



Red Rocks Reporter

APRIL 2008

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FROM THE GOVERNORS

CASINO PROJECT UPDATE

On Jan. 3, 2008, the Department of Interior unveiled new rules for projects like the Jemez Casino. There was no consultation prior to the new rules being issued. One day later, the Department denied 22 applications, including Jemez Pueblo's, based on the new rules.

On Feb. 27, 2008, the House Natural Resources Committee, led by Chairman Nick J. Rahall (D-WV), held a hearing on the improper way the new rules were developed to deny Jemez Pueblo's application. One new rule is that the proposed casino location must be within daily driving distance from the reservation or the application will be automatically denied. Anthony is 293 miles from the Pueblo and the application was denied because of the distance.

The Pueblo of Jemez submitted facts regarding the tribe's application to the Committee.

Chairman Rahall was "disturbed" that tribal leaders were not consulted in the process used by the Department of the Interior and that tribes were given no opportunity to meet the new requirements before they were denied. A Harvard law professor called the new rules "unsupportable and misguided," and testified that the conclusion is "also flat wrong."

First Lt. Governor Joshua Madalena represented the Pueblo of Jemez at the hearing. "It was of major importance for the Tribe to be present at the hearing," he says. "After listening to the testimony of the Interior, I felt they did not follow proper procedures with the tribe's application. I left the hearing knowing that there is still hope for our endeavors."

The process used to deny the Jemez project was nothing like the process Assistant Secretary Artman described in his testimony and his answers to members' questions.

As a result of the hearing, Chairman Rahall introduced legislation, H.R. 5608, addressing this problem. Two denied tribes have filed lawsuits.

The Pueblo of Jemez hand-delivered a letter to Mr. Artman on March 19 during a meeting held in New Mexico with tribal leaders. The letter states "...we find it impossible to reconcile [your testimony] that distance was only one factor used to deny our application when only a partial, incomplete and premature record was before the Department ... the Central Office did not have everything that had been submitted" in support of our application. Some of the information not considered addressed the distance issue and gave reasons why a project closer to Jemez would not work.

The Tribe is requesting a meeting with Mr. Artman in the near future to discuss the best way to put the project back on track.

To read the testimony submitted at the Committee, go to the web site at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>.

PLANT YOUR FIELDS!

Planting season is here and the Governors and tribal administration are encouraging tribal members to plant as much as acreage as possible this year.

"It is to our community's benefit to have as much irrigable land as possible under cultivation this year," says Gov. Paul S. Chinana. "The amount of acreage that has been planted will help reinforce

Continued on page 2



PUEBLO of JEMEZ

TRIBAL COUNCIL

Candido Armijo
 Joe Cajero
 Paul S. Chinana
 Raymond Gachupin
 Frank Loretto
 J. Leonard Loretto
 Raymond Loretto, DVM
 Jose E. Madalena
 J. Roger Madalena
 Arthur Sandia
 Jose Pecos
 Jose Toledo
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 Augustine Waquie

2008 TRIBAL GOVERNORS

Paul S. Chinana
Governor
 Joshua Madalena
First Lt. Governor
 Delbert Tafoya
Second Lt. Governor

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR

Vincent Toya

Red Rocks Reporter
April 2008 Edition

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Red Rocks Reporter is distributed to Box Holders in the 87024 Zip Code. If you want to receive this newsletter and do not have an 87024 P.O. box, please contact the editorial office at (575) 834-3174; fax: (575) 834-7517; e-mail: erica.kane@jemezpueblo.us; please put JHHS in the subject line.

Published by Pueblo of Jemez, NM 87024.

FROM THE GOVERNORS

our claims in the Jemez River water rights negotiations.”

If families are not going to plant all of their irrigable land, please allow other tribal members to use it for the season. The Department of Resource Protection has staff and equipment available to help prepare the fields. See page 13 for more information and the fee schedule, or call the DRP at (575) 834-3208.

DITCH CLEANING RESPONSIBILITIES

The traditional ditch cleaning was completed in March. All male tribal members 18 years of age and older are required to help in their assigned sections.

Those who did not help or were not available must pay a \$50 per day fee to fulfill their obligations. The effort continued over two days, so male tribal members who were not present at all will be subject to a \$100 fee. Notices will be sent to individual homes with details about fee collection.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION

Meet Tribal Planner Jay Moolenijzer



Jan-Jay Moolenijzer welcomes a challenge. In the new position of Tribal Planner, Jay will work with managers, directors and tribal administration to coordinate and manage projects to successful and timely conclusions and help move the Pueblo of Jemez closer to the goals and aspirations outlined in the Comprehensive Plan adopted by Tribal Council in November 2003.

“As I understand it, the idea in creating the Planning and Development Department is to pull us all together,” Jay explains. “My job is to help all departments work together on behalf of the community we serve.”

In coordinating the initiatives and timelines from various departments, Jay will watch for the details that interfere with projects. “We need to have consensus and be sure that all the details are covered,” he says. “It all stems from the vision and aspirations the people expressed through the Tribal Council and Governors in the Comprehensive Plan.”

Jay sees three aspects to his role with the Pueblo. “First, I’ll be helping with immediate priorities. I’m not here to take over, but to coordinate with each department and help get the job done as well as possible.”

The second aspect of his job will be to bring departments together to assess where they have mutual concerns and overlapping responsibilities. He offers the example of the Housing Department’s Pueblo Place development. The project must include active coordination with Transportation, Public Works, Resource Protection, the Realty Office, Law Enforcement and other tribal departments as well as traditional leaders. “I see a need to bring all the departments together to determine where they have similar priorities and perhaps merge some projects for more efficient and cost-effective progress.”

Planning for the future is also part of the job. “There is perhaps a ‘visionary’ part to the planning role,” Jay says. “Plans need to change as economics, population and other factors change. We need an ongoing, living planning process, instead of something done at various times and then set on the shelf. We need a vision of the future for our children and community. Then we can continue our daily activities from a place of thoughtful consensus instead of taking a reactive approach to development. An organic, dynamic process involves the whole community — traditional leaders, professional, elders, children, everyone.”

Jay worked for the Walatowa Woodlands Initiative for the past two years. He has been involved in Native American programs with various tribes since 1973. You can contact Jay through the tribal administration office at (575) 834-7359 or the Planning and Development office at (575) 834-0094.

Your Voice Counts! Register and Vote!

If you are not yet registered to vote, there is still time to register before the June primary elections. With four Jemez tribal members running for elected positions, community support is more important than ever. All candidates have been endorsed by the Jemez Tribal Council. Incumbent Roger Madalena will run to retain his seat in the state House of Representatives; Benny Shendo is vying for a place on the ballot for US Congress; and Darryl Madalena is running for County Commissioner.

"Having our tribal members involved in the government decision-making process protects our interests as a tribe and as Native American citizen," says First Lt. Joshua Madalena, who is running against four other candidates in the Democratic primary for the State Senate seat. "The primary election is critical," he adds. "That election will determine who will be on the November ballot and ultimately who will serve this area in the state Senate."

Registering to vote is easy and takes just a few minutes. Peter Madalena has an office at the Jemez Pueblo Civic Center; the phone number is (575) 834-7189. Or you can register with CEO/Manager Susan Donovan at the Jemez Valley Credit Union. You don't need an appointment, but you might want to phone ahead at (575) 829-3366 to make sure she's available.

