



Red Rocks Reporter

APRIL 2011

In This Issue

- Multi-Purpose Center Opens ... 1
- Jemez Signs
 - Historic Compact 2
- Tribal Council Report..... 3
- The Pediatrician is In 4
- Thank-you Note..... 4
- West Nile Virus..... 4
- Disabilities Awareness
 - Conference 5
- April is Alcohol
 - Awareness Month 6
- Dentists Tour Jemez..... 6
- Farewell Dr. Wire 6
- Study Links
 - Obesity and Frailty 7
- Child Abuse
 - Prevention Month..... 7
- JHHS Health Board..... 7
- SPARK Transition Fair..... 8
- School Attendance Laws 8
- Education Department
 - Attends National Summit ... 9
- Jemez Valley Public Schools .. 10
- Head Start Registration..... 11
- Why is Recycling Paper
 - So Important? 11
- Call Before You Dig..... 12
- Jemez Helping Hands 12
- Call for Artists..... 12

MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER OPENS

After years of planning and months of construction, the Multi-Purpose Center addition to the Senior Center formally opened on March 17 with a gala reception for over 200 guests.

The Walatowa Veteran’s Association opened the event by posting the flags, followed by the Flag Song and Honor Song by the Walatowa Singing Group. Spiritual Leader Tony Romero gave the opening invocation and Governor Michael Toledo, Jr. welcomed the gathering. With support from the Jemez Health & Human Services (JHHS) Health Board, plans for the addition were launched during the Governor’s 2005 administration with a Tribal Council resolution. Gov. Toledo spoke about the community’s elders need for a safe, secure, comfortable place to meet with their peers and pursue healthy lifestyle activities.

“Our elders are a precious resource for our community,” Gov. Toledo said. “They hold our culture, language and traditions for future generations.”

First Lt. Governor George Shendo, Jr. told the elders “you deserve this building.”

JHHS Director Deven Parlikar acknowledged that he was stepping onto a path that had been clearly laid out by Dr. Raymond Loretto, former JHHS CEO, whose support was instrumental in securing funding. Deven also announced that Medical Director David Tempest, MD, is staying at Jemez and the Health Center is looking into a Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE.)

Senior Center Program Manager Margaret Garcia took the initial plan to the state. With many dedicated volunteers, including Eva Sando, Emily Toledo, Mary Jo Armijo, Bessie Yepa and Marie Devore, she went to every session of the New Mexico legislature to lobby for funding, with support from Representative Roger Madalena and many government policymakers and officials.

Margaret noted that the addition was built with a lot of laughter, kindness and hospitality and thanked the audience for their patience during the construction. The addition of a dishwasher for the kitchen drew applause from the audience. Margaret thanked many tribal officials and employees, including Dr. Loretto for securing \$1.2 million in funding the project needed for completion, and the Education

Continued on page2



The Walatowa Singers sing the Flag Song while the Veterans' Association post the flags to open the celebration. (Top photo) Program Manager Margaret Garcia.



2011 TRIBAL GOVERNORS

Michael Toledo, Jr.
Governor
George Shendo, Jr.
First Lt. Governor
William Waquie
Second Lt. Governor

TRIBAL COUNCIL

Joe Cajero
Paul S. Chinana
Raymond Gachupin
Frank Loretto
J. Leonard Loretto
Raymond Loretto, DVM
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TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR

Vincent A. Toya, Sr.

Red Rocks Reporter

April 2011 Edition

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FROM THE GOVERNORS

PUEBLO OF JEMEZ SIGNS HISTORIC SELF GOVERNANCE COMPACT

On May 1, 2011, the Pueblo of Jemez will formally start a new relationship with the Indian Health Service (IHS) that will give the tribe more independence and flexibility in using federal funds. Jemez is one of three "trailblazer tribes" in New Mexico who have negotiated this type of government to government relationship with the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service. Under Public Law 93-638 (PL 638) tribes have access to federal funds to provide health care services and Contract Health Services for tribal members. Under contract agreements, funds are assigned to specific areas; the tribe was obligated to use funds only as allocated.

The self-governance compact gives the tribe total control over all health-related programs. Tribal Council may allocate funds, redesign programs, or create new programs with self-governance funds, without obtaining authorization from IHS. The Pueblo of Jemez now has full discretion on how and when designated IHS funds are used. In addition, the tribe can invest and manage the funds and retain any interest or profits from investments. This streamlined process should reduce costs and give the tribe more flexibility in responding to community needs.

In addition to Jemez Health and Human Services programs, the compact funds related public health initiatives such as providing training and licensing for food handlers, and the community water/wastewater system.

"This compact changes how the Pueblo of Jemez delivers health care to its tribal community," says April Wilkinson, Contract and Grants Officer. "The tribe now has optimum flexibility to tailor health care services to meet the needs of this community. This was only possible because of the support of the Health Board, the Tribal Administration and Governors, and the authorization of Tribal Council. In addition, JHHS staff from every level and program participated in our compact's design. The negotiation team is grateful for all the participation and support that was received."

