



Media Representative: Geri Honge
Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation
(928) 871-6647
Email: geri@navajonationparks.org

IMMEDIATE RELEASE : July 2, 2013



June 28, 2013, Daisy Holiday, 78, meets Bucky Covington after the concert at Monument Valley High School, UT.. (Photo by Geri Honge, Navajo Parks and Recreation)

“Bucky Covington gains new fans at Monument Valley”

MONUMENT VALLEY, UT- The Annual Tse’ Bii Nidzisgai Community Celebration once again is a favorable event for all ages. On June 28th, Navajo Parks and Recreation organized an eventful day for the community of Monument Valley and Oljato area. Events included; a Horse Clinic, beach volleyball, fun walk, Navajo story telling, traditional Navajo songs and a concert by country music artist Bucky Covington.

The annual event is a team effort with Navajo Nation Special Diabetes, Navajo Agriculture, Monument Valley tour operators, the View Hotel, Goulding’s Lodge, Monument Valley High School, UT, Monument Valley Vendors Association and Navajo Parks and Recreation. Together, the community celebration was a good gathering, it reinforced friendships and initiated new connections.

Jimmy Cody, Dorothy Bigman, Davis Boys and Joe Tohonnie Jr. drew the crowd and kept the elders dancing despite the heat at the Monument Valley Welcome Center. Many elders came to the community celebration for the Navajo songs and social dancing, it is an opportunity to be with family and friends. Navajo social dances remains very popular.

The Horse Clinic allowed the owners to learn more about equine health and also an opportunity to have their horses cared for. “The clinic was great because the Navajo presenters incorporated traditional teachings they learned from their elders to share with the community,” stated Larry Holiday. Horses were brought to the event to get some dental work done and some hoof care.

A new event this year, was the beach volleyball. With sand being plentiful, it was easy to create a sand volleyball court. The Navajo Special Diabetes, Kayenta Indian Health Service and Educational Health from Kayenta all coordinated the volleyball tournament to promote physical activity for the youth. “We were proactive and approached Navajo Parks and Recreation to add this event,” explained Dorene Sullivan from Navajo Special Diabetes. Our goal is to prevent childhood obesity, added Sullivan. Champions of the beach volleyball tournament is a team named Coppertone.



June 28, 2013, Coppertone, champions of the beach volleyball tournament: Afton Sullivan, Nehemiah Manheimer, KJ Martinez, Sabrina Seaton.. (Photo by Geri Hongeva, Navajo Parks and Recreation)

The closing performer was an artist who is no stranger to the Navajo Nation, in 2009, country music artist Bucky Covington entertained the Navajo Nation Fair crowd in Window Rock, Az. It was Covington’s first time in Monument Valley but immediately gained new fans. “Wow! Look at that,” he exclaimed in between songs, as he stood on stage looking at the sunset. But you all see that everyday, added Covington, amazed by the beautiful Monument Valley horizon.

Martin L. Begaye, Department Manager stated “Navajo Parks and Recreation Department started the tradition of the Monument Valley Community Celebration about eleven years ago and we’re proud to continue the annual tradition of expressing our appreciation to the people of Oljato and Monument Valley through this event.”

More information please visit www.NavajoNationParks.org

###