



PUEBLO OF JEMEZ

THE

# Walatowan

JUNE 2026

## Message from the Governor Reintroducing the Walatowan

Dear Tribal Leaders, Community Members and POJ Employees:

It is with great pride and optimism that we reintroduce our tribal newsletter, *The Walatowan*, as a renewed source of communication, information, and connection for our community. This newsletter represents our continued commitment to keeping our people informed about tribal programs, services, accomplishments, and the important work taking place throughout our community.

Our strength as a tribal community comes from staying connected to one another, honoring our traditions, and working together to meet the challenges and opportunities before us. As we move forward, our administration remains focused on protecting our cultural values while building a strong future for the next generations.

In the immediate future, we will continue prioritizing infrastructure improvements, public safety, health services, education, housing, and programs that support our community members especially our youth and elders. We are also committed to preserving our language, traditions, and cultural identity that define who we are as a people.

This newsletter will serve as a place to share important announcements, program updates, upcoming community events, department highlights, employee recognition, and information that affects our tribal membership. We encourage all community members to stay engaged, participate in tribal meetings and activities, and support one another through open communication and shared responsibility.

We thank our tribal leaders, elders, families and tribal employees for their continued dedication to our community. Together, through unity, respect, and cooperation, we can continue building a stronger future for our people while honoring the legacy of those who came before us. We look forward to sharing future updates and celebrating the accomplishments of our community through this newsletter.

Respectfully,

John Galvan  
Governor

### Office of the Governor

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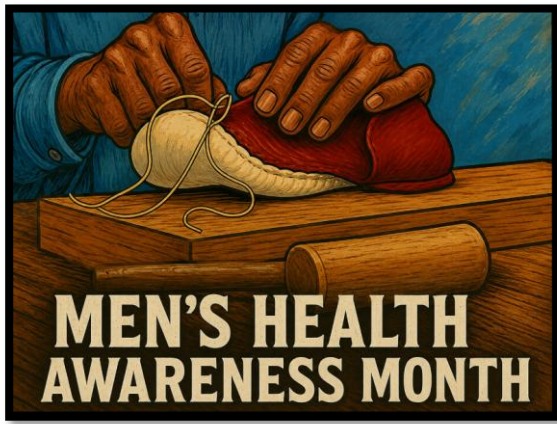
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## Pueblo of Jemez 2026 Tribal Leadership

Governor John Galvan  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Matthew Gachupin Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thurman Loretto



**Strong Heart. Strong Mind.  
Strong Community.**

*Adapted from IHS Educational Resource:  
Blood Pressure and Diabetes*

This is Men's Health Awareness Month, we encourage all men to take time to care for their health physically, mentally, and emotionally. Taking care of your health is not weakness. It is strength. Many Native men carry the responsibility of being providers, protectors, and leaders for their families and communities. Because of this, health concerns are often ignored or put off. However, regular checkups, stress management, healthy eating, and community support can help prevent serious health problems before they begin.

### What is Blood Pressure?

Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against the walls of your blood vessels.

Healthy blood pressure helps circulate blood throughout the body.

But when blood pressure becomes too high—also known as hypertension—it causes the heart to work harder than it should.

High blood pressure is common and often has no warning signs or symptoms.

If left untreated, it can increase the risk of:

- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Kidney disease
- Vision loss
- Diabetes complications

Good health is built through everyday choices and community support. Men can strengthen their heart health by:

- Attending regular health checkups and blood pressure screenings
- Staying active through walking, exercise, traditional activities, or sports
- Eating whole foods grown from the ground
- Getting enough sleep and rest
- Avoiding smoking and commercial tobacco use

## GET YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED & GET SUPPORT

There are several ways community members can get their blood pressure checked and receive support, including:

- 1 CHECK THE JUNE SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR**

Find upcoming wellness screenings, blood pressure checks, and health education events. Community Health Workers provide screenings twice a month.
- 2 CONTACT YOUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER**

Contact the Jemez Health & Human Services Clinic by calling: **(575) 834-7413**
- 3 CALL JEMEZ PUBLIC HEALTH**

Call (575) 834-7207 and ask to speak with a Community Health Worker. **(575) 834-7207**

Community Health Workers (CHWs) can provide:

  - Health education
  - Wellness resources
  - Community support
  - Referrals and support

Taking time to check your blood pressure is an important step toward protecting your health and future.

## What is a QR Code?

A QR code is a small square picture you can scan with your phone camera. When you point your camera at it, it will open a webpage, video, form, or more information automatically.



