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# THE KAYENTA TODAY

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

A Free Publication from the Kayenta Township



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September 2010

WWW.KAYENTATOWNSHIP.NET

## Farm Board President Looks for a Renaissance

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ - On August 23, 2010, new Town Manager Hygi (pronounced "Hew-gii") Waetermans, Farm Board President Ben Edwards, and Community Development Coordinator Malcolm Benally took a survey of over 300 acres of farm land about 3-miles west of town. The farmlands, older than the town itself, are known as Cliff Farms. The Cliff Farms are currently being developed and leveled so that a community garden can be redeveloped and operated to its past potential.

Local community member Ben Edwards often volunteers a significant amount of his time to revive the work that needs to be done to keep Cliff Farms maintained well enough to be used as community farm lands. Ben gave the Kayenta Township staff, Malcolm and Hygi, a tour of the three hundred (3) acre farm lands currently maintained under his tutelage.

For the past three years, Ben has been the Kayenta Farm Board President. For Ben and many of his generation, this is the area of

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**Town Manager Hygi Waetermans and Ben Edwards, Farm Board President look at the Lay of the Land at Cliff Farms.**

## Township to Host Film, Blues and Arts Festival

By Malcolm Benally

The 4th Annual Monument Valley Film, Blues, and Arts Festival will take place at the Kayenta Town Hall from Friday, September 17th to Sunday, September 19th, 2010.

Founded in 2006, the Monument Valley Film Festival is the only festival of its kind on the Navajo Nation. The film festival highlights the appreciation of Native American film as an art form. Over the past three years, the festival has grown tremendously and this year will be even bigger than the previous years.

The festival was founded by Shonie and Andee De La Rosa of Sheephead Films, major funding sources for this year's festival comes from the Kayenta Township, Kayenta Burger King and Hampton Inn of Kayenta.

"The festival relies heavily on donations and volunteers every year, without the donations from businesses and volunteers helping out with the festival, all this would not be possible," said festival founder Shonie De La Rosa.

The festival this year will take place in collaboration with two major events: the first "Rez Dog Biographies: a James Sables photo exhibit and fundraiser at the new Kayenta Animal Care Facility located near the Transfer Station in Kayenta, AZ.

To kick-off this year's festival, an outside stage will open its doors at 5:00 pm Friday, September 17 for the Blues Festival. This evening of blues music will be hosted by comedian James Junes. Blues bands will rock the festival with blues artists: The Plateros, Coalition, and Chucky Begay and the Mother Earth Band.

Art For The People will showcase new, up and coming artistic talent at the Kayenta Recreation Center. "Art For The People," which was brought to Kayenta during the 4th of July Celebration. "Art For The People" will be, first, a showcase for the fine



arts, and artists who work with gold, silver, sculpture, painters, and other mediums.

Art for the People, Inc., is a non-profit collective of Native American artists who organized as a union after making a mark on the world stage with their talents. "These are special artists who have shown at exclusive places in the states and abroad. It's like coming from the Emporium in San Francisco and back to the Navajo reservation," says Baje Whitethorne.

"The goal of the Monument Valley Film, Blues, and Arts Festival is to serve as a repository, and a chance for film buffs to meet Native film makers and learn about the craft. There is a lot of talent on the Navajo Nation. We want to help promote their work,

Shonie and Andee De La Rosa, Festival founder and film director says, "The MV film Fest is a great place to make new friends, relax and enjoy some good films for free!"

The small community is the gateway to Hollywood film history: Monument Valley, the seventh wonder of the world. The films will premier at a remarkably intimate venue seats only 60 people at a time. The venue has grown substantially

in audience numbers each year since its inception.

As a grassroots film initiative, the film festival in Kayenta is envisioned as a way to bring Native made films to the people living on Navajo lands. Otherwise, authentic distribution and sale of Native made films are, ironically, very rare on Indian reservations. Unless Native Filmmakers promote their films at the larger film festivals they are invited to attend these events on a very competitive basis, they often do not get to enjoy the full recognition they deserve.

The beauty of the Monument Valley Film Festival is that with an almost 100% Native audience, each filmmaker who attends literally gets hometown recognition when they show their work.

All events at the 4th Annual Monument Valley Film, Blues and Arts Festival are free to the public and seating is first come first served basis. For more information, please visit [www.monumentvalleyfilmfest.com](http://www.monumentvalleyfilmfest.com) or call (928) 429-0671.



## The Kayenta Township

**Accepting applications for the following position**

### Planner

Dept: Development Services

Location: Kayenta Township

Closing Date: September 17, 2010

Salary: DOE + 14% Fringe Benefits: Standard, Township-provided benefits for salaried-exempt employee, including the following:

- 401(k) retirement account
- Health, dental, life, vision and disability insurance (HMA, AFLAC & Mutual Omaha)
- Sick leave
- Vacation
- Holiday Pay

To apply submit the following:

1. Kayenta Township Employment Application;
2. Resume;
3. Copy of Degree/ Certificates; and three (3) Letters of Recommendation.

All applicants are subject to background checks and drug testing.

All positions require a valid state Driver's license. Housing will not be provided.

Navajo Preference will be taken into consideration.

Visit Kayenta Township at [www.kayentatownship.net](http://www.kayentatownship.net) for an application, how to apply and full job description

Kayenta Township, P.O. Box 1490 Kayenta, Arizona 86033

Phone (928) 697-8451 Fax (928) 697- 8461

## Kayenta Township Commission

P.O. Box 1490 Kayenta, AZ 86033

Phone (928) 697-8451



### Helen Bonnaha, Chairperson

Helen Bonnaha is the Chairperson for the Kayenta Township Commission 2009 to 2012. She is Bit'ahnii, Within His Cover people born for Tsénahabitnii, Sleeping Rock clan. Her maternal grandparents are Tł'izi Láni, the Many Goats. Kinyaa'aanii, the Towering House people are her paternal grandparents. She has been a life long resident of Kayenta, AZ.



### Alyce M. Yazzie, Vice-Chair

Commissioner Alyce M. Yazzie has been a resident of Kayenta, AZ all her life. She is Todichii'nii, Bitter Water born for Dibé Lizhini, Black Sheep. Her maternal grandparents are Tsi'naajini, Black Streaked Wood people and her paternal grandparents are Nanesht'ezhi Tabaaha, the Zuni Water Edge clan. She has been a Commissioner since March 2006.



### Richard Mike, Secretary

Richard Mike, a native of Kayenta, AZ is serving his third term as Kayenta Township Commissioner. He is Bitter Water born for the Big Water clan. His maternal grandparents are Many Goats and his paternal grandparents are Jemez Coyote Pass.



### Delores Greyeyes, Commissioner

Delores Greyeyes, originally from Black Mesa, AZ, is one of the newly elected Kayenta Township Commissioners. She is Bitter Water born for Near To Water, her maternal grandparents are Ashiihi, the Salt Clan. The Bit'ahnii, Within His Cover people are her maternal grandparents.



### Carol Todecheene, Commissioner

Carol Todecheene, a life long resident of Kayenta, AZ, is serving her first term as Kayenta Township Commissioner. She was born in Gouldings, Utah. Carol is Dził Natohnii Tachii'nii, Mountain Tobacco Red Streak Running Into Water clan born for Todichii'nii, the Bitter Water clan. Her maternal grandparents are Bit'ahnii, Within His Cover people. Her paternal grandparents are Kinyaa'aanii, Towering House people.

# Town Manager Message

Thank you very much to the Kayenta Township Commission for selecting me as the new Town Manager. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the township and its residents. This township is unique, not only within the borders of the Navajo Nation, but throughout Indian Country as a whole, as it is the first autonomous, self-governing community of its kind.

Having been received so well by the community motivates me to make a concentrated effort to improve conditions around town. During my first week on the job I have gotten to know the staff and various community members. What appears to be needed very badly are improvements to the infrastructure in order to provide for a higher quality of life and attract more business and economic development.

I am delighted at several upcoming projects, namely the new Regional Correctional Facility and the new hospital as well as the vocational-technical college.

Not only will these projects provide new employment opportunities during their initial construction phases, but they will also create long-term jobs for the staff necessary for the daily operations of these facilities.

Expanding the number of enterprises will be beneficial to the township provided that these new enterprises will operate profitably. Not only do we need to improve the physical, but also the organizational infrastructure throughout the township. Consequently, I am currently reviewing existing policies and procedures and will be drafting proposed changes, as needed, for consideration by the Commission.

