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President Shelly's Week at the 65th Annual Navajo Nation Fair

Addressing the Changes People are Asking For

Window Rock, Ariz. — The week of the 65th Annual Navajo Nation Fair was one of the busiest in the history of the largest Native American fair in the United States. The fair began Monday through Sunday night, bringing in people from all over the Navajo Nation and throughout the world.

The theme for the fair was, "Seasons of Change, Brings new Beginnings." To enhance this theme, corn and other harvested vegetables were integrated into events throughout the 65th annual Navajo Nation fair. All banners and advertisements carried the theme as well. The Office of the President and Vice President gave fresh vegetables to elders at the parade on Saturday morning.

President Shelly and Manuelito Wheeler, Department Director of the Navajo Nation Museum, and Norma Bowman, Fair Manager, planned to have revenues equal expenditures. September 23rd is the due date for finance and payout coordinator Alta Bowman to complete all accurate closeout reports for the Navajo Nation Fair.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, at the main entrance of the fairgrounds Wednesday afternoon President Shelly stated, "We do not want to profit from the fair, but we do need to break even because of the financial deficits that the Navajo Nation is experiencing."

Students from different high schools around the Navajo Nation attended the Youth Summit sponsored by OPVP. The students addressed issues in their communities and presented logical solutions to the President. Subject items the students were concerned of were alcoholism, domestic violence, economic development, education, and more.

Afterward, the President attended skits focused on the students' concerns and goals for the Navajo people. Some skit topics were based on finishing college, community service, becoming a teenage parent, and being a successful professional. In response to the most popular question, what are you doing for economic development, the President stated, "I want the Navajo Nation to be its own landlord, to have a bank owned by the Navajo Nation, and to redevelop Dessert Rock by utilizing clean coal technology that meets the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency's requirements.



President at the Youth Summit engaged in an economic development discussion with students

Overall, the Youth Summit was a success and so was the free BBQ luncheon on Thursday.

At the Veteran's Park Memorial, Friday, September 9, the public heard President reiterate his goals for economic development. Also including that the new eco-friendly Dessert Rock will generate jobs. The clean coal technology is a gasification process that has no carbon dioxide or mercury emissions.

To educate the people further on clean coal technology, OPVP sponsored the Navajo Energy Expo and the job fair. At the Navajo Energy Expo, the President explained, that with the incorporation of the new technology, jobs on the Navajo Nation could be created because through the clean coal process, diesel fuel, jet fuel, plastic, wax, tires and more can be created. This will provide income to families and to the Navajo Nation. Altogether, the new events were in unison with new beginnings, and with economic development.

"The Korn concert was the perfect way to end the fair," said Wheeler. "It added to the theme and it kept the revenue going throughout Sunday night."



President Shelly during the Energy Expo giving an explanation of the Clean Coal Electricity Producing Unit



President Shelly and First Lady at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the 65th Navajo Nation Fair's Main Entrance



First Lady Martha Shelly, Lead Vocalist for Korn Jonathan Davis, President BenShelly