Look for QR codes throughout this newsletter!

## Sheriff Towan Toledo & Tribal Officials' Monthly Message

During Men's Health Awareness Month, Sheriff Toledo is encouraging the men of the Pueblo of Jemez to prioritize their health and wellness for themselves, their families, and future generations. Sheriff Toledo shared that men play a vital role in the community as teachers and role models for forthcoming generations. He emphasized that young people often learn through observation, and that demonstrating healthy behaviors, responsibility, and self-care can positively shape future generations.

This message is supported by public health research and evidence-based guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which recognizes that modeling healthy behaviors is one of the most effective ways adults influence children and families. According to the CDC, children and youth are more likely to adopt healthy habits when they observe trusted adults engaging in positive behaviors such as regular health care, physical activity, healthy eating, emotional wellness practices, and avoiding harmful substances (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Essentials for Childhood Framework*; CDC Healthy Schools and Parent Engagement Guidance).


The CDC's *Positive Parenting Tips by Age* resource is a valuable tool for families, caregivers, and community prevention efforts. The website provides age-specific guidance that supports healthy child development, emotional wellness, communication, and positive behavior modeling. Community members interested in learning more about positive parenting practices and healthy child development can visit the CDC's website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/child-development/positive-parenting/index.html>

**Source:**


U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – *Positive Parenting Tips by Age* and *Child Development* resources.

**Leading by Example, Strengthening Our Future**


Sheriff Toledo also emphasized that fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, and mentors help shape the future through their actions.




Returning to traditional practices such as hunting, farming, fishing, and connecting with nature can strengthen both physical and spiritual wellness...




...while reinforcing family and cultural values.




FAMILY



CULTURE



TRADITION



RESPECT

SHERIFF TOLEDO'S

# Refresher

**HEALTHY CITRUS BERRY REFRESHER**


A nourishing, family-friendly wellness drink

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 4 cups cold water or sparkling water
- Juice of 2 lemons
- Juice of 1 orange
- 1/2 cup fresh strawberries or mixed berries
- 1 tablespoon honey or agave (optional)
- Fresh mint leaves
- Ice

**DIRECTIONS:**

- 1** In a pitcher, gently mash the berries and mint together.
- 2** Add lemon juice, orange juice, and water.
- 3** Stir well and add honey if desired.
- 4** Serve over ice and garnish with fresh fruit or mint.



Hydrate. Nourish. Take care of you.

## Joey Romero Memorial 3D Archery Shoot

**Saturday, 06/20/26**  
**Jemez Red Rocks**  
REGISTRATION 7:30, STARTS AT 9:00AM

Buckles for top male & female shooters  
in Compound & Traditional/Barebow

\$40 - Adults  
\$30 - Seniors & Youth  
\$20 - Shoot for fun  
Cubs & Pee Wee's FREE

2 Rounds-15 Targets, unknown

Presented by:  
**BH Bows & Hoes**  
ARCHERY

505-999-9734 (JP) or 505-933-0807 (Garret)



# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CYBER-ATTACKS

To protect yourself from cyber-attacks, it is important to practice safe online habits and stay alert to suspicious activity.

**SAFE ONLINE HABITS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

-  **Avoid clicking on unknown links** or downloading attachments from unfamiliar emails, text messages, or websites, as cybercriminals often disguise harmful content as legitimate communication.
-  **Verify the sender's identity** before sharing personal or financial information and be cautious of urgent messages that pressure you to act quickly.
-  **Keep your devices, antivirus software, and operating systems updated** to defend against the latest threats.
-  **Use strong, unique passwords** and enable two-factor authentication whenever possible.
-  **Regularly back up important files** to a secure location so your data can be recovered if ransomware attacks occur.
-  Additionally, **avoid using public Wi-Fi** for sensitive transactions unless connected through a trusted VPN, and only install apps or software from reputable sources.

 **STAY ALERT. STAY SAFE. STAY SECURE.**  
Your awareness is our strongest defense.

Tribal employees and community members are encouraged to remain alert to cybersecurity threats, including suspicious emails, text messages, phone calls, and links that may attempt to steal personal information, compromise tribal systems, or disrupt essential services. Cyber threats include:

**Phishing:** A scam where criminals pretend to be trusted people or organizations to steal passwords, financial information, or personal data through fake emails, websites, calls, or messages.