Anyone having any recommendations for improving the status quo is welcome to visit with me in person, at my

office, by telephone or in writing. I intend to make our administration more customer-friendly, and to that end, I have already contacted Frontier Communications to optimize the use of our telephone system. I experienced, first hand, the frustration of not being able to reach staff or leave messages in the hope that I would receive a call back. Now, that our telephones have been re-programmed, callers can once again leave messages for those unavailable to take their calls with the reasonable expectation that they will receive a response in a timely manner.

While this in itself is only a minor issue, it points to the need for better communications and a better understanding of all the issues before us. I look forward to witness the continued growth of Kayenta Township and hope to make lasting contributions to make this township a better place to live and work for everybody.

Hygi F. Waetermans  
Kayenta Town Manager



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Kayenta that was at one time a cultural habitat, a botanical garden that nurtured its own species. In fact, most of what is now the Town of Kayenta was mostly farmlands at one time. "When I was a kid, I saw it for myself. I saw cranes and many kinds of birds spend some time in that canyon. The birds were on their way to the north, or coming back from the south. This place was a stop along the way of their migration pattern," says Ben. As children, he and his friends played on the farm lands, and he remembers orchards of apples trees, peach trees, and apricot trees. "I found out for myself how hard it is to revive these farms. You have to have a whole belief system to make it work. It seems like the community has just lost interest in farming," he says. "There are still some people who really believe in it and often talk about the way it was in the past, but the resources and community support, it's just not there anymore," says Ben.

Nevertheless, the Farm Board has obtained partnership with the Kayenta Chapter, Navajo County, Peabody Coal Company, the Kayenta Township, Office of Environmental Health, and the local Resource Management Office. Peabody provides fuel support for use of the Kayenta Chapter grader to level the cornfields. Farm Board President Ben Edwards is the only certified heavy equipment operator, so he volunteers his time to operate the heavy equipment.

Recently, Navajo County, through dialogue with Jonathan Nez, District I Navajo County Supervisor, the Farm Board was able to receive a donation



**Ben Edwards being sworn in for the Kayenta Farm Board on January 11, 2007.**

of 150-fence posts that was delivered from Holbrook, AZ. The fence posts will be used to repair much needed repairs on the cornfield fences to keep cattle, horses, and sheep from raiding the harvest.

Although the limited support is in place and much appreciated, the revitalization project needs an additional \$24,000 in funds to level and enhance a dirt canal that directs alluvial waters into Dry Lakes near Cliff Farms. "It's a big dream for many people to see a lake with a fishery one of these days," says Anita Spencer, Farm Board Secretary/Treasurer. "I remember when I was a little girl on weekends, if we stayed at the dormitory, we used to go to the orchards at cliff farms and eat the peaches and apples from the trees and we played all day on the cliff ridges. That was a lot of fun," she remembers.

The remaining 300-acres of farm lands still exist today and the fields are awaiting major maintenance to be used efficiently by the community. "A lot of work still needs to go into Cliff Farms. If we want to start programs and include the schools, we have to have certifications and meet federal standards. That can only be done if more people can rise to the occasion," says Anita. She explains that a lot of people in her parent's generation made a whole livelihood from the farm lands. "It has to become a priority if anything significant will get done," she says.

The community farm lands have a deep history. The Kayenta Reservoir and the surrounding cornfields were put in place by the Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division (CCC-ID) back in the day when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President of the United States. The CCC-ID and its affiliate program, the Indian Emergency Conservation Work (IECW), brought Navajo men to work and help build the Kayenta farm lands and Diversion Dam beginning in the early 1930's. Under this New Deal Program, the Bureau of Indian Affairs helped maintain the community farms until the 1960s. Navajo men signed up to work on roads, bridges, clinics, and other public works near their reservation.

Beginning in the early 1960's, Navajo families found it increasingly difficult to find a balance between



**December 21, 2007, waterlines were being put in the ground in the Kayenta area for the Farm Board project.**

industrial development and their traditional lifestyle as Peabody Western Coal Company negotiated with the Navajo Nation to begin surface mining operations for low-sulfur coal. Peabody Coal Company brought with it the promise of electricity and running water. For Kayenta and its neighbors, community planning in the midst of abundant farm lands brought along strong choices to be made. The transition to be made to enter into a full-fledged modern economy has become an obstacle and an opportunity for the Kayenta community that still exists today. The lack of infrastructure continues to be a problem.

"One of the good things about the work that the Farm Board is doing is that we can still exercise our water rights. The farm board still has water rights," says Ben Edwards. Ben explained that if the Farm Board can raise at least \$24,000, they can get a significant amount of work completed. The monies would provide the ability to purchase fuel and rent a bulldozer that can level a canal that would provide water to Dry Lakes, near the town of Kayenta. Monies can also be used to purchase addi-

tional fence posts and fencing materials that would effectively eliminate traffic from cattle, horses, and sheep who might otherwise eat up all the available produce that has been harvested at this time.

From the beginning, the New Deal program, a public relief work program during the Great Depression was meant to improve the value of Indian lands, reduce, and control erosion of the land. The CCC-ID and IECW often provided the only paid work in the remote regions of the Navajo Reservation. Native crews, 18 to 24 years of age, set up to work to build Diversion Dam, cultivate the corn fields, plant orchard trees, and built the Kayenta Reservoir.

Today, the Town of Kayenta has transitioned into a culture of technology, C-stores, and now most community members probably spend more than fifty percent of their time indoors due to their profession and other obligations. The Navajos who do make up a significant population among the skilled labor force and those who have embraced higher education have migrated into the big cities to earn a higher income and

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**Reservoir at Cliff Farms was Built in the 1950s by Civilian Conservation Corp.**

## Interview with Hygi Waetermans – Kayenta Town Manager

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – The Kayenta Administrative staff has to catch a minute of Town Manager, Hygi Waeterman's time. In the month's time that he has been with the Township, he has absorbed an amazing amount of detailed information. Already, he's held an introductory meeting with all staff and then another just recently on Thursday morning, to inform the staff of human resource issues he has become aware of and would like to change.

From the outset when he introduced himself, he told his staff of over 30 employees and five departments the he likes to keep an open door policy. His style of leadership is to run dialogue with his staff, to ask questions, and propose ideas. 'Efficiency' seems to be the key word in his management style.

His accent, part German and part California-speak, is, at once, engaging, and to the point. He has worked in interesting places, like at the bottom of the Grand Canyon with the Havasupai Tribe. And with over two decades in South Dakota on the Yankton Sioux Reservation, he is quite familiar with issues facing American Indians.

One would think, "He's just a new kid on the block." Technically, yes. But, surprisingly, he's already on a first name basis with some of the people he's met in the community. Kayenta Today sat down with the TM recently for a 15-minute interview.

1) **Can you give us a little bit of a background about your work before taking the position of Town Manager at the Kayenta Township?**

I have worked for a total of 12 federally recognized tribes in five states, including Arizona, over the course of the last 30 years. My most recent position prior to coming to Kayenta was working as an Assistant Tribal Administrator for a California Tribe on the North Fork Rancheria. And before living and working in California, I spent 22 years in South Dakota on the Yankton Sioux Reservation.

2) **How did you hear about the position of the Town Manager while you were living all the way in northern California?**

I saw a job advertisement notice on the Indian Country Today website. Thereafter, I submitted my application packet with the Township and I arrived on February 8, 2010 for an interview. This was the first time I ever came to Kayenta in my whole life.

3) **What were your first impressions of the town for which you eventually became the Town Manager?**

My first impression was that it was noticeably different from other Indian

communities I have lived and worked in. The difference being was that I saw more business activity, such as the shopping center, the hotels and fast food restaurants. Throughout the rest of the country, most of the Indian reservations do not have a Burger King, a MacDonald's, Hampton Inn, or a Holiday Inn. I was also impressed by the fact that all five of the Commissioners participated in the Town Manager interview process. I thought this was a good sign. It showed me that the people were interested in finding the best suited candidate for the position.

4) **Now that you have been here for one month, you have already been through a Strategic Planning Session, a Town Hall meeting, and met with a lot of community leaders. What are the prospects you see in working with Window Rock and the greater public?**

I think it's very important that we develop mutually beneficial intergovernmental relationships with other jurisdictions and with the business community.

