Township is to revitalize the survival instinct and entrepreneurial spirit of the Navajo People. If it can be done in Kayenta - it can be done in other Native American communities.

In concert with our purpose, the mission of the Township is to provide improved quality of life for its citizens by providing the following services:

- (1) foremost being infrastructure development (i.e. water, waste water treatment, transportation, electric, telecommunications, etc.),
- (2) employment and job creation,
- (3) public safety (i.e. police and fire protection, detention, and judicial court),
- (4) affordable housing,
- (5) education (i.e. head-start, vocational and higher learning),
- (6) quality health care, and so on.

With a mind set to providing the above services, the focus of the Township (and other Navajo communities) is to make necessary legislative amendments and changes to Navajo Nation and Federal laws. To change the rules of government, whereby the barriers to Navajo economic development will be removed and the doors to economic prosperity opened for the Navajo People.

Changing the laws is a difficult task for the Navajo Leadership, because they are stewards over the land,

resources and the people. They want to limit as much as possible any compromise that would risk the loss of the valuable resources. But, if they are good stewards, they would be like Good shepherds leading their flocks to greener pastures and allowing them to forage on the best vegetation available.

## **Because we have been a Township for 20 Years, what is our View of the Role of Government?**

Some nations of the world have been highly successful in providing for the needs of their citizens (i.e. economic opportunity, prosperity and high standard of living) better than others. But, these successful nations could not have done this unless they had in place sound governing principles, method for rule making, and resolving disputes.

According to a statement made by Dr. Stephen Cornell, Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy, The University of Arizona, and Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, – “Governance matters more than resources. Assets are important, but without an environment of good and effective rules, assets will be squandered and their effects will be limited”. He went further to say “Rules are so important because they send a message to

investors”. This is the overall goal and objective of the Township and the Navajo communities, to establish business friendly environments that will attract private investment to Navajoland.

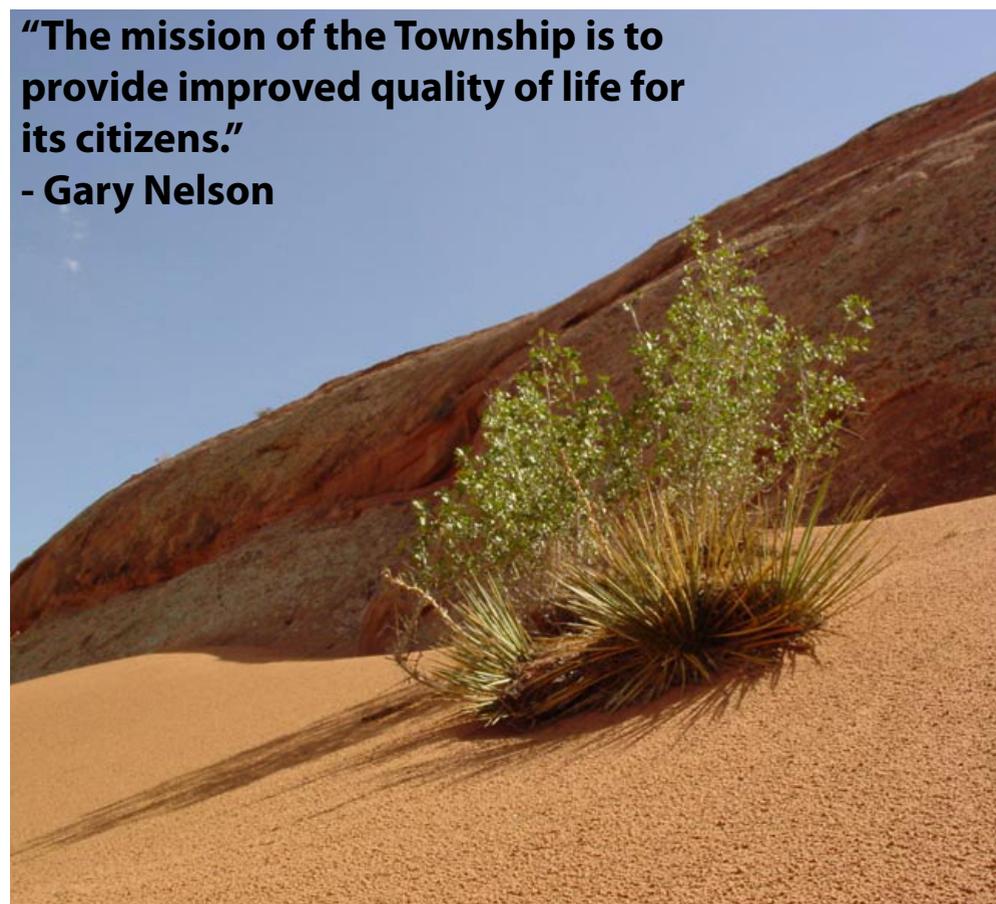
## **What Prevents Private Investment?**

In this part of my presentation I would like to share with you an analogy often told by Mr. Richard Mike, one of our Navajo entrepreneurs from Kayenta. It goes something like this. “If you were to go to Phoenix and rent an apartment, you would pay for as long as you lived there. If you paid rent for 25 years, some of us would tell you “you are crazy” because at the end of 25 years – you would have no equity! Nothing to show for the hard earn dollars put towards the apartment rent. Then, if your children took occupancy of the apartment in your place, they would pay an adjusted higher rent for the next 25 years; and after 50 years of paying, and paying, and paying – you and your family would still have not equity. I would like to be the first one to advise you, after just one year of paying rent – “Go out and buy a house”.

The analogy presented sounds completely ludicrous, but that is exactly how the federal Indian business site leasing laws and regulations are -

**“The mission of the Township is to provide improved quality of life for its citizens.”**

**- Gary Nelson**



like renting an apartment in Phoenix. To the west of Kayenta, along Highway 160, you would see the gutted ruins of Cow Springs Trading Post with only the fireplace still standing. Then to the east, along the same highway you would see the ruins of a sandstone trading post, Baby Rocks. These ruins are a testament to the fact that the old BIA system of economic development just does not work!

#### 4 Now tell me, what prevents private investment on Native American lands?

Short-term 25-year leases Options limited to 25 additional years.

Rents based on market rate or percentage of gross sales, whichever is greater.

Rents applied to the whole life of the lease (resulting in no equity building).

Upon the expiration of the initial terms, if the renewal option is exercised, the leases are renegotiated and the rents adjusted to reflect then market rates.

Corruption and partisan politics  
Inflexible (one sided) means of dispute resolution.

No waiver of sovereign immunity, and too many steps (or requirements) in the approval process.

