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Kayenta Health Care

# THE KAYENTA TODAY

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

A Free Publication from the Kayenta Township



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Sandstone Housing

September 3, 2015

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## KUSD Bus Routes Washed Out



### Chilchinbeto, Ariz - Navajo Route 59

**Kayenta, Ariz.** – The bus route for Kayenta Unified School District has approximately 800 miles of roads in and around the Kayenta Community. The bus route reaches out to Rough Rock, Dennehotso, Cane Valley, El Capitan, Narrow Canyon, White Post, Tall Mountain, and south of N591 to Chilchinbeto and to Forest Lake, Arizona. One of the most challenging areas on the bus route is Diversion Dam, it is located approximately 5 miles west of Kayenta. Parrish Creek is one of five routes that gets washed out and it is impossible to cross. When Kayenta gets heavy rain fall, the Transportation Department will assess all roads to verify that roads are passable for the buses. More than often the students are taken home either by the school or have parents pick them up. “We help these kids get to and from school any way we can, that’s how we help our students and families” says Carol Todecheene, Transportation Department Manager. She has a team of drivers, mechanics and liaisons that help her with making decisions when severe weather conditions occur and to alert the school’s administration. There are days when the buses are unable to

cross the washed out roads and students have to return to the school. The drivers have to take precaution and take extra safety measures, they do not want to put the kids in harm’s way. When buses are not able to get through, the drivers will take the kids back to their homes in an SUV from the school. If those measures are not satisfied the school will contact relatives in the area and have those relatives pick up the children. KUSD is in partnership with Navajo Nation Department of Transportation and works closely with Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Western Agency and Kayenta Township. Todacheene commends her crew for working above and beyond their required duties, she says if they are not pulling out buses they are taking the kids home. Some days her crew is out working at 3:00 am in the morning and at 5:00 am providing updates to the Superintendent to consider if the buses are safe to pick up kids. She gives big thanks to the current Superintendent, Dr. Bryce Anderson and the supports she receives, overall she says her staff are very supportive to assist the transportation department.

### Tips and Reporting Open Dump.

Illegally dumped waste may contain dangerous objects such as metal sheets, nails and sharp objects which can cause injuries. Waste can also contain chemicals and dust that can harm the health of anyone who lives nearby or visits the area. Some illegally dumped waste can smell and attract rodents, insects and other vermin that are a risk to people’s health. Warm stagnant water standing in waste tires provides an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Areas affected by illegal dumping are unattractive and people may no longer want to live in, connect with or visit them. Illegally dumped waste harms Navajo Land by disturbing the community’s connection with it. Before working out ways of preventing illegal dumping and organizing clean-up activities, find out what sort of waste has been dumped and where it has been dumped. Gather information from your neighbors and community members – you may be surprised by how much they know. Never open bags of waste or drums. Do not disturb waste which has a chemical smell

## Open Dumps in Kayenta



### Dry Lake, Kayenta, Ariz.

or piles of soil that may be contaminated. If you think dumped waste may pose a health risk, contact Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) or your local chapter for advice on clean-up and disposal. Illegally dumped waste that may pose a health risk such as chemical drums should only be cleaned up by people who are trained to deal with such waste, for example, your local fire authority. Illegally dumped waste that may pose a health risk, such as chemical drums or asbestos, should only be investigated by appropriately trained people. Support from Elders can increase the success of an illegal dumping cleanup and prevention project. Elders can have a powerful influence by mobilizing community support, reinforcing respect for mother earth and encouraging support from partners. Consider which people and organizations have an interest in preventing illegal dumping. These may include your neighbors, community organizations, local businesses, state government organizations and your local chapter. Preven-