5) **Some of the biggest needs that have been discussed has always included a 99-Year Master Lease as well as legalizing alcohol for the restaurants locally. Does this seem like a foreseeable goal to you?**

The 99-year lease will make the Township more attractive from a business owner's standpoint to start a business here in Kayenta. There are obvious questions and red flags in having to re-visit a business site lease every 25-years, as is currently the case for the Township and the Navajo Nation. It is easy to see the frustration of business owners. The businesses coming to Kayenta need to be motivated and have incentives in place to relocate here. That is what we need to work on.

6) **What are some of the local attractions that you have been able to enjoy?**

One, I've been to Monument Valley and had lunch at The View and visited Gouldings. I was impressed with the natural wonders. What I found distressing was I learned that Navajos living there, to this day, have to travel several miles to haul water from Gouldings for their basic needs. That blew me away. These basic amenities should be made available. The rest of the country takes these amenities for granted.

I went to Window Rock, the Navajo Nation Capital for the first time in my life. Of course, that was all business, and I wasn't there as a tourist.

7) **Any final thoughts?**

I think that Kayenta is unique not only within the Navajo Nation but in all of Indian country. It has great opportunities that I hope to take a part in developing during my time here.

## Kayenta Business Forum Invites Navajo Nation Presidential Candidates and Local Candidates, October 04 at 6:30 PM

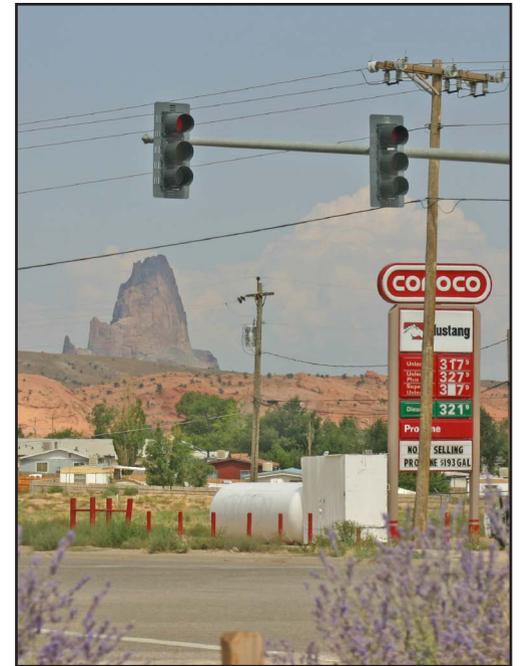
By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – On Wednesday afternoon, the Lynda Lovejoy campaign confirmed by email that they will be joining the Kayenta Business Forum on October 04, 2010 beginning promptly at 6:30 pm. The details of the forum, like the panel questions are currently being developed and the location of the forum will be announced at a later time.

The current Navajo Nation Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates are Lynda Lovejoy and Earl Tulley who will face off with Ben Shelley and Rex Lee Jim. Ben Shelley is currently the Vice-President of the Navajo Nation and Rex Lee Jim, Council Delegate from Rock Point, AZ is currently Chairperson for the Navajo Nation Public Safety Committee. If Ben Shelley become Navajo Nation President, he will continue a legacy of 30-plus years in the public service sector. Lynda Lovejoy is the New Mexico State Senator representing District 22, and Earl Tulley is best known as a community organizer, founder of Diné CARE (Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment), and an Administrator for Navajo Housing Authority. Mrs. Lovejoy has broken down barriers for Navajo women and may become the First Navajo Woman President of the Navajo Nation.

When the primary debates were held at the Monument Valley High School Student Activity Center auditorium back in early August, one of the hottest topics of debates was raised by D. Harrison Tsosie who cited Title XVIII as a law that needed to be exercised and expounded on. Working with this law has the capacity to pass legislation in helping local communities to negotiate with big business, corporations, especially when their natural resources come into question. At the debate, it became known that the Navajo Nation Government has many law and legislation that are already in place, but have been ignored and are basically "Out of sight, out of mind."

The October 4th Business Forum will include a cross section of candidates from Navajo County, the Kayenta Township Commissioners, and the candidates for Navajo Nation Council Delegate for the Kayenta Chapter. The forum is likely going to focus on six major themes of priority to our community. Questions will be collected from local business and community members concerning local government, ethical economic development, government reform, youth affairs, and veteran's affairs. The Forum questions will



most likely begin by asking questions from each of the categories, such as:

1. Many Navajo reservation Chapter communities have been approaching the concept of a municipal government such as the Kayenta Township, which has recently been delegated Business Site Leasing Authority. How will your Administration support these types of demands within the Navajo Chapter communities?
2. Non-Navajo owned hotel/restaurant businesses have to pay State and Local taxes which often equals 11% tax making it one of the highest tax bases in the world. An op-ed in Forbes magazine, a business magazine, once recommended travelers and businesses to stay away from Kayenta because of high taxes. What will you do to make it easier for businesses to come to the Navajo Nation?
3. Tourism is one of the biggest industries for the Navajo Nation that has not seen its full potential. In fact, many small, family owned businesses which would have prospered from Tourism have been marginalized from full participation. One good example is Monument Valley: many families have had the same concern for fair and equal participation for years, but nothing has happened except the growth and support of corporations. How will your administration change this, while local corporations prosper, families continue to haul water every day from a public facility?

The details of the Kayenta Business Forum and Debate will become available as more developments come forth at <http://www.kayentatownship.net/blog>. If you want to pose a question, please email your question to [mbenally@kayentatownship.net](mailto:mbenally@kayentatownship.net).

# Official Film Selections for the 4th Annual Monument Valley Film Festival

**Star Stories, Diné Oolie'e:** A Field Trip To The Lunar Landscape, Directed and Produced by Todd Hedblom, Artreach Studios, 9-minutes. Students from Chinle Unified School District take a field trip to Meteor Crater. There, they take a look at lava flows, the origin of volcanoes, and hear stories from scientists and from a traditional Navajo medicine man. Various scientists and geologists at the Meteor Crater Visitors Center talk about the meteor crash that caused an "atomic bomb"-like effect over 50,000 years ago.

**A Culture Lost?** Directed by Derek Hodges, 9 minutes, Vancouver Film School, 2009. Students who went to what is called a Residential School in Canada tell their stories. A Residential School is the equivalent of a Bureau of Indian Affairs Boarding School in the United States. Students were taken from their villages, homes, and told not to speak their Native languages and faced many methods of assimilation. In their later years, many turned to alcohol, homelessness, and suicide. "You can't just say I'm sorry, and the problems going to go away," one former student says.

**So Bahane', Story of the Stars and How To Build a Planetarium.** Produced by Alice Carron, NASA and Artreach Studios, 13:27 min. This short educational video is introduced and narrated by the Honorable Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council Lawrence T. Morgan. Also narrated by NASA scientists and Navajo Traditional Practitioners to place the stars and constellations as a Navajo "reference and guide" to the universe. Narrators explain the Navajo oral traditions placing the Big Dipper, Cassiopeia, the North Star, Polaris, and Orion. "The stars set the concept of time for the Diné people, the order of the stars cannot be changed by any human," says Navajo Nation Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan. Afterwards, an amazing short video tells didactically "How To Build A Planetarium." (Check it out it's pretty cool.)

**Gathering of Nation: Star Stories Storytelling With NASA.** Produced by Alice Carron, NASA and Artreach Studios, 6 min. United States President Barack Obama introduces and welcomes everyone to the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, NM before NASA scientists and traditional Native Elders tell stories about the solar system and the stars.

**River of Renewal.** Directed by Carlos Bolado. A Pikiawish Partners Production, 2009, 55-minutes, www.riverofrenewal.org. A documentary film that explores the issues surrounding the conflict over resources from the Klamath River Basin, which involves the states of California and Oregon. It won the Best Documentary Film at the San Francisco, CA American Indian Film Festival. The film follows Jack Kohler, a Yurok/Karuk Indian from the Bay Area and a student of Engineering at Stanford University. The video documents protest and acts of civil disobedience as Indian tribes, farmers, and commercial fishermen defend their ways of life. It witnesses a remarkable turnaround as politically polarized stakeholders and government agencies overcome bitter divisions in reaching a consensus about the future. Competing demands for water, food, and energy have pitted farmers, American Indians, and commercial fishermen against each other for decades. Remarkably, this conflict over resources has led to a consensus for conservation in this vast river basin that was once North America's third greatest salmon-producing river. The outcome will likely be the largest dam removal project in U.S. history and the most ambitious effort ever to restore the habitat of a federally protected species. In September, 2009, the Secretary of the Interior announced the agreement between the California and Oregon governors and Warren Buffett's PacifiCorp to remove the four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River. The plan aims to restore economic viability along with the ecological integrity of a region larger than nine of the fifty states. There are many ways in which it could fail, but if the Klamath does become a river of renewal, that success would have a ripple effect around the world. Learn about the struggle to save salmon fish and how to help.