Government Actions May Affect Tribal Members

Transportation Grant

The Pueblo of Jemez won a \$25,000 grant to study transportation issues within the community. The funding comes from a grant under the US Department of Transportation's Tribal Transit Program. The amount was incorrectly reported by Senator Bingaman's office and the *Rio Rancho Journal* as \$240,221.

"This grant will go to assessing the Pueblo's transportation situation," says Senior Center Program Manager Margaret Garcia, who was instrumental in the grant submission. "That's the first step to submitting a full proposal for funds to meet our needs."

Off Reservation Native American Health Bill

House Bill 236: Off Reservation Native American Health affects New Mexico Indians living outside reservation lands.

"This bill is an important step toward better addressing the unique and pressing health care needs of Indian people in New Mexico," says New Mexico Indian Affairs Cabinet Secretary Alvin Warren. "The state continues its leadership in taking measures to improve the health of our Indian citizens while, at the same time, pushing the federal government to live up to its trust obligations."

Governor Bill Richardson's office says the bill creates a "clear and explicit voice for urban Indian health by establishing an Off-Reservation Native American Health Commission in Bernalillo County, where the largest concentration of off-reservation Indians live." The commission will serve as a planning and advocacy entity that will collect and analyze data about the off-reservation Native American community, identify gaps in health care services and coverage, and make recommendations to meet those needs.

The Commission will allow "one of the largest and most diverse urban Indian communities in the United States to set the standard and become a model for other similar entities around the nation," Richardson's office adds.

Native American Veterans May Get Tax Refunds

The New Mexico state legislature passed a resolution to investigate the feasibility of providing refunds to Native American veterans who had state personal income taxes improperly withheld from their military pay.

Native American veterans who were living on tribal lands during their active military service may have been exempt from paying state personal income taxes on their military income, but may have had state personal income taxes improperly withheld. The Act permits affected veterans to recover those taxes, even if the statute of limitations has expired on their claims. The bill also acknowledges that "the passage of time extending to decades will make it difficult for many Native American veterans to meet strict standards of proof that they are entitled to a refund of improperly withheld state personal income taxes."

The Act states that "It is incumbent upon the state to ensure that it was not unjustly enriched by the improper withholding of state personal income taxes from Native American veterans, and the state should implement a feasible means of refunding to Native American veterans any state personal income taxes that were improperly withheld from military pay."

The Act creates a Native American Veterans' Income Tax Settlement Fund from which payments will be made.

The Secretary of Veteran's Services will conduct a study in cooperation with the Taxation and Revenue Department to identify any veterans who had state personal income taxes improperly withheld from their pay, determine the amount of money involved, and implement a plan to compensate them or their survivors. The legislature designated this Act as "Emergency" legislation that will take effect immediately.

For more information, contact the Secretary of Veteran's Services at (505) 827-6300 or (866) 433-838 in Santa Fe.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Alcohol: Know the Facts

For some people, a small amount of alcohol may be relaxing. But for too many, a small amount leads inevitably to a larger amount, and, eventually, an uncontrollable amount. And large amounts of alcohol can kill — it kills the body, the family, and the spirit.

Know the facts and take action. If you or someone you care about has a problem with alcohol, get help. Call the Behavioral Health Program at (575) 834-7258, Alcoholics Anonymous at (505) 266-1900 or the AA 24-hour Referral Hotline at (800) 262-4944. If you are a family member, friend, spouse or significant other of a person with an alcohol problem, you can get support from Al-Anon; call them at (505) 262-2177.

Short-term Effects

An almost immediate effect of alcohol is that it depresses the central nervous system. In increasing amounts, it suppresses the part of the brain that controls judgment. It also affects physical co-ordination and causes blurred vision, slurred speech and loss of balance. Drinking a very large amount at one time (binge drinking) can lead to unconsciousness, coma and even death. Vomiting while unconscious can cause death by suffocation.

Alcohol is involved in a large proportion of fatal road accidents, assaults and inci-

dents of domestic violence. Statistics show that substance abuse is related to serious physical injury, child neglect and abuse, and police calls.

Long-term Effects

Alcohol is a poison and the human endocrine system treats it as such. The liver's role is natural detoxification, but continuous exposure to poison (alcohol) erodes the liver, causing cirrhosis which can lead to liver failure and death.

Drinking too much, too often causes physical damage, increases the risk of some diseases, and makes other diseases worse. Because alcohol affects many organs in the body, long-term excessive drinking increases the risk of critical health problems. The gradual breakdown of different organs and systems can result in serious, if not fatal, health issues, including:

- stroke.
- heart disease.
- high blood pressure.
- loss of short-term memory.
- blackouts.
- hepatitis and cirrhosis of the liver.
- gastritis (inflammation of the stomach lining.)
- pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas.)
- high blood pressure (which can lead to stroke.)
- certain types of cancer, including mouth

and throat .

- brain damage.
- heart failure .
- neurological problems like epilepsy.
- some types of vitamin deficiencies.

Women may be more sensitive to alcohol and develop health problems from drinking less alcohol over a shorter time than men. For instance, women who drink two or more drinks per day may increase the risk of breast cancer.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Alcohol can cause a range of birth defects in babies. Women who are pregnant or trying to conceive can prevent alcohol-related birth defects by not drinking any alcohol at all.

The most serious alcohol-related birth defect is fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). Children born with FAS can have lifelong physical, mental and behavior problems as well as physical abnormalities, mental retardation, central nervous system dysfunction, slow growth, failure to thrive, heart defects, hearing loss, tremors and hyperactivity.

Because scientists do not know exactly how much alcohol it takes to cause alcohol-related birth defects, it is best not to drink any alcohol during this time. **Since no "safe" level of alcohol use during pregnancy has been established, a pregnant woman who drinks any amount of alcohol is at risk of harming herself and her baby.**

Did You Know?

Nearly 14 million Americans can be considered as having alcohol use disorders.

Approximately half of US adults report a family history of alcoholism or problem drinking.

More than 18% of Americans experience alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence at some time in their lives.

Alcohol use is involved in about one-third of suicides, one-half of homicides, and one-third of child abuse cases.

Alcohol is frequently a factor in the three leading causes of death (motor vehicle crashes, homicides and suicides) for 15 to 24 year-olds.

Recent advertising expenditures in the United States for beer, wine and liquor combined was \$1.4 billion, about 20 times the amount spent on ads for milk (\$70.5 million).

THE WARNING SIGNS OF ALCOHOL ABUSE: ARE YOU AT RISK?

If you or someone you care about answers yes to any of these questions, it may indicate an increased risk for alcohol abuse. You can get help! Contact the Behavioral Health Program at 834-7258, Alcoholics Anonymous at (505) 266-1900 or the AA 24-hour Referral Hotline at (800) 262-4944.

- ✓ Do you ever drink heavily when you are disappointed, lonely, angry, stressed, anxious, worried, sad or have quarreled with someone?
- ✓ Can you handle more alcohol today than when you first started drinking?
- ✓ Do you hide or lie about how often or how much you drink?
- ✓ At parties, do you try to have a few extra drinks when others won't know about it?
- ✓ Have you said or done things that you wish you hadn't when you were drinking?
- ✓ Do you try to avoid family or close friends while you are drinking?
- ✓ Are you having more financial, work, school or family problems as a result of your drinking?
- ✓ Do you feel guilty about your drinking?
- ✓ Have you tried to cut back on your drinking?
- ✓ Have any of your blood relatives ever had a problem with alcohol?