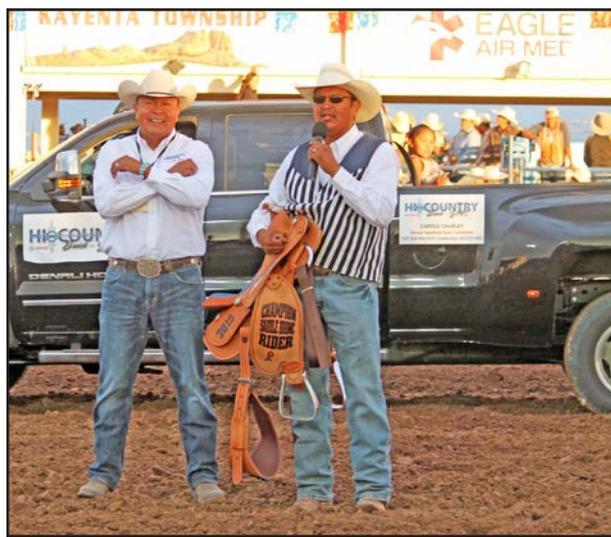
tion and clean-up projects work best if they are supported by active community participation. Community partners include youth groups, business operators and community organizations. These community partners can work with you to plan ways of preventing illegal dumping as well. Educational institutions such as schools and universities may let their students participate in clean-up events or even be interested in including clean-up projects as part of their curriculum. In the future, report each illegal dump to authorities as soon as you become aware of it, and provide as much information as possible. If authorities can track down the dumpers they can issue them with penalties and make them clean up the dumped trash. Individuals can help local chapters and the NNEPA investigate illegal dumping by reporting information about illegally dumped waste, illegal dumpers or suspicious activities. Call your local chapter or NNEPA at 928-871-7816- *Courtesy of Navajo Nation EPA.*

# MESSAGE FROM TOWN MANAGER

by Gabriel Yazzie



Kayenta, Ariz.- 4th of July Rodeo Kylie Gilbert



Kayenta, Ariz.- 4th of July Rodeo Jeff Jim



Kayenta, Ariz. Senator Carlyle Begay

**Yá'át'ééh!** Shi'eiya Gabriel Yazzie yinishyé. My clans are Tódich'iniin nishlí, Kinyaa'áanii báshísh chíín, Honágháanii da shi cheii dóo Tábaqáhi da shi náli akót'éegoh diné nishlí. My father's name is Paul Yazzie from Dennehotso, Ariz and my mother's name is Anita Yazzie originally from Black Mesa, Ariz. I am married to Luanne Bradley and have two boys; Bryce and Justin Yazzie. In 1997, I graduated from Monument Valley High School. After high school I continued my education at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. In 2006 I graduated with a BS in Construction Management. Upon

completion of my degree I worked for Centex Homes in Las Vegas, NV, a company recognized as one of Fortune 250 professional businesses. While employed at Centex Homes I was the Senior Estimating Manager and Design Compliance Manager, some of my duties were dealing directly with Subcontractors, Contracts, and estimating materials to be used on the job and worked alongside with Engineers and Architects. Since my departure from Centex Homes, I found an opportunity with Kayenta Township in 2009 as the Development Services Director. This opportunity allowed me to work with important projects with

Contractors, Design professionals, and most importantly, rebuilding the development services department and guiding the development and infrastructure of Kayenta. I am glad the Commission made an excellent decision to place me in the position as the Town Manager. There are plenty of projects to work on in our community of Kayenta. I have an excellent team of staff who support my decisions and I have managers who are capable of making reasonable important decisions. One of the top priorities on my to-do list is working on getting the drug dealers and bootleggers out of the com-

munity of Kayenta. The Township is currently working with NHA, Sandstone Housing, and Kayenta Mobile Home Park to immediately terminate leases with individuals who are caught bootlegging or drug dealing within these subdivisions. The Kayenta Township passed Resolution KTCJA-04-13 'Enacting the Kayenta Township Alcohol and Controlled Substance Ordinance'. This ordinance gives the Kayenta Township the authority to apply penalties; up to \$5,000.00 fines, forfeiture on vehicles utilized to distribute, and forfeiture of any houses, mobile homes, and home site lease used in connection to bootlegging or

distribution of any controlled substances. These penalties are hefty, but one of my main priorities is protecting our children in our community. Alcohol has and always will play a damaging role in all our communities, not only in Kayenta but, throughout the whole Navajo Nation and Indian Country. It is by taking a proactive approach I believe we can make Kayenta a livable community and welcome all visitors. We have a lot of work to do, so I am asking the community of Kayenta to support Kayenta Township's direction in making this community better for everyone. Thank you!



