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Jemez Springs, NM Blasts into Independence Day with Parade, Fun Run on July 4

JEMEZ SPRINGS, NM—The coolest mountain village close to Albuquerque – Jemez Springs, New Mexico – will blast into Independence Day with a patriotic celebration on Tuesday, July 4, complete with Fun Run, parade, live music and activities beginning at 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Former Olympian and Jemez Springs resident, Olga Appell, will lead a charity Fun Run for children and adults beginning at 8 a.m. with proceeds to benefit Jemez Helping Hands. Both the 2.5 mile adult run and mile-long kids run leave from the Jemez Springs Bath House and finish at Fitzgerald Park along Hwy. 4. Entry fees are \$5 per person.

A good ole' fashioned parade will commence from the Jemez Community Park at 10 a.m. and proceed to the Village Plaza. Judges will determine who has the best float and award prizes for first place (\$500); second place (\$300); and third place (\$200). Awards will be given after the parade – including an award to the “Volunteer of the Year” – followed by a flag raising ceremony led by the local American Legion. *Hwy. 4 will be temporarily closed for the parade between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.*

Throughout the event until 3 p.m., nearly two dozen vendors will sell handmade items at the Plaza. Live music by local blues band, Trainwreck Blues, will amp up the energy at the event between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. While the adults are rocking out to live music, children can paint rocks or splash around at the 16 foot (commercially) inflated water slide, sponsored by the Jemez Valley Credit Union.

This year, a 21 and over Beer and Wine garden will be available just a few steps from food vendors. Valid I.D. will be checked at entry. The American Legion building, adjacent to the Plaza, will serve as a “cooling room” for anyone who wants to stop in and cool off.

At 3 p.m., the Jemez River which meanders behind the Jemez Springs Bath House will transform into a hydro raceway, of sorts, with rubber duck races. Launching from behind the Bath House along the river, ducks may be purchased for the competition from the Friends of the Library in the Village Conference Room. The first duck to reach the bridge near Mooney Dr. wins.

Following the event, there are numerous attractions and activities to experience including hot springs soaks or spa services at Jemez Springs Bath House until 6 p.m.; hiking at Soda Dam; visiting Jemez Fine Art Gallery or Jemez Artistans Co-op Gallery (both until 5 p.m.); live music at Los Ojos Restaurant and Saloon throughout the evening; and hiking in and around Santa Fe National Forest. Jemez Historic Site will be closed, as it is every Monday and Tuesday.

In addition to sponsorship by the Village of Jemez Springs, other sponsors include: Jemez Valley Credit Union, American Legion post, Jemez Artisan's Gallery, Laughing Lizard Inn, an donor who wishes to remain anonymous, and Susan Donovan Realty.

For complete information including a schedule of events, visit <https://www.facebook.com/GoodFolksofJemezSprings/> or contact Joy Bandy, organizer, at joybandy@gmail.com. To book a hotel or for more information on the Village of Jemez Springs, visit www.jemezsprings.org.

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