Kayenta Town Managers Message

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THE KAYENTA TODAY

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

A Free Publication from the Kayenta Township

The Longest Walk 2

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APRIL 2007

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House mandates schools get notification when teachers charged with felony

By Bob Robson

(State Capitol, Phoenix) – The House voted Thursday to close a loophole that allows teachers to hide their arrests for serious crimes from their school bosses.

HB2042, sponsored by Speaker Pro Tem Bob Robson (R-Chandler), requires the Department of Public Safety to notify school districts when teachers are charged with felonies.

Prior to employment, all Arizona teachers must register with the Board of Fingerprinting and submit to background checks. After this initial check, there was little a school could do to verify that their employees were staying out of trouble. Under the bill, DPS must send daily briefings to school districts naming everyone who is registered with the Board of Fingerprinting that has pending charges. And upon release by police, the teacher would be required to notify school administrators of the charges or be terminated for unprofessional conduct.

"Having accused sexual predators continue to supervise children until their court date arrives is lunacy" Robson said. "Schools need to know about any potential risks to their kids."

The bill will also require charter school teachers who are convicted of sex offences to surrender all teaching certification materials. The bill is in response to a teacher in Pinal County who was charged with a sex offense with a minor in Maricopa County. Her district did not receive notification for six months that the teacher had been charged with a felony.

Veteran Creates Discussion about Military Test

By Jarvis Williams

KAYENTA- It's the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq and protests throughout America reveal a segment of the population that oppose the involvement of American troops in the Middle East. Similar concerns and feelings of the war hit the community of Kayenta at a recent school board meeting.

On Wednesday, March 12 at the KUSD Governing Board meeting, veteran Paulson Bronston brought to the attention of the Board members his discontent with the actions of teachers discouraging students from taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, commonly known as the ASVAB test.

According to the ASVAB website, the test is part of a career-exploration and planning program with a multiple aptitude test battery developed by the Department of Defense.

The test was originally designed to predict future and occupational success in military occupations, says the website. Students are tested in eight areas ranging from word knowledge to mechanical comprehension. A good night's rest and showing up on time is all that is needed to take the test as compared to other tests that require adequate study time for good results.

Brian Bradley, MVHS Counselor, remarked that the test revealed strengths in areas some students did not think they were strong in, which surprised them. "Most students use the test as a career-exploration tool," said Bradley.

According to Bronston, some teachers at the high school were telling kids that the ASVAB test was a step towards commitment to the military and that they would be recruited by the military, which he said was unfair to students as teachers are supposed to present the options and let the students decide for themselves. In addition, he said that teachers were taking the military posters off the wall.

At the time of the interview, Principal Vormittag remarked that she was looking into the matter and did not have any names of teachers or other staff involved.

KUSD Superintendent, Dr. Alex Martinez, said in response of Bronston's remarks, "As a veteran I am offended because it is another opportunity for our kids and if we don't allow them these opportunities then we are not doing our job. Also, it's federal law that recruiters are allowed to come on to campus and if we don't allow them, it could jeopardize our federal funding."

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Alchesay's Lupe Dominates Mustang Classic

By Jarvis Williams

KAYENTA- The Alchesay Track Team boarded their bus at 3:30 am for a track meet in Kayenta on Saturday morning. It would seem that the 254-mile one-way trip would be tiring but it did not bother Alchesay sophomore Marie Lupe.

Lupe dominated in the 100m, 200m, 400m, and Triple Jump events. With a winning time of 12.99 seconds in the 100m dash and 27.67 seconds in the 200m dash, Lupe took the early season victories with ease. In the 400m, she dominated with a 1:03.27 time as the

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THE KAYENTA TODAY

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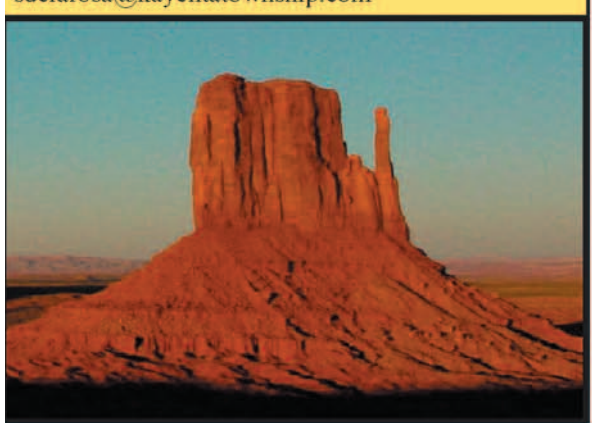

Town Managers Message

Elwood Saganey, a long time community leader and spokesman has informed the Township that Kayenta as a settlement, as town and as a community will be a century old in 2009. He stated that in 1909 John & Louisa Wetherill established the first trading post in Kayenta. They were in Oljato (moonlight pond) for five years prior to that. Before that they were in Pueblo Piñatado which is now in New Mexico. In each of these places Navajos or Dine were their only customers. Louisa Wetherill, who was born and raised in Mancos, Colorado wasn't sure about their future as traders among the Navajos but her husband was totally fascinated with the area, the Native people, the land and especially the ancient cultures of the areas. It was a land of treasurers for him.

Louisa, according to her handwritten manuscripts which was later published by one of her grandsons, thought the land was barren with no trees and very little vegetation, until she was invited to a Navajo healing ceremony. She was shocked to see a beautiful sand painting on the floor of a Hogan and wandered where all the beautiful contrasting colors came from. When told, everything including the artistic works all came from local materials and designed by the people. She asked where it was copied from; she was told that the intricate designs are in the minds of the medicine man and his helpers. She was amazed and thought the people must have high intelligence. She began to study the people and soon realized that the Dine of the New Mexico were influenced by the surrounding Pueblo people and the Mexican people. She asked her husband that she wanted to move to an area where Navajos were more isolated. "Why?" her husband asked and she said she wanted to study the Navajos who were not influenced by outsiders.

That was one of the reasons they moved to Oljato, at the time a very isolated area and operated a store there for five years, during which time a famous person, Teddy Roosevelt visited and spent the night at their home. Mrs. Wetherill showed the former president her manuscript which she started on the Navajo culture and traditions. "Great work" Roosevelt told her and encouraged her to do more research and observation on the Dine. "This kind of stuff is needed and should be preserved for the future generation", the former Rough Rider said.

Once they settled at Oljato, she started to observe the Navajos more closely. They were a close knit family with the husband and wife each with equal but separate responsibilities. The wife had complete control over the home and the husband handled all the chores outside the home including taking part in healing ceremonies. The Navajos she observed, with very little wealth were a very optimistic and happy people, always telling jokes and teasing each other. If there ever were a people more content with their lives, this was it, she thought. She wanted to study their thinking, their minds more so started looking for a person who is thoughtful and outgoing. She found this in a man called Wolfkiller, Plant Gatherer. He was not a medicine man but he had knowledge of plant medicine which is used in ceremonies as well as those administered without ceremonies. She set up a schedule where she would ask him questions and he would answer these questions. She was now fluent in Navajo and understood the language of the Dine. The first was about families, how children are raised, how marriages are arranged, etc. Next was the history of the Navajo people and finally, the ceremonies, the stories, the sings, the prayers. After that about the philosophy or the philosophical make-up of the Navajo people. After more observations, she realized that the Dine were part of nature and that their lives, their songs and their prayers were in syndrome with the universal laws of nature where life is larger than an individual that universal life continues forever. The book, Wolfkiller is available at Wetherill Inn in Kayenta.

In many respects the Wetherills put Kayenta on the map, out of this one outpost, Kayenta was known as the most isolated point in the entire USA. Thus to be able to visit and see Kayenta was quite an accomplishment for many visitors since the 1920's 30's 40's and even the 50's. People with cameras put Kayenta on travelers place to stop.