Kayenta, Ariz. - 4th of July Rodeo



Kayenta, Ariz.-Grand Opening, Dept of Corrections

# Our Youth of Today, Leaders for Tomorrow



Photo Courtesy of Britten Shirley



Carly Jo Sells, 2015 Miss WRJA



Kylie Gilbert - All Around Kayent 4th of July



Sage Bond, Youth Performing Artist at Monument Valley Welcome Center



Davis Brothers, Young Talent at Monument Valley Welcome Center



**WELLS FARGO**

LOCATED ON THE NAVAJO SHOPPING CENTER BETWEEN BURGER KING AND MCDONALDS



**KAYENTA TOWNSHIP**  
EST. 1986

KAYENTA TOWNSHIP IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:

**DEPARTMENT MANAGER  
OVERSEEING DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:**

**MORE INFORMATION AT:  
KAYENTA TOWNSHIP ATTN: TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 1490 KAYENTA, AZ 86033  
PHONE 928-697-841 FAX: 928-697-8461**

# New Development - Coming Soon!



## Kayenta, Ariz. - New Location for Church's Chicken

**Kayenta, Ariz.** - Kayenta will soon have a new Church's Chicken Quick-service Restaurant. Rock Gap Construction of Mesa, Arizona is building the new restaurant on Highway 160 for franchisee Michael Nelson Enterprises, Inc. of Window Rock, Arizona. The 1,850

square foot drive through facility was designed by Heights Venture Architects of Houston, Texas and is scheduled to complete construction in the fall of 2015. Work began on June 24, 2015 with initial site work, building foundation, and utilities installation. The concrete for

the foundation and building pad was placed on July 30, 2015. The building structure, being fabricated off-site, will be erected in Mid-September 2015. A formal opening date has not yet been set. Rock Gap Construction was established in 2010 as a division of Rock Gap En-

## Kayenta, Ariz.- Conceptual Design of New Church's Chicken

gineering, a 100% Native American owned and operated Engineering Consulting and Construction Firm. Mr. Keith Keetso, the owner of Rock Gap Engineering, is a member of the Navajo Nation. Rock Gap Construction provides General Contracting and Construction Manage-

ment services across the Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico, and the western United States. Church's Chicken was founded in 1952 in San Antonio, Texas and does over \$1 Billion in sales at world-wide locations.

**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL**

**Chevron**

SERVING NAVAJO COUNTRY SINCE 1996

2 Any Hot Dog +  
24oz Fountain Drink

**\$3.99**

HOME OF THE **Mustangs**

**Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Co.**

LOCATIONS:

Window Rock, AZ  
Kayenta, AZ  
Chinle, AZ

Blue Gap, AZ  
Tohatchi, NM  
Tse Bonito, NM

**Navajo Shopping Center Next to Basha's**

# Community Coming Together Against Crime

**Kayenta, Ariz.** – The largest Native American Indian tribe in the United States are Navajos, most of whom are without homes. Public housing programs are available to qualified Navajo families on the Navajo Nation. However, about half of the Navajo population is unemployed and do not meet the qualifications for public housing. Public housing is also home to violent crime, gang activity, and drug trafficking. The Navajo Nation’s law enforcement has the difficult task of covering a large rural area and may not have the manpower to be readily available. Sandstone Housing is a non-profit organization developed in the 1960’s to provide affordable housing to quali-

fied applicants. Sandstone Housing has seven housing developments in the Navajo Reservation. Kayenta Estates (Teeh in Deeh Housing) is the largest of these seven properties and is located within the boundaries of Kayenta Township. Driving around the Kayenta neighborhood, homes have boarded windows and doors, vandalized walls, and garage doors that were struck by a vehicle. There are many homes in desperate need of repair. Victoria Yazzie, the Manager of Kayenta Estates says that many of the homes are in the process of being renovated, however renovation costs money and takes time. It seems like an overwhelm-

ing task when looking at some of the homes damaged due to vandalism, theft, and tenant misuse. Utility boxes look as if they were struck by a vehicle, garage doors have been hit, crushed, and damaged beyond repair, and some homes are boarded up because of internal vandalism. Unfortunately, these abandoned house are home to mischief, gang activities, and squatters. However, Yazzie thinks there is light at the end of the tunnel. Sandstone Housing has a policy called ‘One Strike and You’re Out’, allowing management to provide tenants with guidelines to prevent criminal and self-destructive behavior. This policy roots out criminals and helps those who are fearful by giving them a

way to talk to management about criminal behavior. Sandstone Housing faces difficulties with the price of rent and tenant move outs. When tenants’ financial statuses change, they may not be able to pay rent. Yazzie stated that she is more than willing to work with the family and establish a reasonable payment plan. Yazzie said, “It is our intention to keep the tenants in the home because if they pay their rent, that’s funding that goes back into the estates. If not, tenants have no choice but to move out when they cannot afford rent.” Yazzie says a beautification project will work but it will require volunteer help from tenants and funding support from other entities.