**Ransomware:** Malicious software that locks or encrypts files and demands payment to restore access.

**Smishing:** A phishing scam sent through text messages that tricks people into clicking harmful links or sharing personal information.

**Malware:** Harmful software designed to damage devices, steal information, or gain unauthorized access to systems.

**Spam:** Unwanted messages sent in bulk through email, text, or social media, often containing advertisements, scams, or harmful links.

## *Employment Opportunities*

The Pueblo of Jemez is currently accepting applications for a variety of positions across multiple departments, including Health & Human Services, Public Health, Education, Public Works, Natural Resources, Law Enforcement, Community Wellness, and Senior Services. Current openings include:

- Physician
- Medical Director
- JHHS Director
- Clinical Lead Provider
- Clinical Care Coordinator – Registered Nurse
- Staff Pharmacist
- Optometrist
- Senior Center Program Manager
- Environmental Program Specialist
- Facilities Technician
- Certified Police Officer
- Educational Assistant
- Child Care Provider
- Custodian
- Tribal Administrator
- Assistant Tribal Administrator
- JNET Director
- And more!

You can explore job openings by scanning the QR code below. A QR code is a type of barcode that you can scan using your cell phone camera. Simply open your camera, point it at the QR code, and tap the link that appears. You will be guided to the POJ Tribal website careers page.

**Scan me!**



For questions about the application process or available jobs, please contact the Human Resources Department at (575) 834-6333.

## *Senior Center June Activities Calendar*

This month's calendar includes exercise classes, Tai Chi walking, ceramic painting, nutrition presentations, wellness activities, caregiver support meetings, community meals, and special events. Highlights this month include the Senior Olympics in Las Cruces, wellness walks along the Hemish Path to Wellness, FITT programming, and educational presentations focused on health and self-care.

In addition to the scheduled activities listed on the calendar, the Pueblo of Jemez Public Health Program will also be hosting blood pressure checks for community members throughout the month. **Blood pressure screenings will take place on Monday, June 8 during the lunch hour and Friday, June 26 during breakfast services at the Senior Center.** These wellness checks provide an opportunity for elders and community members to monitor their health, receive preventive care support, and learn more about maintaining healthy blood pressure. Homebound meal services are also available. Please call 575-834-9168 the day before delivery or before 10:00 am to schedule meal delivery services. The Senior Center encourages elders to stay active, connected, and engaged through programs that support health, wellness, creativity, and community.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Homebound Meal Delivery</b> Please call the day before to request a meal delivery. To cancel a delivery, please call by 10:00 AM the same day. 575-834-9168				
<b>1</b> Walk Hemish Path to Wellness  Ceramic Painting 1pm	<b>2</b> Visit from Santa Clara Elders  Ceramic Painting 1pm	<b>3</b> Luncheon @ Jemez Red rocks	<b>4</b> Exercise w/ Felipita 11am  HOME Chore presentation by Severano Toya	<b>5</b> Senior Care Presentation by Cornell M.  Ceramic Painting 9:30am Adult Coloring 9:30am
<b>8</b> Walk Hemish Path to Wellness  Acudetox 12:30pm Ceramic Painting 1pm	<b>9</b> Exercise w/ Felipita 11am  Ceramic Painting 1pm	<b>10</b> Exercise Tai Chi Walking 11am  Dinner 5:30pm—6:30pm	<b>11</b> Exercise w/ Felipita 11am  Caregiver Mtg 5:30pm-7pm	<b>12</b> Realty Office Presentation 8:30am
<b>15</b> Walk Hemish Path to Wellness  Pep Rally Dinner for Senior Olympians 5:30pm-7pm	***** SENIOR OLYMPICS, LAS CRUCES, NM ***** JUNE 16-21, 2026			<b>19</b>
<b>22</b> Walk Hemish Path to Wellness  Acudetox 12:30pm	<b>23</b> Exercise w/ Felipita 11am  FITT Program 10:3am-1:30pm Dinner 5:30pm-6:30pm	<b>24</b> Breakfast Served no lunch  Roadrunner Food Bank  Gym Closed	<b>25</b> Exercise w/ Felipita 11am  Self care w/ Maxine Toya 5:30pm-7pm	<b>26</b> Nutrition Services Presentation by Anita Christine, Vernida  Ceramic Painting 9:30am Adult Coloring 9:30am
<b>24</b> Breakfast Served no lunch  Social Service Presentation	<b>30</b> Exercise w/ Felipita 11am  Jemez visit Santa Clara			

## Updated Animal Code & Citations

As part of ongoing efforts to improve community safety, public health, and responsible animal ownership, the Pueblo of Jemez Tribal Council adopted the new Title XIX — Pueblo of Jemez Animal Code through Tribal Council Resolution No. 2026-13, repealing the previous 2022 Dog and Cat Control Ordinance. The updated code strengthens protections for both residents and animals while providing clearer standards for responsible pet ownership, enforcement, and animal welfare.