Thank you...

Alcoholism addiction is as much a disease as heart disease. Why don't we look at it or treat it as such?

On March 3 of this year, I encountered this addiction with one of my family members. I want to give my fullest thanks to a Clinic employee who went out her way to take care of my family member who was very ill from a long period of alcohol consumption. I am very grateful to Ms. Vonda Baca, RN, for being there for my family member. Just being there for him and letting him know it's going to be okay could mean so much at that very moment.

I think it's time we look at alcoholism as a serious illness and what it does to families as well. If we have a family member with this addiction, we need to get some help for them.

As the saying goes, we can take a horse to water, but we can't make him drink. But we can stay with him long enough until they want to drink. Which just means we can't give up on them.

Bill Fragua
Aftercare Counselor
Jemez Behavioral Health Program
Phone: 834-7258

Economic Stimulus Payments

Starting in May, the IRS will issue economic stimulus payments of up to \$600 for individuals or \$1,200 for married couples. Parents also will get \$300 for each eligible child. Payments will be based on 2007 tax returns.

To receive the payments this year, people **must** file a 2007 tax return. That's it. The IRS will determine eligibility, figure the amount and send the payment. This payment will be in addition to tax refunds.

There are some restrictions. People must have valid Social Security numbers for themselves and their children. Anyone who is claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return, or who is eligible to be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return, does not qualify.

People who already file tax returns each year only need to file their tax returns; they don't need to do anything more to receive the payment. The IRS will do the rest.

Everyone who wants to receive the economic stimulus payment must file an income tax return for 2007, even if they normally do not file returns. Some people don't file tax returns because their incomes are too low or their benefits are nontaxable. Because they don't file returns, the IRS does not have their names or current addresses.

People who do not normally file tax returns but who have at least \$3,000 in qualified income may be eligible for a minimum payment of \$300 for individuals or \$600 for married couples. The \$3,000 of qualified income must come from specific sources. It must be earned from wages or self-employment or from certain benefits such as Social Security retirement, Railroad Retirement or Veterans Affairs payments to disabled veterans or veterans' survivors. It also can be from a combination of wages and benefits.

People who normally don't file returns can use Form 1040A. Only a little information is required; you don't need to complete the entire form. Only the following information must be included:

- ▶ Name, address, Social Security number.
- ▶ Filing status, names and Social Security numbers of children.
- ▶ Workers with low incomes must complete Line 7.
- ▶ Recipients of certain benefits from Social Security retirement, Railroad Retirement and Veterans Affairs can report their total benefits on line 14a of Form 1040A.
- ▶ Write "Economic Stimulus Payment" at the top of the return.

People who have bank accounts should use direct deposit; this is the fastest way to receive payment. The IRS will begin sending payments in early May after the current tax season concludes. These payments will not be taxable and will not affect any federal benefits people receive.

Many eligible people may not know about the payments. The IRS is working with the Social Security Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs to locate beneficiaries who may be eligible, but they need your help. If you know people who could be eligible, please let them know they could be entitled to payments.

For more information, go to the IRS web site at www.irs.gov. New Mexico Legal Aid, Inc.

New Mexico Legal Aid Native American Program offers free tax help to tribal households earning less than \$50,000 per year, including married couples filing jointly. The tax clinics continue through April 15 on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, call New Mexico Legal Aid in Bernalillo at (505) 867-3391 or (toll-free) at (866) 505-2371.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

JHHS Medical Clinic Patient Satisfaction Survey Results

Jemez Medical Clinic providers gave out a patient satisfaction survey to their patients for one week in March. Patients were asked to complete the survey after their visits. Sixty-five (65) surveys were completed.

The survey questioned patients about access to care, customer service, quality of medical care, continuity of care, and nursing and pharmacy services. Patients were also asked to rate the overall care and service they received, and whether they would go to another clinic for care if they could.

Results

Following is a summary of the results.

Overall Quality Of Care and Service Received

95% of patients rate the overall quality of care and services as good or excellent. (Chart I)

Access to Care

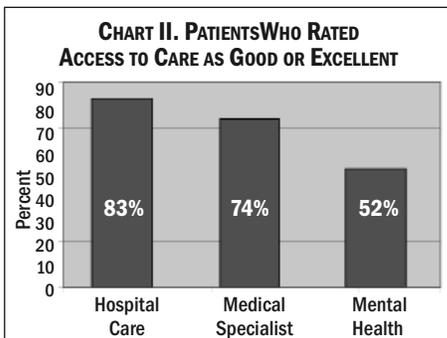
10% of patients are seen the same day for routine care; 54% are seen within one week.

56% of patients report that they are seen the same day when they are sick (flu, etc.) Another 26% wait one to three days.

Of patients needing urgent care, 62% are seen in less than 30 minutes. Almost all other patients are seen within an hour. 88% of patients rated access to emergency care as excellent.

96% of patients rate the clinic hours as good or excellent.

83% of patients rate ease of getting hospital care as good or excellent; 74% rate ease of getting a referral to a medical specialist as good or excellent; and 52% rate ease of getting a mental health referral as good or excellent. (Chart II)



86% of patients report that the medical staff's efforts to make their visit comfortable and pleasant is good or excellent.

86% of patients report that the friendliness of reception and front desk staff is good or excellent.

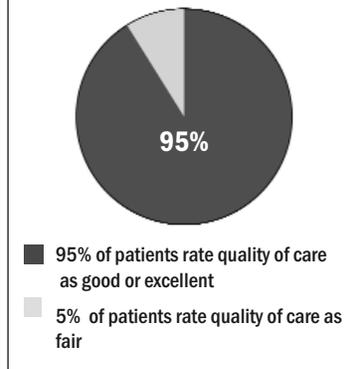
92% of patients report the friendliness of the nurses and other medical staff to be good or excellent.

Quality of Medical Care

94% of patients rate provider listening to them as good or excellent and 97% rate providers answering their questions as good or excellent.

91% of patients rate the quality of examinations, the advice they re-

CHART I. HOW PATIENTS RATE OVERALL QUALITY OF CARE



ceive about staying healthy, and the providers' concern for their mental health or emotional well-being as good or excellent.

93% of patients rate their pain control as good or excellent.

36% of patients rate ease of getting prescriptions filled as good. 23% rate it as excellent. 92% of patients rate the explanation they receive about prescribed medicines as good or excellent.

Continuity of Care

Only 14% of patients always see the same provider. 77% report that they see the same provider most or about half of the time.

Patient's Plan to Switch to a Different Clinic

90% of patients say that they do not plan to go to another clinic, given the opportunity.