Today Kayenta is a thriving community with paved roads to Monument Valley, Southern Utah, Southern Colorado, Northwest New Mexico and entire Northern Arizona with Monument Valley, Navajo National Monument, Canyon DeChelly and Lake Powell as nearby visitor destination areas.

The highlights of Kayenta are the 4th of July celebration which rivals the Window Rock 4th of July celebration with other rodeos almost every weekend and including Western Country dancing. Over a thousand students attend Monument Valley School District. Kayenta Community School Facility replacement is under construction and Kayenta Regional Health Center with inpatient facility will be under construction 2010. Peabody Mine on Black Mesa employs several hundred Navajo workers with high level incomes. There are three major hotel accommodations in Kayenta with several restaurants and fast food outlet.

Monument Valley is not only a tourist attraction but the beautiful desert landscape has attracted Hollywood since the 1950's. Tourism will continue to be the backbone for the economic well being of Kayenta. Other entities include the service and education industries including Dine College, Northland Pioneer College and distance learning under Northern Arizona University.

As I stated in a letter to the Navajo Times in 1962, Kayenta is on the map, come and visit us and enjoy our many hospitalities.

Daniel Peaches - Kayenta Town Manager

Hundreds Welcome Indigenous Rights Walk to Flagstaff

By Klee Benally

Flagstaff, AZ - On Friday, March 21st, Indigenous spiritual leaders, environmental groups, tribal officials and 250 community members welcomed more than 100 participants of the Longest Walk 2.
The Longest Walk 2 marks the 30th anniversary of the original Longest Walk of 1978 that resulted in historic changes for Native Americans.

The Longest Walk 2 is a five- month journey, beginning in San Francisco, CA and finishing in Washington D.C., bringing attention to environmental protection and Native American rights.

"We've crossed 18 mountain ranges. We have walked 980 miles to be here," said Dennis Banks, co-founder of the American Indian Movement and lead coordinator for the Southern Route of the Longest Walk 2. "Thirty years ago a walk took place across this country and one of the issues that we brought before members of congress was the issue of the San Francisco Peaks, the holy mountain. 30 years later we are still concerned about the destruction and the violation of the holiness of this mountain."
Longest Walk 2 participants joined with tribal and spiritual leaders and community members before entering Flagstaff at a sunrise prayer gathering. The ceremony was held on Arizona's San Francisco Peaks where Snowbowl, a small private ski resort, has been attempting to expand and make fake snow from treated sewage effluent. More than 13 Indigenous Nations hold the Peaks holy and are unified in resisting the desecration of this sacred site.

Following the ceremony the walkers proceeded down the holy mountain picking up trash on their way to Flagstaff City Hall for a news conference and rally. Representatives of the Save the Peaks Coalition, Sierra Club, ECHOES, Black Mesa Water Coalition, and C-Aquifer for Dine' addressed the issues facing their communities and voiced their support for the Longest Walk 2. Shelby Ray, a 16-year-old representative of Youth of the Peaks, expressed her gratitude and encouragement to the young walkers saying, "We need more youth to speak out and take action for the environment and our rights."

"The Longest Walk 2 is a spiritual walk for the protection of our Mother Earth," said Jeneda Benally, a volunteer with the Save the Peaks Coalition. "We are honored and blessed to welcome and host everyone who is on this historic journey. From the holy San Francisco Peaks to Black Mesa, Yucca Mountain, Bear Butte, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Shell Mounds, and many, many more, the Longest Walk is here because we are still struggling to protect our cultures and land."

"This movement is a healing of our communities," said Kelvin Long, director of ECHOES, a Flagstaff based Indigenous rights organization.

"The continued desecration of sacred sites in America should be an affront to all people of conscience everywhere," stated attorney and congressional candidate Howard Shanker. "Native Americans have no First Amendment Rights regarding public land use." Shanker has successfully represented tribes and environmental groups in the precedent setting case to protect the holy Peaks.

Phil Stego Jr., Executive Director of Land Management for the White Mountain Apache Tribe stated, "For those of you that believe Indian wars are over, they are not. They are just beginning again. We will fight to the end for our people's existence." Stego also made a point to dispel the myth about the use of reclaimed water at Sunrise ski resort. He stated, "As the Director of Natural Resources for the White Mountain Apache, I can tell you that Snowbowl is lying. We are not using reclaimed water at our ski resort."

"The Longest Walk 2 is a spiritual walk for the protection of our Mother Earth,"

-Jeneda Benally

"We have Navajo tribal officials who stand up to protect the sacred mountain but don't realize that water is also sacred. We say that water is life," said Calvin Johnson, president of C-Aquifer for Dine', an organization formed to oppose Peabody Coal's use of the C-Aquifer for coal transport from Black Mesa. C-Aquifer for Dine' also opposes the "Settlement Plan" that would reopen the Mohave Generating Station and Peabody Coal mining operations. Johnson led the crowd in chanting, "Protect sacred sites, defend human rights."

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Above: Phil Stego Jr

Graffiti: What do we do?

By Jarvis Williams

I'm writing this opinion to start the discussion on graffiti. Is it art or vandalism? I drive by the unfinished shelter home, the former trading post, old laundry mat, and other places that have been "tagged" by individuals.

My opinion is that it is vandalism, not art. There are no political messages or tasteful murals just symbols that most probably agree are gang signs. After speaking with the Gang Task Force about these incidents we were advised to paint over these items as quick as they come up.

Other people have said that we should conduct a gang sweep and get rid of all the individuals that are affiliated with gangs. Some said we should put up a "tagging wall" for these individuals to write on or paint. Other suggestions include creating a Community Tagging Task Force that would be responsible for creating solutions to graffiti.

The question that I am posing to everyone is 'What should we do now?' The tagging hasn't slowed it has actually made its way to the recreation park. The Township construction crew sand blasted the walls and took off the graffiti but once we took it down, it was only a few days when it popped back up.

Before I delve deeper into this issue I thought I should gather some information about the subject so that it sounds like I know what I'm talking about. So...here it goes.

The information that I have gathered tells me that graffiti has been around for thousands of years. The Greeks did it, the Romans did it, I guess, our ancestors did it as well. Some did it for political reasons; others did it to rebel against the current structure. It is a sub-culture that began primarily in the bigger metropolitan areas.

I also read a paper titled, Ghetto Art: Thousand Voices in the city, written by Valeria Appel in which she talks about graffiti in the sense that graffiti is a form of human expression with the intention of renegotiating the "social significance of public space."

Appel is a writer from London, England who spent countless hours researching and learning about the culture of graffiti. In my opinion, she is an authority on the subject so I respect her perspective on the subject.

She also mentions that "the city is a structured space that mirrors social, economic and cultural forces in its organization and architecture."

If that is true then whoever is "tagging" areas of the town are trying to redefine the significance of the public space, not just public space but your space. Space that is used by kids everyday. Do we really want these individuals to define your public space?

The recreation park is a public space that most everyone enjoys. It's a place that is organized to bring families closer together to improve their overall health and to enjoy spending time with each other.

I think this is good thing and most everyone would probably agree. So, why are these people trying to redefine the significance of this space? Did we offend them by providing a means of recreation and enjoyment?

I can understand the argument if we had taken over an area that people once enjoyed and this was a response to that action but I find that hard to believe since there were no structures there to begin with just the bushes and sand that was collecting trash. It was not a place where sheep grazed or a place where crops were planted, it was barren piece of land that no one was doing anything with.

What about the other places like the former trading post or the old laundry mat or the unfinished shelter home? I drive by those places and see the graffiti on the walls. I'm sure someone has seen these individuals vandalizing the area but we say nothing. We just assume that they will stop or that someone will turn them in. Maybe it is our way to just not say anything.