The updated code also strengthens penalties for serious violations. Individuals charged with excessive neglect, cruelty, abandonment, or illegal dumping of animals may face substantial fines, removal of animals from their custody, possible criminal penalties, and restrictions on owning pets for up to five years. Failure to correct violations may result in formal citations, fines up to \$500, and possible court proceedings. Animal Control Officer Matthew Chinana is actively enforcing the updated Animal Code with the support of the Tribal Officials, Tribal Courts, Public Health, and Tribal Law Enforcement. The Animal Control Officer is available to provide guidance and support to help households come into compliance. We thank our community for working together to ensure safety, respect, and wellness for all. To review the full updated ordinance, please scan the QR code.

### ATTENTION COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Community members should take note that **VIOLATIONS UNDER THE ANIMAL CODE** can trigger criminal penalties under the Tribal Criminal Code, including:

	<b>ANIMAL CRUELTY OR NEGLECT</b>	(Section 19-2-10)
	<b>ABANDONMENT OR ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ANIMALS</b>	(Section 19-2-11)
	<b>INTERFERENCE WITH AN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER</b>	(Section 19-5-2)
	<b>ASSAULTS OR BATTERY AGAINST OFFICERS</b> <small>under the Tribal Criminal Code (Sections 3-2-75 through 3-2-80 referenced in Section 19-5-2)</small>	
	<b>DOG-FIGHTING AND BLOODSPORT-RELATED OFFENSES</b>	(Section 19-4-5)

 Violations may result in fines, criminal charges, removal of animals from your custody, and **restrictions on owning pets for up to five (5) years.**



# JEMEZ PUEBLO

## ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM

Working Together for a Healthier Community & Happier Animals

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### PUPPY CARE 101 CLASS

On April 15, 2026, the Jemez Pueblo AC Program offered their first Puppy Care 101 class to tribal members.

We discussed the importance of puppy diets, vaccinations, spaying & neutering your pets, and also discussed the current pet ordinance and what it means to be a responsible pet owner.

Each puppy in attendance was given their first puppy DA2PP+CVK vaccination and oral deworming at no cost to the owner.

**The puppies also received a gift basket and an 18lb bag of puppy food.**






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### RESCUE MISSION

ACO Chinana successfully rescued 8 abandoned puppies on April 21, 2026. The puppies stayed in his care for 8 days.

All 8 puppies were vaccinated, dewormed, and medicated against ticks and fleas.

Once the puppies were given clearance by a veterinarian, they were placed on a private flight to a Colorado animal shelter, where a rescue group accepted them.






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### HAPPY ADOPTIONS

Recently on 3 separate occasions, 2 adult cats and 1 kitten were happily adopted to new families.





## ***Honoring Our Relatives – MMIP Awareness Walk*** **A Path of Remembrance and Resilience**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the community gathered in a powerful stand of solidarity for our Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Awareness Walk. The event began with an opening prayer by Governor John Galvan, followed by a stirring honor song performed by Tyron Tafoya, setting a tone of reverence for the day.

### **Walking the New Trail**

In a symbolic journey of healing and visibility, families and community members led the way onto the new trail along side Highway 4 for the honor walk. Walking together on this path served as a physical reminder of our collective commitment to never forget those who are missing and to support those left behind.

### **Voices of the Families:**

The heart of the gathering was the open mic session, where the silence surrounding these cases was broken by the courageous voices of families:

- Ben and Geraldine Toya shared moving words regarding their daughter, Shawna Toya.
- Brenda Tafoya spoke with immense bravery, sharing publicly for the first time regarding the case of her daughter, Lynell Tafoya.
- Mary England spoke in honor of her son, Evan Toya.
- Michael Toya shared a tribute to his son, Jarret Toya.
- Deidra Reid, representing the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, spoke powerfully about the loss of her sister, Tiffany Reid.
- Becky Martinez shared the story of her brother Calvin Martinez, further highlighting the reach of this crisis across our families.