Comments

- ◆ Nineteen patients included comments. This is what they said:
- ◆ The clinic is improving day by day and it is all good change. Keep up the good work!
- ◆ Keep up the good work – excellent.
- ◆ Good job
- ◆ Was in good care
- ◆ I enjoy coming to this clinic. I get quick but thorough care.
- ◆ I liked the treatment and courtesy.
- ◆ Good.
- ◆ Keep up the good work, and the care of your patients, especially the elders. You all do work well and I enjoy when I'm here.
- ◆ Excellent service from Dawn Dozhier, Physicians' Assistant.
- ◆ My treatment to medical was excellent – doctor and nurse and assistant. Add on front desk (receptionists.)
- ◆ No complaints.
- ◆ I have no concerns. This is an excellent clinic.
- ◆ As a walk-in patient, I understand the procedure and I don't mind the wait because we all need care. As for today's visit, I understand for we had an emergency, so my overall visit was excellent. I received the care I needed. Thank you very much.
- ◆ Keep up the good work!!!
- ◆ We are very happy with our clinic and staff at our clinic. Thank you so much!
- ◆ Was in pain and taking a long time to be seen.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

DISABILITIES AWARENESS CONFERENCE

More than 150 people attended the Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation Program's Tenth Annual Disabilities Awareness Conference on March 18. About 60 participants started the conference with a Fun Run/Walk. A sponsorship donation from the New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability supported the program. Numerous businesses and individuals donated door prizes. Local, county, state and national agencies distributed information about their services and artists displayed pottery, jewelry, clothes and other items. A Flag Ceremony by the Walatowa Veterans Association and songs by Zia Pueblo's Southern Slam Drum Group opened the event. April Wilkinson facilitated the program.

"All of us have some kind of disability, either visible or hidden," observed Dr. Raymond Loretto, DVM, CEO of JHHS, in his opening remarks. "We all need help at some time in our lives."

Sarah introduced her staff and described their expertise: Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Joyce Tsosie and Cathy Sabado help consumers identify and work toward vocational goals, Job Coach/Job Developer Yolanda Toledo helps with job searches, interview preparation and coaching; VR Coordinator Cynthia Justice counsels consumers from Santa Ana and Zia Pueblos, and Edna Gloria Fragua is the temporary administrative assistant while Regina Baca is on leave.

Sarah explained that JVR supports tribal members with disabilities meet employment goals that help them become self-sufficient. The program can help anyone who has mental, emotional or

physical disabilities that interfere with education or employment goals, who is an enrolled member of a tribe, and lives on or near the Jemez, Santa Ana or Zia Pueblos.

Former JVR consumers Darlene Reid and Vera Loretto talked about facing their disabilities and learning to cope and eventually thrive. Keynote speaker Dr. Erich Longhie, a Spirit Lake tribal member, spoke of his own challenges and how traditional Native values of courage, perseverance, respect and honesty can overcome self-defeating behaviors that limit success.

The Hyatt Regency Tamaya Hotel and the Pueblo of Jemez Human Resources Department received Employers of the Year awards. Three JVR consumers were also honored for their work in education, employment and self-employment.

"Our thanks to volunteers Irwin Pecos, Everett Fragua, Brian Gunthorpe, Matthew Gachupin, Audrey Madalena, Benita Toya, Alberta Sando, Matilda Shendo, Rebecca Coonsis, Andrea Shije, Cresencia Gachupin, Alice Rodgers, Jimmy Shendo, Marla Chosa, Walatowa Charter High School National Honor Society, Estevan Sando, Nichelle Sando, Mildred Toya, Ashley C. Chinana, Denise Lucero, Felipita Loretto, Peter Pecos, Stuart Gachupin, Jennifer Andrew and Sheila Toya. Their help is appreciated!" Sarah says.

If you have questions about JVR or its services, stop by or call (575) 834-0012.



Dr. Erich Longhie

Patient Satisfaction Survey Results

Continued from page 6

- ◆ Overall service Okay, but needs to improve, especially temporary doctors.
- ◆ The only thing when you are waiting in lobby some people always ask why you are there, where you are hurting, what your problem is.
- ◆ A tribal-offered health insurance program, so when we are asked about insurance, we can say yes.

Summary

- ◆ Access to routine care appears to be reasonable when compared with larger clinics in Albuquerque. However, we cannot know if access is a problem for those patients who do not seek their care at the JHHS clinic. Our patients tell us that access to urgent and emergent care is good. We need to provide better access to the providers by phone.
- ◆ Ease of access to medical care (hospital and referral) is generally good, but access to mental health care could be better.
- ◆ Continuity of care could be better so that patients always see the

same provider for routine visits.

- ◆ Wait time once in the clinic is fairly good but could be a little better. There is room for improvement in how our staff keeps patients informed about wait times.
- ◆ Patients are happy with the friendliness and courtesy of the staff and with the quality of the care provided. We need to do a better job of explaining test results and providing educational materials.
- ◆ We need to improve the ease with which patients get their prescriptions filled, even though the explanations patients receive about their medications are very good.

The two most telling results of the survey are that 95% of patients rate the overall quality of care and services they receive as good or excellent, and 90% of patients say that they do not plan to go to another clinic, even given the opportunity.

If you would like more details about the survey results, please contact Penny Ott, JHHS Executive Director of Clinical Operations, at (575) 834-3197. "Thank you to all our patients who let us know how you feel by taking time to complete the survey," Penny adds.

SOCIAL WORK

Find The Documents You Need To Apply for Medicaid

Don't wait for a crisis to search for or try to correct the documents you need to apply for Medicaid. Look for your documents now!

When you are eligible for Medicaid benefits, one of the biggest barriers to obtaining them can be missing or incorrect documentation. In 2006, the state of New Mexico changed the documentation requirements for applying for Medicaid. Now applicants must establish both citizenship and identity the first time they apply.

You can prove your eligibility in several ways, but usually the easiest is to use an original birth certificate to establish citizenship and a valid driver's license or state-issued picture identification card for identity. Children may use an original birth certificate and a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB). For both children and adults, it is best to provide copies of the Social Security cards for each family member applying for benefits so the numbers can be verified.

You must provide these documents **only the first time you apply** for Medicaid, but they are required for all Medicaid types.

Anticipating Problems

While these requirements may seem simple, problems can occur. The Income Support Division will not accept documents that are not consistent. The names on all documents must be the same. Certain exceptions are made – for example, married women may have different last names than the names on their birth certificates – but, in general, documents need to match.

Problems can occur when families do not name newborns while they are still in the hospital when birth certificates are created. Or a child's name may be changed when he or she is baptized. In these cases, the birth certificate won't match that child's currently used name and/or name on a Social Security card or medical records.

Another frequent issue occurs with elders who were born at home and may never

have had official birth certificates created or filed. Or an elder may have different birth dates listed on different records and be unsure which one is correct. In the past, baptismal certificates were accepted in many situations, but are not now.

If you have never had a birth certificate or you are unsure if one was filed with the state Vital Statistics Office, you may have apply for a delayed birth certificate, which can be time-consuming and sometimes difficult. Making changes to Social Security records can also be complicated, but it must be done.

Often, people need to apply for Medicaid when they are in crisis situations and need benefits quickly. That's not the best

time to be searching for or trying to correct necessary documents, so please don't wait. Look for your documents now, before you need them! If there is a problem or mismatch between birth certificates and identification or Social Security cards, get the problem corrected. If you do not have a birth certificate, have never had one filed with the state, or have incorrect information on the one you have, you may need to see Matilda Shendo in the Enrollment office for replacement, correction or to begin the delayed birth certificate request process.

If you have questions, please call Lisa Maves, Social Worker, at (575) 834-3059 or Thelma Shendo, Benefits Coordinator, at (575) 834-3040.

Changes in Home Care Services

Do you have one of these?

And

One of these through SSI??

OR do you have a caregiver who is paid through a nontribal program to help you at home?

If so, you will soon become part of a new state program called Coordinated Long Term Care Services or CLTS. Their goal is to have your medical and home care services coordinated through one of two managed care organizations (MCO).

In May, you should receive a letter in the mail asking you to choose between two MCOs to manage your care; your choices will be Amerigroup and Evercare.

