

April 2012

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# The Tungland News

*Supporting ALL people to be part of their community*

## *NATIONAL QUALITY AGENCY ACCREDITS TUNGLAND'S NEW MEXICO SUPPORT SERVICES*

The Tungland Corporation's New Mexico region has earned a coveted accreditation from one of the nation's most respected accreditation agencies, the Council of Quality and Leadership (CQL), it was announced at Tungland corporate headquarters in Phoenix.

The accreditation was approved by CQL on February 28, 2012 following an intensive, thorough-going process involving Tungland leadership in which the strengths of the Tungland's support services to people in New Mexico were assessed and evaluated, according to Chief Operating Officer and Director Scotty Scott and Tungland New Mexico Assistant Director Debbie Wegley.

The Tungland Corporation's New Mexico Region is based in Farmington, in San Juan County which lies in the state's northwestern area.

The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) is an internationally-recognized body dedicated to promoting the highest standards of person-centered supports and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and people living with mental and behavioral health issues.

Laying heavy stress on person-centered sup-

ports, CQL works with service providers and persons receiving services as well as other stakeholders to ensure that services are designed to meet specific needs of each individual, rather than to focus solely on mere compliance with state regulations.

The accreditation agency encourages all service providers to develop a process where each person receiving services plays a key role in the design and delivery of services, and that outcomes are measured by an objective evaluation of whether people are getting what is important to them rather than what is important to the provider.

CQL affirms that when each person is able to make his or her views and expectations known and the person's wishes are carried out the quality of services will be increased.



## *In Remembrance: Joe Vascotto*

*AUGUST 2, 1946 - MARCH 23, 2012*

*The Tunland Corporation mourns the passing of Joseph Vascotto, who died peacefully on March 23, 2012 following a long illness. The following memorial tributes were written by members of the support staff of the St. Catherine Group Home, where Joe resided for approximately 25 years.*

*“Joe was born in New York. Even though he was blind Joe knew all the crooks and crannies at the house. Joe loved to eat; he smiled and rocked when he ate. What a joy he was to watch! He loved listening to music, and to his movies. He played with his dice in his special chair every day. He was very content. Joe loved going to day program. Joe loved to stretch his legs, he loved to move around the living room. Joe was such a blessing at the home; he was very special to all of us. He is truly missed.” –Wanda*

*“Joe was a really cool guy—very mellow, and to himself. Joe always loved to eat, especially yogurt. When you would feed him he would bust out with a smile and make us all smile. Joe loved to play with his dice. It had to be in his chair and on his bed. Joe was very cool to be around, and will always be missed.” -Michael*

*“I worked with Joe for four and a half years. Every morning I helped him shave; he would sit there and let me do it. I think he liked that. I always got a laugh when Joe sat in his chair and “bounce danced”, and smiled. He always filled my heart. You are missed Joe!” -Eva*

*“What can't I say about him? He was great! He was a quiet little person. Joe kept to himself. I didn't know him for that long but the time I spent with him was great. He will truly be missed by everyone at St. Catherine.” -Tracie*

*“Joe was a gentle soul, and although he was blind he was very independent, very determined. Joe loved hanging out with the staff and going to the park. Joe also loved to eat out at restaurants and loved to try new foods. It was so sweet when Joe-Joe (as he liked to be called) would hug you and*



*then imply ‘that’s enough, you’re in my space’. Joe was such a blessing to all of us. He really taught us there is no such thing as a handicap or disability. He would let you know just what he wanted to wear, what his favorite foods were, and if he did not like something. Joe-Joe we love you and miss you.” -Tammie*

*“A very special man in his own way. Joe would sometimes sit at the front door ‘guarding’ the entry. Every now and then Joe would stand up, check the light switches and make sure the door was locked. His dice were his constant companions, whether awake or asleep. He seemed to always have at least one die with him. I for one will miss Joe a lot. –Perry*

*If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away. - Henry David Thoreau*

*James Edie passed away on March 21, 2012. The following tributes are from Vicky Mollat, James's provider and friend, and Gary Crews, James's guardian*

James was our very first client to become a member of our family, in December, 2004. It was our very first experience, and needless to say, we were overwhelmed. In time, we had a better understanding of James, of his needs and wants and ways. James was non-verbal. He made a lot of sounds, noises, and would clap and hum.