### **A Commitment to Awareness**

To close the session, Governor Galvan addressed the gathering. He reflected on the profound impact MMIP has had on the Pueblo and expressed a deepened understanding of the pain felt by the community. His words underscored a vital promise: that the Pueblo will continue to bring awareness to these cases and stand with the families in their search for justice and peace.



# Can You Become a Foster Father?



## The Importance of Fathers in Foster Care



Jemez Social Services  
575-834-7117



Fathers who foster children provide a significant role as a positive male role model for children in foster care. Unfortunately, there is a large number of foster children who have absent fathers.



Having a foster father or other positive male role model can show them a different standard for manhood. Children often know little about adult relationships and family dynamics outside of their own family.



Having men to show foster children a different model for manhood is critical in battling the devastating problem of domestic violence.



Experiencing a healthy family and a kind and loving father, even temporarily, can have a lasting, positive impact on children.

## Foster Care Luncheon

JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 12pm-1:30 pm

Please join us at the CRC for lunch and an informal conversation with Social Services to learn more about our foster care program!

Reminder! Jackie Michael-Havens, NP, is a provider at the JHHS Clinic with a focus on pediatric care. She offers well-child visits, school and sports physicals, and same-day appointments when your child is feeling unwell. Jackie is in clinic Monday through Thursday. Please call the clinic at 575-834-7413 to schedule an appointment.

## June is LGBTQ Pride Month

### WHAT IS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH?

This month seeks to raise awareness in society from a positive stance on the rights of the LGBTQ community, as well as to promote safe spaces where inclusion prevails and violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people are eradicated.

### WHY IS IT CALLED "PRIDE"?

Pride, as opposed to shame and social stigma, is the perspective that drives most LGBTQ rights groups and movements around the world.

### WHY IS IT CELEBRATED IN JUNE?

On June 28, 1969, police raided a gay bar in New York City known as the Stonewall Inn. The event sparked a series of riots by people in the LGBTQ community, constituting the major event leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for LGBTQ rights in the US.

The month of June was chosen to honor and commemorate those Stonewall riots.

### HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants from around the world each year. Today, the celebrations include, parades, marches, concerts/shows, workshops, among other activities that take place in different cities and nations.

*Pride is about love, respect, inclusion, equality, and celebrating our diversity.*

**JEMEZ SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM**  
575-834-7117

## JHHS Provider Welcome Mat

Welcome to Solange Ojongaki, NP, our newest team member at the JHHS Jemez Clinic. Solange is a Family Nurse Practitioner with more than 11 years of healthcare experience. She recently relocated from Texas to join our community. She is honored to serve the Jemez community and is committed to working collaboratively with families, providers, and tribal programs to promote health, strong families, and a thriving community. Outside of work, Solange enjoys reading, traveling, dancing, fitness, and singing, reflecting her commitment to balance, wellness, and lifelong health.



## New Mexico Primary Election 2026

Voting is one of the most important ways people participate in their community and government. It gives individuals a voice in decisions that affect schools, public safety, healthcare, infrastructure, etc. By voting, citizens help choose leaders, shape policies and strengthen democracy.

The New Mexico Primary Election will be held on June 2, 2026. Voting in Jemez Pueblo will be held in the Community Resource Center (CRC) Building from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. A primary election is an election used by political parties to choose their candidates for a general election; voters choose between candidates from the same party. The winner becomes that party's nominee for the general election. All community members are strongly encouraged to exercise their right to vote!

Governor John Galvan

### *Planning, Development & Transportation Updates*

# NOTICE!

## GOVERNORS IRRIGATION ROTATION SCHEDULE IMPLEMENTATION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

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### DO NOT IRRIGATE YOUR FIELDS BETWEEN **8:30 A.M.** ON MONDAYS TO **8:30 A.M. ON TUESDAYS.**

**THIS IS THE IRRIGATION DAY  
(MONDAYS) FOR  
THE NON-INDIAN USERS.**

If conditions improve and we get more moisture, our office will send notices reverting this schedule back to normal water usage. We do not want to violate the agreement in place between the users; therefore, your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.



## JDOT MAINTAINS A PARTNERSHIP WITH J&E TOWING

to assist with the removal of inoperable, abandoned, illegally parked, or impounded vehicles.





**TO REQUEST REMOVAL,**  
please contact  
[Kymon.Greyhorse@jemezpueblo.org](mailto:Kymon.Greyhorse@jemezpueblo.org)  
for the required form.

For questions, concerns, or additional information regarding any ongoing PDTD/JDOT projects or initiatives, community members are encouraged to contact the Planning, Development, and Transportation Department at (575) 834-0094.





