



A:SHIWI A:WAN MESSENGER

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The Zuni Tribal Council on Inauguration Day Pictured from left to right: Head Councilwoman Virginia Chavez, Lieutenant Governor Carleton Bowekaty, Governor Val Panteah, Councilman Arden Kucate, Councilman Clyde Yatsattie, Councilman Ricky Penketewa Sr., Councilman Arlen Quetawki Sr, and Councilman Eric Bobelu.

Throughout the years, the Pueblo of Zuni has seen its share of newsletters, the most recent being the Shiwí Messenger. Unfortunately, these newsletters, for funding reasons or others, reached the end of their publications. However, in a push for transparency, and to improve communication between the tribal council and the community, the tribal council has allotted funds to create another newsletter. The A:shiwí A:wán Messenger, a name that alludes to its predecessor, is one of three projects initiated to create transparency.

The A:shiwí A:wán Messenger is a newsletter that will solely focus on tribal

council affairs. This printed copy will be released quarterly, providing the community with updates on meeting, events, and travels by the tribal council. Through this newsletter, the Zuni Tribal Council hopes to alleviate any confusion from what is being done in office and the community expectations. They hope that this newsletter will bridge any communication gaps between the community and tribal council.

There are two other components to this transparency project as well. One of the two is a monthly electronic newsletter that will provide updates on tribal programs and upcoming events. The second of these proj-

ects are weekly public service announcements. The public service announcements will be released on the KSHI radio station and they will cover various topics as well as weekly updates on what is happening in the community.

The tribal council is eager to introduce these communication platforms to the community. They aspire to create a well informed community as well as encourage community participation in future events and listening sessions. Through these projects, the Zuni Tribal Council is one step closer to achieving their goal of building transparency.



Newly Inaugurated Zuni Tribal Council captured walking from the big plaza to the Governor's Chambers, a moment displaying the new leaders of the community taking their positions in office.

As the New Year comes, it often brings change with it. This year Zuni saw the effects of the 2018 election as the new tribal council took their seats in office. January 2019 kick-started the Panteah-Bowekaty administration and there is a mix of recurring faces and new additions to the council. Val Panteah was re-elected as the Governor of Zuni and his running mate Carleton Bowekaty joined him in office as his Lieutenant Governor. Also in office for this term are Head Councilwoman Virginia Chavez, and councilmen Clyde Yatsattie, Arlen Quetawki Sr, Eric Bobel, Ricky Penketewa Sr, and Arden Kucate.

Since taking office, the council have picked up where the last administration left off, working diligently on a variety of issues concerning the Pueblo of Zuni. The new administration is making a push for transparency so that the general public is up-to-date and informed about what is going on in the Governors' Chambers.

Let's meet our newly elected council...



GOVERNOR VAL PANTEAH

Val Panteah was reelected to serve a second term as the Governor of Zuni. Dona:kwe deyan Dowa:kwe awan cha'le, Governor Panteah comes to us from the Turkey clan and child of the Corn clan. Before taking his position in office in 2015, Governor Panteah worked as an associate judge for the Pueblo of Zuni. Prior to his work in the court, Panteah also worked in the law enforcement field for over 20 years. He spent 11 of those years as a chief of police working for the Ramah Navajo Police Department.

Governor Panteah explains his motivation for running for positions in office as a drive to help his people. During Governor Lewis's administration in the 90's, Panteah also served as a councilmember. Looking up to his father, the late Quincy Panteah, Governor Val Panteah follows closely his footsteps as his father also served as a councilmember, governor, and police officer in his lifetime.

Governor Panteah sees this reelection as an opportunity to foster growth in the form of economic development. Coming from his judicial and law enforcement background, Panteah first-handedly witnessed the effects of the many social ills plaguing the community. He feels that in generating economic development, there are more resources and opportunities for community members facing these ills to become productive members of the pueblo. Through employment opportunities, these indi-

viduals will be able to harness their full potential and resist the temptation to fall back in the cycle of drinking, drug-use, and other forms of violence or self-destruction.

