



# Navajo Nation 9-1-1 News

Dine bi keyah, nahast'ei-t'aalai-t'aalai aseezi binaaltsoos

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Window Rock, Arizona 86515

## 9-1-1 for Kids Day



L to R: Red E. Fox, Lt. Francine Bradley, Buckle Bear, Ashkii Happy, Gruff the Crime-fighting Dog, Darren the D.A.R.E. Lion with Navajo Nation President, Dr. Joe Shirley Jr. at Navajo Nation 9-1-1 for Kids Day.

On January 31, 2007 at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, the Navajo Nation welcome it's newest Public Safety mascot, Red E. Fox. Students from TeeNosPos Community School, Hunters Point Boarding School and local areas were part of the Navajo Nation 9-1-1 for Kids Day event. The children received coloring books, bags, pencils, balloons, etc. Lieutenant Francine Bradley, Navajo Department of Law Enforcement was the Mistress of Ceremony. She talked directly to the students on when to use 9-1-1. The students responded to all her questions on

when and how to call for help when using emergency 9-1-1.

The students were joined by two special guests. The first guest was President, Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr. who told the students that calling 9-1-1 on the telephone is to save a life in danger and they should not use it for prank calls. They watched the President read aloud the Proclamation for Red E. Fox to be adopted as the official 9-1-1 mascot for Navajo Nation and witnessed him signing it. He told the students that Red E. Fox will be your friend and your teacher on how to use 9-1-1 when there is an emergency.

Finally, Red E. Fox made his official entrance on stage. The audience applauded his entrance and the students yelled in unison "Red E, Red E. Red E."

The second guest was Miss Navajo, Jocelyn Billy. She talked to the students on the importance of learning how to call for emergency help. Then she sang a



Miss Navajo, Jocelyn Billy entertains the children & attendees

Navajo song to help children remember 9-1-1 using their five senses: hear, smell, feel, taste and see.

Students, parents and attendees also watched a 15 minute video program on how to use the telephone when calling 9-1-1.

Red E. Fox will be visiting schools on the Navajo Nation to educate students on the proper use of 9-1-1.



Students waiting to learn about 9-1-1 at Navajo Nation Museum. Snow did not keep the students away from enjoying the 9-1-1 for Kids Day.

## Tohajiilee Pilot Project Kick-off Meeting

On February 1, 2007, the Tohajiilee Pilot Project kick-off meeting took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were representatives from the Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Task Force, Tohajiilee Chapter officials, Navajo Housing Authority, Bernalillo County, City of Albuquerque, State of New Mexico 9-1-1 Office, Ron Whinery Consultants, and Spatial Data Research (SDR). The meeting was intended to facilitate the face-to-face meeting of some of the key pilot project members. They reviewed and discuss various agreements, the scope of work, the roles and responsibilities of individuals, teams, and organizations,

and the overall schedule.

Clint Wedel, SDR presented the requirements and methodology for the Tohajiilee Pilot Project. The Navajo Nation is required to appoint an Addressing/GIS Mapping Coordinator to oversee the rural addressing initiative. Additional project planning meetings will be scheduled for Addressing and GIS Mapping to establish a comprehensive addressing plan.

The group agreed to use the Bernalillo County Rural Addressing Standards for the pilot project. The Tohajiilee Chapter selected a local committee known as "Tohajiilee Community Action Team" to serve as the rural (Continued on Page 4)

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## 9-1-1 Community Day in Tohajiilee, NM

Tohajiilee 9-1-1 Community Awareness Day is scheduled for March 10, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Desidero Center. The E9-1-1 Task Force members and Tohajiilee Chapter staff are working closely on coordinating activities for the Awareness Day.

The E9-1-1 Task Force will disseminate information to the community members on 9-1-1, Rural Addressing and the 9-1-1 for Kids Program. The 9-1-1 Public Education program is designed to increase the awareness and educate the Dine' on the proper use of dialing the 9-1-1 emergency number to save lives and property.