**Shimasani & \*\*b Dreams.** Directed by Blackhorse Lowe, 20 minutes. Two short films both shot in eastern New Mexico. b. Dreams is a story about an Anglo Filmmaker who works at the eastern New Mexico Hatch Trading Pos is learning about the Navajo language from conversational speech Navajo tapes. He flirts with a Navajo girl who comes to the store, hit it off, and they go on an adventure about town. The puns and Navajo dialogue in front of the yet to be filmmaker makes the film humorous and authentic.

Shimásáni is a black and white film which recently won the Best of Show at the American Indian Market in Santa Fe, NM in the Moving Images category. Set in 1934, a Navajo girl runs away from school and returns to Grandma's sheep camp. She trades barbs with her sister who yearns to trade places with the and go to school. Shot and edited in vignettes, the film has an ability to transcend time and takes us back to the good old days in Navajo life, a time in Navajo life that is considered a Renaissance era when Navajos had recovered from the ravages of the Long Walk.

**Dreamcatcher.** Written and Directed by Ryan Atimoyoo, A Gear Room Productions, Inc., Rachel awakens to her ability to walk the Dreamworld and embarks on a quest to seek out her estranged blind Grandmother. Her Grandmother walks through the Dreamworld and explains that Rachel's twin sister, was not ready for her gift and the two seek to cure Rebecca of her madness. Rachel learns that with her gift comes a high price.

**Worth 1,000 Words.** Written and Directed by Ryan Atimoyoo, A Gear Room Productions, Inc. 12 min. The film interprets a Native taboo that begins the film: "Some Native people believe that if you take a person's picture, it will take a part of their soul." This short feature film portrays a deaf artist who sits in a park and paints portraits of people after taking a Polaroid picture of them. For some superstitious reason, the artists smears his own blood over the eyes of his subjects pictures before he draws them. That is, until something goes horribly wrong.

## Blackhorse Lowe Showcase

**\*\*Hey Indian,** 19 min - an anglo guy wants to become "more Indian" after his girlfriend dumps him for "not being Indian enough." He begins to have a thing for Indian arts and crafts, literally, until he becomes homeless and sleeps outside Indian Arts and Crafts gift shops. He seeks out an Indian in the city park who gives him a red ribbon shirt.

**\*\*Minor Disturbance,** 6 min - an art film where a guy walks around and listens to his music until he comes across people burning a cornfield.

**\*\*The One About Bikes,** 13 min - a guy really likes his pink bike. He rides it around the neighborhood and shows off his bike until he is humiliated. Then he decides to take revenge and take matters into his own hands, and again becomes the life of the party.

**June,** 13 min - A Navajo girl, June, learns to read and write Navajo at school. We take a look at a book she's made from learning Navajo words and putting them in a sentence. Her time in school learning Navajo is intercut with the time she spends at home, at the kitchen table, and at play.

**Open Season.** Directed by Raquel Chapa, Clarabell Productions, 15 min. "It has always been open season on Native women." A documentary video about sexual and domestic violence against women, gives voice to coalitions, organizations, and victims who speak out about their personal experiences. The video addresses the stigma against domestic violence, the lack of involvement from Public Safety, and the media. "Why aren't these crimes being prosecuted?" the documentary examines how women can address their issues and get out of the cycle of domestic violence.

**Cangleskia Wakan: The Sacred Hoop.** Directed by Aitken Pearson. NTSC, 52:53, "When the Patriarch did his culture of fear and did his disrespecting over 6,000 years ago. The world is now as you now know it," says one Lakota narrator. The documentary about the Sacred Hoop is worth watching for its breathtaking cinematography of the South Dakota landscape, shot by Tristan Barnard. The Sacred Hoop are "all the things that were created and are still present. It's a way of life," says another about Lakota values. Cangleskia Wakan is a Lakota term meaning Sacred Circle or Hoop. It is based on the Sioux belief that everything in the universe is interrelated, human beings and all things which exist in their environment are connected in one continuous process of growth and development. Cangleskia being circle and Wakan meaning holy or sacred. The film addresses the concept of the Sacred Hoop through the eyes and voices of powerful and respected contributors of the Lakota, Dakota & Nakota Nations. Filmed on the Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River & Rosebud Indian Reservations in South Dakota during the Winter/ Spring of 2008 /09 the cinematography captures a stark and unrivaled beauty which transcends all barriers connecting it's heart to that of it's audience.

The film is considered a performative documentary. Stressing an emotional response to the world it is personal, unconventional and experimental. Linking personal accounts with historical realities through interviews the film includes enactments and historical re-enactments of events offering a specific perspective and/or a spiritual connection they can relate to. The Cangleskia Wakan: Sacred Hoop represents the unity that binds the Lakota nation together with shared values and a clan system. These values include amongst others the language, ceremonies such as the sweat lodge and vision quest, the pipe, storytelling, songs, religion, bravery, respect, wisdom, generosity, the four directions, mother earth, father sky, teachings from elders and a belief that everything which is good and holy is circular in shape.

**In The Footsteps of Yellow Woman,** Camille Manybeads Tso, www.OYBP.org, 26 min.

Directed by Camille Manybeads Tso, this empowering short feature film is based on the oral narratives of Mae Tso, a long time resistor to relocation. Yellow Woman, the main character, is a product of war and traces the years before and after The Long Walk. Camille Tso, director, also reenacts history "in the footsteps of Yellow Woman" as her grandmother Mae Tso narrates in Navajo.

**\*\*The Dead Can't Dance.** Directed by Rodrick Pocowatchit, 102 min. A Choctaw father, uncle, and son embark on a road trip to drop the son off at a college in Kansas. Along the drive in the Kansas rolling hills, they run out of gas and find dead bodies everywhere. And that's when it happens. With a gust of wind, everyone around them suddenly drops dead. But they are somehow immune to what's killing everyone. Is it because of their Native American blood? Is it because their people were here in the beginning and this is now the end?

But they don't have time to ask questions. Stranded in the country, they encounter a strange survivor who blames everything on an alien invasion, and young Eddie becomes terribly ill. But that's not the worst of their problems. As they take refuge in a remote school, the men encounter some weird people -- really, really weird. Almost zombie-like, even. The three, who also find an Indian survivor who is 1/8th, try to solve and talk about their dysfunctional relationship while surviving the dead who have turned into zombies. The full-length feature is hilarious as the group dotes on their differences.

**Look At That Columbus,** United Auburn Indian Community, 4 min.

**Good Day Gone Bad,** Directed by Allistair McCray, 4 min  
When you think you get ahead on life. Life happens.

**\*\*Behind The Door Of A Secret Girl.** March 2010, Directed and Written by Janessa Starkey, 100 min. Sammy is a teenage cutter living with her meth addicted mother in a trailer on the Indian Ridge Reservation. Her mother's boyfriend is a drug dealer using the reservation as a cover for his drug trafficking. David, Sammy's best friend, is a foster youth and helps her to escape from this dysfunctional life.

**Blue In The Face,** Directed by Myron Lameman, 2 min. Two girls play video games while they talk about white guys who want to be Indian. Her boyfriend has been in the bathroom all morning getting ready to go out with the girls for the night. Wait until the white guy goes Native in this hilarious two minute short.

**The Return of Navajo Boy,** Directed by Jeff Spitz and Bennie Klain  
\*See page 9 for story on this film.

**Video Letters From Prison.** Courtesy of Native American Public Television, 56:40 min. Three sisters all talk about their father and send their thoughts recorded on video to their father who is locked up in prison for most of their young lives. Through the use of "letters on video", the daughters are able to put the pieces of the family puzzle together, get to know, and establish a relationship with their father. The full length documentary is heartfelt.

**The Last Trek.** Directed by Ramona Emerson, Produced by Kelly Byars, Reel Indian Pictures, 2006, 30 minutes. Set in Tohatchi, NM, Helen and Nelson Bitsilly herd their sheep up the Chuska Mountains, a 20-mile trek they do each season. Herding sheep and taking care of it as a cultural lifestyle was handed down to Helen from her father. She learned to work with the sheep, eat the meat as mutton, and even to store it for winter. As the younger of her family embrace new facets of mainstream society, herding sheep the way she was raised becomes endangered. Plus, with old age looming, she is not sure how she can continue the family traditions.