# Save The Date!

OUR 3RD ANNUAL  
**MEN'S HEALTH FAIR**

SATURDAY  
JUNE  
**27**

This event is dedicated to promoting men's health, wellness, and overall well-being in a supportive, community-centered environment.

Attend, learn, connect, and take charge of your health—because strong men build strong communities.



**BIG PRIZE  
DRAWINGS!**  
A favorite  
highlight every  
year!

## Tribal Administration Renovation Project

Construction continues on the Tribal Administration Building Addition and Remodel Project. The project includes a building extension and interior remodel that will create additional office space, upgraded furnishings, and improved work areas to better support staff operations and future departmental needs.

Crews are making steady progress as work moves through multiple phases of construction and renovation. Once completed, the updated facility will provide a more functional, efficient, and welcoming environment for Tribal staff and community members.

## Land Use & Infrastructure Complex

Construction is officially underway for the new Land Use & Infrastructure Complex (LUIC). This complex will be located at the southern end of the community on Sawmill Road. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 24 with Governor John Galvan, 2nd Lt. Governor Thurman Loretto, Cabinet Secretary Josett Monette, Senator Benny Shendo Jr., and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in attendance. The State of New Mexico has invested nearly \$15 million into the project, which will provide long-term office space and support for nearly one-quarter of the Pueblo workforce.



*Senator Benny Shendo, Councilman Joe Cajero, Governor Michelle Grisham, Governor John Galvan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Governor Thurman Loretto, Secretary Josett Monette, Planning JDOT Director Sheri Bosis, Natural Resources Director Clarice Madalena, and Tribal Member David Yepa*

## Walk & Roll to School Day Highlights

The Planning, Development, and Transportation Department (PDTD/JDOT) continues to support community health, safety, and infrastructure improvements through several ongoing projects and initiatives across the Pueblo of Jemez. PDTD recently hosted another successful Walk & Roll to School Day at Jemez Day School, with 92 students walking or biking to school. Staff provided safety and educational items to participating students while promoting active transportation and healthy lifestyles within the community. Support from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Governor Thurman Loretto, Pueblo of Jemez Police Department, EMS, Social Services, and Animal Control helped make the event possible once again. It was especially fulfilling for staff to see several students riding bicycles received through the 2025 Pueblo of Jemez Youth Bicycle Safety Program, highlighting the continued impact of the initiative.



*2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Governor Loretto*

## Hazardous Building Removal Project Update

The Hazardous Building Removal Project continues to move forward, with demolition activities scheduled to take place throughout the remainder of the year. The project includes asbestos abatement and demolition of several former tribal administration and residential structures to improve community safety and prepare the sites for future development opportunities. Pueblo of Jemez residents will be receiving notifications regarding upcoming construction and demolition activities.

## JDOT Staff Recognized for Transportation Excellence



*Vince E. Toya and JDOT staff at National Tribal Road Symposium*

Members of the JDOT crew recently attended the 2026 National Tribal Roads Maintenance Symposium in Rapid City, South Dakota, where they participated in trainings and discussions focused on updates in tribal transportation management and roadway maintenance. The symposium provided valuable opportunities to strengthen knowledge and explore new strategies to improve infrastructure, roadway safety, and transportation funding opportunities for the Pueblo of Jemez.

JDOT is also proud to recognize Vince Toya, who brought home a 1st Place medal in the Heavy Equipment Rodeo Mini Excavator competition, showcasing outstanding operational skill and professionalism during the event. His accomplishment reflects the dedication, experience, and strong work ethic of the JDOT crew and highlights the Pueblo of Jemez's continued commitment to excellence in transportation and infrastructure operations.

## ***Chaco Canyon: Public Land Order 7923***


**By Chris Toya**



***Darryl Lucero, Mark Madalena, Brophy Toledo, Joe Ray & Mary Toledo, Joseph Madalena, Chris, Nadia, & Kateri Toya.***

Chaco Canyon is an ancestral homeland located in northwestern New Mexico, Pueblo and Hopi tribes trace ancestral connections to the people who lived in and around this site in ancient times. For Pueblo people in New Mexico — including the people of Jemez Pueblo — Chaco Canyon is not just an archaeological site. It is part of a living cultural and spiritual landscape tied to ancestry, migration histories, ceremony, and identity. In recent years, tribes including Pueblo governments supported federal protections limiting new oil and gas leasing near Chaco because of concerns about impacts on sacred sites and cultural landscapes. These protections are under threat.