At what point then do we finally say 'enough is enough' and we don't want anymore graffiti in our community? What do we do at that point? Have we reached that point?

Send your responses to the Kayenta Today, Attn: Jarvis Williams, PO Box 1490, Kayenta, AZ 86033.

Make sure your name is added to the paper if you want your opinion printed.

Kayenta Chapter Selects New Community Service Coordinator

Kayenta, Arizona – After months without a permanent Community Service Coordinator (CSC), Chapter President Albert Bailey announced the Chapter has selected a Community member to fill the vacant position. Community Service Coordinator Matthew Austin will begin his 90-day Introductory Period on March 24, 2008. The Kayenta Chapter was without a permanent Coordinator since October 2006.

Without a Coordinator, the Chapter was hindered in certain administrative functions and some projects were put on hold. A permanent Coordinator will assist the Chapter to move forward and enhance services provided to the Community. In addition, the Coordinator will assist the Chapter obtain Local Governance Act Certification. The interview panel consisted of Kayenta Chapter Officials and members of the Fort Defiance and Western Navajo Agencies Local Governance Support Centers staff. Mr. Austin served as the temporary Coordinator since September 2007.

Matthew Austin is from Tsegi, AZ, an area 10 miles west of Kayenta. He is born to the Black Sheep clan, born for the Bitter Water clan, maternal grandfather is the Towering House clan and paternal grandfather is the Red House clan. Matthew has served the Kayenta Community in various capacities in both the Kayenta Chapter and the Kayenta Township, including other community oriented organizations.

Kayenta Shelter Home

By Anthony Peterman

Many questions have arisen concerning the current status of the Kayenta Shelter Home, so here is a brief overview of the current conditions.

The Kayenta Shelter Home is a support center for families in need of emergency assistance for housing and support. Navajo Housing Authority, through a grant from NAHASDA financed the construction of the Shelter Home in 2001-2002.

The Kayenta Shelter Home includes two buildings located on a 4.45 acre site just west of the Kayenta Post Office. These buildings include a 4,431 square feet administrative office/support center and 9,771 square feet of residential dwelling units. An additional 7,473 square feet building designed for childcare is included on the site, but is not a part of the Shelter Home.

The construction of the Shelter Home was near completion in the summer of 2002 when the construction work was suspended, and the facilities have remained unfinished and unoccupied since 2002. The Navajo Housing Authority contracted with David Sloan Architects in 2007 to provide a facility condition report to determine what work is required to complete the facilities for occupancy.

Overall, most of the damaged conditions encountered were from moisture penetration into the building due to leaks in the piping from the fire sprin kler system and damaged caused due to break-ins and vandalism.

The NHA Board of Commissioners gave a directive for NHA to do all things necessary to achieve completion and occupancy of the Kayenta Shelter Home and set aside $75,000 to begin the project. The Kayenta Township Commission in turn gave a directive to the Township Staff to assist in any way possible so that our citizens are able to utilized this valuable facility during their times of crisis.

Pursuant to these directives a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into this year between the Navajo Housing Authority, Kayenta Shelter Home and the Kayenta Township in a joint effort to achieve the goal of occupancy and project closeout.

Insurance arrangements are currently underway with NHA's Self Insurance program to carry general liability and property insurance of the Kayenta Shelter Home during the course of repair work. As soon as insurance coverage is authorized, a Notice to Proceed will be issued for the Kayenta Township to begin repair work.

The Kayenta Township is eager to begin work on this facility and will focus our initial attention on the interior of the residential units. Work is scheduled to begin the first week in April and will continue through the summer.

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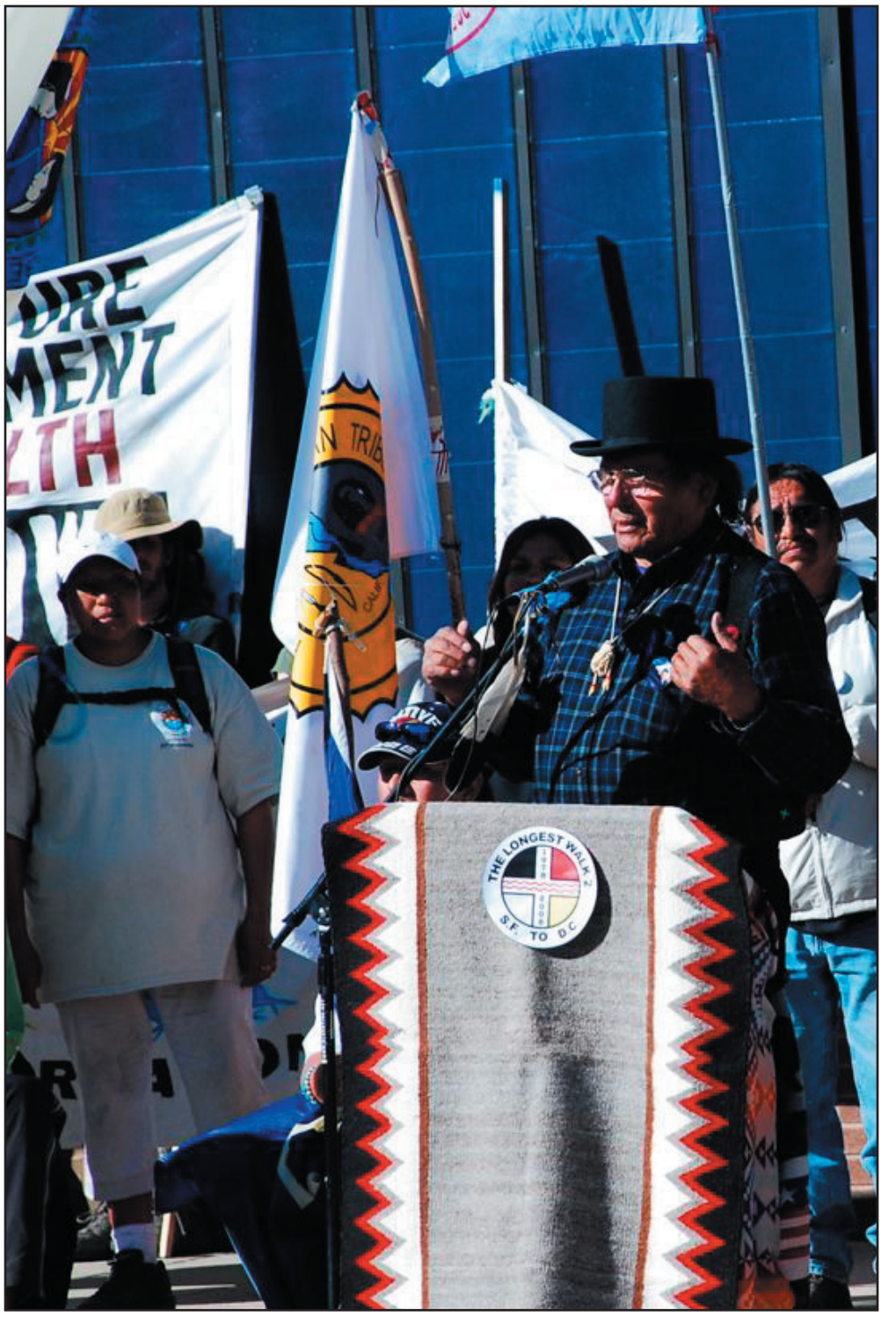
"Right now 80% of the natural resources held underneath Indigenous people's lands are being threatened. There is an ongoing war being waged for these resources." said Enei Begaye, director of the Black Mesa Water Coalition. "We agree that we need to stop the war in Iraq and end the occupation of other territories around the world. However it is important to remember that the U.S. is also occupying sovereign nations here in this country. On Behalf of Black Mesa Water Coalition, we'd like to honor the walkers for carrying this message," said Begaye.