**Out of Your Backpack Media Showcase**  
\*See Page 7 for film descriptions

**\*\* Some films may contain content that may be inappropriate or offensive to some viewers. Parental discretion is strongly advised.**

## Blues Festival To Hit K-Town Friday Night, September 17

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – Spanning from the African American communities in the deep South to Navajo lands, it seems like Navajo land has caught the Blues! Try a mix of Texas blues with a touch of 70s Rock n' Roll you will find yourself jamming out to The Plateros on Friday night, September 17, 2010 at the kick-off event for the Monument Valley Film, Blues and Arts Festival. The doors to the Blues Festival are schedule to open at an outdoor venue outside the Kayenta Township building at 5:00 pm. Admission is free to the public as are all the other events during the festival.

### The Plateros

The Platero's, a Navajo blues band hail from Tohajilee, NM. Legend on the Internet has it that, the trio first came on the blues scene in December 2004 at a small church in Birdsprings, AZ. Levi, the youngest of the band, says "This all started out with me and my brother Doug jamming out in my music room. Then I would be by myself again, jamming out. Then it became a lot more serious. Eventually, we were able to come up with five songs that we learned really well. Then it seemed like after that, it was bound to happen any day" he says. Sure enough, as the band received notice, Levi's father went from bass guitarist to manager, and his cousin brother Bronson became the Bass Player.

The word of mouth from the Navajo underground, of an excellent blues band, caught the attention of Native Rapper and movie star Litefoot, who invited them to play at the Gathering Of Nations in Albuquerque, NM. The rest is history. Today, you can download the newest CD album "Hang On" on iTunes. The ripple effect continued as they were nominated twice for a Native American Music Awards until they were nominated Best Video at the 2009 San Francisco American Indian Film Festival. The band includes Levi Platero on Vocals & Guitar, Douglas Platero on Drums, and Bronson Begay on Bass. "I look up to Doug and Bronson as my brothers. I look up to them no matter what they do," Levi says.



**The Plateros: (L-R) Bronson Begay/Bass, Douglas Platero/Drums, Levi Platero/Guitar and Vocals.**

The Blues emerged in the 19th century as work songs, field hollers, shouts, and chants naturally became a mix of jazz, rhythm and blues, and rock n' roll. Which brings to mind, Chucki Begay, a woman blues front woman for the Mother Earth Band.

### Chucki Begay And The Mother Earth Band, (520) 850-0675, chuckifour@yahoo.com

Chucki Begay and the Mother Earth Band hail from Gray Mountain in northern Arizona. "My band is the Mother Earth Blues Band. "We have a lot of blues covers we play as well as original music of our own," says Chucki over the phone. She tells Kayenta Today she began at first as a solo artist. It was her husband Richie Anderson who first headed the Mother Earth Band who took notice that her voice was perfect for the band. Her husband is from Borrego Pass, NM who first fronted The Mother Earth Band. Eventually, because she liked the blues so much, she became the front woman, vocalist and manager: Chucki Begay and the Mother Earth Band was created. "We have a CD that is just entitled with the band name that we will have for sale at the blues festival in Kayenta," she says. "You can find some of our videos on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) or check out our website at <http://www.myspace.com/chuckibegay>."

"We are going to have a kid called Cisco who will be jamming with us in Kayenta," says Chucki, "He is an amazing 16 year old kid who I think will blow people away. He calls himself the "Turquoise Blues Boy"" she laughs. So, it looks like we are in for an awesome night, Friday night!



**Coalition: (L-R) Duwayne Begay/Guitar, Tony Rosales/Guitar and Vocals, Alex begay/Drums and Elton Sloan/Bass.**

### Coalition

Coalition, originally from Tuba City, Arizona, consists of band members Duwayne Begay on guitar, Alex Begay on drums, Elton Sloan on Bass, and Tony Rosales on vocals and guitar. "Finishing our first CD was a huge milestone for the band," says Tony Rosales, who manages the band. "I'm the band member who would rather just be in the studio to record music. I would say that as a band, we have been there and done that." Now days, the band will just schedule events they want to play since all the band members also have day jobs. But, recording in the studio and making good music is where their hearts are at, at this time.

The band has three albums out entitled "The Wait," "Cry," and "Awake." Each member of the band Coalition brings different musical influences ranging from metal to blues and from country to jazz for a sound that is truly unique and authentic. They play with an honesty that reaches into the soul of the listener as if to say, this is who we are and where we've been. Their aggressive vocals, insightful lyrics, and sizzling guitar riffs create music that is an expressive portrayal of life, love and hard times as experienced by ordinary people in blue collar America. The Kayenta Blues Festival will be the first of its kind on Navajo lands, to kick off a film festival. The main idea is to support and celebrate the arts, culture, and film. On hand at the festival will be James Junes, the Navajo comedian, who will host the blues festival with his Navajo brand of humor.



**Chuckie Begay and the Mother Earth Band: Pictured, Chuckie Begay and guitarist Richie Anderson.**

## Out Of Your Backpack Media, OYBM Creates a Forum for Young Native Filmmakers



By Malcolm Benally

FLAGSTAFF, AZ – Armed with the talents of its local community in Flagstaff, Out of Your Backpack Media is a non-profit organization that was created to nurture the talents of young Native filmmakers. OYBM is a subdivision of Indigenous Action Media, also a non-profit activist organization which has done its homework and brought media attention to such important issues facing American Indians, like Save The Peaks, which is an intertribal protest against using reclaimed water to make artificial snow for skiing at Snow Bowl resort on the San Francisco Peaks.

The OYBM, organized by Native youth, has an Action Statement on their website that reads:

“We are an Indigenous established volunteer run collective dedicated to reclaiming and redefining knowledge and information. We are committed to addressing the needs of our community by providing access to resources and creatively confronting social and environmental justice issues. We will do this through independent media, arts, education, self-development and youth empowerment.”

Since 2004 Outta Your Backpack Media (OYBMedia) has empowered Indigenous youth through free movie making workshops and resource distribution. According to its website information, “OYBMedia is an Indigenous youth response to the need for media justice in our communities. We seek to create community ownership of media

through youth empowerment. We challenge corporate dominated media by telling our own stories and by establishing our own networks and opportunities for media distribution. We emphasize resource access for youth with a focus on media literacy. We do this by holding free workshops, providing mentorship projects, coordinating community film screenings and festivals, by distributing fully equipped decentralized media centers in backpacks, and by maintaining our youth media arts center in Flagstaff, AZ.”

OYBM has been entering films for the Monument Valley Film Festival each year. This year, it looks like the participant filmmakers have access to more media resources and the talent just oozes from each of the short videos presented from the 2009 workshops, which the organization hosts in Flagstaff for a week each year. In fact, it's feature short film “In The Footsteps of Yellow Woman,” about a Navajo teen who finds her own strengths by talking with her Grandmother and learning about their ancestral history, will be shown this year as a part of the regular film programs.

The OYBM headquarters has a new location at Taala Hooghan Infoshop & Outta Your Backpack Media Center at 1704 N. 2nd St. East Flagstaff, AZ 86004, (Near Rt. 66 and 4th St) or visit:

[www.taalahooghan.org](http://www.taalahooghan.org) | [www.oybm.org](http://www.oybm.org) for more information.

### Sheep Camp

Directed by Adam Tso, Shelby Ray, Alberta Nells, Yuri Miller, and Clayson Benally, 3 min, Out Of Your Back Pack Media, Inc. A student calls his grandpa out of boredom, and is then asked to come to sheep camp. The short video has some smart animation and dialogue in Navajo to English.

### Thanks Taking

Out Of Your Backpack Media, 3:37 min. Navajo students re-enact the Indians discovering Pilgrims in 1492. “I thought you didn't know how to hunt, where did the turkey come from?” an Native asks. The short video uses documentary illustrations of the 1492 discovery.

### Why The Violence?

Directed by Dezbah Palmer and Ian Tso, 1 minute. Students ask the question, “Why The Violence” while they enact the causes of violence to the backdrop of a music video style documentary.

### Skary Skool

3 minutes. A young Navajo girl goes to school and is confronted with school bullying. “Go home and hang out with your grandma at sheep camp,” she's told.

### Pirate Kid

Directed by Bobby Steele and Charissa Delmar. A kid spends the day by himself, at home, at the playground to the backdrop of music wearing a pirate hat. The playground could pass for his ship. The video is edited nicely in color and black and white.