Multiple approvals at the:  
(1) local level,  
(2) Navajo Nation Department of Justice,  
(3) Office of the President, and then  
(4) BIA

#### What Attracts Private Investment?

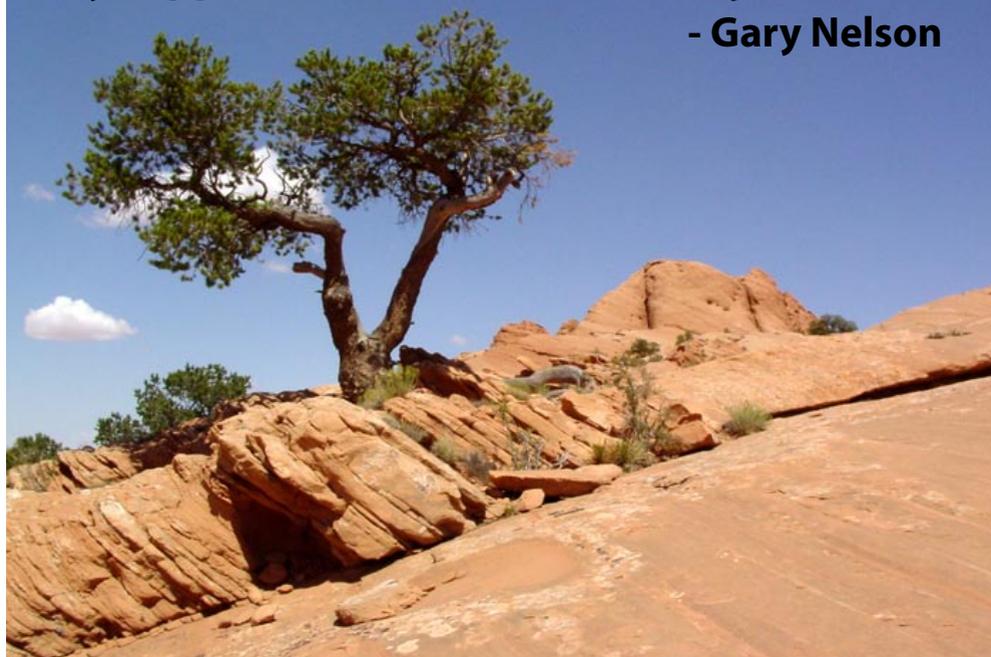
Economic opportunity supported by existing markets.

Amendments to Navajo Nation and Federal Law, as it pertains to local empowerment and local governance authority in issuing business site leases.

Local governments empowered to make business decisions (local ap-

**"It is the local Navajo communities that will build the private sector economy, an economy that will truly support the future of the Navajo Nation."**

**- Gary Nelson**



proval)

Fair and honest rules for dispute resolution and enforcement of judgments (or rules the investors trust)  
Waiver (or limited waiver) of sovereign immunity.

Long-term 99 year leases.

Fair and equitable lease rental rates, and/or ability to buy leasehold interest in trust lands, and ease of selling leasehold interest to another for a profit.

#### Why is there a Push for Local Empowerment and Governance Authority?

The key to the Navajo Nation's economic survival and independence hinges on the restoration of local governance authority to the Navajo communities. It is a known fact that only eighty (80) years ago the Navajo People possessed local governance authority and was for the most part a self-reliant nation. Then in the mid 1920's, vast mineral, gas and oil reserves were discovered on the Navajo Nation lands and the local governance authority was lost to a central government (the Navajo Tribal Council) that emerged; whose purpose at that time was to accommodate the mineral leases proposed by the large petroleum, gas and mineral mining companies. Yes, the royalties paid by these compa-

nies sustained the Navajo Nation for many years, but the Nation also realizes that the mineral reserves are now depleting and the royalties will soon diminish.

This has awakened the Navajo Leadership to the fact that it must create a more diversified economy and the only way is to amend or create new laws that allows for the restoration of local governance authority to Navajo communities. It is the local Navajo communities that will build the private sector economy, an economy that will truly support the future of the Navajo Nation.

This has been the Township and the Navajo communities' fight to regain local governance authority from the parent Navajo Nation and Federal Governments. The issue of local empowerment and local governance authority are being addressed in two key areas and they are:

a) Legislative Amendments to Tribal and Federal Law: In this regard the Kayenta Township has been at the forefront pressing for legislative amendments to tribal and federal law that affect business site leasing authority on Navajo Nation lands. Draft legislative amendments are in process and the time is near where Navajo communities will have the ability to approve their own business site leases without further approval from the Navajo Nation and BIA.

b) Kayenta Master Lease: While waiting for tribal and federal legislative changes, the Kayenta Township has also gone a step further by creating a subsidiary known as the Kayenta Economic Development Corporation ("KEDCO"), a for-profit development corporation. KEDCO, upon approval of a master lease, will begin subleasing and developing the prime developable lands within the town boundary. The purpose of KEDCO is to separate business from government and to create (as near as possible) a "free enterprise" environment that mirrors the off-reservation economies. The dictionary defines "free enterprise" as "enterprise free of government". Meaning enterprise free from government interference and disruption, but having clear defined rules of commerce. That is precisely what we have in mind when we say that KEDCO will have the ability to implement those business principles (as aforementioned above) that attract private investment to Kayenta. It will also have full authority to approve business site leases within the Township boundary, without further approval from the Kayenta Township Commission, Navajo Nation and BIA. The KEDCO Master Lease has been submitted to the Secretary of Interior for review and approval.



**“It is time for the Native American nations to collaborate their efforts to improve the economic conditions on all tribal lands across the United States.”**

**-Gary Nelson**



### **Does the Kayenta Township have any Successful Projects with the Private Sector?**

Part of the Township’s success is predicated on the fact that it is truly striving to create that free enterprise (or business friendly) environment; and for the most part, the Township has done it. It has gained the trust of many private investors and this can be confirmed by the most recent business site lease that was approved on December 13, 2004 for a business partnership from Scottsdale, AZ. The approved lease is for the development, operation and leasing of a 25,000 SF professional office building.

What made this agreement possible was the Township’s ability to address the issue of dispute resolution and sovereign immunity in a manner that was encouraging to the developers. If the Township had not agreed to the fair rules of commerce and risk taking (a little give and take), this deal would not have happened.

Kayenta also has the most Navajo owned businesses. Just to name a few, these business are Navajo owned: The Hampton Inn, Wetherill Best Western Inn, Burger King, McDonalds, Blue Coffee Pot Café, Golden Sands Café, Amigo Mexican Restaurant, Kayenta Shopping Center, Chevron, 7-to-11, Conoco/Mustang convenience store-gas stations,

and many more.

### **What are the Ramifications of Sovereign Immunity?**

It has become common practice for non-reservation businessmen to request and demand the Native American nations to waive sovereign immunity. Whereas, on the contrary, two businessmen in Flagstaff or Phoenix, AZ, negotiating a business agreement would not even think of requesting such demands on each other. And why is that? One obvious answer is – in matters pertaining to Native American lands, the Tribe collectively is the owner of the land and not the individual tribal member. But, on the contrary, in the off-reservation setting, all American citizens are afforded the privilege of land ownership and property rights. So they individually can commit to binding agreements limited only to themselves and not the city, county or state governments in which they reside.