People from throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia who have joined the Longest Walk 2 offer their support to the struggles of Indigenous people in the United States. Jun Yasuda, a Buddhist nun from the Nipponzan Myohiji Order in Japan said, "Walk is a prayer, step by step we will walk until mother earth smiles." Yasuda is a veteran of the 1978 Longest Walk and has continued to walk throughout the world for peace and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

The Longest Walk 2 is anticipated to arrive in Washington, D.C. on July 11, 2008. "Upon our arrival, we will deliver a resolution to elected officials. This resolution will document the struggles and concerns from each indigenous community that we encounter during our walk," said Dennis Banks. "Our intention is to give a greater voice to the environmental and indigenous struggles that our government doesn't often acknowledge." "The Havasupai recently invited us down into the Grand Canyon. They told us about the exploratory drilling for and the seepage of uranium into the Colorado River. We were hosted also by the Hualapai where chromium affects their daily lives today." stated Banks.

During the 1978 Longest Walk, thousands converged on Washington, D.C. in an effort that defeated 11 pieces of legislation in Congress that would have abrogated Native American Treaties. As a result of the 1978 Walk, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978) was passed.

Above: Radmilla Cody



Above: Dennis Banks

Since the arrival of the Longest Walk 2 to Flagstaff, many community members have volunteered to cook, provide housing, monetary donations and other supplies.

"I feel like they are making history," said Denise Stoner, an active Dine' (Navajo) mom who has donated food and volunteered kitchen support. "Our rights need to be supported, if we don't say anything now we might not have a chance to." Denise Stoner also urged more people to get involved with the walk, "I know that its kind of hard because we are in a recession, times are tight right now but there are a lot of resources in this town, our community has a lot to offer."

The walkers will remain in the Flagstaff area until March 29th. On Wednesday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. a panel discussion on the Longest Walk 2 will be held at NAU's Cline Auditorium. On Thursday, March 27th at 5:00 p.m. a benefit concert will be held at the Orpheum Theatre. On Friday, March 28th at 11 a.m. a prayer gathering will be held with opportunity for individuals to speak about issues impacting their communities. The gathering will be held at the Star School, located at 145 Leupp Rd.

After their Flagstaff visit, the Longest Walk 2 will continue though the Navajo Nation. For a complete itinerary, specific directions and additional information please visit: www.longestwalk.org.

MUSTANG CLASSIC RESULTS

Men's Varsity 18 events scored:
1. Monument Valley 158
2. Tuba City 83
3. Joseph City 63

Women's Varsity18 events scored:
1. Chinle 88.5
2. Tuba City 88
3. Alchesay 76

Men's 2000m Steeplechase
1. Adam Butler (11) Monticello 8:58.08
2. Isiah Plummer (12) Monument Valley 9:12.23
3. Tyler Shirley (10) Many Farms 9:12.88

Women's 2000m Steeplechase
1. Tiffany Nez (10) Tuba City 8:54.37
2. Diandra James () Ganado 9:05.49
3. Cortney Ivins (11) Alchesay 9:21.06

Men's 100m Dash
1. Stetson Slivers Ganado 12.02
2. Zack Baldwin Joseph City 12.10
3. Tachoney Slim Greyhills 12.13

Women's 100m Dash
1. Marie Lupe Alchesay 12.99
2. Shelby Begay Greyhills 14.03
3. Lindsey Larsen Joseph City 14.11

Men's 200m Dash
1. Stephen Solomon Joseph City 24.40
2. Zack Baldwin Joseph City 24.59
3. Brandon Woody Greyhills 24.63

Women's 200m Dash
1. Marie Lupe Alchesay 26.61
2. Courtney Norberto Chinle 28.97
3. Lindsey Larsen Joseph City 29.04

Men's 110m Hurdles
1. Charles Yellowhorse Window Rock 16.87
2. Steven Nez Window Rock 18.06
3. Kalao Gray Monument Valley 18.74

Women's 100m Hurdles
1. Courtney Norberto Chinle 16.91
2. Jessi Rush Joseph City 19.93
3. Bobby Logg Valley 20.77

Men's 300m Hurdles
1. Charles Yellowhorse Window Rock 44.20
2. Stephen Solomon Joseph City 45.61
3. Steven Nez Window Rock 46.47

Women's 300m Hurdles
1. Courtney Norberto Chinle 50.82
2. Bobby Logg Valley 54.01
3. Nichole Freestone Monticello 54.20

Men's 400m Dash
1. Darwin Yellowhair Monument Valley 55.61
2. Latimer Sherman Tuba City 56.56
3. Jo-El Thomas Tuba City 58.06

Men's 110m Hurdles
1. Charles Yellowhorse Window Rock 16.87
2. Steven Nez Window Rock 18.06
3. Kalao Gray Monument Valley 18.74

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Men's 400m Dash
1. Darwin Yellowhair Monument Valley 55.61
2. Latimer Sherman Tuba City 56.56
3. Jo-El Thomas Tuba City 58.06

Women's 400m Dash
1. Marie Lupe Alchesay 1:03.27
2. Lindsey Larsen Joseph City 1:08.18
3. Natalya Robbins Tuba City 1:10.95

Men's 800m Run
1. Ryan Yazzie Tuba City 2:12.40
2. Lance Nez Tuba City 2:14.10
3. Darwin Yellowhair Monument Valley 2:14.60

Women's 800m Run
1. Cody Terrell Chinle 2:51.67
2. Tatiyanah Johnson Tuba City 2:56.16
3. Stephanie Johnson Chinle 3:01.54

Men's 1600m Run
1. Lane Cowboy Monument Valley 4:49.34
2. Lance Williams Tuba City 4:51.81
3. Ryan Yazzie Tuba City 4:57.47

Women's 1600m Run
1. Macee Nielson Monticello 5:56.64
2. Charnelle Curley Chinle 6:07.10
3. April Tracy Tuba City 6:14.75

Men's 3200m Run
1. Lance Williams Tuba City 10:23.03
2. Alvin Begay Ganado 10:45.25
3. Lane Cowboy Monument Valley 10:53.62

Women's 3200m Run
1. Courtney Ivins Alchesay 13:26.09
2. Reba Francisco Chinle 13:27.31
3. April Tracy Tuba City 13:28.99

Men's 4X800m Relay
1. Tuba City 8:47.13
2. Monument Valley 9:01.29
3. Ganado 9:13.93

Women's 4X800m Relay
1. Tuba City 11:09.81
2. Valley Sanders 11:15.12
3. Alchesay 11:48.38

Women's 1600m Run
1. Macee Nielson Monticello 5:56.64
2. Charnelle Curley Chinle 6:07.10
3. April Tracy Tuba City 6:14.75

Above: Alchesay's Marie Lupe Winning the Triple Jump Competition.