### Jack and the Giant Power Plant

1 min. An animation featuring a grandpa herding sheep near a power plant.

### Know Your Rights

2 min. A play on immigration issues facing the state of Arizona. Three kids, probably illegal immigrants, get taken from their home. The video says, “Conozca Sus Derechos!” Know Your Rights!

### The Sun Sets On Twilight

Directed by Candace Manygoats, Keanu McCabe, Yusi Brelan Marks, and Camille Manybeads Tso, 4 minutes. The student film makers provide a biting commentary and criticism of the blockbuster feature film “Twilight” which did not cast a Native actor for a major role. Make your own media, is the ultimate cry from Native media.

### Legends of the Weresheep

Directed by Yusi Brieland El Boujami, Amber Vigil, Ariane Farnsworth, Shyanna Marks, Ned del Callejo, Shelby Ray, 2 min. The animation takes a look at sheep that were affected by radiation from uranium mining. The sheep decide to take a revenge on the human created wasteland.



## Proposed Price Changes to Waste Management in Kayenta

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – Bill Cly, the Kayenta Township Public Works Director has sat through countless administrative staff meetings to scrutinize the most recent proposed price changes. He has been actively handing out the proposed price changes to customers who bring their trash to the Transfer Station. Then on September 07 and 09, 2010, he sat at the Town Hall meeting room and then at the Chapter House to take in public comments on the proposed price changes. All additional public comments after September 09, 2010 will be taken at his office at the Transfer Station during the work week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The overall input from the community as well as the plans the Public Works Director is also going to be included in the 5-year strategic plan the Kayenta Township Commission has been working on recently. In addition to bringing in enough revenues for operating costs, the goal is to purchase a weigh station, construct a concrete wash pad, and provide the groundwork for implementing a recycling program. Since its inception, the Public Works Transfer Station has been operating as an enterprise under the Kayenta Township. "For the past couple of years, we've been working towards setting up the transfer station so that we can fully

initiate a recycling program," says Bill Cly. A lot of the work requires separating recyclable material from the mainstream of waste, so that it does not end up in a land fill.

Ideally, the costs that people pay for trash and its related pick up services should pay for operating costs for the Transfer Station. Since Kayenta does not have a landfill, during the week, a truck has to deliver that week's trash to a landfill just past Bluff, Utah, which is about 89 miles one way. Tires have to be hauled to a yard in Holbrook, AZ once they begin to take up space in the yard. Used oil is also becoming a problem, so the transfer station has to do something about getting rid of oil properly. Currently, there are complaints of people changing their oil on the outskirts of town and creating a wasteland.

The Public Works Director explains that, in order for the Public Works and Transfer Station to properly address setting up a recycling program and find ways to improve its waste management plans, prices for these services must increase. The Public Works Department has proposed these new price increases and is currently available for public comment. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at (928) 697-8404.

## Kayenta Community School Teachers Receive Masters Degrees from NAU Kayenta

By Sonjia Jones

NAU Kayenta - We would like to extend our congratulations to our Kayenta Masters in Education, Elementary Education with Reading Endorsement cohort. These ladies did a wonderful job in all of their work and their degrees posted in August. We are very proud of them! Below are some photos from the reception that was hosted in Flagstaff this past summer. The Dean of the Grad College attended, as did the Interim Dean of the College of Education, the Educational Specialties Department Chair, Vice President of Extended Campuses, Area Coordinator Kathleen Stemmler, Dr. Lockard, our Admin Assistant Lyssa Nuvayestewa, and myself, Sonjia Jones. Thank you for everyone who helped support our cohort and thank you Maria Snyder, Velma Eisenberger and former department head, James T. Brown of Kayenta Community School. We appreciate

your partnership with NAU. A total of sixteen teachers graduated. They are: Nancy Badonie, Eugenia Charley-Curley, Gladys Clitso, Doris Cly, Cynthia Denetsosie, Pamela Jennings, Angela Joe, Susie Kinlacheeny, Annaleta Osif, Teri Parrish, Sue Rhoton, Mary Jane Salt, Lucy Sells, Sarah Smallcanyon, Kathryn Tsosie, and Renae Walters. For two years, the students attended face to face classes at NAU Kayenta located at the Hozho Academic Center on the KUSD campus.



**Area Coordinator, Kathy Stemmler (left). Program Coordinator, Sr., Sonjia Jones (right).**



**The NAU graduating class from the Kayenta Community School.**



**KAYENTA TOWNSHIP PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
TRANSFER STATION ENTERPRISE  
P.O. BOX 1490  
KAYENTA, AZ 86033  
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#### RESIDENTIAL TRASH

	NEW PRICE
EXTAR SMALL BAGS-SHOPPING BAGS SIZE	\$0.50
SMALL BAGS - 13 GAL & TALL KITCHEN BAGS	\$1.00
LARGE BAGS - 33 GALLON	\$1.50
EXTRA LARGE BAGS - 50 GALLONS	\$2.00

#### LOOSE TRASH

	NEW PRICE
SMALL BED PICK-UP	\$6.25
SMALL BED PICK-UP HEAPED	\$7.50
SHORT BED REGULAR PICK-UP LEVEL	\$8.75
SHORT BED REGULAR PICK-UP LEVEL HEAPED	\$10.00
LONG BED REGULAR PICK-UP	\$11.25
LONG BED REGULAR PICK-UP HEAPED	\$12.50
FLAT BED-LEVEL	\$12.50
FLAT BED-LEVEL HEAPED	\$13.75

	NEW PRICE
STOVE	\$10.00
DRYER	\$10.00
WASHER	\$11.25
BATTERY	\$1.25
TIRES	\$2.50
WATER HEATER: 7 - 10 GALLON	\$5.00
WATER HEATER: 30 - 40 GALLON	\$7.50
SWAMP COOLER: SMALL	\$5.00
SWAMP COOLER: LARGE	\$7.50
BATH TUB: PLASTIC	\$6.25
BATH TUB: STEEL	\$18.75
SINK	\$5.00
REFRIGERATOR W/O FREON	\$62.50
REFRIGERATOR W/ FREON	\$12.50
MATTRESS OR BOX SPRING (TWIN)	\$1.25
MATTRESS OR BOX SPRING (FULL,QUEEN,KING)	\$2.50

Effective July 1, 2010

## The Return of Navajo Boy to be Showcased at Film Festival with a Powerful Epilogue

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – This year, *The Return of Navajo Boy*, a full length feature documentary directed by Jeff Spitz and Co-produced by Navajo filmmaker Bennie Klain, returns with an epilogue that has followed the uranium contamination issues facing Elsie Mae Begay's family in Monument Valley, Utah. The power of the film's first screenings and premiers affected the public so much, the U.S. Department of Justice was eventually compelled to act on its own oversight laws, and as a result, dozens of other families who have been affected by down winds from uranium mines in the 1950s were able to receive compensation.

At one time, Happy Cly, a Navajo woman who lived in Monument Valley, was considered one of the most photographed woman in the United States. When John Ford discovered the film backdrop of Monument Valley, the still camera became a tool to open up the imagination of the West to the world. In a matter of decades after one of the most famous films *The Searchers* was filmed in Monument Valley, Happy Cly and her family became subjects of postcard photos, travel magazines, and so one. "I never thought that pictures could change someone's life. But, that was before *The Return of Navajo Boy*,"

says Lorenzo Begay, one of the narrators of the film. So goes the story of Happy Cly's children whose children continued to be photographed and filmed with their land as a backdrop.

At the end of the documentary, the ending text reads: "In January, 2000 testing at Elsie's homesite revealed extremely dangerous levels of radiation – levels nearly 80 times higher than federally established dose limits for human beings."

The documentary aired on PBS in January, 2000 and the uranium testimony of Bernie Cly caught the attention of the U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Cly has since received his compensation from the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act. Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act ("RECA" or "the Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 2210 note (2006), on October 5, 1990 and later broadened the scope of the Act's coverage on July 10, 2000.

The Act offers an apology and monetary compensation to individuals who contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases following their exposure to radiation released during above-ground atmospheric nuclear weapons tests or, following their occupational exposure to radiation while employed in the uranium industry during the build-up to the Cold War.

**Continued from page 3**

access better resources. Kayenta is in a unique position, now that a vocational college campus, a state of the art detention facility, and an I.H.S. hospital are literally around the corner.