The Social Work Department does not yet have complete information about how these agencies will provide services. As soon as information is available, we will send it out to help you make a choice. If you have questions, contact Lisa Maves at (575) 834-3059 or Thelma Shendo at (575) 834-3040.



ATTENTION CAREGIVERS!

Starting in April, Central New Mexico Community College (CNMCC) will offer a free, eight-week class "Introduction to Eldercare" at the Senior Center. This class will be helpful for anyone caring for an elder, as either a paid or unpaid caregiver. Call Lisa Maves at 834-3059 for more information.

National Turn Off the TV Week: April 24-30

Did You Know?

In one year, the average child sees **20,000** 30-second commercials.

Number of minutes per week parents spend in meaningful conversation with their children: **38½**. Number of minutes per week the average child watches TV: **1,680**.

Number of hours per year the average American youth spends in school: **900**. Number of hours per year the average American youth watches television: **1,500**.



EDUCATION

BOSTON COLLEGE STUDENTS VISIT JEMEZ

Fifteen Boston College (BC) students chose to spend spring break in the Pueblo of Jemez instead of joining their friends at the beach for a week in March. Student advisors Kathryn Dill and Lauren Zacone and faculty advisor Eddie Diaz accompanied Patty Arevalo, Liz Barthalemes, Mike Bell, Amanda Buescher, Nick Courtney, Brendan Dailey, Lindsey Doyle, Mark Florido, Eung-Mi Lee, Connor McDonald, Jenna Peart, Kristi Roybal, Brian Stanley, Chris Stranix and Derronda Williams for a week of community service projects for various Pueblo of Jemez departments. The group was part of the Boston College/Jemez Pueblo Service and Immersion Project (BC/JPSIP), which also sponsored a dozen Walatowa High Charter School seniors for a visit to Boston College in November.

The BC/JPSIP exchange program was launched in 2002 by Education Director Kevin Shendo. “The program gives BC students exposure to a community and culture that’s very different from anything they’ve experienced before. At the same time, our Walatowa students get a chance to visit a top college and learn more about university life and the world far from home,” Kevin says.

The students worked in several tribal departments, schools, program areas and in the community. Their tasks included helping out at the Day Care center, cleaning ditches, organizing library videos, helping kids with their homework, and coaching seniors in their practice sessions for the Senior Olympics. “Local families host the students in their homes so the kids are fully immersed in our community and traditional culture,” Kevin explains.

Kathryn Dill, a senior from Libertyville, IL, wanted to return to Jemez as a student advisor after being part of the exchange program as a sophomore. “I had a great experience and met really interesting people when I was here, and I wanted to help others have the same experience,” says the English major who is studying creative writing and journalism. Senior Lauren Zacone from Mahwah, NJ, had also participated in previous immersion trips and wanted to get involved in a leadership role.

As a group, the students were enthusiastic about their experiences and the warm reception they got from the community. “There is an overwhelming sense of community here,” Mike Bell observes.

They were especially impressed with the strong emphasis on maintaining the Towa language and culture, particularly with the youngsters. “In the schools, they only speak Towa with the children, so they’re growing up bilingual,” one student says, adding that the language “sounds so beautiful. We never heard anything like it – the rhythm and tones are completely different. It’s awesome to



see hear a unique language spoken nowhere else.”

Faculty Advisor Eddie Diaz first came to Jemez as a student and has returned during the Christmas Feast Days. “Watching the dances is very humbling and powerful,” he says. “The Nativity house, the giving of food, the constant music, dancing and drumming – it’s a testament to how strong the culture remains.”

WHCS students who are interested in joining next fall’s trip to Boston College should contact Kevin Shendo at 834-9102 to learn more about the program’s requirements.

TRANSPORTATION

When You Need a Ride...

The Jemez Health Board has approved a new client/patient transportation request policy to ensure that JHHS patients/clients get the transportation they need. The major change for clients/patients who need rides to destinations outside of Jemez is that **the JHHS staff person who makes the appointment or referral will complete the Transportation Request Form for the patient.**

JHHS staff members will be responsible for asking whether the patient needs transportation to an appointment or referral. If a ride is needed, the JHHS staff person will complete a Transportation Request Form on behalf of the patient and send it to the Transportation Program. The Transportation Program will schedule rides in response to requests they receive from JHHS program staff.

Clients/patients should no longer need to call the Transportation Program to request rides to their appointments or referrals.

Based on the new policy, the Transportation Program may now refuse direct phone requests for transportation. Patients will be referred to the appropriate JHHS programs for a formal Transportation Request Form that a JHHS provider will complete and submit.

“Thank you for your cooperation in implementing this new procedure,” says Martha Vigil, Transportation Program Manager.

SOCIAL SERVICES

WALKING IN DARKNESS, FINDING THE LIGHT

I traveled thousands of miles from a small Alaska village to go a tribal university in Lawrence, Kansas. I was an immature young student who never thought about domestic violence and sexual assault. Although I grew up witnessing domestic violence, I tried to ignore it and forget it ever happened. Where I come from, violence was never discussed. I also believed that violence would never happen to me. I was really naïve.

Then I was raped on Oct. 8, 1996. It took years to gather the courage to share my story without crying or triggering memories of that horrible night.

Dealing with the court process, the university's lack of response, the emotional effects, and the healing was exhausting and complicated. Having to face being raped was also very intense. I didn't know what to do, expect or think. I felt like the perpetrator stole part of my heart and spirit. For a Native American, to have one's spirit abused or stolen is as good as being dead.

After I was raped, nothing in my life was ever the same. The trauma shaped my life. My spirit will never be the same as it was before the rape. I am still healing, and I will be forever.

Impact of Sexual Assault

It was difficult to try to live a normal life after the rape. I was terrified of simple daily routines. I didn't feel safe walking anywhere, day or night. It was hard to be in a room with a man or be touched by anyone. I didn't want to be alone, but felt uncomfortable surrounded by people. I was robbed of my trust for everyone and everything—even myself. I had anxiety attacks. I was paranoid.

Internal triggers stay with me still, like the smell of grass, the sight of stars, and the sounds of crickets or locusts — specific things I remember from the rape. Each time I encounter these triggers, my memories go to that horrible night and the feeling of violation. The disgust I felt that night will never completely go away.

For years, I often cried myself to sleep. I turned to the only thing I knew to cope with it all — alcohol. I used alcohol to numb the pain.

I was lucky to have good friends who stood by me and made sure I was never alone. My friends believed me the moment I told them what happened. They were so angry that they wanted to hurt the perpetrator more than he hurt me.

A couple of days after the assault, the perpetrator posted bail. He was not only free to walk the streets, he was allowed back on campus, even though they knew he had been arrested for sexual assault. The county victim-witness specialist who handled my court case was the one who told me the perpetrator was back on campus. The university completely neglected my safety and did not even have the decency to inform me he was back as a student.

I was very scared for my life. I didn't know what the rapist might do, because he warned me not to report what happened.

From the time I reported the rape, it was clear that everything was always about his rights and not mine. I thought the laws were to protect the victim, not the perpetrator! I did everything correctly from the beginning: I reported the rape, was examined at the hospital for evidence, and went to court to testify. Everything seemed to backfire on me, and I felt that he got away with raping me.

The Hospital

After I reported the rape, I was transferred to the hospital where a nurse examined me to collect evidence. Being examined was like being violated again, but I endured it to help my case. I felt like a little kid again — all I wanted was to cry and go home where I felt safe.