Public housing programs require additional tools to address and prevent criminal activity. How does a township infrastructure maintain the well-being of a community that faces these challenges? The answer requires strategic planning and collaboration with various community programs and services, as well as educating tenants, and exploring avenues that work both short and long term. Communities that face these challenges need to agree and motivate one another to be proactive. Sandstone Housing’s goal is to assist families in becoming successful, healthy, and productive members of their communities.



Kayenta, Arizona - Sandstone Housing

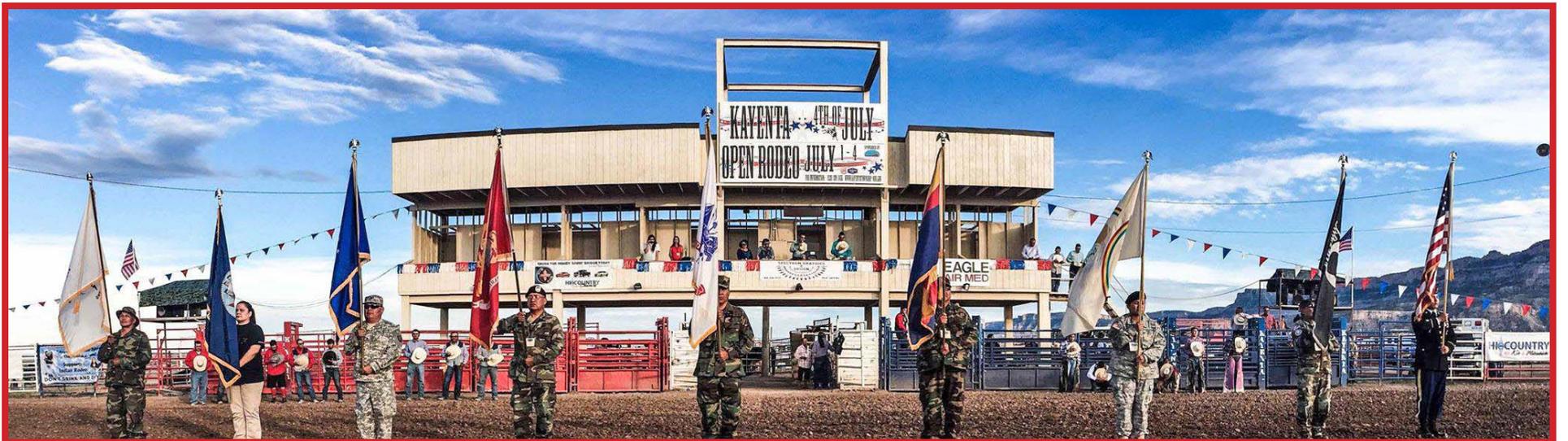


Kayenta, Arizona - Sandstone Housing

**SAVE THE DATE** KAYENTA VETERANS ORGANIZATION  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2015**  
VETERANS DAY EVENT, KAYENTA, ARIZONA

# KAYENTA TOWNSHIP 4TH OF JULY RODEO

JULY 1, 2, 3 & 4, 2015  
KAYENTA RODEO GROUNDS



# KAYENTA FIELD DAY

10 AM JUNE 20th KAYENT, ARIZONA  
KAYENTA RECREATION PARK



# Kayenta AZ12-50: 40 Public Rental Units “Modernization” Project

Christian Bigwater, Public Relations, Navajo Nation Housing Authority

Kayenta AZ.12-50: 40 Public Rental Units “Modernization” Project. With the 2015-16 school year starting, students and parents may notice the removal of a humble and fossilized set of buildings to the south of the Monument Valley Mustangs’ home. Demolition recently concluded on the 40 units that were willfully standing a quarter-century beyond their expiration date.

The 40-unit Public Rental “Modernization” proposal is a Design-Build project that was awarded to Souers Construction and will

be designed by Leon Shirley Architects. The former split level townhouse units were cramped, not up to code and in dire need of modernization. The new plan boasts 40 units, including 10 one-bedroom units and 30 two-bedroom units. Units will vary between single family and duplexes. The new development will be using Fiber-Reinforced Aerated Concrete (FRAC) building system. The project is set for completion in late 2016.