There are three basic plan messages: when to call 9-1-1, how to call 9-1-1 and what to say in the case of a police, fire, and medical or poison emergency.



Attendees eating pizza lunch with two camera shy students

The task force members have extended an invitation to the following organizations to participate: Public Safety, Health, Tohajiilee Community Action Team (TCAT), Department of Early Childhood, Head Start, Tohajiilee Indian Health Service, Crownpoint Police Department, Bernalillo County Communication Department and SDR to provide information on their programs.

The 9-1-1 Public Education is designed to provide the community members, chapter officials and council delegates the opportunity to find out how these programs are integrate in helping the communities. Lunch will be served to the public.



E9-1-1 Task Force Members posed with Ashkii Happy & Public Safety Mascots



9-1-1 for Kids attendees



LeAnn Goy, GIS Analyst, NDOT

erations this past December 2006. This has allowed the Company to begin providing Qwest customers to be converted to *Sacred Wind Communications*.

According to the *Sacred Wind* President, very little change in phone service will be experienced. Qwest will continue to carry current telephone traffic from Sacred Wind local copper wire systems to its switches in Gallup, Ft. Wingate, Thoreau, Aztec, Farmington, Kirtland, Bloomfield, and Albuquerque west to the outside world. *Sacred Wind* will be building a state-of-the-art wireless telecom network and is expected to have the foundation completed by September 2007, at which time more advanced services will be available to their customers.

Phone rates for services provided by Sacred Winds will not be different from Qwest rates until Sacred Winds completes its network development. The current and future rates are approved by the NM Public Regulation Commission. But once Sacred Wind's new system is in place, it will follow the established process for any rate changes. However, *Sacred Wind* will keep in mind the Navajo Nation customers by promoting the FCC's Telephone Assistance Program and the Native-American oriented Tribal Lifeline program which guarantees eligible  
*(continued on page 4)*

## Sacred Wind Communications



Sacred Wind Communications Team

Sacred Wind Communications provided an interesting presentation at the E9-1-1 Quarterly Task Force Meeting on January 30, 2007. Mr. Gil Arviso, President of the Company and a resident of St. Michaels Chapter community shared information on his unique company that was recently established in September, 2005. After a lengthy process of filing their application with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC)

and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), they began operations.

*Sacred Wind Communications* (hereafter *Sacred Wind*) is a privately-owned; New Mexico based company, dedicated to improve telecommunications service to rural areas within New Mexico. They have purchased from Qwest Corporation its local telephone facilities serving portions of Navajo lands and lands in the northwest, Four Corners, and Tohajiilee (formerly Canoncito) areas of the state.

Focused mainly on introducing basic telephone services to the many thousands of unserved homes on the Navajo Nation, Sacred Wind also has the intent and mission of providing the most advanced services; including, high speed Internet services, to Navajos and non-Navajo residents, governmental entities, and businesses in their territory. They have received all required New Mexico and FCC authorizations to acquire Qwest Corporation's network located in the areas described above and have begun op-

# 9-1-1 Planning Committee

In order to qualify for state 9-1-1 funding, a public or private safety agency or any group of agencies shall establish a 9-1-1 Planning Committee to develop 9-1-1 emergency telephone service plans for the specific geographic area for which the agencies shall be providing service.

The Navajo Nation E9-1-1 Task Force has identified the following members: Ervin Keeswood, Chairperson, Government Services Committee; Hope McDonald-Lonetree, Chairperson, Public Safety Committee; Kenneth Peterson, Division Director, Division of General Services; Samson Cowboy, Division Director, Division of Public Safety; Jim Benally, Chief of Police, Navajo Nation Department of Law Enforcement; Larry Chee, Chief of Fire, Navajo Nation Fire & Rescue Ser-

vices; Henry Wallace, Department Manager, Department of Emergency Medical Services and Pearl Lee, Program Manager, Navajo Nation Communications & Utilities Department. The committee shall, upon formation, submit a service plan as outlined in Arizona Administrative Code R2-1-403, Submission of a Service Plan. Once the plan is approved by State of Arizona, the State of New Mexico has committed that they will accept the same plan. In addition, the service plan will be provided to the State of Utah. They have set aside \$150,000 for Navajo Nation E9-1-1 implementation.