A local advocate met me at the hospital. She became a life-long friend. Without this lady, I don't know if I would have made it this far. She has been by my side since the first day.

My mother was there for me every time I called home. Countless times, I called her crying and just hearing her voice soothed me. She blamed herself because her baby was thousands of miles away, had been raped, and she felt powerless. But hearing her voice gave me the strength to stay sane.

My mother and the advocate were there for me in the most crucial time in my life, and I don't think there are words to thank them enough. These two ladies are among the strongest women I know.

The Court System

Dealing with the court system was complicated. Over 18 months, two trial dates were set. On the first date, the perpetrator failed to appear.

Several months later, he was caught drinking in a bar on a reservation in Washington state. He was extradited to Lawrence, and the second trial date was set. I was relieved because I knew he was back in custody and we could get the trial over.

As the date approached, the prosecutor called me at home in Alaska to tell me they had agreed to a "plea bargain" and lowered the crime from a felony to a misdemeanor. The decision was based on lack of evidence to convince a jury and convict my violator. I was so distraught! I felt like all the work I had done was for nothing. I felt raped all over again—this time, by the system. Justice did not prevail in my case.

I lived with a lot of stress during those months waiting for the conviction. All the while, the perpetrator spent only nine months in the Douglas County Jail.

Sentencing Hearing

The state of Kansas did not require me to attend the sentencing hearing, and they didn't have the budget to buy a plane ticket for me. But there was no reason to stop trying to get back at him for what HE had stolen from me. I needed to do this for my personal closure!

I remember walking toward the court room feeling really nervous. I was so deep in thought that I didn't notice HE was also walking toward the courtroom in handcuffs. He saw me and looked scared and pathetic. He quickly looked down because he was guilty. The perpetrator said he was a "changed" man and fit to live in "society" again. He also told the judge that some church in Lawrence was going to take him in while he was on probation. HE had only served a total of nine months in the county jail. It was infuriating to sit back and listen without screaming objections.

Finding the Light

Continued from page 10

When it was my turn to speak, I didn't know how to start. As soon as I opened my mouth, I started crying and could not stop. I don't know if anyone understood me because I was crying so hard. It seemed as if all the pain I had felt the previous months caught up with me at that moment. I walked directly to the perpetrator and asked him if it was worth it, hurting me this much. The whole time, he looked at the floor and not at me. People in the courtroom thought I was going to attack him. Deep down, I wish I had, but it would not have solved any of my problems. I truly believe that if you do bad to others, bad will come back threefold. I know the "man above" has a plan for rapists.

When I finished speaking, I thanked the judge for listening and went outside to calm down. I felt I had made no impression at all, and this made me more upset. But when the hearing was over, I was told I did a great job and made an impact on the judge. The judge said he wanted to send the rapist to jail for the maximum sentence, but the law only allowed him to sentence the perpetrator if he felt there was enough evidence to do so. An extra month was included in the nine months he spent in jail. If I hadn't spoken at the hearing, the rapist may have been released.

In the summer of 2003, I learned the perpetrator was picked up in California for a probation violation. He had two new counts against him: attempted aggravated sexual battery and aggravated failure to appear. He was extradited to Lawrence to go to court.

I was not sorry to hear that he cried during his court appearance and was sentenced to one year in prison. This is better than the nine months he served for my rape. I'm very happy he spent more time in jail, where he belongs forever.

Knowing he was finally held accountable for his actions is helping me to see the light!

By Lisa Frank from *Sharing Our Stories of Survival, Native Women Surviving Violence*, edited by Sarah Deer, Bonnie Clairmont, Carrie S. Martell and Maureen L. White Eagle

Acceptance

By Karla Sandia

All kids need acceptance. Who doesn't?

Imagine if, in the eyes of those you care about most, you never make the grade... you're never good enough... everything you do falls short of their expectations. You'd feel pretty bad about yourself.

Acceptance means: You do not need to be perfect.

Even when your kids make mistakes or do foolish things... still, love and accept them unconditionally, without any "ifs" or "buts", without any strings or conditions attached.

Try it! Tell your child today: "I think you're wonderful... Just as you are. I'm so glad you're you!"

Every child is precious and impressionable.

Resource: *Life's Great*, Zimmy Zimberg

Facts About New Mexico Children in Foster Care

Total Population

2,127 children were in the foster care system in New Mexico on Sept. 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Average Age: 8.9 years

6% < 1 year	13% 16-18 years
32% 1-5 years	22% 6-10 years
28% 11-15 years	0% >19 years

Gender

Male: 50% Female: 50%

Race & Ethnicity

	In Out-of-Home Care	In State Child Population
Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	5%	2%
White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	30%	33%
Hispanic	53%	51%
Am. Indian/ Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	8%	12%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0%	1%
Unknown	1%	N/A
Two or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	2%	2%

Length of Stay. The average length of stay for children in care on Sept. 30, 2003 was 19 months.

Reunified. 68% of young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

Foster Homes. In 2004, New Mexico had 934 licensed non-relative foster homes. On Sept. 30, 2003, 22% of youth in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 77% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 21% were adopted by relatives.

For more information visit www.cyfd.org

To find out how to become a foster parent and learn about foster parenting, call Jemez Social Services at 834-7117.

Make a difference in a child's life – become a foster parent.!

The Women's Support Group meetings will be held Thursday evenings, April 10 and 24, from 6 to 8 p.m.

These meetings are ongoing throughout the year.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Meetings are held at the Social Services Department Building.

If you have questions, contact Carol Vigil at 834-7117.

HOUSING

Beware of Predatory Lenders and Tax Preparation Scams!

The economic stimulus payment provides quite an opportunity for many of us to catch up on bills, buy gas or groceries, or replace that worn-out refrigerator. Unfortunately, this is an opportunity not only for people who need an extra financial boost, but also for the predatory tax preparers and payday loan vendors promising instant, on-the-spot payments. Don't be fooled! These "deals" are not deals at all – they will cost you and will eat away at this one-time opportunity. These services come with huge interest rates and hidden fees.

Picture this scenario: a married couple with three children is expecting a \$2,100 check in May. However, they are enticed by an offer to get their payment early by a predatory tax preparer and accept a payment of \$1,600 in April. The reality here is that this family has just agreed to a loan with an annualized interest rate of 190 percent. They have just given away \$500 of their much-needed and deserved rebate!

This is not just hypothetical. Real-life situations just like this are played out over and over again each year at tax time. Hard-working families give away their hard-

earned money on the promise of quick and easy money. The anticipated economic stimulus payments present another opportunity for predatory lenders to acquire a portion of your income.

So whether you need to pay your bills, get clothes for the kids or put gas in your car – the list is probably endless – if you are considering going to a payday lender to borrow against your stimulus payment, or using a paid tax preparer that will give you your money "instantly," please reconsider. Think about using a free tax preparation site instead. The IRS sponsors Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites that staffed by trained and IRS-certified volunteers. These volunteers will prepare and file your tax return for you free of charge. To find one, you can call (800) 829-1040 or contact your local or tribal government office.

The money you save by staying away from predatory lenders are dollars that you and your family need – \$500 can buy a lot of groceries and gas, and can go a long way toward a handsome new refrigerator. But there are other ways to put your economic stimulus payment to work for you. Con-

sider putting the amount you will save by **not** going to a payday lender – or even your entire payment – into a savings account, or use it to pay down high-interest credit cards that cost you money every month.