Senior Center Addition Opens

Continued from page 1

Department for lending their kitchen for daily meal preparation while the Senior Center was closed for construction.

Social Services Prevention Coordinator Joline Cruz, MASW, announced that the pueblo has received a grant to develop a formal code to address elder abuse and provide services for victims and witnesses. "The community must be aware," she said. "If we don't see it, we can't stop it."

"I'm so impressed, I'm at a loss for words," said Ray Espinoza, Director of the Indian Area Agency on Aging. "This is a great opportunity for gerontology professionals to work together to identify the needs of the elder population and create ways to meet them."

Dr. Loretto thanked the tribal administration and Tribal Council for their "vision and insight" that created the center. "We face a health catastrophe for the nation's elders. The consequences of diabetes, Alzheimer's, heart disease and other conditions can be offset with exercise, a healthy diet and keeping the mind active and engaged. That's what this center is about," he said.

Senior Olympians David Yepa, Sr. and Felipita Loretto spoke about how healthy lifestyles have improved their lives. Both will compete in the National Senior Olympics in Houston in June. Robert Shendo donated the painting "Bluebird" to commemorate the event. Robert, also a Senior Olympian, thanked the Senior Center staff for their support in his Olympic successes.

After a pause for refreshments, the event concluded with demonstrations of traditional and nontraditional exercises. Pat Romero offered the closing prayers.

The Senior Citizens Center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All community members age 55 and over are welcome to use the workout facilities and join a variety of activities, trips and special event. For more information, call (575) 834-9168.

TRIBAL COUNCIL

Tribal Council Report

The Tribal Council Report is published at the direction of the Governors to keep the community well-informed.

March 9, 2011. Governor Michael Toledo, Jr., First Lt. Governor George Shendo, Jr. and Second Lt. Governor William Waquie proposed the following resolutions which were approved by the Tribal Council:

- **Authorized the Department of Education** to apply to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans (ACF/ANA) for a three year Native Language Implementation Grant to support the continued development and goals of the Jemez Language Program. The grant will support the Jemez Language Team to work toward integrating the Towa language and culture into our unique community-based education systems.
- **Authorized the 2011 Indian Reservation Roads Inventory update** to include the proposed modifications to the 2006 Long Range Transportation Plan, and authorized the Southwest Regional Office department of Transportation to encode the inventory data into the RIFDS management system.
- **Authorized the Planning and Development Department** to submit a grant application to the US Department of Agriculture Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program to secure matching funds to implement Phase II of the Holy Ghost Recreation Area Project. The Council, Governors and Executive Administration has determined that the Holy Ghost Recreation Area is a priority for development for sport fishing, picnicking, camping and outdoor adventure activities. Partial funding for this project has been secured and Phase I (rehabilitation of the fishing ponds and picnic area) has been initiated. The Pueblo of Jemez affirms its commitment to provide the required match to the federal funding.
- **Authorized the Planning and Development Department** to submit a grant application to the ACF/ANA Social and Economic Development Strategies—Tribal Governance for a three-year project to develop a Pueblo of Jemez Comprehensive Plan that will enable the tribe to meet its challenges for planned governance, community and economic development, and cultural protection. The Pueblo of Jemez affirms its commitment to provide the required match to the federal funding.
- **Authorized the provision of direct medical care to certain nonbeneficiaries** as permitted by the Contract and Funding agreement with Indian Health service under Title I of the Indian Self-Determination Education and Assistance Act on a fee-for-service basis for non-Indian employees and their dependents who are covered by the Pueblo's employee health benefits plan, the Lovelace Health Plan PPO, and the Delta Dental Plan.
- **Authorized the Natural Resources Department** to apply to the US Department of Energy for grant funds for the biomass boiler project.

April 1, 2011. Governor Michael Toledo, Jr., First Lt. Governor George Shendo, Jr. and Second Lt. Governor William Waquie proposed the following resolutions which were approved by the Tribal Council:

- **Approved membership** of the Pueblo of Jemez in the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and authorized payment of dues.
- **Authorized the Natural Resources Department to apply for a grant** from the US Department of Energy and other granting sources to supplement the cost of constructing a solar power generating station on the Jemez reservation and committed to providing the time, resources and funds necessary to meet the cost sharing requirements of the grants.
- **Supported a cooperative agreement** between the Pueblo of Jemez Natural Resources Department (NRD) and Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern Pueblos Agency to allow the NRD to draw from a fund for the purpose of fighting wildland fires on tribal land and providing for reimbursement of related fire-fighting expenses to ensure that wildland fires can be fought in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- **Vested responsibility for livestock management in the Natural Resources Department** because they have the capacity to improve and manage cattle herds, manage facilities and transportation resources, represent Jemez cattle owners before government agencies and in business transactions, obtain and manage grants for cattle owner collectives and cooperatives, enlist the resources of the Pueblo of Jemez government on behalf of cattle owners and agricultural producers, and facilitate the protection of natural resources from the impact of cattle operations.
- **Amended resolutions which authorized provision of direct medical care to nonbeneficiary tribal employees** who have health insurance on a fee-for-service basis, and clarified conditions and restrictions regarding pharmaceuticals to comply with various federal laws and regulations.
- **Approved execution of a compact of self-governance** and multi-year funding agreement with the United States with regard to certain federal programs, functions, services and activities per Title V of Public Law 93-838. (See article on page 2.)