Ben provided a deep background of community needs. For one, it is a value for the land and its resources. Secondly, it is a powerful exercise of our water rights, what he is talking about. Thirdly, we don't talk in the Navajo language as much anymore. Fourthly, Ben believes the answer lies in reviving the cornfields and the orchard. The cornfields are filled with stories of community leaders in Kayenta throughout time.

The stories are told with a deep need to continue to tell the stories in books like *Wolf Killer* by Harvey Leake, *The Journey of Navajo Oshley* and *Navajo Legacy: Sam Holiday* by Bruce McPherson. Its oral traditions are deeply imprinted in the Navajo language. And a strong "holistic" argument for the authenticity of Na

vajo traditions is argued effectively in a book by Douglas Preston, entitled *Talking To The Ground*. An anthropological study by John Farella, *The Main Stalk*, emphasizes the importance of a cornfield in Navajo philosophy, so important that it provides the foundation for the Blessing Way ceremony in Leland Wyman's ethnographic study of the root Navajo ceremony. The pollen, the tadidiin, the most important element in Navajo identity comes from the cornfield. One thing stood out as we drove towards Wahi, a water reservoir at the Black Mesa foothills, Ben said he listened to an international radio program from Germany one time.



Elsie's Journey with the film is a companion piece and 15-minute epilogue to *The Return of Navajo Boy*. Elsie rises to the occasion and decides to educate people about the effects of uranium to the greater public. Since the release of the film,

Elsie has travelled with the screenings of the film to Los Angeles, CA, Salt Lake City, UT, Chicago, IL, New York City, NY and Washington, D.C among other places. On the video, she is filmed being interviewed by Judy Pasternak of the Los Angeles Times newspaper article series including, "A Peril That Dwelt" and "Living on Tainted Ground." Ironically, the US EPA's Comprehensive Five-Year Plan did not include Ms. Begay's back

yard, until she traveled with this film to Washington, DC and screened it on Capitol Hill in September, 2008.

The updated film, because it addresses very important issues on the Navajo Nation coupled with the power of filmmaking, the Monument Valley Film, Blues and Arts festival would like to screen the documentary again this year. When the film was first screened at film festivals and then on PBS television, the public reaction spurred the U.S. Department of Justice to act more on the R.E.C.A. laws. Beyond that, the documentary is also a history of the film industry on Navajo lands. What better place to tell this story than at a film festival of our own?

The radio program discussed the wasteland big cities would become once pristine water becomes more expensive than the black oil some local people eventually lay to waste near Cliff Farms.

"The German radio host asked one of the people on the forum, a scientist, who said that the Navajo people on Black Mesa have some of the purest, most pristine water in the world. It is called the N-acquifer," Ben said. "The German radio host explained that one day, the N-acquifer will be more valuable than gold to the human race. This woke me up to how possible things can become," he laughed. If the community would like to embrace sound environmental programs and work towards a sustainable economy, the need for a Farmer's Market, mass production of organic produce, and the need for effective wellness programs, the community should embrace a large scale community garden.



## Kayenta Animal Care Center To Showcase Photo Exhibition Called "Rez Dog Biographies" by Steven

By Malcolm Benally

KAYENTA, AZ – He found his mission and purpose as a photographer one day as he pulled off the road in Page, Arizona, and came across his first snapshot of Page – a three year old stray dog – one of hundreds, perhaps thousands, among the displaced dog population on Navajo lands. This year, from September 17-19, 2010, Steven Sable, photographer and animal lover, will exhibit his documentary photos entitled "Rez Dog Biographies" at the Kayenta Animal Care Center.

In an effort to support the opening of the Kayenta Animal Care Center (KACC), the photo exhibition "Rez Dog Biographies" will premiere at the new Kayenta Animal Care Center building in support of the community's unique pilot project on the Navajo Reservation. KACC was established to address the rampant stray animal population, offer veterinary care, and provide humane animal control services. Dr. Charletta Begaye, KACC Director, says, "We need to remember that we share the land with other living things, and we need to convey that respect by exhibiting humane treatment of animals and giving a voice to those creatures that cannot speak for themselves." The idea to kick off the KACC program with a photo exhibit came as an idea that was first pitched by Cindy Yurth, reporter at the Navajo Times and an active member of the Blackhat Humane Society.

Over various phone conversations and emails, the Dr. Begaye, Steven Sable, the Kayenta Township, and volunteers from the Blackhat Humane Society decided the progressive community of Kayenta was an ideal place to premier the book. The KACC ani-

mal shelter is currently under construction and is about 90% complete. Most of the remaining glitches to complete the project are technical issues.

On Friday, September 17, 2010 will be the Grand Opening of the Steven Sables Photo Exhibition of the "Rez Dog Biographies" photographs. The exhibit will be open to the public for free from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

On Saturday, September 18, 2010, Blackhat Humane Society will provide refreshments during the photo exhibit. Original matted photos from the "Rez Dog Biographies" collection will be available at the photo exhibition for sale. The photos are said to range in price from \$25.00 to \$40.00. Proceeds from the sale of the photos will go towards opening the Kayenta Animal Care Center.

For a peek at some of the photos to be exhibited, please visit Steven Sable's website at: <http://www.stevensable.com/>. The photo exhibit open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Sunday, September 19, 2010 will be the final day for the "Rez Dog Biographies" exhibit. The non-profit animal care group from Flagstaff, AZ Second Chance will be on site at the Photo Exhibit to give Free Vaccinations to cats and dogs from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The photo exhibit will run from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

The animal care facility is currently an unincorporated enterprise under the Kayenta Township, is the only one of its kind on any Indian reservation, and is managed privately by Charletta Begaye, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Due to its unique municipality status, the Kayenta Township Commission has the ability to support programs such as the KACC.



## Tohdenasshai Shelter Home Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Rebecca Joe

Kayenta - Nationally, October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Tohdenasshai Shelter Home is hosting several activities throughout the month. The activities are to honor survivors and to commemorate victims who have died as a result of domestic violence, and to recognize individuals who work to end domestic violence.

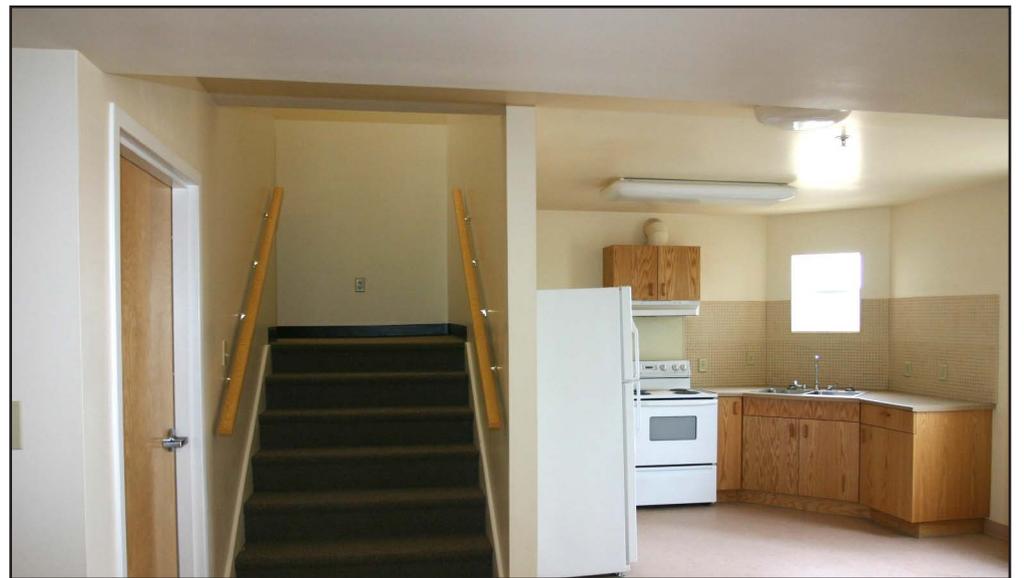
Students from local schools will be competing in an essay contest from which a winning theme will be selected. On October 1st, events will kick off with a community cookout and purple ribbon campaign at the kayenta recreation Center picnic area. On October 9th, the 6th Annual Horseback Ride will take place from Chilchinbeto Chapter along NR 591 to the Kayenta Rodeo grounds. The following week on October 13th, an evening awareness walk is planned through Kayenta and ending with a candlelight vigil at the Shepherds Eye parking area. Also, "49 Laughs Comedy Show" with Ernie

Tsosie III, James Junes, Tatanka Means and Pax Harvey following our Candlelight Vigil. 7:30-9:30 MVHS SAC Auditorium. The final event will be a health fair on Wednesday, October 27th.