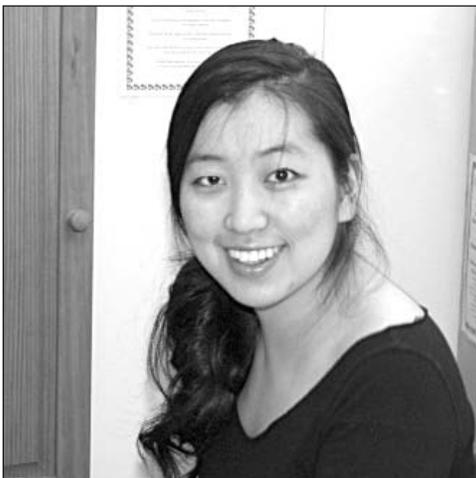
Source: First Nations Oweesta Corporation

HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

With support from the Tribal Council, the Jemez Housing Department selected individuals to serve on the Housing Advisory Committee. The Housing Advisory Committee was initiated to help the Housing Department with projects and developments. Thus far, their input has been invaluable.

The elected officers include: Mr. Joe V. Cajero, Chairperson; Governor Paul S. Chinana, Vice-Chairperson; Mrs. Margaret Garcia, Secretary; Mr. Joseph A. Toya, Member. For fiscal year 2008, the Lt. Governors will handle the Vice-Chair position.

Currently, the Housing Advisory Committee is seeking a volunteer to be committed to and actively participate on this committee. Please contact the Housing Department at (575) 834-0305 if you would like to be considered as a Housing Advisory Committee member.



The Housing Department sends grateful thanks to Boston College students Eung-Mi Lee (*left*) and Kristi Roybal (*right*) for their help and hard work during their visit to Jemez. (See related article on page 7.)

HAVE A QUESTION?

Resident Services Counselors Margie Creel and Nadia Magdalena are available by appointment only from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Walk-ins will only be seen on Fridays. Call the POJ Housing Department at 834-0305 to schedule an appointment.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Protecting Our Lands

“Spring is the busiest time of the year at the Department of Resource Protection (DRP) and we’ve been working for the past two months to get ready for spring planting,” says Director Steve Blodgett. The following activities are planned for April.

Field Preparation

John D. Romero will again provide services to Jemez farmers. He can plow and disk your field and put borders on it as well. Rates are listed below.

Area	Plowing	Disking	Borders	Total Package
1/4 acre	\$35	\$15	\$15	\$60
1/2 acre	\$65	\$25	\$25	\$95
3/4 acre	\$90	\$35	\$35	\$125
1 acre	\$125	\$45	\$45	\$150

Please contact John at 834-3208 as soon as possible to schedule your work. Work will be done on a first-come, first-served basis.

Free Trees

The DRP will be donating shade, landscaping trees and fruit trees to the community again this year. They will have 50 of each of the following shade and landscaping trees (400 total) from Tree New Mexico:

- ★ Arizona ash
- ★ blue spruce
- ★ chokecherry
- ★ Douglas fir
- ★ golden currant
- ★ native plum
- ★ Ponderosa pine
- ★ Rio Grande cottonwood

DRP will also have 10 each (100 total) of the following fruit trees:

- ★ Red delicious apple
- ★ Yellow delicious apple
- ★ Golden Jubilee peach
- ★ Elberta peach
- ★ Bartlett pear
- ★ Keiffer pear
- ★ Damson plum
- ★ Bing cherry
- ★ Black Tartarian cherry
- ★ Moorpark apricot

These trees will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Every family can receive up to two fruit trees and five shade trees. Families who have not previously received trees from DRP will be given preference. Trees should be available by April 15.

Irrigation Headgates

The DRP has again hired Joe Chosa to build headgates that are mounted on a 2½-foot long section of 12-inch culvert. Thirty-six of these headgates will be available to Jemez farmers. Farmers who got one or more of these headgates last year are not eligible to get more headgates this year. Headgates will be available by mid-April. Headgates will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of one per family.

Earth Day and Arbor Day

The DRP will be observing both Earth Day and Arbor Day this year.

Earth Day, April 22. Tammy Belone, Air & Water Quality Manager, is organizing a Water Fair that will be held at the DRP offices. Activities focusing on water quality and quantity issues are planned for local students from the San Diego Riverside Charter School and BIA Day School.

Arbor Day, April 25. The DRP will observe Arbor Day on Thursday, April 24, with activities for local schools and tree distribution to community members.

Starter Plants

The DRP is building a 24' x 40' hoop greenhouse at the orchard. This greenhouse will be used to grow starter plants for Jemez farmers and gardeners.

“We hope to have chile starts available by May 1 and melon, tomato and onion starts available by late May or early June,” Steve says.

Starts will be grown in one-inch square containers and sell for \$1.00 to \$1.50 each. Please contact John D. Romero at 834-3208 to order and reserve your starts now.

Thank You!

The DRP staff would like to thank Connor McDonald and Chris Stranix, Boston College students who worked at the DRP orchard from March 3 - 7. (See the article on page 7.) They helped clean out the irrigation ditch, cut weeds and pruned trees. We appreciate your help!

VISITOR CENTER

Visitor Center Helps Artists Promote Their Work

Spring is here, and the Walatowa Visitor Center is getting ready for tourist season. Although purchasing typically stops during the slow winter season, the Visitor Center is again buying art for the sales gallery.

“We want to represent as many Jemez and local artists as we can, tempered with focusing on what sells the best,” says Manager Monique Sando.

A recent change in operational structure has affected how the Visitor Center deals with artists. Although the Pueblo of Jemez still owns the Convenience Store and the Visitor Center, the Jemez Community Development Corporation (JCDC), a tribally owned company, now operates both entities. (See article in the Red Rocks Reporter, March 2008 edition.)

Before the change, the Visitor Center used tribal funds to purchase art. Now the Visitor Center controls its own funds. “This is both a benefit and a liability,” Monique explains. “We have more flexibility now, and we can pay for work immediately instead of going through the tribal voucher process. But our sales have to keep up with expenses, so things are tighter. We set a sales budget every week. But if an air conditioner breaks down, we have to fix it instead of buying more arts and crafts.”

To improve services for local artists, the Center has updated the way it acquires work for sale. Artists now can bring work to sell any day of the week, not just on Tuesdays as before. But you must make an appointment to bring in work for sale.

“Our purchasing policy is based on the number of items an artist has with us and how well that person’s work sells,” Monique says. “With brand new artists who we want to bring in to the gallery, we may want to buy five pieces right away.”

Their next focus on artists whose work sells well; these artists may have only a few pieces remaining and, as a result, the gallery wants to increase the pieces in stock. Artists who already have five items in the gallery, or whose work has not sold well, will not be eligible to sell any more pieces to us. With limited display space, there is generally a limit of five pieces per artist.

“Artists have to understand the difference between wholesale pricing and retail pricing,” Monique says. The gallery buys work at



Pots by Mary Helen Loretto (top), Juanita Fragua (left) and Georgia Vigil (right) represent some of the art work available at the Walatowa Visitor Center.

wholesale. “The wholesale price is 50 to 60 percent less than retail. Most galleries operate this way; we have to be able to mark up the work to cover our costs.”

“We don’t do trades,” Monique adds. “It’s not fair to the artist.”