What this translates into is the fact that the Navajo Nation and the Federal Government must extend the same privilege of land ownership and property rights to the Navajo People as all other Americans. And allow them to experience and learn the real world game of economics and its associated risk taking, and create rules of commerce that truly will attract private investment to the

Navajo Nation. If we are unable to do so (as outside investor/developers like to say) by getting on the same “level playing field” and assuming our share of the risk (when it is appropriate) then most worthwhile economic opportunities will continue to escape the Navajo People. So the question is – how willing are we in becoming a true nation? If we fear the issues of sovereign immunity and dispute resolutions to the point that it prevents private investment then perhaps we lack knowledge and understanding.

Kayenta Township clearly understands this concept and to better address these critical and important issues, it has elected to create a development corporation, KEDCO, to operate under a master lease and to implement the favorable rules of commerce that are attractive to private investment. Because the master lease would only take in certain parcels of township lands, any development within the master lease area and its associated risk would be limited only to that area. It is like saying, “Here is a basketball court and all the rules of the game will apply”, but the rules would apply only within the designated area. The designated master lease areas and enterprise zones could be places for the Navajo Nation and Federal Government to begin lifting the restrictions that has prohibited economic development for so long.

### **Inter-tribal Investments and Partnerships**

Business is business, or we like to think of it as non-discriminatory. But, for some reason, Native American tribes seem to be more leery of one another than they are with the non-Natives. Perhaps it is because all tribes lost land to the United States over the last three hundred years, that they are not about to lose land and property to another tribe. Whatever is the hang up, that way of thinking should end among the Native American nations.

There is great economic opportunity in the Navajo Nation, and why not some of the private investments come to Navajoland from other



Native nations, so that the Native American nations can benefit together economically. Likewise with inter-tribal business partnerships; what prevents two tribes or three from combining resources to buy valuable property in some of the major cities of the United States? If other foreign nations can do it, what prevents the Native Americans from doing the same?

### **What should the Native American Nations do Next?**

It is time for the Native American nations to collaborate their efforts to improve the economic conditions on all tribal lands across the United States. Only by lifting all the restrictive laws can the Native American nations truly succeed and emerge as economically strong nations. The success demonstrated by the Kayenta Township, as a Native American self-reliant local government, can be achieved in other Native American communities. Remember, what we set our minds to with hope and faith in our almighty God - we can achieve!

-Gary Nelson



On Thursday February 24th the 1st annual **SKILLS NATIVE** competition was held at Chinle High School. 8 schools from around the Reservation participated in the following events Architectural Drafting Board, Architectural Drafting CAD, Welding, Computer Networking, BMAS ( Business Plan), BMAS (Emerging Business Issues), Culinary Arts, Woods (Cabinet Making), Woods (Carpentry). MVHS sent 7 CTE students to the competition.

Three of our students participated in the Computer Networking competition. Kaylynn Kayannie

took 1st , Chris Vormittag took 3rd and Eric Powell took 5th place. Their teacher was Michael Abella.

Three of our students participated in the Welding competition. Leroy Lake took 1st, Jocelyn Thompson took 2nd, and Michaellyn Greyeyes took 9th place. Their teachers are Anderson Holiday and Frankie Gilmore.

Thanks to N.A.T.I.V.E. School District ,Superintendent Karen Leshner and Administrative Assistant Geri Begay , for allowing our students from the Reservation schools to do this competition.



Left-Right: Michaellyn Greyeyes, Jocelyn Thompson, Eric Powell, and Leroy Lake.



Senior Leroy Lake, took 1st place in Welding. Received a Medal, Jacket and a 14" Chop Saw.



Senior Jocelyn Thompson, took 2nd place in Welding. Received a Medal, Jacket and a 4 1/2" Grinder.



Senior Michaellyn Greyeyes, took 9th place in Welding.



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



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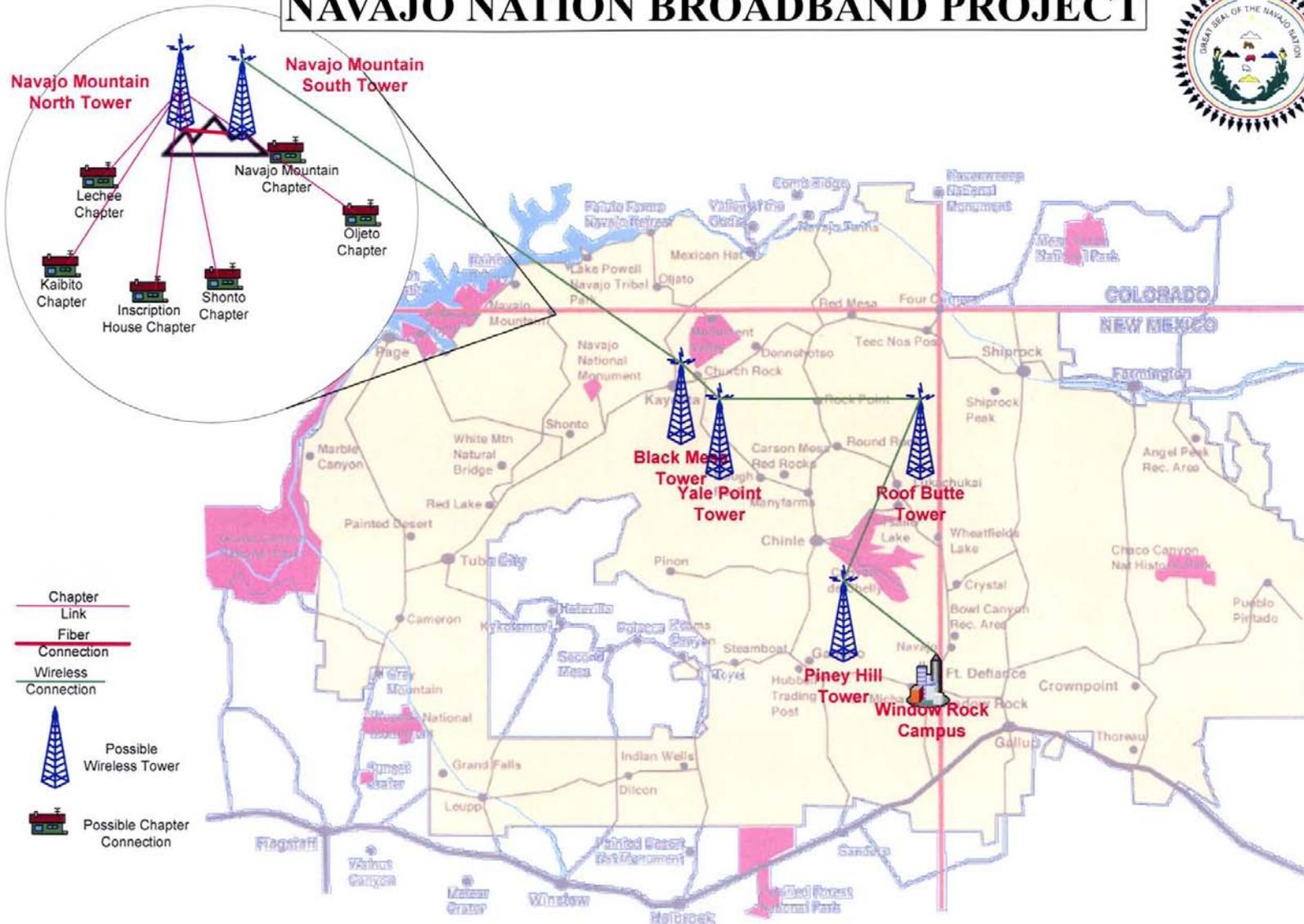


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**6**  
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# NAVAJO NATION BROADBAND PROJECT



right-of-way processes would cause substantial delays. It was determined that it would take 10-20 years to see any viable development. The idea to utilize a satellite system was the next option. This would satisfy the immediate “short term” need and eliminate the right-of-way process. They started working with a fledgling satellite company called Starband as a pilot project. However, since the Starband technology was aimed at consumers, it could not meet the capacity of the projected requirements.

