Written by By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent Friday, 01 July 2016 06:27





Theresa Becenti-Aguilar takes second place

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Steven Begay of Naschitti Chapter was elected June 28 to fill the remaining one-and-half-year term of the Navajo Nation Council Delegate District 14 seat vacated by Mel Begay. Steven Begay, an administrator at Gallup Indian Medical Center, won the race with 731 votes.

There were 2,534 total ballots tallied from Coyote Canyon, Naschitti, Mexican Springs, Tohatchi, and Bread Springs chapters. Council delegates earn \$25,000 annually and serve four-year terms. They are not limited in terms of how long they can serve, meaning they can serve as many terms as they win.

Who else ran?

Theresa Becenti-Aguilar, from Coyote Canyon and a former member of the state Public Regulation Commission, took second place with 564 votes, and Nathan Notah of Tohatchi garnered 344 votes for a third place finish.

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"It was a tough race and obviously Steven Begay was the winner," Brent Detsoi, 27, a council delegate candidate who finished in sixth place, said. "But there are some things that should be looked at."

Detsoi, who is from Twin Lakes, said as far as he knows, the election went off well. He said though, the Tohatchi Chapter experienced a big problem with paper ballots.

"There weren't enough actual ballots at Tohatchi, and that delayed voting and counting," Detsoi said. "That should never have happened. We all must take something from this."

Detsoi, a Gallup mayoral candidate in 2011, continued, "Where was the pre-planning and planning for the unexpected when it came to Tohatchi?"

Kimmeth Yazzie, a Navajo Nation Election Administration official who distributed District 14 results to the media, said he couldn't comment on the Tohatchi ballot situation until the end of this week and after at least one election board meeting.

"I can't comment on Tohatchi right now," Yazzie said. "That's all I can say about that."

Mel Begay was removed from office by the Navajo Nation Election Administration after a conviction by the Window Rock District Court on conspiracy and making or permitting false Navajo Nation vouchers charges that totaled more than \$33,000. Begay was sent to prison for three years because of the crime.

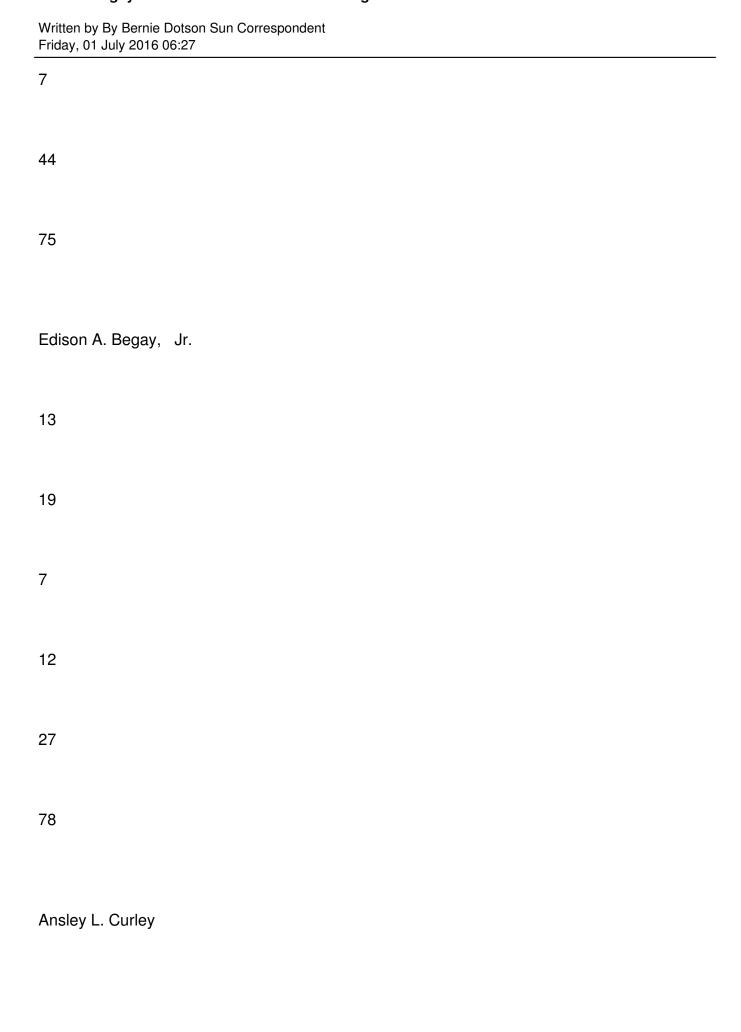
There are 24 delegates who represent various chapters in the Navajo Nation. A new law passed a few years ago took the total delegate amount from 88 to 24.