James enjoyed the outdoors, walking back and forth in the same manner, touching and feeling things as he went along. He had a swing in the backyard which would give him a sense of calmness as he would swing back and forth. He would take walks with Carlos. Carlos was his buddy.

Our house always had more than one light on—two lights, three lights, four lights on. James would turn lights on and off, shutting and opening doors as he moved along, always in a repetitive way. Pacing was his past time, and the bathroom was his favorite hangout!

James was not a picky eater, but he always had a good appetite.

James impacted our lives in more than one way. He taught us compassion, patience and understanding. He taught us to count our blessings and to be grateful for what we had. He gave us a great purpose in life, to care for him, to love him, and to welcome him into our hearts and home and provide him with a better

## **In Remembrance: James Edie**

July 7, 1957 - March 21, 2012

quality of life.

James has gone before us and his absence is greatly felt. Carlos and I miss him so much. We know he is in a better place, where he no longer is suffering. We know deep in our hearts that the last 8 years of his life spent with us were his best years. Our home was his home too, where he knew he was loved and cared for.

Gary Crews, who served as legal guardian for James, was a friend of James's late father.

Gary explains that James's dad had always asked Gary to "take care of my son," so when James's father passed away Gary applied for and was granted guardianship for James.

Gary said that he has always cared for him and worked to make sure that James lived in a stable and safe home. Gary notes that James was very happy living with the Mollat family, and enjoyed the environment they created for him.

Gary wishes to express that he is grateful to everyone for their support during these times. He will miss James but knows that he can finally rest.

## New US Health Care Law Funding \$3 Billion To States for Community-Based Supports



IN THE NEWS

Under the health care reform legislation passed by Congress and signed by the President in 2010 the federal government will make \$3 billion in grants available to states for expanding home and community-based services.

The monies are available from Medicaid to states that apply, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the US agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid funding.



The program is known as the Balancing Incentive Program and is authorized under the Affordable Health Care Act of 2010.

The program puts the administration squarely behind the shift from institutional care for older people and people with disabilities to community services and supports for those with long-

term needs. The grants will take the form of Medicaid matching payments.

The rule set down in the legislation requires that the state applying for the funds must currently spend less than 50 percent of their total long-term care costs on community-based options.

The money must be spent making more community options available to older people and people with disabilities, the CMS

says.

Arizona's Medicaid program, AHCCCS, has no plans to apply for the program as the agency states that 75 percent of all elderly and physically disabled and 98 percent of people with developmental disabilities live at home or in a community-based setting.

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## *Spanish-Language Social Security Website Makes Benefit Applications Available Online*

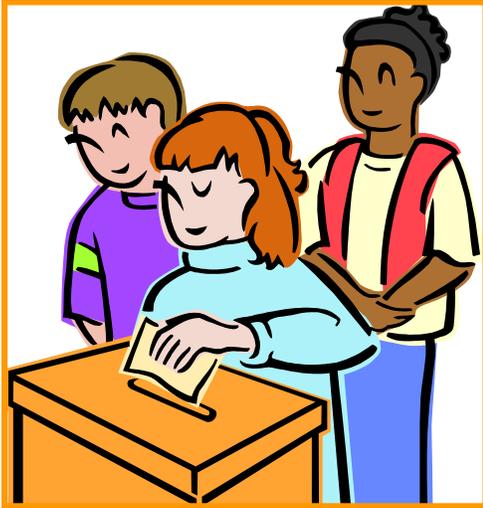
[www.segurosocial.gov](http://www.segurosocial.gov)

Last year the US Social Security Administration made applying for Social Security retirement benefits, Medicare, and Extra Help with Medicare prescription drugs available online in Spanish for the first time. The Spanish-language website parallels the agency's main website where people can apply for their Social Security benefits and Medicare.

The Social Security Administration states that online applicants for Social Security benefits can fill out all the nec-

essary paperwork and take advantage of other online services in Spanish.

Applicants can sign their applications electronically without need to print out a paper copy for signature. After all the necessary information is entered in the application form the user only needs to click on "sign" to complete the application. The SSA will contact the applicant to schedule an appointment at a local office.



**Primary Election Day August 28, 2012**  
**Election Day Tuesday November 6, 2012**  
**ARIZONA VOTER INFORMATION**

**TO VOTE IN ARIZONA YOU MUST BE—**

- ◇ A U.S. CITIZEN
- ◇ AN ARIZONA RESIDENT
- ◇ 18 YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY
- ◇ NO FELONY CONVICTIONS.
- ◇ NO COURT JUDGMENT OF INCOMPETENCE.