Call it timing or fate, but the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at nearly the same time approached the Navajo Nation with the mission to develop technology in rural America and to close the digital divide. The common vision was to provide public access computers for economic, social, and educational use. The Gates Foundation headed by the Executive Director, Sylvia Matthews, partnered with the DCD Tech Team and went to work on the connectivity issues. The Gates Foundation purchased computers, printers, scanners, digital cameras and other equipment

from Gateway and other companies. Chapters were given two to four computers each depending on the availability of space. Several Chapters were also given ten computers for training centers under Phase II of the project. These computers, servers, and equipment were all granted directly to the Navajo Nation and are Chapter property. Gates Foundation also secured the bandwidth (up and down link) for connectivity provided by SES Americom, Inc., and using connectivity equipment from Aloha, Inc. The Navajo Nation owns and co-locates some major communications equipment in SES Americom’s facilities in Woodbine, Maryland. Additionally, domain names were acquired for websites and e-mail for each Chapter ([www.nndes.org](http://www.nndes.org) and [navajochapters.org](http://navajochapters.org)). The websites are presently hosted by RealTimeSites in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The New Mexico Libraries Programs headed by State Librarian, Richard Akeroyd, granted funds for the domain name and website hosting services for the New Mexico Chapters. The external satellite connectivity, maintenance, and technical

training contract were awarded to OnSat of Park City, UT. Since the initial installation, the Navajo Nation Headstart Program and the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety has tapped into the Chapter network system for their own purposes via wireless connections for connectivity to expand the system.

With the imminent depletion of granted funds for connectivity, the Division of Community Development partnered with the Navajo Nation Libraries, New Mexico and Arizona State Libraries Programs to designate each Chapter certified libraries due to their public access status. This allowed the Division of Community Development to access the Universal Service Fund’s E-Rate funding program for telecommunications on behalf of the Chapters. OnSat submitted a bid for the E-Rate funds and was awarded for bandwidth costs associated with the connectivity.

The Division of Community Development secured the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Technology

Opportunities Program funding for establishing a technology center for tech support, training activities, and development of a Web Portal for the Navajo Nation. The Web Portal is designed and structured to include e-commerce; e-learning; e-voting; e-jobs; and e-government applications. With the anticipated requirements related to the web portal applications, the bandwidth requirements would need to be increased considerably. The DCD Tech Team began exploring cost-effective, sustainable broadband solutions that would provide the needed bandwidth throughout the Navajo Nation. Satellite connectivity, while it provides the basic connection is very expensive at the higher bandwidth levels and has other issues which relegate it to backup or intermediate solution status when fiber or fixed wireless solutions are not available. Broadband connectivity is defined as the ability to provide full-resolution streaming video over some connection, and typically would require about T-1 speeds at a minimum. However, now that technology is moving to high-definition video, the

broadband requirement increases since the amount of data needed to move across that connection increases substantially. Broadband can be established through wired or wireless technologies (antennas, microwave, and fiber lines). Only fiber connectivity can provide the level of bandwidth that is required and has the ability to scale into the future. Full fiber deployment can be expensive, but new technologies are continually coming out that bring the costs down. As an alternative, fixed wireless and point-to-point wireless solutions can provide the needed bandwidth at a much lower cost as an intermediate solution. The trade-offs are that wireless solutions don't scale as well as fiber and are not as robust.

In March 2004, the President George H. Bush visited Albuquerque, New Mexico and declared; "We ought to have a universal, affordable access for broadband technology by the year 2007, and then we ought to make as sure as soon as possible thereafter, consumers have got plenty of choices when it comes to purchasing the broadband carrier".

On June 14th, 2004, The 1st Annual Navajo Nation IT Summit coordinated by the Navajo Nation's Department of Information Technology was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico setting the stage for forums, meetings, and networking on technology issues. A meeting was held inviting the four State Governor's designated Chief Information Officers to participate in a round table discussion on partnering with the Navajo Nation on the build out of the technology infrastructure on the Navajo Nation. The first step was to coordinate a multi-state effort to address the comprehensive IT need of the Navajo Nation; and to establish a two-level Broadband Working Group. President Joe Shirley, Jr. formally requested of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson; Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano; Utah Governor Olene S. Walker; and Colorado Governor Bill Owens, for the states government to government participation to address technology, funding sources, and interoperability objectives. The Governor's of each state responded by designating their Chief Information Officers to work directly with the Navajo Nation's Quad-State



Executive Broadband Group.



infrastructure for the Navajo Nation. The creation of an economic based IT model infrastructure design components include: Total Cost Ownership (TCO), affordability, interoperability, scalability, ambiguity, and redundancy. Subsequently, building the IT Workforce by developing projects, contracting, and creating partnerships that allows an avenue for IT work opportunities for the Navajo and Native own IT Businesses, IT Professionals, and IT Technicians.

The Navajo Nation Broadband Initiative has partnered and supports several on-going projects:

Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) of the United Nations whose vision is to disseminate disaster information through major node on the Navajo Nation to connect to other tribes in the southwest. Partnering with GDIN fits into the NNDIT's plans to establish a Disaster Recovery Center for the Navajo Nation. The Disaster Recovery Site will be the fail-over site for the Navajo Nation and will be able to serve other tribal nations. With the anticipated development of the

The Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission was originally created through legislation in 1984. The Commission was fully seated in 2002 with seven members. The Commission was given the task to regulate any and all matters of telecommunications activity on the Navajo Nation. Currently, the Commission has adopted several policies regarding right-of-ways for tower construction, co-location, and pricing structure for co-location. The Commission also hears all matters related to telecommunications activities on the Navajo Nation and advises the President's Office and the Oversight Committees of the Navajo Nation Council on telecommunications matters.

#### TODAY

Several meetings have occurred within the last year, strategizing on resource sharing, technical assistance, and funding opportunities. There are several factors that play a major role in the design of the "Backbone" or "Backhaul" main





Navajo Nation Web Portal a Data Mart for data repository & migration based system will be established within the DRC. Currently, several Navajo Nation departments are in the process of developing GIS databases, data migration, etc. Currently, data bases exist and others are developing for the Navajo Nation. Just to name a few, the Elections Office is designing and developing a customized database system. The Design and Engineering Services has been developing a GIS data management system, the Division of Health is customizing an emergency management services data base system for records management, the Legislative offices is developing resolution data base management system.