Alongside economic development, Governor Panteah's goal for this term is to work collaboratively with various programs to support community members' dreams. He hopes to improve the business code by breaking down some of the barriers that stand in the way of creating local businesses. Breaking down these barriers will make it easier for fellow community members to establish their own businesses and in turn, create more employment opportunities within the community.



LIEUTENANT GOV. CARLETON BOWEKATY

Carleton Bowekaty was elected alongside Governor Panteah and now serves as his Lieutenant Governor in office. Lieutenant Governors clans are Sun clan and child of the Tobacco clan. Prior to this term, Bowekaty served on tribal council as a councilman. Before that, his role in the community was played as a Child Support Investigator after he returned home from the military. During his work as a Child Support Investigator, Bowekaty witnessed the struggles of the community, especially when it came to raising children on the reservation. He recognized that the Zuni Pueblo needed more avenues for assistance, and he knew that helping the community would be most efficient if it began at the tribal government level.

As a councilman, Bowekaty saw an opportunity for improvement when it came to the tribal council meeting the needs of the community. Seeing the potential, the council had, he decided to run for a higher position to help Governor Panteah continue building upon what was created in the previous term.

Lieutenant Governor holds military ethics to high regard, incorporating the acronym LDRSHIP (leadership) into his daily life; L stands for loyalty, D for duty, R for respect, S for selfless service, H for honor, I for integrity, and P for personal courage. Using these ideals, Bowekaty dedicated his platform to reinstilling the honor, faith and integrity in the government. He would like to see the tribal council be looked at as a form of guidance whereby community members can trust and reach out to the council for assistance with our worry of hesitation. He is also passionate about cultivating the younger generation for success in helping

them see and understand the full extent of their self-worth, all while recovering and reviving lost values that used to govern the Zuni people. He believes that in cultivating our youth, we are preparing them for the future. The youth today are the leaders of tomorrow and it is important to start building their surefootedness now so that they have deep understanding of who they are and why they belong in this world.

Lieutenant Governor Bowekaty's ultimate goal for this term is to support Governor Panteah to the best of his abilities so to ensure that Governor is successful. As they share many of the same morals and visions, he feels that they are complementary to each other in office and looks forward to what council has in store this term.



HEAD COUNCILWOMAN VIRGINIA CHAVEZ

Serving another term as a councilwoman, Virginia Chavez of the Sun clan and Turkey clan was re-elected into office. Before serving in this term and the term prior, Chavez was an active member in the Zuni Public

School District, beginning her work as a health assistant, then working her way up to a bookkeeper and eventually earning the title of Finance Director. Succeeding her work with the school district, Chavez also worked as a tribal employee in the finance department for six years before running for council in 2014 and taking her seat in office in 2015.

Virginia Chavez explains her motivation for running for tribal council as a desire to care for her people. She recognizes and understands the concerns within the community and she would like to be an asset to solving these issues and making improvements. When running for council, Chavez declared her platform to be based on economic development. Chavez says that in developing the economy of the Zuni Pueblo will assist in the overall growth and prosperity of the people. An increase in locally owned businesses will create more jobs for the Zuni people, aiding



Lieutenant Governor Bowekaty and Governor Panteah share a hug and handshake while delivering their inaugural addresses at the reception held at Zuni Wellness Center.

in decreasing unemployment rates and generating more funds for community betterment.

Chavez has big ideas for the community paralleling her platform which include opening a local hotel that would help our families that come visit from out of town, host guests from neighboring tribes and pueblos who come to Zuni on business, and boost tourism revenue. She would also like to see a hardware store come to Zuni as well as more restaurants and spaces opened for local artists and entrepreneurs to sell their works. On top of these ideas for economic growth, Chavez would like to see more recreational spaces opening for youth and families in the community. She has been actively involved in working with the transit system on expanding hours as well. She hopes to collaborate with the transit program further to create "special occasion routes" by which the transit could lift the transportation barriers that stand in the way of families and individuals from attending events like the Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial and many others.