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS!

The Pueblo of Jemez Utility Board is seeking new members. Have a voice in supporting our community's essential services.

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Anthony Armijo, Acting Director of the Public Works Department, at (575) 834-7942.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Pediatrician is IN!

Pediatrician William Green, MD, comes to the Jemez Health Clinic three Wednesdays every month.

Dr. Green sees children *by appointment*. If your child needs a well-child exam or is ill, please call the clinic to make an appointment first at (575) 834-7413.

Pediatrician Schedule

April: Wednesday April 6, 20, and 27
May: Wednesday May 11, 18, and 25

Dear Editor,

A couple of weeks ago, I felt entirely miserable and needed some medical help. Instead of having to drive down to Albuquerque to the Urgent Care, sit there with all the misery sickeness, I went to our JHHS Health Clinic for help. I found the staff totally professional, compassionate and personal. I got the care I needed without delay and can report I am fully recovered! My sincere thanks to our great staff and to Tribal Council for making it possible for employees who are not tribal members to use the services at the Jemez Health Clinic. I was the first non-community member, as they teased me, the "guinea pig!"

Jan-Jay Moolenijzer, Tribal Planner

INJURY PREVENTION

West Nile Virus: What You Need To Know

Submitted by Ray Ashley, Environmental Health Specialist

Summer brings warm weather, and warm weather plus standing water creates the ideal atmosphere for mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes are not only a nuisance, but can also be carriers of West Nile Virus (WNV).

What is West Nile Virus?

WNV is a virus that can affect horses, people, birds and other animals. West Nile Virus is spread by biting mosquitoes.

How Do People Get Infected With WNV?

WNV is transmitted through bites from mosquitoes that carry the virus. Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on birds that are infected and have the virus in their blood. Once a mosquito is infected, it can transmit the virus to horses, people, birds and other animals through a bite.

I Have a Mosquito Bite. Should I be Tested For WNV?

No. Only a small percent of mosquitoes carry WNV. See a doctor if you develop symptoms.

What Are The Symptoms of WNV?

Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not develop any symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they are usually noticed between three and 14 days after being bitten. The disease may be mild or serious. Mild symptoms include fever, headache and body aches. In a small number of cases, especially among the elderly, the disease can affect the central nervous system causing high fever, stiff neck, muscle weakness, disorientation, brain inflammation (encephalitis), coma and, rarely, death.

Is There A Treatment For WNV?

There is no specific treatment for WNV. Most people with mild

symptoms recover in a few days. In more severe cases, patients are treated with supportive therapy, which can include hospitalization, intravenous fluids and respiratory support.

Protect Your Home, Your Family and Yourself

- ▶ Avoid outside activity at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. This is very important for the elderly and small children.
- ▶ Wear protective clothing (long pants and long sleeves.)
- ▶ Apply insect repellent when outside. Be sure to use insect repellent safely and according to label directions. For the longest lasting protection from mosquito bites, use insect repellent products with no more than **20 to 30 percent DEET** for adults, and less than **10 percent DEET** for children between two and 12 years old.
- ▶ Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens that are in good repair to keep mosquitoes out of your home.
- ▶ Control mosquitoes by eliminating standing water around your home.

Use Insect Repellent Safely

- ▶ Only adults should apply repellent on children.
- ▶ Only apply repellent to skin and clothing. Do not use repellent under clothing.
- ▶ Do not apply repellent over cuts, wounds, sunburn or irritated skin.
- ▶ Spray repellent on your hands in order to apply it to your face. Don't apply repellent to your eyes or mouth.
- ▶ Wash off repellent daily and reapply as needed.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS CONFERENCE

“Disability does not have to mean in-ability.”

On Wednesday, March 16, the Jemez Vocational Rehabilitation Program (JVR) hosted the 13th Annual Disabilities Awareness conference at the Walatowa Youth Center. More than 200 people learned more about disabilities and the JVR program and services.

After the Walatowa Veterans Association presented the flag, Lt. Governor George Shendo, Jr. opened the program with a traditional blessing and introduced Zia Governor Marcellus Medina.

“The only disability in life is your bad attitude,” Governor Medina said. “It’s up to us to stand up and have courage instead of being negative and bitter about your situation...Find the fire in your heart. You have the ability to change your life, do whatever you want to do. Have faith and adapt. Step up and take control.”

JHHS Director Deven Parlikar shared his experience with his young daughter, who was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at the age of four. “As the father of a special needs child, I now understand so deeply what it means when we say ‘disability does not mean inability.’ My daughter is different, but very special. She puts more energy and effort and joy into life than other kids who don’t have the physical challenges she has.”