The NavNet Wireless Project vision is to implement a WIMAX hub at certain locations on Navajo land to make internet available for governmental and community use. The NNDIT has partnered with the Kayenta Township and Rough Rock Schools to implement this project model. The Kayenta Township model includes the ownership of a commercial communication tower

that allows Co-location and revenue generating opportunities. By creating an open market, the competition will drive down rates and make it more comparable to national affordable rates; better reception and connectivity; allow the local businesses and people the freedom of choice when it comes to provider services.

The Navajo Mountain Communications Tower: The establishment of the tower will enhance communication capabilities between governmental entities in the northern portion of the Navajo Nation, the State of Utah and Arizona. This major tower will serve as the first phase in establishing the main governmental infrastructure backbone for the Navajo Nation and broadband connectivity to the surrounding Chapters. Having a Navajo Nation owned communications back-bone would reduce the cost associated in leasing communications lines from local providers and external communication carriers. Reducing the “Total Cost Ownership” and realizing a return on investment for the Navajo is one of the primary focuses. This would achieve benefits such as using VoIP for cost

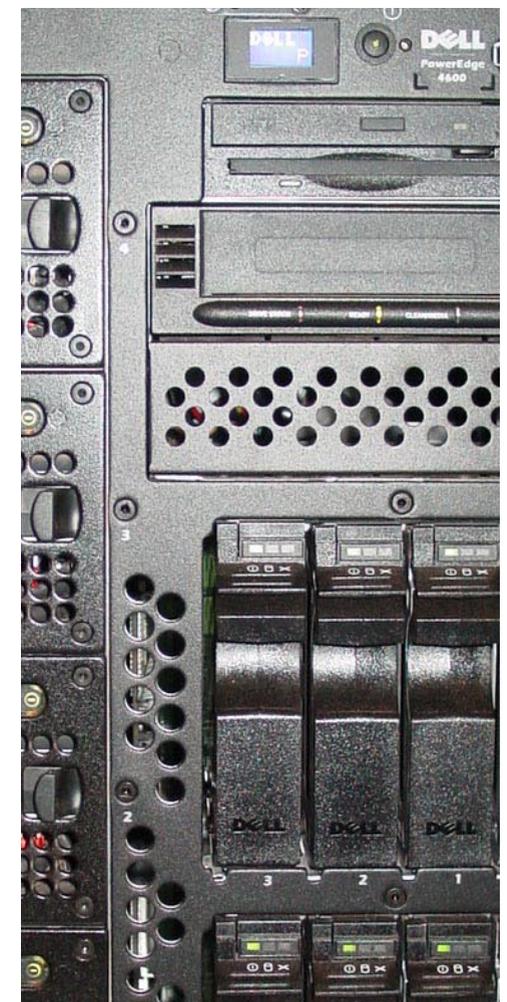
savings on monthly telephone charges; creating local on-line interactive courses to the bordering Universities; interactive telemedicine to reach doctors for immediate diagnosis; and promoting economic growth for local chapter members. The Local Governance Act (LGA) can realize its full potential with the economic stimulus using technology; and school children can access the internet from their homes to access global information, etc. The construction funding was secured by General Services Administration by resource sharing with Local, State, and Federal Agencies. An open round table discussion was held in Kayenta, AZ on March 9th and 10th where concerns and issues were raised relating to homeland security, public safety, emergency services, cultural sensitivity, educational services, and health services. This meeting served as a needs assessment that will determine the requirements on land acquisition, cultural sensitivity, and the tower design and construction elements.

**Navajo Nation Government VoIP Services**  
Several Navajo Nation departments

have taken advantage of technological advances, have realized the savings and benefits of using VoIP to reduce the monthly incurred phone charges between their central offices to offices.

**Plans of Actions are:**

1. The Navajo Nation Broadband Executive Group will meet with chapter members surrounding Navajo Mountain to discuss culturally sensitivity concerns, the projected communication tower and provide more presentation on the benefits of broadband.
2. Utah, Arizona and NTUA telecommunication officials will produce a radio path profile on the projected communication tower on Navajo Mountain for further discussion. This includes a possible fiber link between the north and south tower on top of Navajo Mountain.
3. Discuss possible solutions on how to provide a communication link to the Navajo Mountain chapter. Navajo Mountain chapter is located at the base of the mountain and is not in line-of-sight with the north or south tower.
4. Combine all technical assessments from different entities.



# SAVE THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS



**Klee Benally of [www.savethepeaks.org](http://www.savethepeaks.org) addresses students at Kayenta's Monument Valley High School about saving the San Francisco Peaks before screening his film "The Snowbowl Effect".**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., expressed profound disappointment and sadness to Coconino National Forest Supervisor Nora Rasure on Tuesday after she informed him of her decision to approve artificial snowmaking and facilities expansion at the Arizona Snowbowl.

"I am already bleeding and I already have scars on my body because of what has happened to the Peaks," President Shirley told her in a telephone call. "Now, you've gone ahead and added salt to the wound. In my own way, I don't appreciate that."

"It's very unfortunate that the Forest Service supervisor Nora Rasure has taken the position that she has to proceed with further development of the San Francisco Peaks," President Shirley said in a statement. "Of course, she knew exactly where my heart is, where the hearts of all of Arizona's Native people are, before making this decision."

Ms. Rasure announced at a press conference Tuesday that she decided in favor of using reclaimed wastewater to make snow at the Snowbowl on San Francisco Peaks, and to allow

expansion of the ski areas facilities. expansion of the ski areas facilities. on San Francisco Peaks, and to allow expansion of the ski areas facilities.

In February, representatives of 13 Arizona tribes told Ms. Rasure at the Museum of Northern Arizona that they stand united in opposition to any further development on the San Francisco Peaks.

At its press conference, the Forest Service acknowledged that more than half of the 10,000 comments it received also opposed further development.

Ms. Rasure said the driving factor behind her decision was not the economic benefit the expansion would bring to the city of Flagstaff, estimated to be \$20 million, but the benefit to skiers who use the mountain.

"I have decided that it best serves the broad spectrum of the American public and the mission of the U.S. Forest Service to provide recreational opportunities for the public," she said.

President Shirley told her that allowing more development on the Peaks

is tantamount to eroding the Navajo culture, and permitting artificial snowmaking with reclaimed waste water desecrates a holy sacred site with filth.

"The Peaks are one of our strengths. It is our essence," he told her. "When you decide to contaminate it with reclaimed wastewater, with (filth) to make snow, that doesn't help my way of life. That doesn't help when I talk to my children and grandchildren about the importance of our way of life, and the pride that is to be taken because of our way of life."

The President said he would do all he can to see the decision reversed, including taking the issue to the United Nations. A 45-day appeal period will begin following publication of a legal notice.