All in all, Head Councilwoman is very excited to be in office for another term. She is very energetic and takes lots of pride in being able to serve and represent her community. She enjoys what she does and is learning many new things about our community and the way we relate to the world around us.



COUNCILMAN CLYDE YATSATTIE

Donashe:kwe deyan, Dakk'ya:kwe awan cha'le, Clyde Yatsattie is one of the new faces to join the tribal council. Since graduating high school back in 1976, Councilman Yatsattie held various forms of employment while also pursuing higher education. In 1982, Councilman Yatsattie graduated with his Bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting. Succeeding his Bachelor's degree, Yatsattie pursued a Master's degree in Business Administration as well. Since graduating with these degrees, Yatsattie has been an active employee with the Indian Health Services-Albuquerque Area where he held the titles of Internal Auditor, Budget Officer, and Deputy Finance Director. In 1992, Councilman Yatsattie moved back home to the Zuni Pueblo where he served as the Zuni IHS Hospital Administration Officer until his retirement in 2017.

After being semi-retired, Councilman Yatsattie decided to run for tribal council, describing his motivation for doing so as a desire to contribute to the overall improvement of the community. Understanding community concerns, Yatsattie discusses the importance of acting on those concerns as a community member. Rather than just talking about issues, Yatsattie ran for council as a form of corrective action and a chance to do something about the issues he witnessed.

Yatsattie is especially passionate about local businesses, employment, infrastructure, education and health and human services. Throughout this term, he is work towards improving the

overall quality of life on the reservation. So far into his term Yatsattie describes his experience in office as a lot of learning that comes with any new job. He is getting familiar with the processes and expectations. He is also implementing his core values of kindness and respect into his work daily.

During this term, Councilman Yatsattie's main goal is to be supportive of tribal programs and community members. He pledges to try the best he can while setting positive examples for community members and younger generations. Yatsattie stresses that in our community, there is no room for violence and hate, yet it exists. To improve the community for everyone, it will take community effort in working together to create a friendly environment and being patient as issues resolved at the government level take time.



COUNCILMAN RICKY PENKETEWA SR.

This term, Ricky Penketewa Sr, of the Eagle and Crow clans, takes a seat in office. Before his current position, Penketewa was very active in the construction field for as far as he can recall back, where he held several

different titles. Through his work in construction, some titles he has held are building inspector, establishing a construction company, and a professor for the all trades construction courses through the University of New Mexico in both Gallup and the main campus. All of his work has accumulated into Penketewa becoming an advocate for the importance of quality building, so as to avoid complications in the future.

Penketewa describes himself as an outspoken man, and he hoped to use this quality in office. He felt motivated to run for office to help resolve the housing issue on the reservation, as well as to improved the quality of education offered on the reservation as well. Councilman Penketewa felt frustrated by the changes in the school district, where by teachers were shuffled around to teach in areas they had not taught in before, as well as the drop in the grade for the Zuni Public School district.

During this term, Penketewa has several things he would like to see for the pueblo, the first being an improvement in education all across the board, which includes more activities and extracurriculars for students to engage in. The Zuni Housing Authority create some sort of construction company that could increase the rate at which houses are built and renovated is a dream that he has. He is also researching ways to create an energy efficient car wash as well as a laundromat for the pueblo as well.

From working hands-on majority of his life to sitting in office, Councilman Penketewa has had a shift in daily tasks. He describes his experience so far as being a huge learning process. Everyday there is something new to do and discuss everyday. Penketewa says that looking from the outside in, being on tribal council seems easy, when in reality it is difficult. Despite the challenges, Penketewa enjoys what he does.



COUNCILMAN ARLEN QUETAWKI SR.