The JVR staff introduced themselves and spoke about the services the program offers. In operation for 13 years, the JVR serves as a model for other Native American tribal programs. The staff includes Sarah Michaud, program manager, Regina Baca, administrative assistant, Yolanda Toledo, job coach/job developer, Joyce Tsosie, vocational rehabilitation counselor, and Kari Fragua, vocational rehabilitation counselor. Vocational rehabilitation coordinator Cathy Sabado is also on staff.

JVR consumers have a range of disabilities, including hearing loss, paralysis, heart conditions, diabetes, mental illness, back injuries, vision loss and other issues. Some disabilities are visible, but many are not. JVR helps them meet their employment, self-employment or educational goals.

Sarah noted that the program serves students age 14 and over. Consumers and counselors create individual plans for employment (IPEs) according to their goals. JVR staff works directly with employers, vocational schools, colleges, placement services and advocacy programs and helps with job preparation, applications, resume writing, transportation and counseling. The staff also works with employers to ensure that work sites accommodate

special needs, and may provide adaptive tools, computers, equipment and other items consumers need.

Jesse Michaud, LMSW, then gave an overview of the Jemez Behavioral Health Program and its services for people with mental health, substance abuse or addiction.

Guest Speaker Maureen Wacondo

Assistant Librarian Maureen Wacondo was the conference’s special guest speaker. She recounted her high school experience as a runner and ROTC cadet who had completed all her required courses before senior year, and was taking electives and working at Sandia National Laboratories. She was accepted into the Army and was waiting to graduate before being inducted.

Her life changed forever when her boyfriend and another young man got involved in an altercation that ended with gunshots. Maureen’s body was torn apart. Her boyfriend did not survive.

Maureen’s family was given very little hope in the first days after the shooting. Miraculously, she survived. After three months in the hospital, and another three months at the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Center, she learned to adapt to life in a wheelchair. She also graduated with her class at Albuquerque High School.

Maureen enrolled in college, earning a secretarial certificate in 1994. She worked at Sandia for several years, then worked as an auditor at Camel Rock Casino in Tesuque. Today, Maureen lives independently in Jemez and enjoys her job at the Jemez Pueblo Community Library as a Librarian Assistant and is able to travel on her own.

“I get my strength at the plaza,” Maureen said as many in the audience wiped away tears of admiration. “I am grateful to be able to prepare food for my dad when he’s in the kiva.”

She credits her family’s support for her success. “Life is a learning lesson,” Maureen added. “Alcohol was a factor in my story. When people are under the influence, their actions can affect other people forever...My life is a challenge, but every day I wake up, I am grateful. Don’t ever let any difficulties discourage your spirit to grow. Use it as a challenge to fuel your creativity. I do!”

Consumer Panel

A panel of JVR consumers shared stories about overcoming their disabilities with the program’s help. A young woman with back problems and anxiety issues got help with tools and training. A young man who is deaf said through a sign language interpreter “JVR helped me to understand how to live my life better. They also helped pay for school and for tools for my major.” A disabled gentleman advised noted that he became disabled after waiting too long to get medical help for his back problems. “It’s hard, but JVR can help,” he advised.

The JVR staff presented awards to consumers who succeeded in their endeavors. They also gave business collaboration awards to the Jemez Dental Clinic and the Center for Self-Advocacy.

If you or someone you know are disabled and needs help with employment or educational goals, call the JVR at (575) 834-0012.



Maureen Wacondo



First Lt. Governor George Shendo Jr. with Zia Governor Marcellus Medina.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

Alcohol Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness about alcohol abuse and encourage people to make healthy, safe choices.

Warning Signs of Alcohol Abuse

If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, you may have a problem with alcohol:

- ✗ Do you drink alone when you feel angry or sad?
- ✗ Does your drinking ever make you late for work?
- ✗ Does your drinking worry your family?
- ✗ Do you ever drink after telling yourself you won't?
- ✗ Do you ever forget what you did while drinking?
- ✗ Do you get headaches or have a hangover after drinking?

Strategies to Cut Back or Quit Drinking

There are many strategies you can try to cut back or quit drinking. To get started:

- ✗ Keep track of your drinking and set a drinking limit.
- ✗ Try to avoid places where heavy drinking occurs.
- ✗ Ask for help from a doctor, family, or friends.
- ✗ If you keep alcohol in your home, keep only a limited supply.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

If you think you may have a problem with alcohol, or if you care about someone who does, please contact the Jemez Behavioral Health Program at (575) 834-7258. All calls are strictly confidential.

DENTAL CLINIC

Dental Dignitaries Tour Jemez



(Above, back row, left to right) Dr. Tom Schripsema; Dr. Gist, President of the ADA; Jon Holtzee; Mark Moores, Executive Director of NMDA; Deven Parlikar, JHHS Director; (front row left to right) L. Stephine Poston, Dr. Angela Torres, Acting Supervisory Dentist; Ada Toya, Eva Panana, Marina Fragua, Lupe Lucero.