## Kayenta AZ. 12-73: 15 Public Rental Units

The Kayenta AZ12-73 project is in the Design & Planning stages of modernizing 15 Public Rental units. The site is just southeast of the AZ12-50 project. Navajo Housing Authority is currently working with Dyron Murphy Architects on the design. Construction is estimated to commence in early 2016.

## Kayenta AZ12-113: 25 Public Rental Units

The Kayenta AZ12-113 project is also in the Design & Planning stages of modernizing 25 Public Rental units. The site is just southwest of both the AZ12-50 & AZ12-73 projects. Navajo Housing Authority is working with Dyron Murphy Architects on the design.

Construction is estimated to commence in early 2016.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT GERI LAUGHTER AT 928-697-8451**

# KAYENTA'S V.I.P.



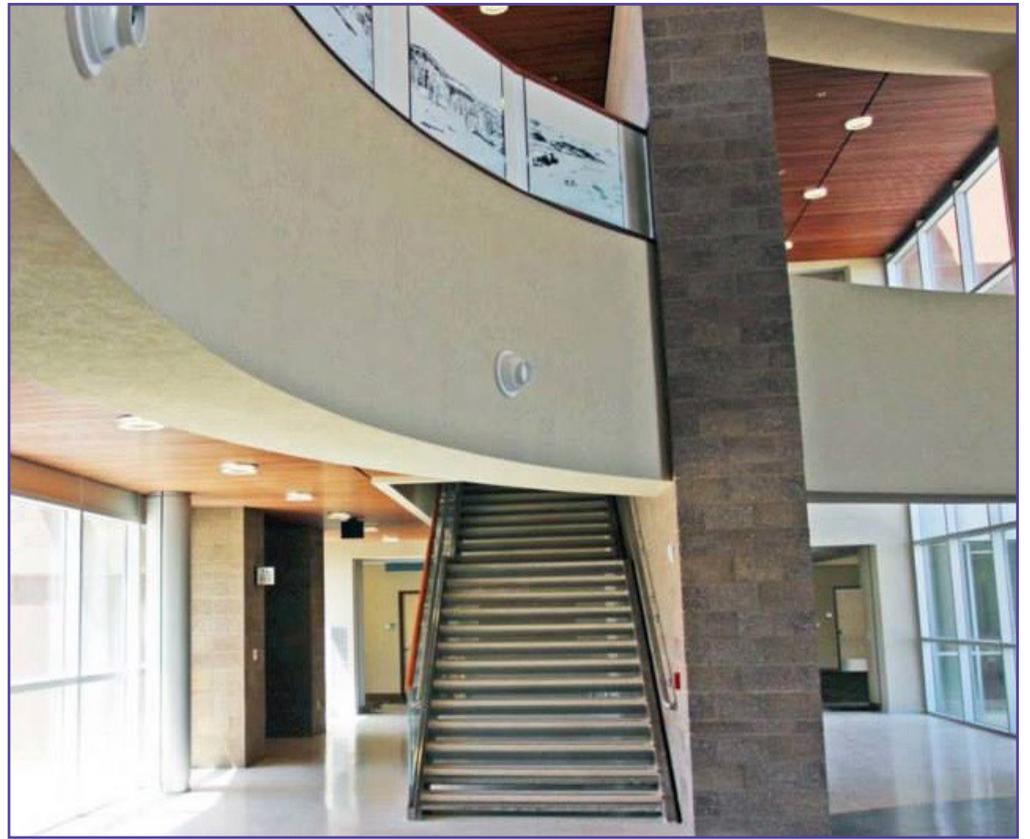
## NAVAJO NATION CODE TALKER DAY AUGUST 14, 2015



# KAYENTA HEALTH CENTER FACILITY TOUR 2015



Kayenta, Ariz. Photos by Shonie DeLaRosa



Kayenta, Ariz. Photos by Shonie DeLaRosa



Kayenta, Ariz. Photo by Chris Burnside



Kayenta, Ariz. Photo by Chris Burnside

## Kayenta Alternative Rural Hospital Facility

By Navajo Area Indian Health Service U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Navajo Area IHS

Kayenta, Ariz. - The Kayenta Alternative Rural Hospital Facility (KARH) received the final \$2.6 million of FY 2015 federal funding for construction. The KARH is 99 percent complete at this time and is presently undergoing reviews for final “punch list” items in need of correction, building systems commissioning, receipt and installation of medical equipment, and official issuance of beneficial occupancy by the IHS. The facility is projected to be fully accepted by IHS in September/October and will open for business once staff and services transition to the new facility. The associated KARH staff quarters construction project continues as well. The quarters construction project involves eight construction phases with two phases currently completed and accepted by the IHS. The completed quarter’s units include 8 duplexes, 2 triplexes, and a 19-unit apartment complex, which is a combination of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units. A total of 33 quarters/units are currently either occupied or available for occupancy. Quarters construction is on schedule to be completed by December 2015.