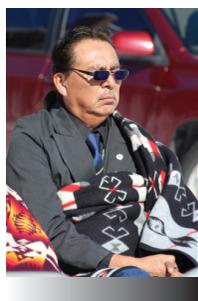
Dona:kwe deyan, K'yak'yali:kwe awan cha'le, former two-term governor and councilmember Arlen Quetawki Sr.

takes a seat in office once again. Before being involved in tribal council, Quetawki has been a public servant, working as a police officer and a fish and game officer. He is also a part of the religious sector. Quetawki describes his motivation for running for council as a drive to continuously move forward with projects he started when he was the governor, especially those concerning protecting sacred sites.

When running for tribal council, Quetawki did not declare a platform, instead he allowed the people to make the decision for his election based on their own judgment. He stated that the only promise he makes to the people is to try his best using the resources that are available. Quetawki would like to bring about positive change for the community which includes bringing in revenue and generating financial alternatives to federal funds, so that should these funds be taken away, the pueblo will be unaffected.

Quetawki finds some of these alternatives to be the supporting entrepreneurship from local artists and business owners through events like the Zuni Pueblo Mainstreet. Quetawki explains that these forms of revenue also create avenues for employment as well as generating money that will stay in the community. Quetawki wants to ensure that council continues to support these projects.

When asked about his experience in office so far, Quetawki expresses some frustration and dissatisfaction with the processes it takes to create the positive change due to barriers that are in place. Despite the challenges, the tribal council is working as efficiently as possible. Councilman Quetawki also stresses the importance of community input. As the largest pueblo, there is quite a bit of power that comes with it in terms of politics and voting. Quetawki stresses the importance of voting. According to Quetawki, the Pueblo of Zuni has the numbers in population to have one of the strongest voices in New Mexico. With the help of community members and everyone getting out to vote, Zuni people can heavily influence the outcome and protect the places we have as sovereign indigenous people.



COUNCILMAN ARDEN KUCATE

Yaddokya:kwe deyan, Kolok'da:kwe awan cha'le, Arden Kucate also joins tribal council once again, building on his previous

experience. While serving as a council member, Kucate also plays a role as a caretaker through the medicine society. Kucate explains his desire to run for tribal council once again as a deep sense of compassion for his people. To Kucate, being a tribal leader is another form of being a caretaker for the community. Tribal leaders have a responsibility to empower their people rather than telling them what to do, this way the people can become leaders themselves. In empowering community members, the overall betterment of the community improves as more people will see the long-term goals for the Zuni Pueblo.

Kucate is passionate about resolving the substance abuse issue on the reservation as well as educating families on the dangers of illicit drug use. Through educating the people, especially the youth, Kucate hopes the community members see and understand that this form of self abuse is not the way of life. Kucate believes that to really solve this problem, less talking should be done and more action should be taken.

Using his previous experience, Kucate continues to engage in gateways of involvement that were opened, one of these being the Native American Voter Task Force. Kucate is the chairman for the task force, and he hopes to boost the overall turnout of Native American voters. The overall voter turnout from community members and all Native Americans affects state and federal funding that is used for education, health care, and other resources used for daily life. Councilman Kucate also stresses the importance of all community members taking part in the 2020 Census count as this also affects funding for the pueblo.



COUNCILMAN ERIC BOBELU

In effort to push for transparency and better communication with community members, the Zuni Tribal Council held a community meeting and conducted a community survey. The meeting granted community members a chance to speak before the council while addressing an issue and presenting their solutions to the problem. In this meeting many community members came forth to discuss employment issues. Of the various solutions to this problem, one included reestablishing agriculture as a form of self employment, while also giving the rest of the community an opportunity to purchase locally grown produce. Other solutions to issues such as upkeep of the pueblo included cleaning up the riverbed area, maintaining the roads, and using public lands as grazing areas for animals. In this community meeting, a lot of excellent ideas were discussed and the council hopes to use these ideas in the creation of plans to correct what the general community sees as issues and problems.

