

Diné be' iiná, Inc.

The Navajo Lifeway

2 June 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEAVERS ORGANIZE NAVAJO RUG AUCTION

AT SHEEP IS LIFE CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 21, 2008, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Greyhills Academy Auditorium, Tuba City, Navajo Nation.

Navajo weavers began organizing their own rug auctions several years ago to take more control over the presentation, handling, and sales of their rugs. They approached Diné be' iiná, Inc. (DBI) and Diné College's Institute for Integrated Rural Development for training and assistance. Their first auction was held during Sheep is Life has become a regular part of the annual Celebration.

This year's Navajo Rug Auction will be held on Saturday, June 21, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Greyhills Academy Auditorium, Tuba City, Navajo Nation. There is no cost to the weavers to enter their rugs nor to the buyers for a bidding card. Rugs entered in the auction must be hand woven of 100 percent wool using traditional Navajo weaving techniques. Emphasis is on weavings made with yarn handspun from Navajo-Churro wool in the range of natural colors or vegetal dyes. Experts examine each entry to make sure it conforms to high quality artistic and materials standards.

Weavers must register their rugs on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon in the auditorium at Greyhills Academy. All weavers are encouraged to attend the Weavers Workshop from noon to 1:00 p.m. to learn more about how to price their rugs and what qualities collectors and buyers are seeking in Navajo weavings.

PO Box 683, Window Rock, AZ 86515 www.navajolifeway.org

Diné be' iiná, Inc. is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the Navajo Nation.

The Buyers Workshop and Preview will be held from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Experts will demonstrate how to determine the quality of a Navajo weaving, how to tell if the wool is handspun and natural colored or vegetal dyed, how to ascertain the type of wool used, and other key points to look for when bidding on a rug. The Buyers will be able to look at the rugs that will be auctioned.

The auction begins at 4:00 p.m. and continues until the final rug has gone under the gavel of Jim Keyes, Auctioneer. Buyers can pay with cash or credit card. Payout to the weavers will take place when the auction ends. For information on the auction, call Lucita Luckton at 928-724-3219.

The twelfth annual Sheep is Life Celebration takes place Thursday through Saturday, June 19 through 21, at Greyhills Academy Campus in Tuba City, Navajo Nation. In addition to Saturday's Navajo Rug Auction, highlights include:

- Eight workshops in Navajo fiber arts, Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;
- Sheep to Loom demonstrations, vendors, and more, Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;
- Animal husbandry workshops and training sessions;
- Benefit Awards Dinner, featuring Chef Walter Whitewater, Friday, 5:00 p.m.; and
- Navajo Sheep and Wool Juried Shows, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Schedules, menus, and other details are available at www.navajolifeway.org. For information, call Grace Boyne at 505-863-3192 or e-mail dbi@navajolifeway.org. DBI is a community-based, nonprofit organization founded in 1991 by Navajo shepherds and weavers. Sheep is Life is supported by the USDA Risk Management Agency and WESSTCorp.