# Grandparents Sometimes Need Advice, Too

When many of us think of grandparents, we see dotting individuals ready to give advice and spoil kids. But, for an ever-increasing number of Americans, having a grandchild means parenting a second time around.

According to the policy group Generations United:

- 2.7 million grandparents are responsible for most of the basic needs of children living with them;

- 1 in 4 grandparents help pay for their grandchildren's medical or dental expenses; and,

- 30% of children under 5 with working mothers are cared for on a regular basis by a grandparent.

A lot has changed since many grandparents raised their children. Brain science has demonstrated the crucial impact of early interactions on the future health and school success of young kids. Books, magazines and television shows offer advice on everything from educational toys to finding the right play group. Making sense of all this can be a little intimidating.

Thankfully, in Arizona, there

are two statewide resources to help grandparents and other caregivers of children 5 and younger. One is the Arizona Parent Kit. Given to families of newborns when they leave the hospital or available for check-out at many libraries, each kit includes: DVDs on everything from challenging behaviors to choosing child care; a book to encourage daily reading with infants; a list of community resources; and, a magnet with the number to another valuable resource – the Birth to 5 Helpline.

Answers to the toughest par-

enting questions are, literally, at caregivers' fingertips. The Helpline is a free telephone service (1-877-705-KIDS) available to any parent or caregiver of a child 5 and younger. The line is staffed by nurses, child development specialists and other early childhood professionals who can answer questions about any parenting issue or challenge.

Additional support may also be available through local community centers and school districts, as more and more organizations recognize this special group of parents.

As the nation celebrates Grandparents' Day on September 13, let's give thanks to the special group of grandparents who have also taken on the role of giving their grandchildren the most foundational gift of all: a safe, nurturing place in which to grow and learn.

*by Jessica Beach, Parent Awareness & Outreach Coordinator - Navajo Nation regional Partnership Council.*

## Native American Basketball Entertainer- Jerrickson "J-Stylez" Hosteen



Photo Courtesy of Jerrickson Hosteen



Photo Courtesy of Jerrickson Hosteen

**Navajo Nation, Ariz.** - Jerrickson "J-Stylez" Hosteen, a Diné (Navajo) originally from Sawmill, Ariz., has been dubbed the first Native American basketball entertainer in the world. He is a 2008 graduate from Window Rock High, where Jerrick's interest in entertaining with a basketball began. After discovering a unique talent of juggling basketballs, Jerrickson decided he would pursue a career entertaining people with the basketball (or basketballs). Many performances at the beginning of his career, he did simply for the love of his work donating much of his time to local high schools and youth organizations. Since then, he has incorporated many tricks – such as juggling, spinning, and dribbling with numerous basketballs – into his routines. Because Jerrickson has included his own style

into his tricks, a close friend nicknamed him, "J-Stylez." To date, Jerrickson has traveled all over the Navajo Nation, to countless Native American reservations, and to mainstream institutions such as universities sharing his unique talent to hundreds of spectators. In order to experience success, Jerrickson has had to overcome many obstacles. There were times when he wanted to quit because shows were a failure. There were many times when all he heard were negative remarks. There were also times when he could not perform due to the physical demands of his work. However, Jerrickson turned to his passion to get him through those dark days. Today, he is a professional basketball entertainer continuing to travel the

nation showing the world his talent. He has recently performed at places such as tribally owned and national casinos, half-time basketball games, high schools and colleges, among others, for diverse groups of people. Jerrickson credits the likes of the Native comedians Pax Harvey, Tatanka Means, Adrienne Chalepah, and Navajo duo James and Ernie for having inspired, encouraged and helped him on his journey. He also has a slew of other supporters who have also helped shape his career. Looking back, Jerrickson is humbled to have been faced with those challenges and to have overcome them. The struggles keep him grounded, strong, and ready to take on whatever life throws at him. *Courtesy of J-Styles*

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**'ALL AROUND CHAMPION'  
KYLIE GILBERT**