The survey conducted was another way of encouraging community members to share their input. This survey was made available through email, shared on social media, on the Pueblo of Zuni website, as well as having paper copies in popular areas of business. In creating various platforms and ways for members to respond, the council hoped to make this survey as accessible as possible, so as to generate an accurate representation of people. In this survey three questions were asked, the first being "What do you see are the biggest improvements that could be made in our community?" This question received 207 open ended responses where community members provided their input. The biggest opportunities for improvement in the community are economic development, road maintenance, education, and the selling of illicit substances and alcohol. Some solutions provided for the economic development issue included being supportive of entrepreneurs as well as promoting local businesses by removing the barriers that stand in the way of opening these spaces. There were other suggestions for expanding the economy in the pueblo so that younger people will be able to secure jobs in the community as well. Other suggestions for improvement included cleaning up

litter, renovating or demolishing abandoned homes and buildings, affordable housing, better health-care, and even high-speed internet for the entire community.

The second question on the survey was, "What positive things do you see in our community?" While a handful of community members see no positive changes or attributes in the community, majority witness great things in the pueblo. The most mentioned positive thing witnessed are the many opportunities for youth to engage in various activities in the community. Other things community members have noticed is that the Pueblo of Zuni possesses a strong sense of cultural identity that is unlike any other. Although Zuni is the largest pueblo, it has maintained a deeply rooted culture that may be attributed to the ruralness of the community as well as the sense of community and caring that arises when religious events are occurring. Other things mentioned include the tribal council's willingness to listen to the community's input as well as the support community members get from the various tribal programs. It is quite obvious that Zuni has some detrimental issues, but it is up to community members to maintain a balance of addressing. The he issues as well as recognizing what is being done to make life on the reservation better.

The final question on the survey was, "Any additional comments?" In this section, majority of respondents stressed issues they mentioned in the first question while others thanked tribal council for their efforts to listen to their opinions. At this point, the data from both the community meeting and the survey are being analyzed. The Zuni Tribal Council will use this information to make informed decisions in upcoming meetings, allot funds, and to better represent the voice of Zuni people. These listening sessions serve as a form of guidance for the tribal council to meet the needs of the community, see what issues are most concerning among the people, and to find creative solutions to these issues as presented by community members.



Michelle Lujan Grisham pictured sitting in a meeting with the Zuni Tribal Council at the "Roundhouse" in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

On November 6, 2018, former Congresswoman and democrat, Michelle Lujan Grisham, was elected as the 32nd Governor of New Mexico. Prior to the election, Grisham reached out to the All Pueblo Council of Governors to announce her then intent to run for governor. In this meeting, she received the support of the pueblo governors and was endorsed by the Pueblo of Zuni and the Picuris Pueblo. The Pueblo of Zuni also made some contributions to her campaign as well.

Although Grisham has just been elected as the Governor of New Mexico, her relationship with the Pueblo of Zuni goes back farther. When Grisham served as a U.S. Congresswoman, she met with Governor Val Panteah and tribal council to discuss the Fort Wingate issue. Grisham as even invited out Governor Panteah to attend rallies with her on behalf of indigenous peoples. This year, the Zuni Tribal Council received the opportunity to meet with Grisham privately to address their concerns about the community.

Fresh out of law school, Grisham got her first job working with the New Mexico Department of Aging where she provided free legal services to the elderly. During her work with the Department of Aging, Grisham worked with elders from our community through the Zuni Senior Center. Some of our elders know and recall meeting Grisham, and during one of her visits, she picked up a horned toad, earning herself the nickname "Lechok'yaba" from

our elders. Grisham has always recognized the importance of serving and protecting elders as well as their caretakers, and for that matter, she promised during her campaign to protect these services for elders.