(At left) Acting Supervisory dentist Angela Torres, DDS, and Dr. Gist give some Head Start students the tools they need to take care of their teeth.

The Jemez Dental clinic hosted a delegation from the Native American Oral Health Care Project, led by Dr. Raymond Gist, President of the American Dental Association. The visitors toured the Dental clinic, distributed toothbrushes to Head Start students, and met with staff and community members over a traditional lunch.

For many years, the ADA has conducted site visits to reservations to make recommendations to IHS on how to improve care. The ADA meets annually with Native community leaders, IHS administrators and other key health care stakeholders to discuss and assist with dental health plans for tribes and Native communities.

Clinic staff shared some of the community's oral health issues, including the need for dentures for seniors and the low proportion of diabetes patients who get regular dental care. Higher education coordinator Odessa Waquiu spoke about introducing Jemez students to careers in dentistry.

Farewell Dr. Wire!

JHHS and tribal staff gathered for a send-off potluck lunch to thank Dr. Steven Wire for his years of service to the Jemez Dental Clinic. Dr. Wire, has joined dental team at the Veteran's Administration Hospital. "I'm sad to be leaving Jemez," Dr. Wire said. "I retired from the Air Force after 22 years, and I've always wanted to be able to treat members of our armed services."



PUBLIC HEALTH

SOCIAL SERVICES

Study Links Frailty and Obesity

A research team from Washington University in St. Louis has found that weight loss alone or exercise alone improves physical function and reverses frailty, but ***a combination of weight loss and exercise is even more beneficial in obese, older adults.*** The team analyzed data from 107 elderly participants.

Albuquerque Department of Veterans Affairs physician Dennis Villareal, MD, was the principal investigator on the study of frailty and obesity in the elderly published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Now Chief of Geriatrics for the New Mexico VA Health Care System, Dr. Villareal worked on the study from April 2005 to August 2009. He continued his analysis when he went to work at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque in 2009.

The research serves as a foundation for a newer study that examines how specific types of exercise – resistance or aerobic – affect people over the age of 65 when used in combination with diet. An example of resistance exercise is using free weights like barbells. Running on a treadmill is an example of aerobic exercise.

The new five-year study will include 160 people and continue into 2014. Participants exercise at the medical center; their progress is supervised by a team that includes an exercise physiologist and dietitian.

More participants are needed for this research. Participants do not have to be Veterans, but must be between the ages of 65 and 85, and overweight by 40 to 100 pounds. Participants should be sedentary, and should not have dementia, unstable medical conditions or take insulin for diabetes. Volunteers may be eligible for up to \$450 in compensation.

For more information, call Dr. Elizabeth Sage Colombo or Dr. Sheryl Pascual at (505) 222-3616.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

*“Respect, Love, and Protect Our
Walatowa Children”*

Jemez Social Services Program invites you to be a part of Child Abuse Prevention Month for April, 2011. Child Abuse Prevention Month is a project that reaches out to the community through events that emphasize taking action for children and child safety as well as awareness and prevention through education about child abuse and neglect. With the help of devoted individuals like you, we can help make April special for the children of Jemez Pueblo.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Every Friday through April: wear blue to remind us all to protect the children.

April 1: 5K Fun Run/Walk in Jemez Plaza. Registration/Warm-up, 5:30 p.m.; Run/Walk, 6 p.m.

April 10: Children’s Fair at Walatowa Youth Center. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Child Abuse Prevention Conference. *Date to be announced.* at Walatowa Youth Center. Dinner 5 p.m.; Conference, 6 - 8 p.m. For adults and teens 14 years old and older. Child care will be provided for conference participants’ children (six months to 13 years.) at the Community Resource Center.

Visit the Social Services Program at their new offices at 011B Bearhead Canyon Road. The phone number is the same: (575) 834-7117.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

JHHS Health Board Seeks Members

The Health Board helps oversee the operations of the Jemez Comprehensive Health Center and other programs of the Jemez Health & Human Services (JHHS) Department.

Preferred candidates will have some of the following qualifications:

- **Finance/banking expertise** at a leadership level.
- **Executive business skills** such as strategic planning, consensus building, communication, business operations and human resource management.
- **Clinical care oversight experience** in clinical quality, credentialing and privileging of providers, accreditation and medical staff policies.
- **Commitment to the community** as demonstrated by service on other Pueblo of Jemez Boards.
- **Knowledge of federal and Indian laws** that apply to providing health care to tribal members.
- **Experience** serving on or working with Boards of Directors.

Make a difference in our community!

If you are interested in joining the Health Board, have the qualifications and commitment, please contact Deven Parlikar, JHHS Director, at (575) 834-3197.



Parents Lori Loretto and Ashley Yepa help their children with arts and crafts activities.