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Women's 4X800m Relay
1. Tuba City 11:09.81
2. Valley Sanders 11:15.12
3. Alchesay 11:48.38

Men's 4X100m Relay
1. Joseph City 48.43
2. Ganado 49.75
3. Greyhills 49.77

Women's 4X100 Relay
1. Joseph City 56.18
2. Tuba City 57.23
3. Monument Valley 59.30

Men's 4X400m Relay
1. Joseph City 3:49.14
2. Alchesay 3:52.28
3. Ganado 3:55.08

Women's 4X400m Relay
1. Tuba City 4:53.57
2. Window Rock 5:04.02
3. Alchesay 5:09.93

Continued on page

Continued from page

Men's Shotput
1. Matthew Greyeyes Monument Valley 41-05.00
2. Rulianald Tabaha Valley 39-08.00
3. Arick Best Fredonia 38-00.00

Women's Shotput
1. Trisha Curley Tuba City 34-02.00
2. Cera Yellowhair Chinle 32-04.00
3. Josefina Blas Valley 30-06.00

Men's Discus
1. Michael Williams Monument Valley 113-03
2. Joshua John Whitehorse 105-05
3. Matthew Greyeyes Monument Valley 103-00

Women's Discus
1. Erica Cly Monument Valley 87-01.00
2. Josefina Blas Valley 85-10.00
3. Cera Yellowhair Chinle 81-11.00

Men's High Jump
1. Tachoney Slim Greyhills 5-04.00
2. Darwin Yellowhair Monument Valley 5-04.00
3. Lane Cowboy, Monument Valley 5-00.00

Women's High Jump
1. Megan Johnstun, Joseph City 4-08.00
2. Alexandra Navajo, Monument Valley 4-04.00
3. Kierston Miller Monument Valley 4-04.00

Men's Pole Vault
1. Windell Talker Monument Valley 8-06.00
2. Colton Ketchum Monument Valley 8-00.00
3. Rowdy Geraghty Fredonia 8-00.00

Women's Pole Vault
1. No Entries
2.
3.

Men's Triple Jump
1. Byron Davis Monument Valley 40-00.00
2. Harold Quintero Alchesay 37-11.00
3. Jarvis Attakai Tuba City 34-08.00

Women's Triple Jump
1. Marie Lupe Alchesay 31-09.00
2. Melerie Tsabetsaye Window Rock 29-11.00
3. Nyla Simeona Chinle 26-11.00

Men's Long Jump
1. Byron Davis Monument Valley 19-09.00
2. Shane O'Riley Monument Valley 18-08.00
3. Harold Quintero Alchesay 18-05.00

Women's Long Jump
1. Shelby Begay Greyhills 14-04.00
2. Nichole Freestone Monticello 14-00.00
3. Regina Reid Monument Valley 13-01.00

Continued from page 1

2nd place finisher was a distant 5 seconds behind.

In another demonstration of her athletic ability she competed in the triple jump where she landed further than anyone in her division with a jump of 31'9". The nearest competition landed two-feet behind her.

"I did pretty good up here but the 200 (meter dash) is my strongest event," said Lupe, who is only a sophomore.

The competition may get tougher as the season continues but Lupe is certainly one athlete to look out for.

Another athlete to watch out for is Tuba City's 3A State Champion Cross-Country runner, Lance Williams, who finished the day with an impressive 20-second lead for the first place victory in the 3200m, a second place finish in the 1600m and a team relay victory in the 4X800 race.

The highlight of the day was the Men's 1600m run where Mustang Lane Cowboy overcame Tuba City's Lance Williams in the final stretch to come away with the victory.

"He's a challenge and I knew he wasn't going to give up without a fight so I gave it everything I had," said Cowboy regarding the race.

Tuba City's running program is well-known throughout the region and is one of the best in the state. It showed as their Men's 4X800 relay team smashed the meet record by 9 seconds with a time of 8:47.13.

They also took the second and third place positions in the 1600m event, as well as, first and second places in the 800m.

For the Tuba City women's program, Tiffany Nez and Nicolette Hatathlie finished 1st and 2nd respectively in the 1600m while the 4X800 relay team finished first. In addition, three of the four members of the relay team are freshman.

Other notables include Mustang sophomore Michael Williams winning the Men's Discus with a throw of 113'5" and Mustang senior Matthew Greyeyes gaining the shot put victory with a toss of 41'5".

Continued from page 1

Section 9528 of NCLB allows military recruiters to visit high school campuses if they receive any financial assistance stemming from the law. No Child Left Behind, commonly known as NCLB, is a federal education initiative passed by the U.S. Government to improve the quality of education in the United States.

In addition, the policy also requires the local education agency (any local school that administers the education and information) to allow military recruiters access to secondary school students names, addresses, and telephone listings.

However, the parent or secondary school student may request that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released without parent permission. Many schools have opt-out forms that students and parents can use to make the request that their personal information not be released to military recruiters.

MVHS Principal Gillian Vormittag mentioned that the parents are notified through letters if they want their child to take the test or not. The letter dated October 31, 2007 states, "As usual, every fall of each school year the ASVAB is administered to all Juniors and Seniors. If you DO NOT want your child to participate in the testing please contact your child's Academic Counselor as soon as possible."

In addition, MVHS Counselor Brian Bradley mentioned that the students have the option to list or not list their phone number or social security information when their testing as well as the option to be or not be contacted by the military.

At MVHS the test is given once a year to juniors and seniors sometime in the fall semester. Last year, 50 seniors and 65 juniors took the test at Kayenta-Monument Valley High School.

Out of the 217 graduates from Monument Valley High School, 7 graduates enlisted in the military, while more that half of them moved on to a 4-year or 2-year college or other higher education institution. The remaining went directly into the workforce or a combination of work and school.

According to Brenda Walker, MVHS Career Technical &Education Advisor, "We've always used the ASVAB as a career assessment tool, so I was rather disappointed to hear that teachers were taking the posters down because we utilize the test in a different way. We even have an ASVAB representative come out and interpret the tests for free."

In the last few years, the percentages of graduates from Monument HighSchool that enlist in the military haveremained below 10%, according to Walker.

According to David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, in a recent Washington Times article dated March 7, 2008, military recruitment numbers were declining citing the longevity of the war, a negative view of military life, and rising obesity rates nationwide as principal reasons for the decline.

Military recruiters are seen in the same category as college recruiters and job recruiters in the sense that if they are allowed to visit students for recruitment purposes the military recruiters must also be allowed to do the same.

If the school decides to not allow military recruiters then the same must go for other recruiting groups. It is considered equal access under federal law.

The topic of military recruiting at high schools is becoming a hot discussion item amongst Americans as the war in Iraq continues and the need for more volunteers continues.

With a billion dollar recruitment budget the Department of Defense will continue to focus their efforts in areas where they will have the most success. Whether that is fair or equal is still up for debate but parents and students can make the best choice by becoming informed of the options that are available.

Shanker Receives Endorsements From All Navajo Agencies in AZ

By Stephanie Burchfield, APR

Flagstaff, AZ – March 25, 2008 -- On Saturday, March 22, the Fort Defiance Agency passed an unopposed resolution to endorse Howard Shanker's Congressional campaign. Shanker, who previously received endorsements from both the Western Agency and the Central Agency of the Navajo Nation, is the only Congressional candidate endorsed by all three Navajo agencies in Arizona's District 1. In addition, Shanker, who is running for the seat being vacated by Rick Renzi, has been endorsed in the Navajo Nation by the Tuba City Chapter, the Bird Springs Chapter, the Cameron Chapter, the Coal Mine Canyon Chapter, the Fort Defiance Chapter, and the Dine Hataathlii Association, a prestigious organization of more than 300 Medicine Men and Women who have never before endorsed a political candidate.

Shanker attributes his support on the Navajo Nation to several key reasons, stating, "Most of the Dine' I speak with want a candidate who understands their issues and needs, and who will listen to them. They want a candidate who is not just showing up for the first time to try to get votes, but somebody who is qualified, prepared, and committed to advocating for things that are important. My proven track record of advocating at the federal level for the Navajo Nation and other tribes is unmatched by any of the other candidates for this seat."