Upon taking her new position, Governor Lujan Grisham has already signed eleven bills that will directly and positively impact tribal communities. Of these bills, House Bill 278 was signed to create a task force for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement to counteract high rates of violent crimes against women in New Mexico. House Bill 5/Senate Bill 1- Public Education Changes were also signed into law, calling for reforms to the current education system. Governor Lujan Grisham would like to do away with the PARCC testing system, and find new ways to improve the quality of education here in New Mexico. Also making progress for positive change in education, Grisham signed into law Senate Bill 407- Lottery Funds for Tribal Colleges, which will allow students who attend tribal colleges to access scholarships through lottery funds. This is big for the Pueblo of Zuni as students who attend A:shiwi College and Career Readiness Center can have access to these scholarships through the Navajo Technical University Agreement that happen earlier this year.

Under all the bills signed into law by Grisham, the Pueblo of Zuni received funding for three projects by the New Mexico State Legislature. These three projects are Zuni Fair

Building Construction, Zuni Pueblo Veterans' Memorial Visitors' Center, and Zuni Pueblo Water Infrastructure Construction. These capital outlay awards have a deadline for project completion by June 30, 2023.

Additional funding was also received for land management for the Senior Center to prevent the flooding that occurs during heavy rains. The Governor and tribal council would like to express their gratitude to Governor Lujan Grisham for awarding two million dollars to the Water Infrastructure Project, as well as Senator George Munoz and Senator Clementi Sanchez for introducing the funding requests to the State Legislature.



Meeting with Governor Grisham Pictured from left to right: First Lady Darlynn Panteah, Governor Val Panteah, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Councilman Arden Kucate, Head Councilwoman Virginia Chavez, Councilman Eric Bobelu, Councilman Ricky Penketewa Sr, Councilman Clyde Yatsattie, and Division Director of Public Works Kelly Zunie



Chaco Canyon, a natural historical park, has been a part of the lives of indigenous people since time immemorial. Once a place of refuge and habitation, Chaco Canyon has since become a park where travelers come to witness the great ruins while experiencing hikes, biking, guided tours, and campfire talks. However, since the Trump Administration took office, several threats have been made to sell sacred lands for mining and fracking. Many indigenous people, including the Zuni Pueblo, have ties to these sacred lands and risk losing a portion of who they are. Once these ruins are lost, they can not be rebuilt.

The administration proposed a barrier around Chaco Canyon itself, but this alone is not enough to protect the canyon. Fracking has been known to cause earthquakes as the process for fracking requires digging deep into the earth's surface. Should an earthquake be the result of this fracking, the ruins that remain at the canyon will be sent tumbling down, erasing the footprints of our ancestors and diminishing the significance of Chaco Canyon. Fracking also pollutes the soil around its site, which then pollutes groundwater and runoff. When it rains in the area, water will become contaminated by whatever chemicals are in the soil and it will pose a risk to plant and wildlife in the region as well. Contaminated water will not be able to support life and it can have detrimental effects on the beauty of Chaco Canyon.

As mentioned, many indigenous tribes are fighting to protect Chaco Canyon. These tribes and nations have recognized that the history and beauty of Chaco Canyon is more valuable than any revenue that can be generated through fracking and mining. However, it is not just indigenous tribes that recognize this significance, as New Mexico delegates have proposed a bill to protect Chaco Canyon as well. The New Mexico delegates are U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, as well as U.S. Representatives Deb Haaland, Xochitl Torres Small, and Ben Ray Lujan. This bill, referred to as the "Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019," was proposed on April 9, 2019. This act delves into the sacred sites and historical resources located in the Chaco Canyon region that also expands into the four corners region as well. To the New Mexico delegates proposing the bill, Chaco Canyon is a very significant and vital piece of history. The roads and networking systems built by Chacoan people are far too valuable to tarnish by fracking and mining. The Chaco Canyon region is also public land that should be protected since it was declared a national monument in 1923. While the fight to protect Chaco Canyon is just getting going and this proposed bill has not been acted on yet, it is good to know that New Mexicans and indigenous people are backed by their senators and representatives.

The remnants of Chaco Canyon show the intricate buildings and the extent of habitation and interaction from our ancestors.