The Tohdenasshai Shelter Home is in its 27th year of service as one of two shelters located on the Navajo Nation and serves a large portion of the northern area. The shelter operates 24 hours a day year round. Services include a crisis hotline, intervention-prevention, outreach, talking circles, and community presentations and training.

Sixty-four adults and 103 children received shelter and outreach services from August 2009 through August 2010. During the same time, staff provided educational and outreach activities to 2,534 people through 63 events such as booths, presentations, talking circles and training.

The shelter would like to invite all community members to participate in the events planned for October. For more information please contact Rebecca Joe at (928) 697-3635.



**Arts Festival**  
 September 18 & 19, 2010 - 10am  
 Kayenta Recreation Center  
 CALL (928) 697-8451 FOR MORE INFORMATION

# 4TH ANNUAL MONUMENT VALLEY FILM, BLUES AND ARTS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## Friday, September 17, 2010

12PM - 7:00PM (REGISTRATION)  
ART FOR THE PEOPLE @ THE KAYENTA RECREATION CENTER

5:00PM - 7:00PM  
REZ DOG BIOGRAPHIES @ KAYENTA ANIMAL SHELTER

5:00PM  
BLUES FESTIVAL @ THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP

THE PLATEROS  
COALITION  
CHUCKIE BEGAY AND THE MOTHER EARTH BAND

*\*Not responsible for any type of theft, injury or damages. Drug and Alcohol Free Event.*

## Saturday, September 18, 2010

9:00AM - 12:00PM  
REZ DOG BIOGRAPHIES @ KAYENTA ANIMAL SHELTER

10:00AM - 7:00PM  
ART FOR THE PEOPLE @ KAYENTA RECREATION CENTER

10:00AM  
FILM FESTIVAL @ THE KAYENTA TOWN HALL

10:00 AM - 10:45 AM OUT OF YOUR BACKPACK MEDIA SHOWCASE, 45 MINUTES  
SHEEP CAMP, 4 MINUTES  
THANKS TAKING, 4 MINUTES  
WHY THE VIOLENCE?, 2 MINUTES  
SKARY SKOOL, 3 MINUTES  
PIRATE KID, 4 MINUTES  
JACK AND THE GIANT POWER PLANT, 2 MINUTES  
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, 2 MINUTES  
THE SUN SETS ON TWILIGHT, 6 MINUTES  
LEGENDS OF THE WERESHEEP, 3 MINUTES

NASA AND ARTREACH STUDIOS SHOWCASE 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM  
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM STAR STORIES, DINÉ OOLIE'E: A FIELD TRIP TO THE LUNAR  
LANDSCAPE, 9 MIN.  
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM SO BAHANE', STORY OF THE STARS AND HOW TO BUILD A PLAN-  
ETARIUM. 26 MIN.  
11:30 - 11:40 AM GATHERING OF NATIONS: STORYTELLING WITH NASA, 6 MIN

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM RIVER OF RENEWAL. 55 MIN.

SHORTS PROGRAM 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
LOOK AT THAT COLUMBUS. 4 MIN  
A CULTURE LOST? 9 MIN.  
OPEN SEASON. 15 MIN.  
WORTH 1,000 WORDS. 12 MIN  
BEHIND THE SCENES: THE DEADER THE BETTER, 17 MIN.  
GOOD DAY, GONE BAD. 5 MINUTES.  
DREAMCATCHER. 14 MIN.  
THE LAST TREK. 30 MIN.  
BLUE IN THE FACE, DIRECTED BY MYRON LAMEMAN, 2 MIN.

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM CANGLESKIA WAKAN: THE SACRED HOOP. 53 MIN.  
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM IN THE FOOSTEPS OF YELLOW WOMAN, 26 MIN.  
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM VIDEO LETTERS FROM PRISON. 56:40 MIN.

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM FILMS BY BLACKHORSE LOWE

HEY INDIAN, 19 MIN  
THE ONE ABOUT BIKES, 13 MIN  
B. DREAMS, 11 MIN.  
JUNE, 13 MIN

7:30 PM - 9:15 PM THE DEAD CAN'T DANCE, 102 MIN.  
9:15 PM - 9:30PM SHIMASANI. 15 MINUTES.  
9:30PM - 10:45 PM THE RETURN OF NAVAJO BOY. 57 MIN, EPILOGUE 15 MINUTES.

## Sunday, September 19, 2010

9:00AM - 12:00PM  
REZ DOG BIOGRAPHIES @ KAYENTA ANIMAL SHELTER

10:00AM - 7:00PM  
ART FOR THE PEOPLE @ KAYENTA RECREATION CENTER

10:00AM  
FILM FESTIVAL @ THE KAYENTA TOWN HALL

SHORTS PROGRAM 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
LOOK AT THAT COLUMBUS. 4 MIN  
A CULTURE LOST? 9 MIN.  
OPEN SEASON. 15 MIN.  
WORTH 1,000 WORDS. 12 MIN  
BEHIND THE SCENES: THE DEADER THE BETTER, 17 MIN.  
GOOD DAY, GONE BAD. 5 MINUTES.  
DREAMCATCHER, 14 MIN.  
THE LAST TREK. 30 MIN.  
BLUE IN THE FACE, 2 MIN.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM RIVER OF RENEWAL. 55 MIN.  
1:00 PM - 3:15 PM BEHIND THE DOOR OF A SECRET GIRL. 136 MIN.  
3:15 PM - 3:45 PM IN THE FOOSTEPS OF YELLOW WOMAN, 26 MIN.

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM SOME FILMS BY BLACKHORSE LOWE

HEY INDIAN, 19 MIN  
THE ONE ABOUT BIKES, 13 MIN  
B. DREAMS, 11 MIN.  
JUNE, 13 MIN

4:45 PM - 6:00 PM THE DEAD CAN'T DANCE. 102 MIN.  
6:00 PM - 6:15PM SHIMASANI. 15 MINUTES.  
6:15PM - 7:30 PM THE RETURN OF NAVAJO BOY. 57 MIN, EPILOGUE 15 MINUTES.



4TH ANNUAL

# Monument Valley

FILM, BLUES AND ARTS FESTIVAL



SEPTEMBER 17, 18 & 19, 2010 - KAYENTA, ARIZONA

SPONSORED BY



- Opening Night -

## Blues Festival

September 17, 2010 - 5pm - Kayenta Town Hall

**The Plateros  
Coalition**

**Chuckie Begay**

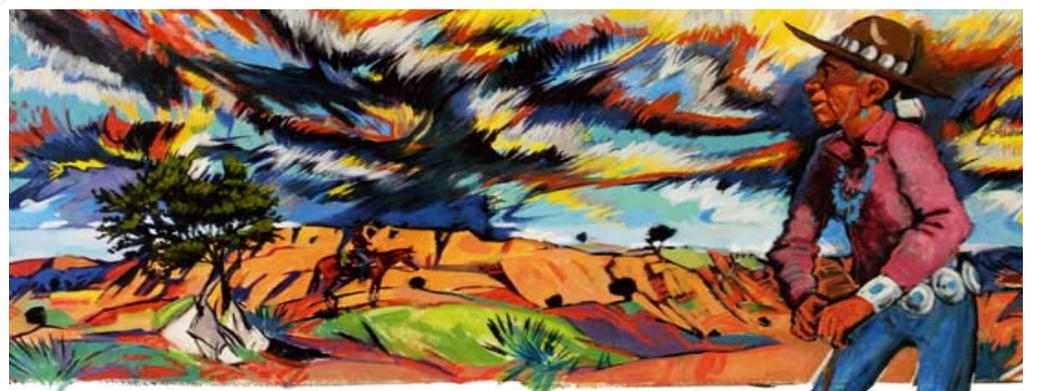
**and the Mother Earth Band**

with Special Guests

## Film Festival

September 18 & 19, 2010 - 10am - 10pm  
Kayenta Town Hall

Over 30 Native American Films!  
Features, Shorts, Documentary  
and much more!



## Arts Festival

September 18 & 19, 2010 - 10am  
Kayenta Recreation Center

All Events Are Free To The Public, Drug and Alcohol Free, All Ages

For more information: [www.monumentvalleyfilmfest.com](http://www.monumentvalleyfilmfest.com) or call (928) 429-0671