Shanker is the attorney for the Navajo Nation, as well as the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, the Havasupai Tribe, the Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity, and others, in the case that is fighting to keep the federal government from allowing the use of reclaimed sewer to make snow on the San Francisco Peaks. Shanker, who argued the Peaks case in front of an en banc court of the Ninth Circuit in December, has distinguished himself as a leader in the fight to protect holy and sacred sites. Shanker also represents the Navajo Nation on uranium contamination issues. In November, Shanker accompanied a delegation of Dine' who were testifying in front of Congress on the ravages of uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation. Shanker also recently helped file briefs on an important issue of tribal sovereignty in the Ninth Circuit for the White Mountain Apache Tribe. He previously represented the Black Mesa Trust, a coalition of Navajo and Hopi who were fighting to stop Peabody Coal from draining the "N" aquifer to slurry coal to the Mojave generating station. Shanker is also an attorney on the case that recently kept the Desert Nesting Bald Eagle from being taken off of the endangered species list – a case in which many of the Apache tribes filed amicus briefs.

According to Dennis Banks, a long-time Native American activist and one of the organizers of the Longest Walk, "I fully endorse Howard Shanker for Congress. It is refreshing to find somebody who has done so much for our people and our Mother Earth who is willing to run for Congress." Shanker was a guest speaker and host for the Longest Walk in Flagstaff. He was also the Grand Marshal in the Western Agency fair/parade last year. He rode his Harley Davidson with the Navajo Honor Riders in a recent parade to honor Native Veterans in Sacaton, Ariz. He previously rode in the Veterans Day "Run for the Rez" on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. He has been a guest lecturer at Dine' College, and at Tuba City High and delivered commencement addresses at Little Singer and the Star Schools. On April 15, Shanker will be the keynote speaker at the Navajo Nation's Environmental Days in Window Rock, Arizona.

Shanker, who received his law degree from Georgetown University in Washington D.C while working for the U.S. Department of Justice, and who was appointed by President Clinton to serve a three-year term on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Enforcement Subcommittee, has a record of legal activism on issues important to the Navajo Nation and other tribes, that is unmatched by any other candidate in the CD-1 race.

Electronic Devices Bring New Challenges for A.I.M.S. Day

By Judith F. Bullock, M.A.

Kayenta – Monument Valley High School test administrators are concerned about students bringing electronic devices to testing areas, as they prepare to offer the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (A.I.M.S.) math test on Tuesday, April 8, 2008. In a recent ammendment, Arizona law now states that if a student has not passed any of the three AIMS tests and he or she has all their high school credits, the student can still graduate.

Students in tenth grade take the A.I.M.S. high school test and continue to test twice annually in grades eleven through twelve until they have met or exceeded the standard in each area tested. The A.I.M.S. is a criterion-referenced test with questions developed by Arizona educators and is based on Arizona academic standards.

Anne Clasen, one of the teachers who will be administering the math A.I.M.S. in April, hopes that families will urge their students to take this test seriously, and not bring any electronic devices into the testing areas. Arizona Department of Education (ADE) officials have warned educators that if a student were caught with a cell phone in any testing area, the student's test would be invalidated, even if the student's test was turned in to the proctor before the student was caught with the phone. ADE officials are concerned that students might share answers by text-messaging one another during the test.

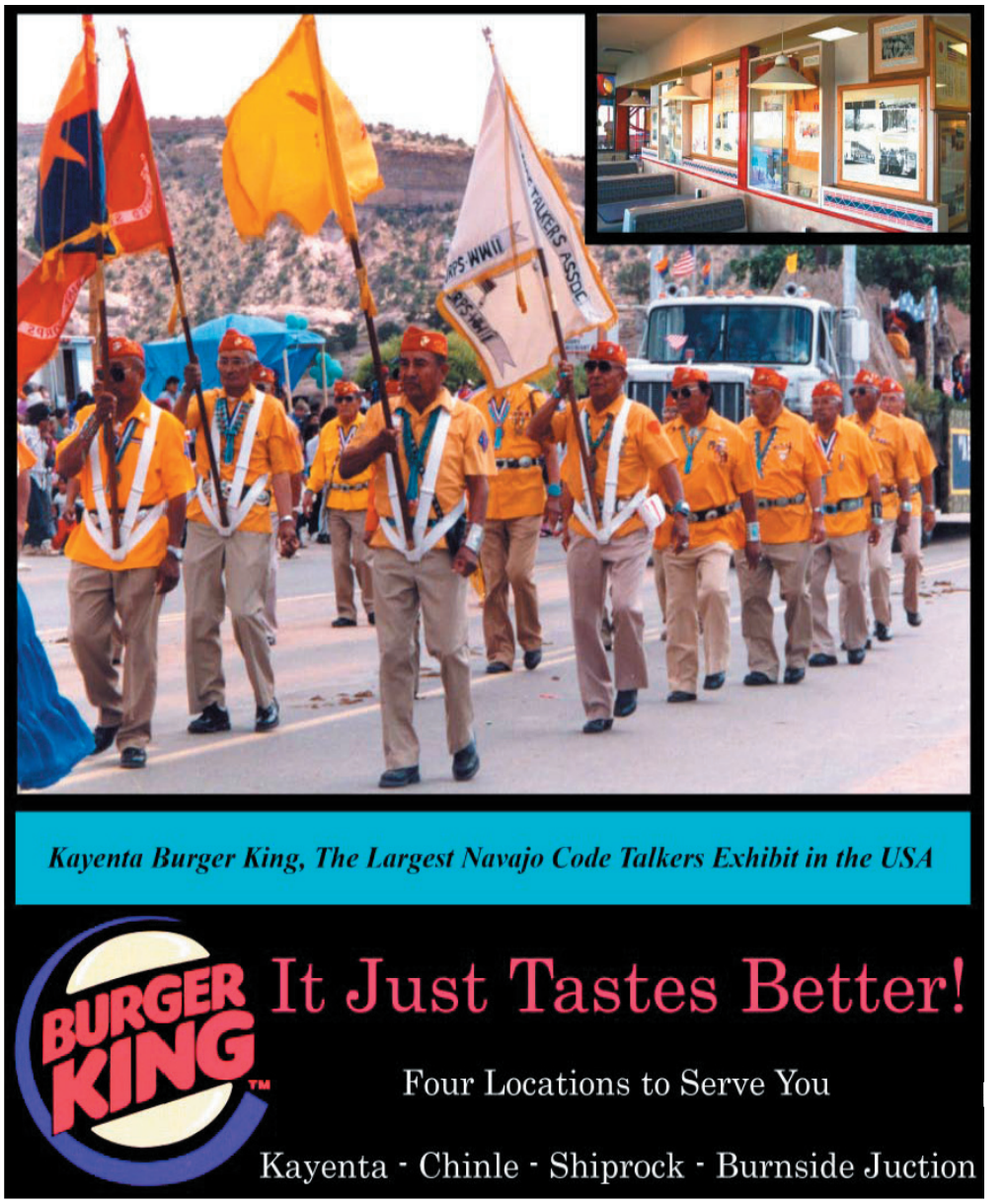
The possibility of students cheating on such a high-stakes test is a very serious issue, so on the day of testing, no electronic devices will be allowed in the high school at all. But even warning students about the dire consequences of bringing electronics into the testing environment might not be enough. Clasen has a Plan B for students who violate the no electronics rule.