"This hurts all Native people to see our ways of life done away with for money," President Shirley said. "There are plenty of other ways to make money besides putting (filthy) water on a sacred place. The city of Flagstaff will continue to grow. There are plenty of minds that are creative in the ways of making money for the city besides putting

filth on a sacred place, on a people." The San Francisco Peaks north of Flagstaff, Dookoosliid in the Navajo language, which means Always Glitters On Top, is the abalone and coral mountain to the Navajo people. It is one of the Navajos four sacred mountains and appears on their tribal seal and flag. The 12,643-foot San Francisco Peaks, created by the Navajos Deities, First Man and First Woman, are the highest mountains in Arizona and serve as the traditional western boundary of the Navajos homeland.

Navajos say the Deities fastened Dookoosliid to the earth with a sunbeam and decorated it with abalone shell, black clouds, male rain, yellow corn and many kinds of wildlife.

In Navajo philosophy, Dookoosliid represents life.

Besides artificial snowmaking, the proposed alternative selected by the Forest Service calls for the development of a snowplay/tubing area, additional chairlifts, two enlarged guest lodges and terrain modification to existing ski runs.

The other alternatives considered in the process were Alternative 1 that called for no changes and Alternative 3 which provided for the developments except for snowmaking and the snowplay/tubing facility.

The Final Environment Impact Statement, Response to Comments, Record of Decision and other information about this project can be obtained on the internet at [www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/nepa)

The fight for the San Francisco Peaks is far from over, many organized groups such as, The Council Advocating an Indigenous Manifesto, The Dine Underground, Dine Pride, Phoenix Earth First, and Save the Peaks Coalition have been working diligently to educate and inform people of the situation. To find out how you can help stop snowmaking and expansion on the San Francisco Peaks, please visit:

<http://www.savethepeaks.org>

## “How Sweet It Is!”

The blood, sweat, and tears experienced by Coach Fred Billie’s Lady Colts, have all paid off when the sound of the buzzer sounded after defeating the opposing team from Scotsdale, Az., for the 2005 State Championship title in ‘Valley of the Sun’. The Kayenta Middle School Girls Basketball team took home the inscribed trophy, reflecting their championship victory while placing a whole new meaning to “Rez-Ball.” It is evident that more finely tuned basketball players are emerging from the lower grade levels as they constantly set the tone for upcoming brothers, sisters, and relatives who possess a passion for basketball excellence. No longer is the game of basketball a light-hearted recreational sport played for the sake of an “extracurricular activity.” The Navajo Nation is home to many talented basketball players and with the recent State Championship Title now under their belt for the second time, the KMS Girls Basketball team has proven once again, that Kayenta is where some of basketball’s most talented players can be found.

To celebrate the victory, a special celebration for the players, parents, and everyone involved with the entire basketball program were invited to deliver a toast to the magnificent season at Kayenta Township’s newly constructed Town Hall. Chinese Cuisine was the dinner special provided by the Chinese Express establishment and contemporary country music accompanied the voices of discussion among attendees. Special guest speakers included Ed Tano (former M.V.H.S Football Coach), Allison Holiday (2005 3A North Regional Player of the Year), and Commissioner Jimmie Austin. Each took their allotted time to offer words of congratulations as well as encouragement based upon their individual experiences in the realm of sports and life.

“Thank your parents. You wouldn’t be here today if your parents didn’t support you totally. Also, your school administrators, you have a good principle Mr. Gilmore, who supports you. Celebrate academics before athletics,” commented Tano.

The evening continued to be

accompanied with much laughter and sentimental humor. Allison Holiday offered words of influence as she stated realistic goals that are true to hard working athletes. Behavior on the court and in life must be in unison. Mental and physical health are essential elements to being a winner.

“Being lazy will get you nowhere! If you work hard, it makes you a better person,” passionately stated Holiday.

“Be healthy, that means no McDonald’s, staying away from Burger King, but once in a while, have a Bashas burrito,” expressed Holiday.

The ceremonies conclusion offered final words of excitement from Coach Fred Billie. A summary of the team’s disappointing and happy times were reflected upon. “I remember during a tournament in Vegas, I had to call up a friend and ask him if I could stay a couple of nights, just to insure that the girls would eat well and were taken care of,” recalled Billie.

Although energy levels were high during this year’s season, such State Championships are no stranger to Coach Billie. In 2002, Billie led the KMS Girls Basketball team to a State Championship. With a proven recipe for success in motion, Billie anticipates future years to come where he will be able to celebrate on the court, just as he did at the conclusion of this year’s championship game.

“The first Championship we won, I didn’t know how to act, but this second time, it was great! I’d like to thank the Lord, my wife, and let’s always remember our soldiers,” concluded Billie.

Indeed, the evening was host to a successful celebration gathering and as the world turns, Coach Billie continues to exemplify a winning spirit as he has recently led the KMS 6th Grade Girls Basketball team to a Western Agency Championship in Tuba City, Az. The victory enables them to take their game to the capital of the Navajo Nation in Window Rock, Az., in hopes of bringing back the trophy, claiming them to be the Champions of the Navajo Nation in their respected grade level.

Coach Billie enjoys the gathering!



Commissioner Austin conducts the Celebration.



Commissioner Austin conducts the Celebration.



No hesitations at the Buffet line!



Special appreciation was given to Carly Kescoli on behalf of KMS Athletics, for her unwavering support throughout the Basketball season.



Young Austin entertains the guests with his fascinating traditional dances.



# TIN BIL DEEZ AA DEE SANII: “WOMEN OF THE ICE-CAPPED PEAKS” 2005 MOUNT RAINIER

:: Start Date: **July 29, 2005**

:: End Date: **August 6, 2005**

:: Location: **Ashford, WA/USA**

:: Contact Person: **Valerie Hostenez/hm.928-265-7136/wk.928-697-8169**

::**Profile:** “Tin Bil Deez aa dee Sanii Expedition Women’s Club is an out-going challenge for bilingual Navajo women to claim themselves as strong and confident ladies. I will support dedicated participants who are able to climb mountains and fulfill their own dreams. Through mountaineering expeditions, I hope to build self-esteem and leadership among bilingual Navajo ladies. This experience will empower them to stand up for their own stated choice of protecting our land, culture and rights as Navajo women.” ~Valerie Hostenez

In the eyes of Valerie Hostenez along with those individuals who have participated in the indigenous Women’s Mountaineering Club, the entire project has been a success! This unique project, geared towards empowering various ethnic women, has provided such an experience among its past recipients. As Hostenez conquered towering mountains in South America in early 2003, she has since attracted a handful of selected women into the program. The most recent trek was taken on the Teton Mountains.