The Pueblo of Jemez has been a strong advocate for the protection of the sacred landscape in the San Juan Basin, specifically Chaco Canyon. During the Biden Administration, the Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary Debra Holland spearheaded the protection of Chaco Canyon from oil and gas extraction in the form of Public Land Order 7923. PLO 7923, a federal protection order issued by the US DOI, created a 10-mile protection buffer surrounding Chaco Canyon and its immediate outliers. What this meant is that there would be no new oil and gas permits for drilling new wells issued by the Bureau of Land Management for the next 20 years within the



10-mile buffer zone. This would not affect existing permits, so Navajo tribal members who have allotments under the Navajo Nation would not be affected by this Public Land Order. They would continue to receive royalties from oil and gas industry for having wells on their property.

The Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblos and other Tribal Nations in support of PLO 7923 thought we had taken care of this threat of oil and gas extraction from the cultural landscape. However, the Navajo Nation has generally opposed the 10-mile buffer zone, which withdrew 336,000 acres from new oil and gas leasing for 20 years. In January 2025, the Navajo Nation sued the federal government, challenging PLO 7923. Navajo leaders argued the Biden Administration and Interior Department did not adequately consult the Navajo Nation, specifically the Navajo communities living in the affected area.

After years of fighting an uphill battle, this lawsuit sent shock waves throughout Indian Country. In response, the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna filed motions to intervene in the lawsuit in February 2025. This will allow them to become a party to the lawsuit so that they can participate in hearings, file legal briefs and present evidence and arguments. In April 2025, a federal judge granted their intervention request. Since Jemez Pueblo is a member of the Chaco Heritage Tribal Association (CHTA) along with Acoma, Laguna, Zuni and Hopi, the tribe is considering taking on the role of *amicus curiae* in this legal matter, which will allow Jemez to present information, expertise, or arguments relevant to the case. Such information or documentation would provide additional legal information to assist the court in making an informed decision.

In January 2026, the DOI and the Navajo Nation took steps to settle the case that included an expedited environmental analysis, which included an environmental review procedure that required federal agencies to study environmental impacts, consider alternatives, analyze cultural and tribal impacts and consult affected tribes and agencies. On March 31, 2026, the 90-day settlement agreement initiated the expedited environmental process. The scoping period solicited public feedback on the preferred alternative, additional analysis for consideration, and the appropriate length of the process. What to expect next is the release of a draft Environmental Assessment and a final decision in June of 2026.

The Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, as intervenors in the initial case, fear that the federal government will choose either a 5-mile alternative or, worse, a 0-mile buffer. In preparation, through the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG), they will seek support from other Pueblos for the protection of PLO 7923. They are inviting all interested Pueblos and other Tribal Nations to prepare for litigation to maintain our sovereign interests, protect the cultural resources in the cultural landscape, and protect and maintain our way of life connected to Chaco Canyon.

The Pueblo of Jemez leadership is taking a proactive approach through its association with the All Pueblo Council of Governors, its membership in the Chaco Heritage Tribal Association and its potential role as *amicus curiae*.

During a news conference in Santa Ana Pueblo on May 20, 2026, the APCG announced that the Greater Chaco Cultural Landscape had been included on the list of “America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places,” compiled by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The

National Trust, a nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949, works to preserve historic and cultural heritage sites throughout the United States.


Additionally, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) passed a resolution strongly opposing the revocation of PLO 7923 and calling on the US Department of the Interior to suspend all revocation actions pending full government-to-government consultation with affected Tribes. The APCG and the Hopi Tribe have likewise called for suspension of all efforts to revoke PLO 7923 and for the adoption of legislation permanently protecting the buffer zone.



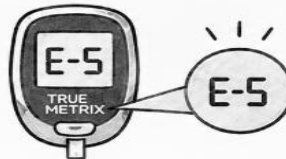
Jemez Leadership, including Governor John Galvan, 1st Lt. Matthew Gachupin Jr., and 2nd Lt. Thurman Loretto, stand in support of protecting the Greater Chaco Cultural Landscape during a news conference at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa on Santa Ana Pueblo. Photo source: *Albuquerque Journal*, “Chaco Canyon among 11 most endangered historic places, the National Trust says.”

### FDA Alert: TRUE METRIX Blood Glucose Meters


The FDA recently shared a safety alert about certain TRUE METRIX Blood Glucose Monitoring Systems made by Trividia Health.