At this point, the Service Plan is ready for review and comment by the E9-1-1 Planning Committee. Once approved by the Committee, the service plan will be submitted through the 164 Review Process for approval by the appropriate oversight committee (s).

The Navajo Nation is one step closer in accessing state E9-1-1 funds from Arizona and New Mexico and bringing those funds back to the Navajo Nation to implement an effective 9-1-1 system on the Navajo Nation.



Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr., NN President addresses area students on 9-1-1 Kids Day

## Rural Addressing Prioritization and Roll-out

Rural addressing is a prerequisite for enhanced 9-1-1 service.

The *Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Task Force* has been developing presentations and guidelines to assist the chapters and planning the prioritization and roll-out of rural addressing Navajo Nation-wide.

The first major step by chapters to demonstrate their readiness to move forward with rural addressing is to adopt a resolution to support enhanced 9-1-1 and rural addressing. Once there is a resolution, the next steps are following the guidelines recommended by the Task Force, which includes: identifying members and assembling their *chapter addressing committee*, reviewing and proposing road and street names for their community, and committing to accompanying field crews when they are in the community performing field verification.

The current philosophy for rural addressing roll-out will start with the TóHajíilee Pilot Project as a demonstration project. The expectation is to learn from and refine the processes and guidelines developed. Then, the roll-out will continue from east to west, starting in New Mexico and ending in Arizona. Much of the field work has already been completed for San Juan County, Utah, so it will be scheduled to fit into the roll-out during the latter portion of the New Mexico phase.

Funding methods available from the states has dictated the roll-out philosophy. The New Mexico phase is funded in ad-

vance of the project initiation, with payments going directly to the vendor as the work is completed. Arizona reimburses for expenses incurred after the project is successfully completed.

As a community member, you can assist by making sure your chapter is included in the rural addressing roll-out. There are enhanced 9-1-1 and rural addressing presentations and guidelines available to help educate and increase awareness of community leaders and members. Contact and discuss with Valcita Thompson at 928-871-7742. Once discussions are initiated between the chapter and staff members, a set of recommended guidelines will be furnished that should help your chapter organize the initiative.



Kids from area schools posing with Buckle Bear, McGruff and Red E. Fox at 9-1-1 for Kids Day



Red E. Fox with his new pals



Red E. Fox and Lt. Francine Bradley, Mistress of Ceremony at 9-1-1 for Kids Day Event

**NAVAJO NATION ENHANCED 9-1-1****COMMUNICATIONS & UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

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[www.e911.navajo.org](http://www.e911.navajo.org)**LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY**

Navajo E9-1-1 Newsletter welcomes letters from readers on the Navajo Nation who have used 9-1-1 for help. Tell us your experience. Letters should be limited to 120 words or less.

Letters libelous or slanderous will not be accepted. Letters must have writer's true name (no fake) with address and telephone number in the event we must contact you.

**Address:**

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**Upcoming Events**

**Tohajiilee 9-1-1 Community Day, March 10, 2007**  
Tohajiilee, NM  
**E9-1-1 Planning Committee Meeting, April 3, 2007**  
Quality Inn, Window Rock, AZ  
**E9-1-1 Task Force Meeting, April 4 & 5, 2007**  
NN Museum, Window Rock, AZ

*(Continued from page 2 "Sacred Winds")*

families to receive the lowest rates available anywhere.

The uniqueness of *Sacred Wind* is their support of the culture of the Navajo Nation by facilitating communications between Navajo customers and the rest of America. The operations and form of customers interface will reinforce the values important to the Navajo customers. In fact, Mr. Arviso stated they will hire and train bilingual Navajo staff to meet the service needs of the People. They will establish land use agreements for Fixed Wireless Local Loop technology communications towers and poles; employ "distance-friendly" technology, and new construction conducive to the environment.