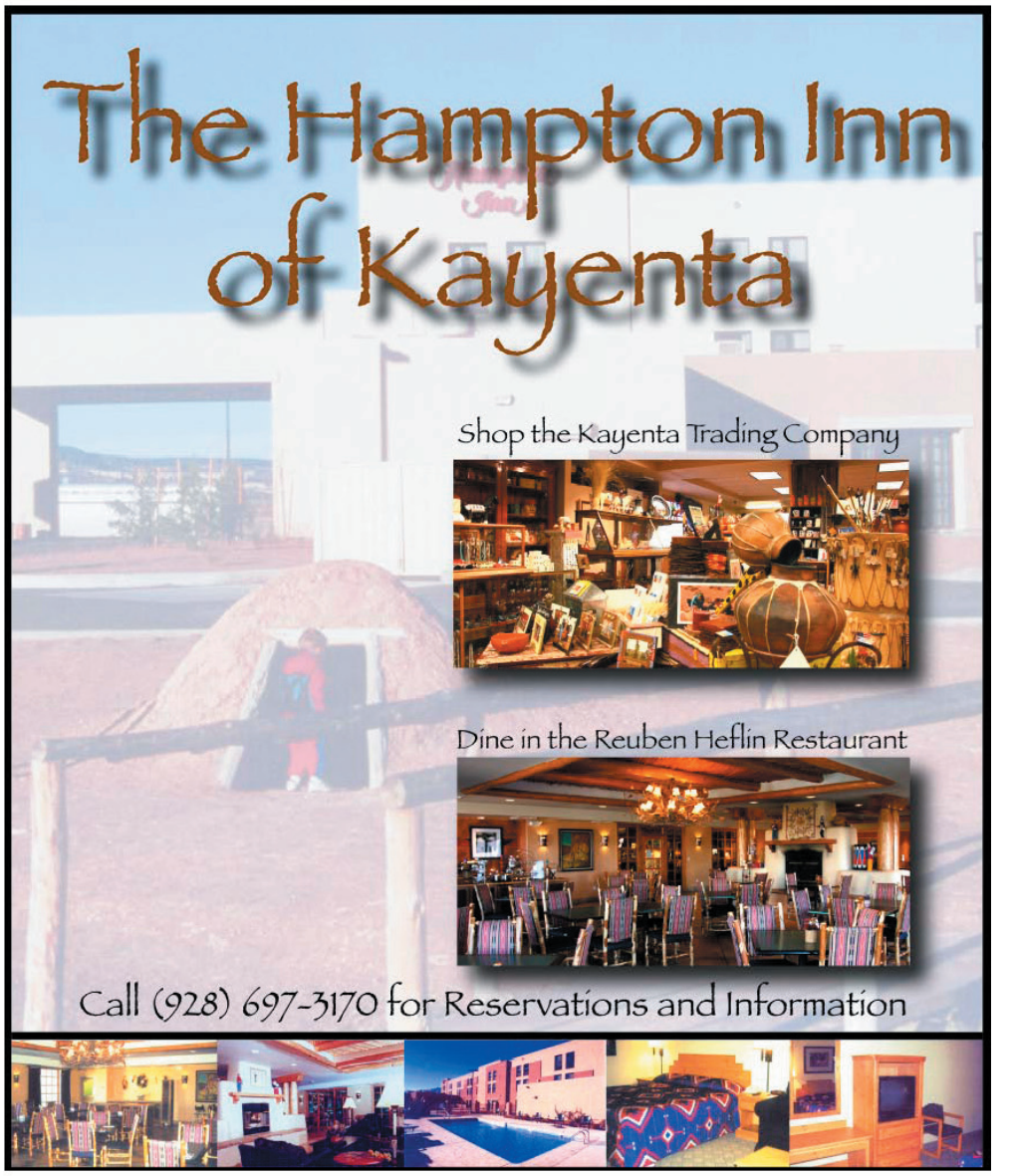
"Because kids will undoubtedly violate this expectation, all test proctors will go over the rule and will collect and label any electronic devices from students before passing out the tests. We will have masking tape for labeling the equipment. They will keep the devices until the end of the testing period – no exceptions."

Students who violate the no electronics policy will have their electronic items confiscated and given to one of the school principals. The device would not be returned to the student until his or her parent came in for a conference. Clasen states, "Parents need to know that their child's test may be invalidated if the student had a cell phone, and that the student has definitely compromised the testing environment." Students should remember that the testing period includes restroom time, breaks, and the period following the test.

Students are nervous about the high stakes testing. Student Candice Jones admits, "I feel jittery about the test. I don't think that I'm going to pass it. I haven't studied. But it is the way to get your diploma." Other students, like Philisha Clah, are looking forward to taking the test a second time. "I hope I exceed the A.I.M.S. standard for math this time. I only met the standard last year, but I want to exceed it, because I want to get a scholarship. I want to go to Arizona State University."

Whether they are dreading the test or looking forward to it, many students at Monument Valley High School are taking advantage of an exciting, Saturday morning A.I.M.S. prep project, that uses computer-generated test materials that are similar to the types of test items that may appear on the A.I.M.S. test. This new tutoring program, designed by visionary principal Gillian Vormittag, takes a proactive approach to test preparation, and integrates computer technology with one-on-one assistance from caring teachers. The last day schedules for this special help program will be on Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. All Monument Valley High School students are urged to take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn and grow.





Kayenta Projects Set to Move Forward

By: Jarvis Williams

KAYENTA- During the winter, most construction projects slow down because of the cold weather with the possible exception of the southern half of the state. For Kayenta Township Project Manager Anthony Peterman, moving projects forward has been a bit difficult because of the long cold winter.

Skater breaking in new picnic bench.

However, the weather is warming up and Mr. Peterman has been making steady progress. The projects scheduled to move forward this spring include a $250,000 sewer line upgrade, $100,000 for an animal shelter, $75,000 renovation of the shelter home, and $10,000 for senior center landscape and fencing.

"We're breaking ground on probably the most projects we've ever broken ground on," said Peterman excitedly.

Keyah Construction working on sewer line project.

Kayenta Construction Crew w/kokopelli superman biker.

The sewer line upgrade has been in the planning stages for the last two years and is one of several projects that have begun already. The upgrade is expected to last 3-4 months and was awarded to Keyah Construction with a $250,000 price tag. However, the project was delayed for a few months due to approvals from various entities and the winter weather.

The sewer line project will help to alleviate a "bottleneck" in the sewer system that would have most likely caused problems in the future if not addressed. When asked about the age of the current lines, NTUA-Kayenta District Manager Dale Luna said that the lines were approximately 35 to 40 years old.

Kayenta Township Construction Crew working Senior Center Fencing project .

Harry Singer, Owner of Keyah Construction, said "We've waited a long time for this project to get started, we're excited and look forward to doing a good job for Kayenta." According to Singer, they cleared their schedule last summer for the Kayenta projects so that it would not interfere with their operations however delays have held up the progress and may have prevented them from pursuing other projects while waiting for the permission to proceed.

Keyah Construction will add an 8-inch sewer line that will run parallel to the current 6-inch line along Hwy 163. In addition, new water and sewer lines will be placed to allow for more development in the area behind the post office. Keyah Construction has worked with other tribal entities in California, Nevada, and Arizona.

According to Harry Singer, the construction may provide some delays for traffic exiting the post office however he mentioned that his group will work hard to minimize the traffic delays for residents.

NTUA District Manager Dale Luna responded, "I think it's great. Kayenta is one of the few entities, in regards, to utility upgrades that are shouldering the cost for projects like this." He added, "Kayenta is very fortunate to have a source to address the utility needs for residents of Kayenta."

With ongoing improvements to the Recreation Park and Center, the Kayenta Township construction crew has also been keeping busy through the winter months. Recent additions such as the construction of a sidewalk, trash bin area, skatepark fencing, and skatepark amenities have given users of the park something to be proud of.