SPARK Transition Fair

The Jemez SPARK Program held its first annual Transition Fair on March 15 at Jemez Valley Elementary School. This event gave parents the opportunity to meet local kindergarten teachers and ask any questions they have regarding each elementary school all in one place. Teachers displayed students' work and their curricula so parents could see what children learn at each school. Teachers also handed out applications for the next school year so parents can start filling them out.

Please note: Jemez BIA Day School will accept only 20 students for incoming kindergarten students for the 2011-2012 school year.

SPARK Easter Egg Hunt!

SPARK will host an Easter Egg Hunt Tuesday, April 19 at the Jemez Red Rocks starting at 10 a.m. This event is for all Walatowa Head Start, Jemez Valley pre-k students, and

kindergarten students from Jemez Valley, San Diego Riverside and Jemez Day Schools. Parents and family members are welcome to join the fun!

For more information about the SPARK Program, contact Rhiannon Toya or Lynette Romero at (575) 834-9102.

New Mexico Compulsory School Attendance Law

Policies and laws monitor school attendance. The New Mexico Compulsory School Attendance Law (CSAL) requires all school age individuals (five to 18 years of age) to be enrolled in a public or private school, or a home school program. Students, parents and guardians are responsible for following the rules and policies set by the state of New Mexico. There are serious consequences for those who fail to abide by the rules. This background information about the NMCSAL will help parents and guardians better understand the law and its requirements.

"It is the policy of this state that school age persons receive an education and do not drop out or otherwise withdraw prematurely prior to completing an educational program."

Primary and Secondary Education Public School Administration Procedural Requirements Compulsory School Attendance

Each local school board and charter school must have a written attendance law that addresses and adheres to the following:

1. Each local school board and each governing authority of a private school shall initiate the enforcement of the provisions of the Compulsory School Attendance Law for students enrolled in their respective schools.
2. To enforce the CSAL against a *habitual truant* (a student who has more than 10 unexcused absences within one school year,) a local school board or school authority will give written notice by certified mail to or personal service about the student to the parent of the student who fails to follow the CSAL.
3. If unexcused absences continue after written notice of

habitual truancy, the student will be reported to Jemez Tribal Court and Pueblo of Jemez Police Department for an investigation to determine whether the student should be considered to be a neglected child or a child in a family in need of services. In addition, Tribal Court and/or Jemez Police Department may order the habitual truant's driving privileges to be suspended for a specified time.

4. If, after review, the Jemez Police Department determines that the truancy may have been caused by the student's parent, then the matter will be referred to Tribal Court for appropriate investigation and filing of charges allowed under the CSAL. Charges against the parent may be filed in Tribal Court.
5. The parent of a student who, after receiving written notice, still knowingly allows the student to continue to violate the NMCSAL will be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.
 - a. Upon first conviction, a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$100 may be imposed, or the parent may be ordered to perform community service.
 - b. If violations of the CSAL continue, a parent who knowingly allows a student to continue to violate the CSAL will be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$500, or imprisonment for a definite term not to exceed six months, or both on the second and subsequent convictions.

For more information about the school attendance law, contact the Education Department at (575) 834-9102.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ATTENDS NATIONAL SUMMIT

Submitted by Odessa Waquiu

In February, the Pueblo of Jemez Department of Education staff and First Lt. Governor George Shendo, Jr. traveled to Washington, D.C. for the 14th Annual National Indian Education Association (NIEA) legislative summit. The three-day gathering highlighted NIEA's federal public policy priorities "affecting families, schools and communities through skill building trainings, workshops, panel discussions, and guest speakers." NIEA delegates held more than 40 meetings with U.S. Congressional members and their staffs to discuss how to "Restore the Trust in Native Education."

Monday, Feb. 7, NIEA President Mary Jane Oatman (Wak Wak, Nez Perce) delivered the 2011 State of Native Education address, calling all to action to restore the sacred trust. Keynote speaker Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education, spoke on "Standing Together as Tribes." The National Congress of American Indians, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, National Indian Health Board, National Indian Head Start Directors Association, and Tribal Education Departments National Assembly provided organizational updates.

The first day's break-out sessions included *Making Indian Education a National Priority*, *Local/Tribal Indian Control of Education*, *Honoring the U.S. Constitution and Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes*, *Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, *Indian School Construction*, *Effective Advocacy Strategies and Lobbying*, and *Advanced Legislative Training and Lobbying*.

On Tuesday, NIEA hosted organizational updates and Announcements at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Committee Room in the Dirkson Senate Building. NIEA delegates heard from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), United States Department

of Health and Human Services, American Indian Graduate Center, Close Up Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Congressional delegates from several states gave presentations along with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and the majority staff director. Keynote speakers included U.S. Department of Education General Counsel Charlie Rose, and Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Keith Moore. The day ended with an Impact Week Reception where NIEA members and guests networked on issues and policies impacting Native American education programs and services. Reception guests also met with Close Up students and listen to presentations on tribal action plans developed by high school students. The NIEA notes that "Close Up partnered with NIEA to teach students about the legislative process and give them first-hand experience in communicating advocacy issues. The program gave students the skills and attitudes to advocate for issues important to them and their tribes. Students examined the federal government and their relationship with Native Americans throughout history."