The 2017 audit report for the Pueblo of Zuni has been released by auditing company, MossAdams, as of September 2018, which provides some insight to budgets and funds the pueblo may have been working with for the current and previous fiscal years. The audit report analyzes financial statements submitted to generate information regarding the ways funds were spent as well as the way they were received. In the 2017 fiscal year, assets for the year totalled at \$23,234,101 with \$21,566,584 coming from cash and cash equivalents. Under the assets, there were \$29 in accounts receivable and \$3,828 prepaids. Other assets due from other governments was totalled at \$1,610,827. The remaining \$52,833 fell under the category of inventor and food commodities.

The funds from assets were then accounted for in liabilities and fund balances. Liabilities attached to monies from assets were totalled at \$23,130,528, where \$6,072,275 were liabilities

due to other funds. The remaining \$17,058,253 was accounted for as grants received in advance. In fund balances, \$56,661 were non-spendable under inventory and prepaids. Restricted grant award requirements were totalled at \$46,912 generating a grand total of fund balances at \$103,573. This brings the total liabilities and fund balances to a grand total of \$23,234,101.

In 2017, the Pueblo of Zuni received a total of \$26,126,865 in revenues. Of the revenues received, \$26,053,303 came from intergovernmental grants and contracts while \$1,414 came from interest and investment earnings and the remaining \$72,148 came from miscellaneous revenues.

Expenditures for the 2017 fiscal year totalled at \$26,078,372. Of these expenditures, \$995,203 was used for the general government and \$7,233,839 for public safety. Public works was accounted for at \$2,515,373 and

\$5,601,324 had been used for community services. Health services had a total expenditure of \$4,300,635, and educational services had a total of \$1,360,229. Lastly, \$450,852 was used for natural resources, and \$3,620,917 was accounted for capital outlay. The fund balance at the beginning of the year was \$55,080 and the fund balance at the end of the year was \$103,573 resulting in a net change in fund balance of \$48,493.

MossAdams, as the auditor, reserves the right to express an opinion regarding the financial information submitted by the tribe. At this point, the auditor had no opinion for the 2017 audit, meaning that everything submitted has been in accordance with federal auditing guidelines and that the auditor found no discrepancies with the report. Financial information for the 2018 fiscal year has been collected, and the 2018 audit report will begin soon.



The gateway leading to the Fort Wingate base. Photo taken from Flickr, "Fort Wingate Army Depot," by Norby.

Lying seven miles east of Gallup is a plot of land otherwise known as Fort Wingate. Historically, this area is of cultural significance to the Zuni People being considered ancestral homelands for once serving as hunting and gathering grounds. Now, it has been discovered to have more than 200 traceable ruins to our pueblo, as well as other surrounding tribes such as the Navajo Nation.

During World War II, this area became a military installation for the U.S. Army before being declared an inactive base in 1993. Since then, Zuni has embarked on a long journey over two decades to reclaim these lands as a part of Zuni property. The legal engagement for these lands was lengthy and at times, challenging for all parties. On December 23, 2016, the journey ended with a slight victory for the Pueblo of Zuni when former president, Barack Obama, signed into law, the National Defense Authorization Act, S.2943. This act would be crucial to the return of these lands to the Zuni Pueblo as it contains Section 2829F that was captioned, "Return of Certain Lands at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, to Original Inhabitants."

The Fort Wingate area has been divided into various plots of land referred to as parcels, and the S.2943 Act, grants Zuni ownership over some of these parcels. Other parcels were granted to the Navajo

Nation and a select few have been transferred to interior departments of the U.S Armed Forces. However, when the Secretary of Defense no longer requires these parcels to be used for military purposes, official ownership will be transferred to the two tribes.

With the new additions of land to the Zuni Pueblo, Governor Val Panteah and the Tribal Council turn to the community for opinions and suggestions for what these lands could be used for. "What do they (the Zuni community) want to see become of this area?" Governor Panteah asked during a recent interview with the tribal leaders. The council is currently working on a "Signing Ceremony" for the near future where it will be revealed which parcels will be given to Zuni. Through this event they hope the community comes forward with their opinions on how the newly acquired land can be used in a beneficial way.