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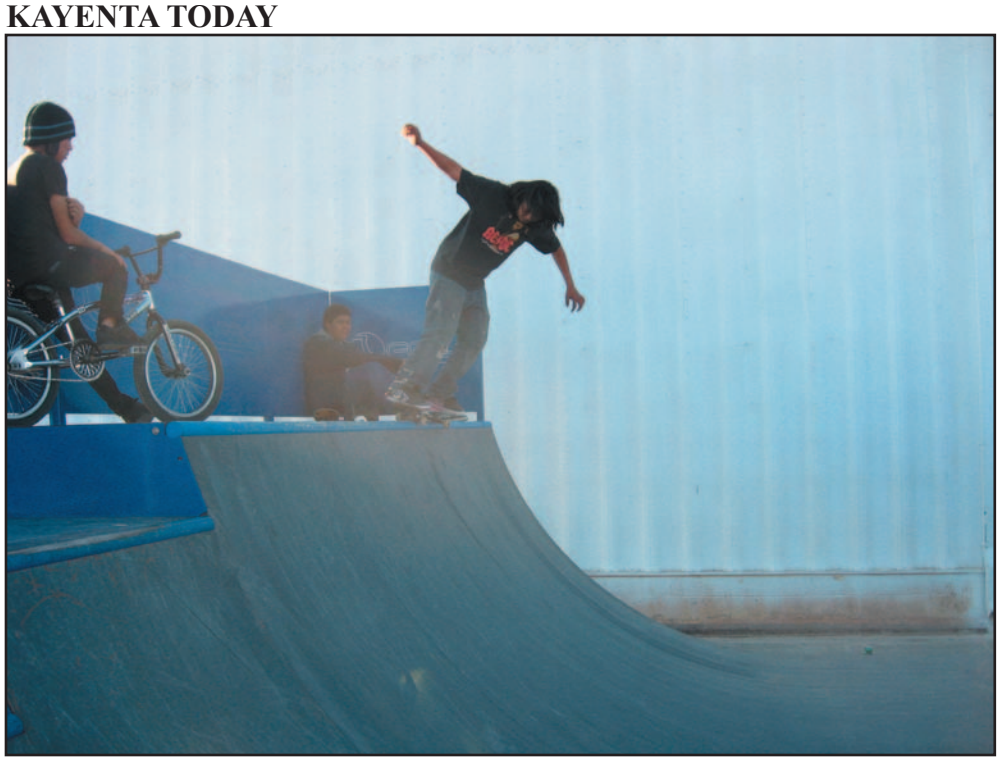

Youth skater on new 6-foot Half-pipe.

Kayenta Township Construction Crew fixing the rear entrance of the Recreation Center.

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"I just finished drawing the last of the kokopellis and they should be up on the skatepark soon," added Peterman.

According to Mr. Peterman, the recreation center and park improvements are ongoing and should continue throughout the year. In other areas, the senior center should see some improvements this spring. The fencing project should be completed as well as a few picnic benches for the seniors.

Residents can also look forward to the construction of a local animal shelter in the next two months. The site of the animal shelter will be located on the north end of town near White Mesa Materials. "There has been tremendous interest in this project, so right now we are finalizing the floor plans," remarked Peterman.

The Kayenta Township has allocated $100,000 for the animal shelter building. The plans will also allow for the traveling veterinarians to have a place to park their vehicle when they visit the community. With the 2007/2008 Fiscal Year coming to a close in May, the maintenance and operation budget will be established for the facility for the upcoming 2008/2009 Fiscal Year.

"These projects are a result of planning and putting those plans into construction," remarked Kayenta Town Manager Daniel Peaches.

K-Town Turns 100

Plans for Kayenta's Centennial Celebration Underway

By: Jarvis Williams

KAYENTA- On March 24, the first Kayenta Centennial Meeting took place at the Kayenta Township Conference Room to discuss the 100th anniversary of Kayenta. With seven people in attendance the meeting focused on information gathering and who would lead the committee. Community pillars, Lillian Smith and Elwood Saganey, were present to begin the meeting.

Several names came up but the overall consensus was Mr. Elwood Saganey. Mr. Saganey was the first to notify Mr. Peaches of the upcoming centennial for Kayenta. In response, Mr. Peaches sent Mr. Saganey a letter requesting a meeting to discuss the celebration activities.

"Mr. Saganey has been in a lot of positions that involved the building of the Kayenta area," said Mr. Peaches when asked why he nominated Mr. Saganey to lead the committee.

However, what was not clear was the actual date that Kayenta was established. According to a Kayenta Township brochure, "Kayenta came to be on March 21, 1911 when John and Louisa Wetherill established a trading post." Although, that particular date is used for the brochure the committee would like to finalize the actual date for the celebration.

"It's going to be a lot of work but overall it was a good, interesting meeting," said Lillian Smith.

As a result, the committee will gather information from various sources to come an agreement about the date that Kayenta was established so that we can plan the celebration around those days. One of the items that were agreed upon was that the community and businesses needed to be involved.

"It was a great meeting. The people that attended had some real interesting information about Kayenta," remarked Mr. Peaches.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Monday, April 21 at 2pm in the Kayenta Township Conference Room. Letters will be sent to certain individuals for their information however the meeting will be open to the public.

If 1909 is the agreed date, the centennial celebration will take place next spring and there will be plenty of planning that will need to take place this year. If you would like to be a part of this committee or a part of the information gathering, please call Jarvis Williams at the Kayenta Township, 928-697-8451.

Above: This was the Kayenta Trading Post back in the early days.

Above: An old photo of the Kayenta Trading Post. This building is still standing and is still in use. It is one of Kayenta's oldest buildings.

TEN STAR ALL STAR BASKETBALL CAMP

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp is by Invitation Only. Boys and Girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from 50 States an 10 Foreign Countries attended the 2007 Camp. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp locations include: Prescott, AZ, Thousand Oaks, CA, Babson Park, FL, Gainesville, GA, Champaign, IL, Glassboro, NJ, Lebanon, TN, Commerce, TX, and Blackburg, VA. There is also a Summer Camp available for boys and girls ages 6-18 of all skill levels. For a free brochure on these Summer Camps, please call (704) 373-0873 anytime.

Also visit www.tenstarcamp.com for more information.

TOHDENASSHAI SHELTER HOME

SATURDAY APRIL 05, 2008

4TH ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Bring your spring cleaning unwanted items and make some $$$. And at the same time support a great cause.

Donations; $10.00/Space
$15.00/Food vendor
Donations benefit Tohdenasshai Shelter Home
A 501 (c)(3) organization

Location: Kayenta Chapter Parking Lot
9:00am to 3:00pm
Saturday, April 05, 2008

For more information call (928) 697-3635

KAYENTA TOWNSHIP

P.O. Box 1490, Kayenta, AZ 86033 Phone: 1-928-697-8451 Fax: 1-928-697-8461

POSITION AVAILABLE

TITLE: Engineer Technician	LOCATION: Kayenta, Az
POSITION: Fulltime/Permanent	DATE: Closes April 18, 2008

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES: Under the supervision of the Town Engineer, provides support services in the areas of planning, zoning, surveys, infrastructure assessment, plan profile design and development, CAD operations; performs related work as assigned.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

•Assist the Town Engineer in site selections for business and home-site leases, ensuring that infrastructure is available and surveys are complete and accurate
•Assist in the physical assessment of existing infrastructure and planning for future development
•Assist in project and building inspections for conformance to Town standards, policies, codes, ordinances, and generally accepted principals
•Assist in the development of CIP projects and department operating budget
•Assist in making field surveys to evaluate needs, problems, and to check for the quality of work performed
•Assist in the development and maintenance of GIS and CAD database files and department records
•Generate transmittals, notices to proceed and related service proposals
•Extract and analyze information from recorded plats, legal descriptions, leases, easements, right of ways and other documents
•Performs other work as directed by the Project Manager or Town Engineer

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

•Knowledge of the principles and practices of surveying and civil engineering
•Knowledge of laws, regulations and modern methods related to civil engineering
•Knowledge of computer operations as it relates to surveying and engineering
•Skills in the use of surveying and engineering tools and equipment
•Skills in preparing technical documents and maintaining reports and records
•Skills in effectively communicating verbally and in written form
•Skills in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with employees, contractors, various agencies and the public

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

•Three years of work experience as an Engineering Technician
•Valid Driver's License