Some meters may show incorrect high blood sugar readings and display an E-5 Error Code.



If you receive this error and are feeling symptoms of low or high blood sugar, it is important to contact your healthcare provider immediately.




Community members are encouraged to continue checking their blood sugar as directed by their provider and speak with their clinic team about alternative testing options if needed.



For questions or concerns, please contact:

- JHHS Clinic Pharmacy: (575) 834-7413
- Jemez Public Health: (575) 834-7207





## 2026 High School Graduates

### Dear Graduates:

On behalf of our Tribal Council, tribal officials and our entire community, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of you on reaching this important milestone. Graduation represents more than the completion of your studies. It reflects your hard work, perseverance, and commitment to your future. Your achievements honor not only yourselves, but also your families, your teachers, and the many people who have supported and guided you along the way.

As you move forward into college, careers, military service or other post-secondary education remember that you carry with you the strength, values, and traditions of our ancestors and community. Always remember your tribal heritage, strengthen your ability to speak our native Towan language, and actively participate in our tribal dances and traditional ways of life.

Always honor the importance of your voice, your talents, and your responsibility to future generations. Pursue your goals with humility, courage, and respect for others. We are all proud of the determination and commitment to education you have already shown, and we look forward to the positive impact you will make in the years ahead.

To the parents, grandparents, relatives, mentors, and educators who helped these graduates succeed, we also extend our gratitude. Your encouragement and sacrifices have made this day possible.

Congratulations once again to the Class of 2026. May your journey ahead be filled with opportunity, purpose, and success.

Sincerely,

John Galvan  
Governor

Matthew Gachupin, Jr.  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Governor

Thurman Loretto  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Governor

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### Office of the Governor

4471 Highway 4, Box 100 • Jemez Pueblo • New Mexico • 87024  
(575) 834-7359 • Fax (575) 834-7331



# Congratulations to the 2026 High School Graduates!



## SANTA FE INDIAN SCHOOL

- Ayden Scott Casiquito
- Jesse Pierce Chinana
- Taft Guadalupe Collateta
- Amber Fragua
- James Fragua
- Jasmin Fragua
- Raekwon Keenan Lucero
- Amarion Madalena
- Araceli Madalena
- Brian Jordan Madalena
- Darius Myles Madalena
- Antonio Joel Travis Pecos
- Maeklynn Rose Sandia
- Thomas Fredrick Sando
- Angelina Jasena Secatero
- Ernesto Pino
- Kimora Toya

## JEMEZ VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

- Victoria Gallegos
- Leila Jordan
- Annalissa Madalena
- Kahlila Sandia
- Jevon Sando
- Kamie Sando
- Jaleen Tafoya
- Kristen Toya
- Wanda Yepa

## WALATOWA CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

- Mariah Armijo
- Ensay Chavez
- Helena Gachupin
- Angelina Ortiz
- Kaziah Shendo
- KC Sandia
- Tredell Vigil
- Wyndham Columbus-Kalstabakken
- Kelly Ortiz

## V. SUE CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL

- Lucia Jane Baca
- Brooke Madalena
- Jaylynn Romero
- Derek Shendo
- Marisel Yepa
- Sophia Yepa
- Laila Romero

## ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Sagelyn R. Devore- Manzano High School
- Talen Riley – Volcano Vista High School
- Taylor A. Gachupin - Cibola High School
- Arianna P. Madalena – Cibola High School
- Chehreh Toledo – Del Norte High School
- David E. Romero – Highland High School

## BERNALILLO HIGH SCHOOL

- Kyone Coriz
- Miekayla Coriz
- Destiny Hernandez
- Kevan Sandia-Sanchez

## NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

- Ashton Lucero
- Bryant Ramon
- Quinton Sando

## PECOS CYBER ACADEMY

- Savannah Gajardo

## OUT OF STATE

- Kristina Vigil, Sherman Indian High School
- Ashlyn Russell DeVore, Sherman Indian High School
- Colton SunRhodes, Wyoming Indian High School
- Jahshua Cook, Holbrook High School
- Liam Rides at the Door, Ronan High School

*We are proud of your hard work, perseverance, and commitment.  
Your future is bright, and we celebrate your achievements!*

***We Want to Hear From You!***

Do you have ideas on how we can improve this newsletter? Please share your thoughts by emailing **Dr. Jillian Cambridge** at [jillian.cambridge@jemezpuablo.us](mailto:jillian.cambridge@jemezpuablo.us)