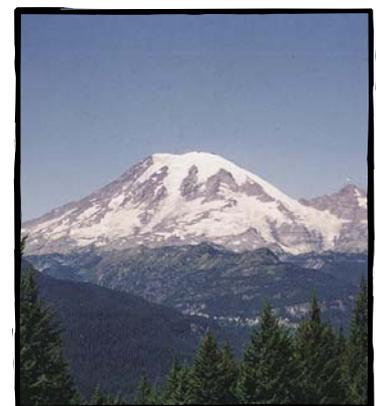
This year’s scheduled experience is to take place on the 14,410 foot summit of Mount Rainier in Ashford, Washington. This will provide participants with a unique package as they will be the first Navajo women to scale the towering mountain.

“The climb will bring together bilingual Navajo women with the opportunity to accomplish the common goal of reaching one of the highest points in all America,” stated Hostenez.

The climb is adrenaline

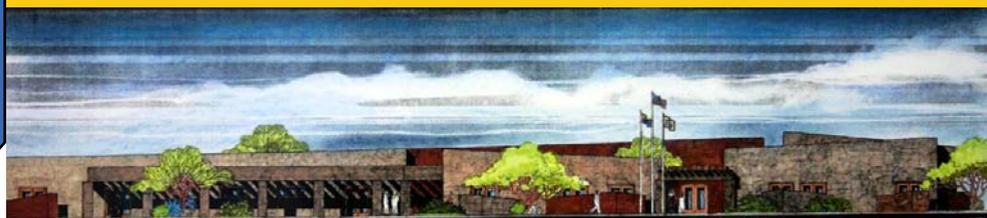
pumping when considered and there is no mistaking it will take dedicated preparation to meet the physical demands of such a climb. Both cardio and weight lifting exercises must be carefully devised to closely imitate what is to be anticipated from base camp to the top! Kayenta currently has 7 members scheduled for the climb this summer.

*For more information, please refer to the data provided above.*



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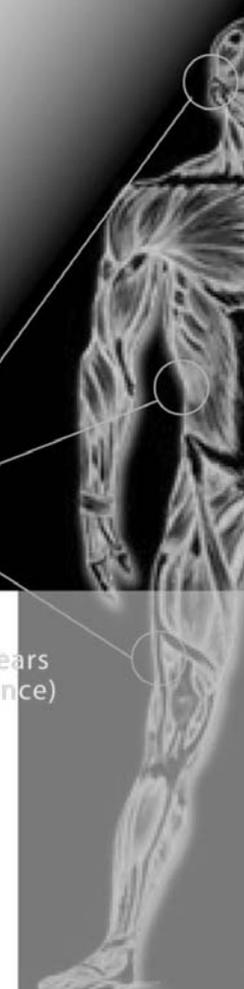
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# Kayenta's Laguna Creek

By Richard Mike



Prior to the Township meeting of February 14, 2005, I wanted to name the lane behind my home site lease – Laguna Wash Way. In a research of the street in front of my home, I discovered that the road already had a name – Laguna Wash Road. I thought that the name Laguna Wash Road should be changed to Trading Post Row or Trading Post Road because when the street was still a dirt road, it began at the edge of Kayenta Motors, (near the present IHS Clinic), passed Kayenta Trading Post and the Kayenta Lodge and Café, on to Warren Trading Post, up the hill and on to Flagstaff, Arizona. Presently, I reside on top of the ruins of Warren Trading Post. I asked several persons at the Kayenta Township Office about my idea when one individual said, “You should name it Old Main Street because when I was a little girl, it use to be the only street in town”. Several other individuals remembered that it was indeed the only thoroughfare or wagon trail down the middle of Kayenta. I went to the Engineering Department of the Kayenta Township (KT) and asked if I could change the name of the street? I was bluntly refused permission to change the name of the street. The name was to stay Laguna Wash Road because the road was surveyed and used as a reference point for several other streets and as well as sewer lines, electrical lines, and water lines. “Fine”, I thought, “then I’ll just name the trail behind my house – Laguna Wash Lane”. The KT Engineering Department again said, “no”, evidently, it was too common to name a side-street – “Lane” or “Circle”, so they suggested “Way”,

- Laguna Wash Way. As it turned out, my resolution for a name to the lane behind my house was deferred to the next meeting. However, Jimmy Austin, Kayenta Township Commissioner, wanted to know where the name “Laguna Creek” came from? So I looked it up.

In 1823, Colonel Francisco Salazar led a detachment of Spanish soldiers into Tsegi Canyon (Laguna Pass) after a visit to the Hopi villages. They called Marsh Pass - Puerta de las Lemitas, in Spanish, named after the three-leaved sumac which grows in the region. They also reported small lakes or in their own language -“Lagoons” and expanded the canyon name to “Laguna Pass”. Charles L. Bernheimer in his account of his expedition of 1921 states:

Our packtrain, including our own mounts, left Kayenta early in the morning of June 27, 1921. ...Sagi at one time had been covered by a series of lakes, or lagunes, which have now entirely disappeared, leaving merely strips of black bog on the banks which indicate their ancient bottoms.

In several written accounts by John Wetherill, he refers to the Lakes of Tsegi. Tsegi in the Navajo language means “canyon”. Therefore when we refer to Tsegi Canyon, we are quite literally saying – “canyon canyon”. The name Laguna Pass was changed to the Navajo word for canyon – Tsegi Canyon. The name Lagoon however stuck and therefore we have the name Laguna Creek running through Tsegi Canyon.



## KAYENTA MOVES FORWARD TO COMPLETE COMMUNITY LAND USE PLAN

By Matthew Austin

Kayenta – After an extensive search, on January 31, the Kayenta Chapter passed a resolution appointing five members of the community to serve on the Kayenta Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC). The chapter selected: Matthew Austin, Terry Cly, Rose Yazzie and Keith Betsuie, for membership on the CLUPC board. Lenora Spenser will act as the CLUPC staff coordinator.

The CLUPC board has been directed to provide guidance, develop a community assessment, conduct research, update and finalize a partially completed existing community land use plan, for eventual presentation before the Navajo Nation Transportation and Community Development Committee (TCDC).

Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA), all chapters are now required to complete a citizen-involved community land use plan, which is a five-part component to get certified under LGA. Once certified chapter governments will enjoy a financial and operational autonomy to determine its own destiny and develop services once restricted to the bureaucratic central government in Window Rock.

Some of these services include: exercising budgetary control, developing procurement procedures, entering into and negotiating, land and business leases. Rather than seeking approval on seemingly routine matters from Window Rock, this became a cumbersome and arduous process that could have taken years to accomplish.

As of today, the Kayenta Chapter has developed and implemented four of the Five Management Systems, which are LGA administrative requirements. Once the Community Land Use Plan is completed the Kayenta Chapter will have completed all Five Management Systems requirements and will be eligible for certification.

On February 10, 2005, the first Community Land Use Planning Committee meeting was held and as required by the CLUPC Plan of Operations, the committee leadership was determined by an election of officers. Matthew Austin was voted in as President, Terry Cly as Vice President and Rose Yazzie as Secretary Treasurer.