The planned commitments by Sacred Winds will bring the quality of life resources to the Navajo Nation. They will establish computer training in partnership with Navajo Technical College (formerly Crownpoint Institute of Technology), Dine College, Navajo Health Services, and high schools. Computer discounts and donations may be provided also. It is the mission of Sacred Winds that more Navajo homes will be serviced with telephone communications and one that is high quality and affordable. Other items include greater technological opportunities for the People by having access to education, economic advantages, and E9-1-1 security and access to health care services.

Mr. Arviso stated, the name given to the Communications company, "*Sacred Wind*" is the primary drive to introduce telecom services to the thousands of isolated Navajo families,... Sacred Wind brings the breath of life to humankind and is the conduit for communicating,... *Sacred Wind Communications* intends to breathe new life in the communications system that our customers will depend on for safety, education and economic growth."

For more information call the interim customer service center at their toll free number: (877) 259-2944 or (505) 722-3300 or visit their website at: [www.sacredwindcommunications.com](http://www.sacredwindcommunications.com).

*(Cont. from page 1 "Tohajiilee Kick off meeting")* addressing committee. This committee, along with the addressing coordinator, will be responsible for assigning road names and house numbers, and accompanying the field crews when they are performing field verification work within the chapter.

SDR will be utilizing some existing centerline roads and house dwelling data furnished by the Navajo Department of Transportation and Sacred Wind Communications. The existing data will go through the quality assurance-quality control process using the 2005 digital aerial photography as a reference map layer to see if realignments are needed. Field verification will be done by SDR personnel accompanied by a member of the addressing committee in April 2007 to verify centerline road data, location structures, resident information, and business information. Field verification and collection of additional routes and house locations will take approximately two weeks. Along with field verification, the field crew will collect information from community members to be used for addressing information.

Tohajiilee Chapter president, Tony Secatero, recommended that the Tohajiilee Council Delegate Lawrence Platero sponsor a resolution to lobby for additional funding for installing and maintenance of road signs and house numbering tags.

The Navajo Nation E9-1-1 Task Force members have volunteered a significant amount of time to help increase public awareness and educate the community members about this pilot project. The task force, in collaboration with local government entities, is dedicated to successfully implementing and completing this pilot project to further assist the Tohajiilee community to have a complete enhanced 9-1-1 system. There is a "Tohajiilee E9-1-1 Community Day" scheduled for March 10, 2007 to provide additional public awareness for the pilot project. Red E. Fox will be at the community event as well. For more information on this event, please contact Valcita Thompson, Community Involvement Specialist, Communications & Utilities Department at (928) 871-7742.



The Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Task Force recognized the need to educate children about the proper use of the telephone and of 9-1-1. The Task Force decided to team with "9-1-1 for Kids," which is a nonprofit charity organization established to provide comprehensive 9-1-1 education to children ages 4-7 years of age.

The Task Force contracted with the "9-1-1 for Kids" organization to utilize the Red E. Fox mascot and collateral materials. The mascot and collateral materials will be used to deliver consistent public safety messages to children. It is essential that children at an early age understand that the telephone is not a toy, but that it is okay to call 9-1-1 when they need police, fire or medical assistance. The Navajo Nation E9-1-1 Task Force, in partnership with the Navajo Nation Law Enforcement Department, the Navajo Nation Fire & Rescue Services, and the Navajo Nation Emergency Medical Services, will increase 9-1-1 awareness and education throughout the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation Enhanced 9-1-1 Task Force will use the "9-1-1 for Kids" educational program and the mascot, Red E. Fox to educate the children within the Navajo Nation.

With approximately 200 children present at the January 31<sup>st</sup> presentation, Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr. read and signed the proclamation whereby the Navajo Nation adopted Red E. Fox, the National "9-1-1 for Kids" mascot to educate our children in the proper use of 9-1-1.