The Visitor Center offers other ways to help artists sell their work. For consignment sales, artists leave pieces with the gallery for 90 days. A signed sales agreement describes the terms, usually a 60/40 split (the artist receives 60 percent of the sales price.) The artist is paid when, and if, the piece is sold. For higher priced items (\$800 and over), the split is 70/30.

Artists can also sell during demonstrations from May through October. Demonstrating artists can sell directly at retail prices and do not pay a fee or percentage to the Visitor Center. The artist must be active in the creative process throughout the demonstration day. Demonstration space is free and available on a first come, first served basis. In general, only one artist per day can set up a demonstration table.

“Artists must comply with our rules or they can’t set up,” Monique says. “Artists must be here by 9 a.m. and be physically ready to set up for the day. They need to have customer service skills and be prepared to deal with the public all day. We won’t be able to help, or make change, or watch their table for them.”

Artists’ Database Project

Another way the Visitor Center facilitates sales is through the artists’ database. Customers interested in a particular artist, style or type of work contact the Visitor Center. Based on information in the database, the staff then contacts the artist or artists about the inquiry. The artist decides whether to contact the prospective buyer.

“We’re not a middleman,” Monique says. “We don’t take a commission, and we never give information directly to the buyer. The artist is always in control of what personal information is given out, who receives it, and how the transaction is completed. If the artist requests it, we can help with shipping details at cost; we don’t charge for this service.”

Sometimes prospective customers send photos of a piece they

PUBLIC WORKS

Visitor Center Helps Artists

Continued from page 14

own or saw, and want to identify the artist or buy more work. The staff can use the database to connect the artist to the buyer. Sometimes clients ask for recommendations and prefer dealing with a business instead of directly with the artists. In these situations, the Visitor Center staff negotiates terms with the artist to complete the sale.

“For instance, a Supreme Court justice wanted a large pot in a specific style,” Monique says. “We contacted the artist, bought the pot at wholesale, then sold it at retail and shipped it shipped it to Washington, DC. In this case, the mark-up covered our time and expenses for making the sale.”

In another situation, a couple wanted a wedding vase with specific animal totems to celebrate their marriage. “We contacted several artists and arranged meetings with the customers,” Monique says. “After they met, the buyers worked directly with the artist they chose. We were not involved any further, and the artist retained the full retail price of the piece.”

“We get inquiries every day from all over the world,” Monique adds. “Having access to information in our database helps our artists get more exposure and more sales.”

Free Artists' Workshops

With a grant from the Department of Indian Affairs, the Visitor Center is sponsoring several free workshops for artists. The first session will be Saturday, April 26; *Creating a Digital Portfolio* will include a free 30-minute photo session with a professional photographer. Future topics include *Pricing Your Art*, *Customer Service Skills* and *Creating an Artists Resume*.

For more information about how the Visitor Center Sales Gallery can help your creative career, contact Monique Sando at (575) 834-7235.

Wastewater Improvement Project Underway

At a community outreach meeting at the Senior Center on March 26, the Pueblo of Jemez and Department of Public Works presented details of Phase I of a three-part wastewater improvement project that will start on March 31. The project will relieve the under-capacity problems of the existing sewer lagoon system as well as provide service to homes in the “Green Acres” area that are experiencing septic system failures that threaten residents’ health.

The initial work will include sewer line construction and a new sewer lagoon at the south end of the Pueblo. The impacted area is Day School Road beginning at the south end of the existing sewer lagoon, Bush Arroyo and Bush Drive.

The construction company’s staging site is at the south end of the reservation. A fenced area will contain portable toilets, water and generators. POJ community members are requested to be alert and report any trespassers to tribal authorities.

During the construction period, residents will experience some traffic interruptions. Through traffic will be prohibited at the entrance at Day School Road and Hwy 4 near San Ysidro at the south end of the Pueblo boundary. Traffic will be limited to construction vehicles only at that intersection. The gate will be locked daily.

Individual farmers should be aware that irrigation ditch water levels may be affected periodically during construction. However, adequate water will continue to flow.

Work hours will be Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The construction period is expected to last approximately four months. Work on the construction site will be halted to respect tribal cultural observations.

J & D Constructing is the contractor on this project. Daily construction activities will be monitored by both the Indian Health Service staff and Pueblo of Jemez personnel.

The Public Works Department is responsible for coordinating construction issues between this project and homeowners. If you have any questions, please contact J. Leonard Loretto at (575) 834-7942 or cell phone (505) 252-0485 or Michael Loretto at cell phone (505) 362-4703.

FREE FREE FREE

24 Oz. FOUNTAIN DRINK or 12 Oz. COFFEE

**free with any purchase
with this coupon**

(expires May 15, 2008)

TRIBAL MEMBERS! TRIBAL EMPLOYEES!

**Take an additional 10% off any sale item
or combine with your Tribal Discount of 20%
off your purchase at the
Walatowa Visitor Center**

with this coupon

(not valid on consignment items)
(Expires May 31, 2008)

Save the Date!

Monday, April 7. NAIL Community Meeting. 6 - 8 p.m. at the CRC.
See article at right.

Tuesday, April 8. Honoring Walatowa Women with Love and Respect Women's Wellness Event. Fun/Run Walk registration 4:30 p.m.; dinner 5:30 p.m.; event at 6:30 p.m. Youth Center. Free child care with dinner at the Day Care Center.

Saturday, April 12. Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Fair at the Youth Center. 9 a.m. - noon. Fun Run/Walk starts at 8 a.m. with registration at 7:30 a.m. Refreshments, incentives, T-shirts, information booths.

Friday, April 18, and Saturday, April 19. Black Eagle Pow-Wow. Santa Ana Star Center in Rio Rancho. Call (505) 321-0402 or (505) 252-2248 for more information.

Fri., April 18. Child Abuse Prevention Conference. Youth Center.

Saturday, April 19. Art Auction to benefit National Native News & Native America Calling. Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 6 p.m. For information, call (505) 294-0795.

Tuesday, April 22. DRP Jemez Water Fair to celebrate Earth Day.

Wednesday, April 23. Job/College Fair, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Youth Center. Co-sponsored by the Department of Education and Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Friday, April 25. Arbor Day. The DRP will distribute trees to community members.

Saturday, April 26. Creating a Digital Portfolio. Free artists' workshop. Visitor Center. Call 834-7235 for details. (See pg. 15.)

ONGOING EVENTS

Monday & Thursday. Stretch & Strength low impact, high intensity workout; noon at the Youth Center.

Monday & Wednesday. Circuit Training. 12:15 p.m. Fitness Center.

Tuesday & Thursday. Circuit Training. 4:30 p.m. Fitness Center.

Wednesday. Plyometric Strength Training. 6 p.m. Youth Center.

Thursday. Walatowa Basketball League. 5:45 p.m. Youth Center

Friday. Yoga & Pilates. Noon. Youth Center.

Independent Living Services for People with Disabilities

Native American Independent Living (NAIL) will hold a community meeting at the Intergenerational Center (CRC) on how independent living services can help people with disabilities. The meeting will be Monday, April 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. "NAIL's goal is to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities in the Pueblos. We've worked for 2 ½ years to bring independent living services to these areas," says disability advocate Joseph Ray.

Jemez Pueblo Representative Roger Madalena sponsored legislation to establish a Native American Center for Independent Living. This year, the New Mexico legislature appropriated funds for the Center. "We want to give information about independent living services and to hear from the people about their needs and concerns. NAIL is about empowering people with disabilities," Ray says.

For more information, please call Joseph Ray at 307-8215.



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