Public input and participation is vital to the community land use planning. The CLUPC members will be developing an assessment to obtain statistical data and information that will highlight community trends and growth concerns. The CLUPC is planning to hold a series of public hearings within the Kayenta Chapter boundaries regarding community land use planning. These hearings will attempt to seek public input and request planning concerns from the community, in addition to presenting planning concepts and ideas to all community members. Ultimately, the CLUPC board guides the planning process, but community input, participation and involvement determines the majority of the actual finalized planning.

The community land use plan will assist the chapter compile information to seek development funds through various governmental agencies. Additional, this plan could also assist in developing a rural address system and for emergency contingency planning for public safety agencies.

The CLUPC has decided to embark on an ambitious schedule and has targeted the beginning of February 2006 as the completion date.

The Kayenta CLUPC holds two open meetings per month, on the second and the fourth Tuesdays. Meetings start at 7:00PM and anyone is encouraged to attend. If you need more information, please contact Lenora Spenser at 928-697-5520.

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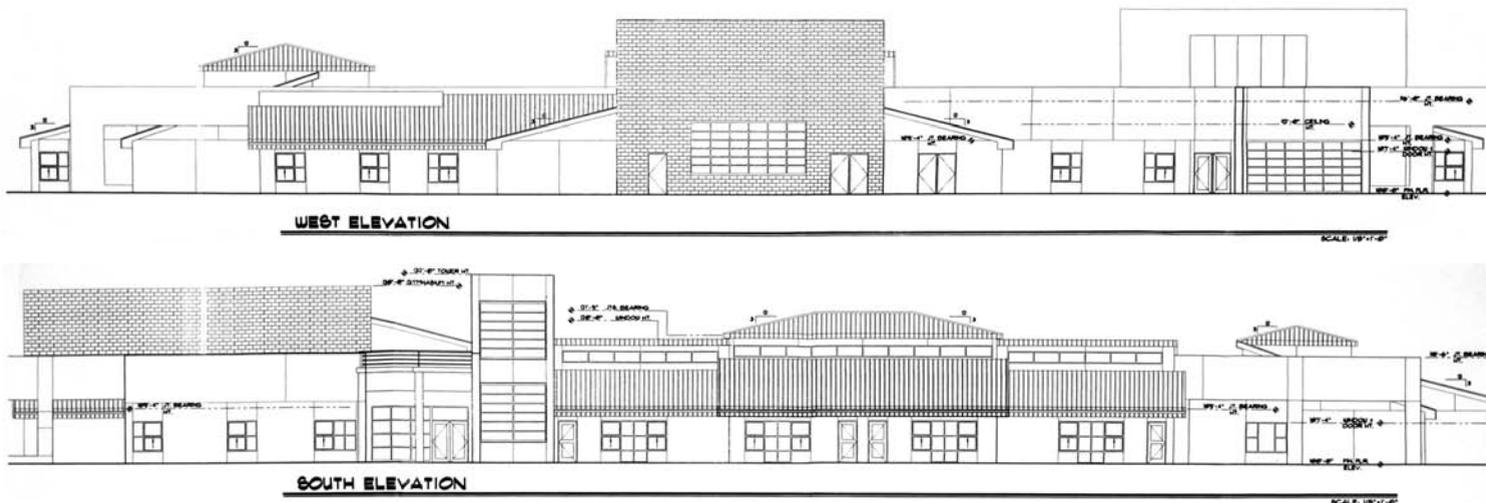
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# KAYENTA'S HEAD START PROGRAM



Kayenta is a rural community with many needs to serve the population in the areas of housing, employment and more importantly education. The Kayenta Head Start program currently serves early childhood education for children ages three to five years old at the Kayenta Primary School. Classroom space for the Head Start program is contracted from Kayenta Unified School District.

Due to the increase of growth in primary school age children, the Kayenta Head Start program is being notified by the Kayenta Unified School District that the need for additional classroom space to accommodate additional primary students is imperative.

The Kayenta Head Start program is being asked to reduce the number of Head Start classrooms in the Kayenta Primary School building. Reducing or vacating the classrooms for the Head Start Program in the main building will only leave a Hogan structure classroom located outside of the main Kayenta Primary School building.

The reduction of classroom space for the Head Start program will severely impact the children that utilize the Head Start program. The question remains, "Where will these children go?"

Without a permanent site and facility of their own, these children face

the future without adequate development skills necessary to meet the challenges of their education. The Kayenta Head Start program is very important to these children so that they may acquire the basic skills to begin a successful education early in life.

Fortunately, the Kayenta Township and the Navajo Nation Department of Head Start are working in partnership to alleviate this situation. The Chapter of Kayenta is unique on the Navajo Nation, with the Kayenta Township recognized as the local municipal government that supports community development.

The Kayenta Township Commission

The Kayenta Township Commission approved its first Capital Improvement Project (CIP) listing and plan that identifies "construction ready", "project ready", and "planning phase" projects.

The CIP plan was developed through a community "Needs Assessment" survey which was completed in December of 2004. The plan ranked projects according to criteria of each project, having support with land withdraw & legal descriptions, clearances of right of way & easements, environmental assessment, archeological clearances, resolutions of support, architect & engineer design, and full funding identified and secure.

Projects that have all of the criteria completed are categorized as "construction ready". The Kayenta Head Start program is categorized as a "project ready" project.

Through the Kayenta Township CIP plan and project categorization of "project ready" status for the Kayenta Head Start facility, it is demonstrated as a community "Need" with full community support and documentation to move the project forward with all initiatives to bring this project up to "construction ready" status.



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

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E-mail: [tparty@hotmail.com](mailto:tparty@hotmail.com)  
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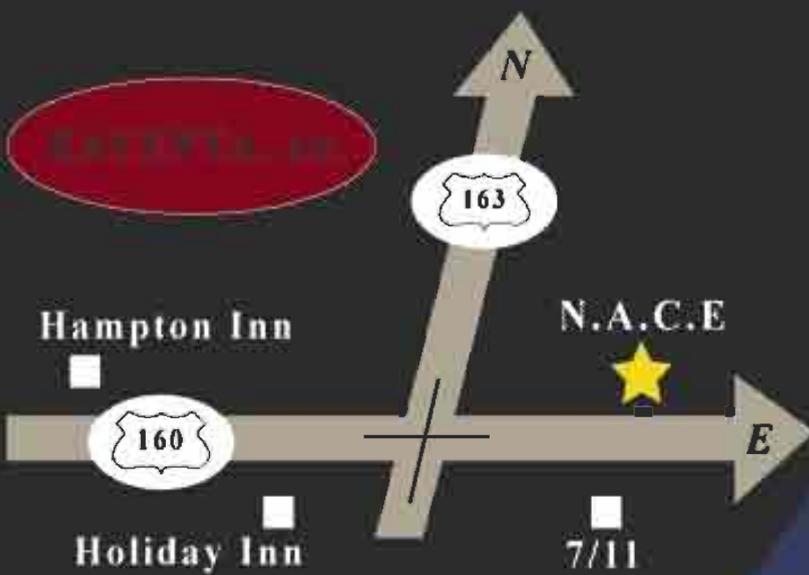
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