On the final day, NIEA participants met with senators and representatives from their individual states. The Education Department staff and First Lt. Governor met with Representative Martin Heinrich, Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Jr., and staff members from Senator Bingaman's and Senator Tom Udall's offices. During these meetings, the Jemez team offered their thoughts about where Native education should be nationally and where Jemez sees education in the near future, plus how the state Congressional delegation could support Jemez in reaching our tribe's and community's educational goals. Staff also gave updates on their individual programs. They spoke on what is and is not working in Native education, and how strong support of Native education in New Mexico would greatly impact the success of programs throughout the state, highlighting Jemez' current programs and our successes.

The First Lt. Governor presented his support of Native education at Jemez, and his goal to increase post-secondary education for our students. He referenced the growth, development and success of our own schools and education programs, and asked the Congressmen to support tribal control of education and the development of our own education standards within the ESEA Reauthorization. He also asked the Congressmen to oppose any cuts or decreases to funding that would affect Native education and education overall, and to fight to increase funds so programs for students can keep operating and new ones can be developed and implemented.

For information about the conference, go to www.niea.org.



(Back row, left to right) First Lt. Gov. George Shendo Jr, a Congressional staff member, Representative Ben Ray Lujan, Jr., Odessa Waquiu, Fiscale Aide Jarrin Sandia, Kevin Shendo. (Front row) Tamara Sandia, Rhiannon Toya, and Lana Toya.

EDUCATION

Jemez Valley Public Schools

Jemez Valley Elementary School

By Brad Parker, Elementary School Principal

Students are looking forward to finishing the school year and progressing to the next. The third grade is sponsoring a penny drive to help ease the suffering for the people of Japan. All students are encouraged to bring pennies from home to contribute to the cause. Of course, larger cash donations will be accepted as well. Our kids and our community have large hearts.

Again, I thank you all for allowing me the privilege of serving this community by working with your children. I want and expect the very best from each of them.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

April 8. Kindergarten, first and second grades go to Albuquerque

April 14. Pre-kindergarten goes to a production in Albuquerque

April 19. Third grade goes to Bandelier National Park.

April 20. Fourth and fifth grades go to Los Alamos

May 3. Second grade goes to Colonial Days at Los Golondrinas

May 6. Arts and Academics Fair. The

exhibition will take place during the day with the program in the evening.

May 13. Oh The Places You Will Go!

Celebration for students who have read 11 or more books this spring.

May 18. Pre-kindergarten graduation in the Community Room, 10 a. m.

May 19. Kindergarten graduation in the little gym at 10 a.m.

May 25. Fifth grade continuation at Jemez Springs Public Library, time to be announced.

May 26. Last day of school

Day to Day Marvels at Jemez Valley High School

By Larry DeWees, High School Principal

Read Across America will see excitement about adults coming to schools to read to and with students. I want to see this concept expanded. As Gallagher wrote, "We are what we read." and conversely, "We are what we don't read." If we want all students to learn, the actions we must take are simple: We must ensure that all students complete hundreds of hours of reading every year. Large amounts of this reading must be done at home. One of the most important things parents can do is ensure their children have at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted time every evening to read.

A noted researcher states that students aren't truly mature readers until they can read and recognize 50,000 words. The only way a student can be in command of this number is to read lots of material. This may seem overwhelming, but if they start early, this goal can be reached very quickly. Virtually any student can learn the mechanics of reading to decode grade-level text in about 100 days. So students can be reading at mid-year of the first grade.

Gear- Up Spring Workshop 2011

Adrian Chavez, Victoria Garcia, Michael Fox Gachupin and Jesirae Lucero from the leadership class and their sponsors, Melissa Garcia and Gary Gazaway, attended the 2011 Gear-Up Spring Workshop at the Hyatt Tamaya.

They got information on college and career pathways, and advice from college students. The group also joined an activity on self-determination with activities such as building a tent and constructing a three-foot high structure from newspaper with only three inches of tape. Our leadership team had a great showing, coming in sixth of 29 teams. "We met people from all over the state. It was great because we saw a diversity of cultures thus giving us a great cultural experience," the group commented.

Northwest Evaluation Association

The Maps assessment is the second round of district assessment testing. Comparing this winter's scores with last

year's shows that students who scored in the upper range last year generally show bigger jumps in scores than those who scored at the bottom. Again we see that those who want to achieve are doing well and those who really don't care stay the same or even lower their scores. The big question is: **how do we motivate those who are not motivated in taking these high stakes exams?**

Student Writing

It's always great to come across a student who does an exceptional job in his school work. Jaye Chinana is a junior who has produced outstanding work this year. His essay follows:

Currently at Jemez Valley High School, the eleventh grade English class is reading Of Mice and Men to study and understand allegory. Allegory is defined as a form of extended metaphor, in which objects, persons and actions in a narrative are equated with the meanings that lie outside the narrative itself. Basically, it's one big symbolic representation of something else with sub-symbols within it. Characters, objects, events or actions symbolize something else. Of Mice and Men is an allegory pertaining to a society. The story takes place on a farm which serves as a mini-society consisting of different types of people from different ethnicities, ages and even just different personalities. Each character symbolizes a person or group within a society. An example is Crooks, an African-American man discriminated against because of his ethnicity. He represents all people who are discriminated against based on the color of their skin. Other examples can be George who symbolizes the average man, taking care of and traveling with a very large man named Lennie, who is mentally handicapped and obviously represents all people who are mentally handicapped. Looking at Of Mice and Men as an allegory tries to get students to perceive the book in a different way other than thinking it's just another story we have to read.

