OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

ALTON JOE SHEPHERD

APACHE COUNTY DISTRICT 2

"BETTER ROADS, BETTER COMMUNITIES"



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APACHE COUNTY DISTRICT 2 ELDER FEST - GANADO, AZ







Supervisor Shepherd speaking.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Elder Fest from Drone view.

Ganado, **AZ** – Apache County District 2 Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd spent the day with our elders at the Ganado Chapter. "Cherishing Our Elders" was the theme of this year's Elder Fest hosted by Supervisor Shepherd and District 2. The tone was our Elders; their care, their longevity and their happiness. This message was hit home by Tséhootsooí Medical Center personnel providing outreach in health and wellness.

The event was a great success because of all our honored guests the "elders" of our communities and families who made this year's Elder Fest enjoyable and well attended. Supervisor Shepherd stated, "Not very often our Senior "Elder" Community are showcased by the public. They are resillient, young at heart and have abundance of knowledge to sustain our younger generation. They can show us how to preserve our identity and to keep our way of life as Dine people". Our elders and leaders participated in health and wellness activities as Todi Neesh Zhee Singers, Talibah Begay, Joe Tohannie, Jr. and the Apache Crown Dancers entertained. It is another great accomplishment achieved with the help and partnerships with the Tséhootsooí Medical Center, the Navajo Division of Aging and Long Term Care Support, and local Navajo Nation Chapters and Senior Citizen Centers. Our elders heard messages from President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, AZ State Representative Arlando Teller, Council Delegate Vince James, and Apache County Treasurer Marleita Begay.

In addition to Elder Fest, the Ganado elders also celebrated the re-opening of their Ganado Senior Citizen Center with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony after $3\frac{1}{2}$ years closed to community senior citizens. Supervisor Shepherd stated, "I appreciate all who came out to support our Elder Fest, our leaders, performers, and partners to make this day memorable. Continue to Cherish our Elders and please gain their knowledge to sustain our generation and generations to come". The Senior Centers from the area prepared food in the re-opened Ganado Senior Center kitchen for elders who attended the Elder Fest while Tséhootsooí Medical Center provided food to the other attendees at the event.

Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd expressed his profound gratitude to our elders, our sponsors of the event, the guest speakers, entertainers, and entities with their information - all coming together to celebrate our elders.