Candidate

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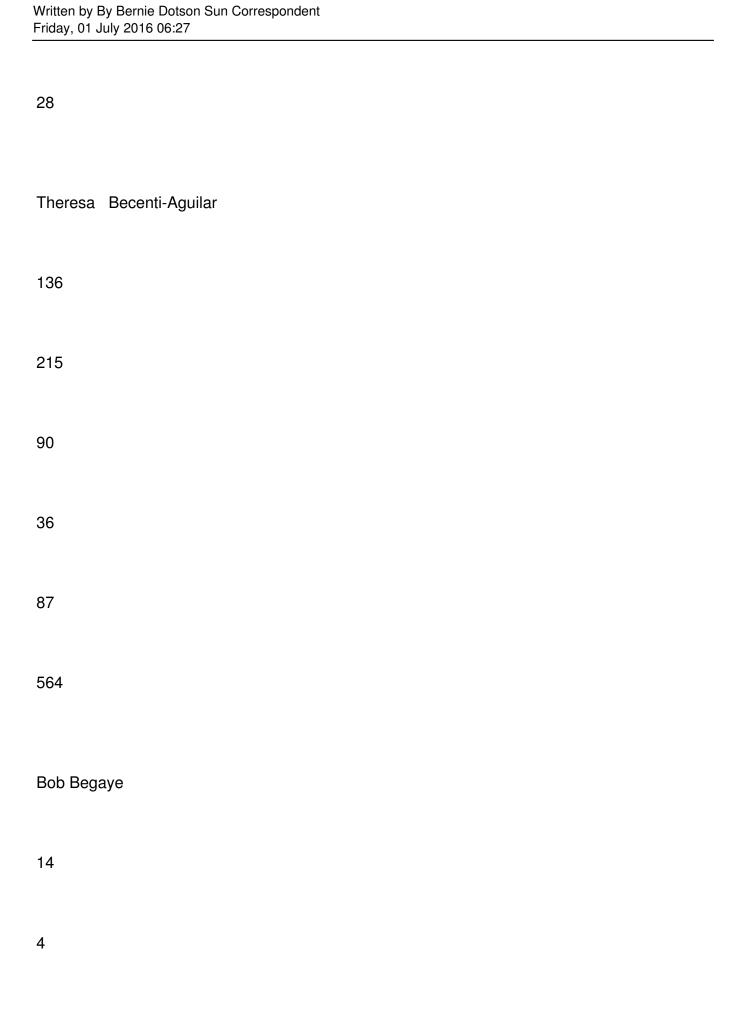
Friday, 01 July 2016 06:27

Bahastl'a'a' **Coyote Canyon Mexican Springs** Naschitti Tohatchi **Total Votes Cast for Candidate** Elvis Bitsilly 13 7 4



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Friday, 01 July 2016 06:27	
18	
48	
33	
9	
20	
128	
Tom Ranger	
4	
15	
3	
4	
2	



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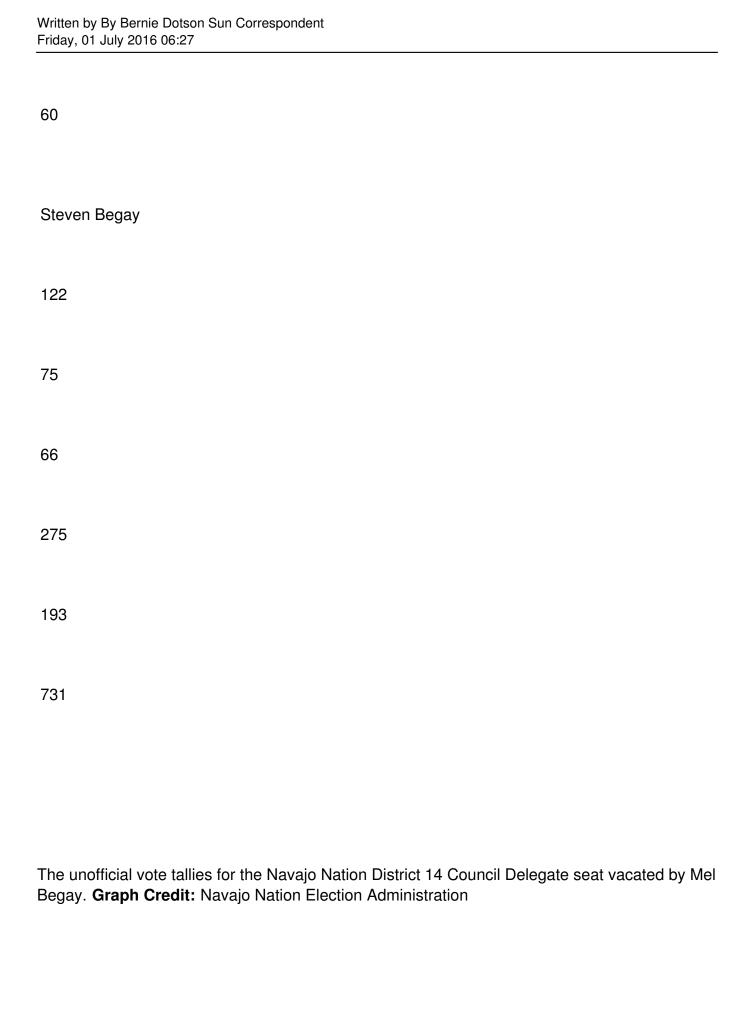
36		
9		
8		
71		
Anthony K. Howard		
94		
14		
18		
4		
11		
141		

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Brent A. Detsoi		
82		
6		
13		
2		
16		
119		
Harrison Plummer		
17		
49		
13		

Written by By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent Friday, 01 July 2016 06:27
4
20
103
Nathan Notah
42
24
42
89147
344
Willis Nez

Written by By Bernie Dotson Sun Correspondent Friday, 01 July 2016 06:27
6
5
6
57
18
92
Karen E. Bedonie
9
7
19
16
9



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