At this point in time, the land being transferred under restricted fee is undergoing some environmental clean up to remove remaining military materials. Other parcels held in trust will be kept as they are. One of the most notable remains on the land are the "igloos" made from the earth that were used as storages during World War II. The council hopes to transfer these large structures into usable spaces.



In July 2015, the Zuni Pueblo, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Hopi, and Ute Tribe came together to create the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. This coalition was established by these five sovereign nations to protect the area as well as the spiritual, cultural, natural, and historical resources in the region. Zuni Pueblo's very own, Lieutenant Governor Carleton Bowekaty, is the co-chair for the coalition, sharing the seat with Sean Chapuse of the Ute Tribe. The ultimate goal of the coalition has been to get Bears Ears the righteous protection it so deserves, and in 2016 they witnessed a subtle victory.

On December 28, 2016 former President Barack Obama designated 1.35 million acres of land to become the Bears Ears National Monument through presidential proclamation. The Bears Ears National Monument is located in the southeastern portion of Utah near the four corners region. The then Obama Administration worked closely with indigenous peoples, including Zuni, to protect the many ancestral lands that fall within the Bears Ears National Monument region. However, a short year later, President Trump used presidential proclamation to revoke the work done by Obama and reduced the Bears Ears National Monument by 85%. Since decreasing the size of the national monument, thousands of archaeological and sacred sites fall out of bounds of the protected region.

Bears Ears and the sacred sites surrounding the area now face a wide range of threats to its overall wellbeing. Some of these threats include the looting and robbing of archaeological and cultural artifacts, mining and energy development, and vandalism. The looting and removal of artifacts affects the cultural and spiritual health of the area. Many indigenous tribes have some connections to these areas and when such artifacts are damaged or removed, it affects the connected tribes' ability to pass down integral knowledge to the next generation. Mining and energy development have an effect on the environment health of the region as well. Indigenous tribes are not strangers to the negative after-effects of mining and energy development on their ancestral lands. When these development sites are not cared for properly, they cause permanent damage to the surrounding area in the forms of bad soil

quality, polluted water, and an inability to support natural ecosystems. The Bears Ears region is too valuable to compromise for mining and development. Lastly, vandalism prevents archaeologists from being able to put pieces together to uncover information about the history of the area as well. This damage done to these sites is irreversible and it deems the true value of the Bears Ears National Monument.

The coalition has viewed Trump's actions as an attack on the five sovereign nations. The unlawful removal of lands from the national monument, coupled with the blatant disregard for the area and its significance has pushed the coalition to seek legal action against Trump. Whilst being in litigation against the president, Zuni is represented in court by the Native American Rights Fund. The coalition has found some congressional support during the process from Representative Deb Haaland and Representative Ruben Gallego as well.

Recently, the Interior Secretary, David Bernhardt, has appointed positions to the Bureau of Land Management's Monument Advisory Committee. However, the Bears Ears Coalition has expressed some concerns regarding the appointments made and they have opposed the Monument Advisory Committee. Lieutenant Governor expressed some of these concerns as being that majority, if not all, of those sitting on the Monument Advisory Committee are opposed to the creation of the Bears Ears National Monument. The Monument Advisory Committee also only has two spaces for those of tribal interest. This means that anyone of Native American descent can occupy these spaces, and the issue with this comes in the fact that government elected officials and their voices can be overshadowed by someone with less experience who is representing themselves rather than the voices of their entire indigenous community. So far these appointments with the MAC undermine the work the coalition has done this far, and they feel that the tribal officials should be the ones representing their communities on the MAC. Although the Bureau of Land Management has not addressed these concerns yet, the coalition continues to push for their spots on the MAC as well as for the entire amount of the Bears Ears National Monument to be restored.