Walatowa Head Start Registration

Was your child born between Sept. 1, 2007 and August 31, 2008? Your child maybe eligible for Head Start. Walatowa Head Start Fall Registration is open until Friday, May 13, 2011. Pick up an application today!

WALATOWA HEAD START ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

- Age: 3 or 4 years old.
- Low income
- Children with disabilities
- Child must be an enrolled member of an Indian tribe

The following documents are required for new students:

- Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB)
- Income verification (1040 tax statement, W2, pay stub, Public Assistance letter.)
- Current immunization record.
- *Applications will not be considered complete unless all documents are attached (no exceptions.)*
- *Applications will be ranked and scored to determine eligibility according to Walatowa Head Start eligibility guidelines. When all places are filled, remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list.*

HEAD START DISABILITY PROGRAM

Does your child have special needs? Is your child receiving Early Intervention and ready to transition into Head Start? Do you think your child needs special help?

The Head Start Disabilities Program provides services to children ages three to five. Through the Jemez Valley Public Schools, Head Start can provide a wide range of services from identification to placement and therapy for children. Parents also can have training on parenting and special education.

A child who is a Native American Professional Parent Resource (NAPPR) client can continue to receive therapy at Head Start if eligible. Head Start will work with parents and an early intervention specialist for a smooth transition from an early intervention program into Head Start.

If your child turns three years old before Sept. 1, your child may be eligible for Head Start. Children with disabilities are given enrollment priority. For more information, call Dorell Toya-Upshaw at (575)-834-7366.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Why is Recycling Paper So Important?

Submitted by the Walatowa Green Stars: Tianie Toya, Lindsey Toya, Emmet Yepa and Mark Panana

Recycling paper is important because it can save trees, save energy, and, most important, help sustain life on Earth. Recycling paper may not seem very important, but recycling just one paper product, such as newspapers or paper plates, could help save millions of trees.

Many people read the newspaper every day, but did you ever wonder how many trees it takes to produce a week's worth of newspapers? The answer is that 500,000 trees must be cut down to produce a week's supply of newspaper. If every person recycled one-tenth of the newspapers, 250,000 trees would be saved every year. With each ton of recycled paper, we can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy and 7,000 gallons of water.

It's amazing how recycling just a few paper products can save so many aspects of life.

It's not helpful for the environment if paper is thrown away and not recycled. On average, the amount of paper thrown away is enough to heat 500,000,000 homes for 20 years. The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper a year. Recycling all this paper would save trees, energy and prevent pollution.

If we have no more trees there will be no more healthy oxygen to breathe and people would get sick.

So take just a few moments to recycle paper and help save our Earth and keep this land beautiful and healthy. Don't trash our future!

The Green Stars are dedicated to supporting recycling efforts in the Walatowa community.

★ R Educe ★ R Euse ★ R Ecycle ★

Celebrate Earth Day April 22: A Billion Acts of Green





PUEBLO of JEMEZ

Pueblo of Jemez
4417 Highway 4
Box 100
Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024

Presort Standard
US Postage Paid
Albuquerque NM
Permit No. 1741

Boxholder
Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024

CALL FIRST!

Always contact your local One-Call system before you start any digging project.

Before you start any digging project, don't forget to call the local One-Call system. If you don't call, you are at risk for an accident, injury, interrupted services, damage to the environment or delays to your project. The One-Call system will notify local utility companies about your proposed digging activities. The utilities will then mark their underground lines, cables and equipment using the international marking code:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Red | Electric |
| Yellow | Gas, oil or petroleum |
| Orange | Communication, telephone, television |
| Blue | Drinkable water |
| Green/brown | Sewer |
| White | Proposed excavation |
| Pink | Surveying |

In New Mexico, call (800) 321-ALERT or (505) 526-0400

Call the toll-free National One-Call Referral number at (888) 258-0808 for the phone number for your area.



**CALL FOR ARTISTS! Jemez Creative Show
Memorial Day Weekend, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

No Booth Fee! Call the Jemez Fine Art Gallery at (575) 829-3340 to reserve your space along the walkway in Jemez Springs.

*Jemez Helping Hands
Food Pantry*

The Jemez Helping Hands Food Pantry helps people who have emergency needs for food. For more information, contact Louise Bradley at (575) 834-0402.