March 2017

NAVAJO COUNTY NEWS

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Revenue Challenges: By the Numbers

Pending closure of the Navajo Generating Station:

- Would result in the closure of the Kayenta Mine, costing the region nearly 1,000 jobs and $100 million in payroll
- It would also devastate many of our northern Tribal communities

Pending closure of Cholla's remaining generators:

- After closing just one unit at Cholla in 2015, the County saw a drop of $30 million in property value, and $206,000 in property tax collected
- When the other three units close, we expect to see nearly $1 million in lost revenue

Mandated changes to Court Security:

- Enhanced security protocols mandated by the State require new expenditures for building upgrades and security personnel
- Like other counties around AZ, Navajo County is looking for greater efficiency in our court system, including potential consolidation of Justice Precincts

Pending increase for some state retirement plans:

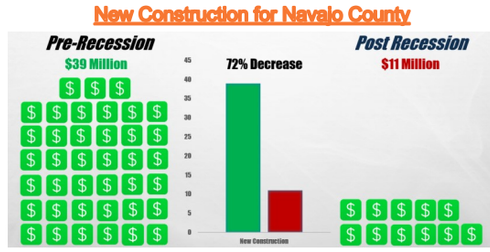
- One state plan will increase 129% ($558,000) this year

Navajo County Faces Potentially Catastrophic Revenue Challenges

With continued decreases to revenue, Navajo County is continuing to find innovative solutions to improve efficiency and save money. As we continue our discussions with federal, tribal, state and local officials, it's crucial to educate the public on what the issues are and how they impact our delivery of services to citizens.

We are committed to continually provide services to our residents, but it is unrealistic to continue providing these services in the same manner.

New Construction for Navajo County



As much of the state continues to recover economically, Navajo County simply isn't. Our citizens need to understand what we are proposing to deal with this new financial reality, and that the delivery of services will look different in the future.

The County is looking at how our services are delivered and exploring creative solutions to streamline the process and do government differently.

We are evaluating all internal services and structures, as well as all non-mandated services, to see where we can improve efficiency and save money.

We understand these are serious and complicated issues and we want to make sure we are clearly explaining the challenges ahead. We welcome the opportunity to visit with our local communities and resident organizations to talk about the future of Navajo County.

For more detailed information of the challenges facing Navajo County, please watch our January episode of Navajo County Connection.

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Photo Courtesy of the White Mountain Independent

Show Low Wrestling Claims Division III State Title

The Show Low Cougars won their 3rd State Wrestling Championship at the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Division III State Wrestling Tournament in Prescott on Feb. 10th!

The race for the title was close after the close of competition on Day 1 of the State Meet (Feb. 9th), but the Cougars pulled away with superior performances in the medal rounds to claim the Championship.

The Navajo County Board of Supervisors will be honoring the State Champs during their board meeting on March 28th.

Individual Wrestling Champions

J.R. Fox of Snowflake pins his opponent
Photo Courtesy of the White Mountain Independent

Local athletes also saw success on individual levels during the State Tournament.

Local powerhouses Snowflake, Show Low and Blue Ridge each produced an individual State Champion:

Jackson Allen - Show Low (160 lbs.)
50-1 Overall Record

Adam Henderson - Blue Ridge (170 lbs.)
60-0 Overall Record (perfect season)

J.R. Fox - Snowflake (285 lbs.)
42-5 Overall Record

Photo by Todd Roth

Local Schools Shine, Surprise in State Basketball Tournament

Highlighted by the Winslow boys team surging to the State Game as a 9 seed, and the Alchesay boys team capping off an incredible season with their first trip to the State Title Game since 1998, this year's AIA State Basketball Tournaments showcased the talent of our region.

3A Boys Results:
- Finalists/Semi-Finalists: Winslow
- Quarterfinalists: Blue Ridge
- Tournament Qualifiers: Snowflake, Show Low, Holbrook, Monument Valley

3A Girls Results:
- Semi-Finalists: Holbrook
- Tournament Qualifiers: Snowflake, Winslow, Show Low, Monument Valley

2A Boys Results:
- Finalists/Semi-Finalists: Alchesay
- Quarterfinalists: Pinon

2A Girls Results:
- Semi-Finalists: Alchesay
- Tournament Qualifiers: Hopi

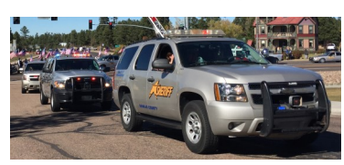
1A Boys Results:
- Quarterfinalists: Joseph City
- Tournament Qualifiers: Cibecue

1A Boys Results:
- Quarterfinalists: Mogollon
- Tournament Qualifiers: Cibecue

Employment Opportunities:

The Navajo County Sheriff's Office is looking for dedicated professionals to join their team as a Deputy!

Get more info about and apply here!



It's Time to Start Fire Season Preparation and Become 'Firewise'

Spring is nearly here! As the temperatures begin to warm and our unique landscape begins to bloom and showcase it's beauty, our mindset should begin to switch away from winter weather, and start to prepare for fire season.

As we have seen before, catastrophic wildfires can appear quickly and cause a tremendous amount of damage. However, communities can help keep their residents safe by pushing for Firewise initiatives. These initiative help keep fires from becoming disasters by protecting both personal property and whole communities.

Get more info on being Firewise here: FIREWISE!

- To be added to our Ready Navajo County Emergency Alert System, click the logo to the right.