**Not registered to vote? It's easy! Here's how:**

- ◇ **Get a Voter Registration Form, fill it out, sign it, and mail it. Available at County Recorder's Office, the public library, post office, city clerk's office—and at the Tunland Main Office. Ask Vince in Quality Management at ext. 8091. We'll help you fill it out.**
- ◇ **You can register online at <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/web/elections.aspx>**
- ◇ **Or—visit the County Recorder's office to register in person. Call 602-506-1511 to find the office nearest you.**

**IMPORTANT DATES IN 2012**

- ◇ **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY: AUGUST 28, 2012.**
- ◇ **PRIMARY ELECTION REGISTRATION CLOSES ON JULY 30, 2012.**
- ◇ **ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 6, 2012. POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 6:00 AM TO 7:00 PM.**
- ◇ **ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION CLOSES ON OCTOBER 8, 2012 AT MIDNIGHT.**
- ◇ **EARLY VOTING BEGINS ON OCTOBER 7, 2012. YOU CAN GET AN EARLY BALLOT AND MAIL IT IN BEFORE ELECTION DAY. CONTACT YOUR COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE, ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT, AT [WWW.AZSOS.GOV/ELECTION/COUNTY.HTM](http://WWW.AZSOS.GOV/ELECTION/COUNTY.HTM)**
- ◇ **TO GET AN EARLY BALLOT YOU MUST REGISTER TO VOTE. IF YOU ARE ALREADY REGISTERED YOU CAN FILL OUT AN EARLY BALLOT REQUEST FORM. ONLINE OR CALL THE MARICOPA COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE AT 602-506-1511.**

## A Brief Tour of The Tunland Corporation's Regions

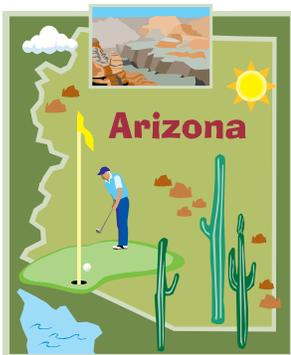


Tunland's Nevada region serves people with disabilities in the central and western parts of the state—*Las Vegas* and *Fallon*. Las Vegas, world-famous as a resort city with a population of approximately 1.9 million people in the metropolitan area, is the seat of Clark County in the southern part of the state lying in the Mohave Desert. In Western Nevada Tunland's services are available from the regional office in Fallon, a smaller but thriving city with a population of about 9,300. Nevada's population is about 2.7 million.

The Las Vegas Tunland Office is managed by Area Director Chrystal Brooks. Lesa Johnson serves as Area Director for Tunland's Fallon Office.

In Northern New Mexico where U.S. Highway 50—dubbed “The Loneliest Road in America”—and Interstate 95 meet in the San Juan River Valley lies Farmington, focal point of The Tunland Corporation's services to New Mexico residents. With a population of approximately 45,877 people Farmington boasts an active outdoor community that is home to the annual Connie Mack World Series. New Mexico, a richly diverse state, has a population in excess of 2 million people.

Services are managed in New Mexico by Assistant Director Debbie Wegley.



Arizona's bustling capital with a multicultural population of some 1.4 million people is the headquarters and hub of The Tunland Corporation and the site of its founding in 1983. Phoenix, a city in a metropolitan area of 4.2 million, is one of three venues in Arizona for Tunland's services, the others being the Tucson region in Southern Arizona and the Flagstaff/Cottonwood region in Northern Arizona. About 6.4 million people call Arizona home.

Under the leadership of founder and Chief Executive Officer Robert W. Tunland II and Chief Operating Officer Scotty Scott, Tunland's Phoenix services continue to thrive. Area Director Charles Bley manages services in Tucson while Laurie Bosse serves as Area Director for Flagstaff and Cottonwood.

*The Tunland Corporation believes that all people are capable of growth, that people with challenges can live in real homes in real neighborhoods, learn to be part of their communities, and fulfill their personal dreams. Innovative thinking drives a wide range of quality services to people in three Western states. Tunland offers residential care and day programs for children, adults, and older people, vocational programs to teach job skills, in-home support services, counseling services, licensing for foster care, and programs that enhance community access. To learn more about us visit our website at [www.tunland.com](http://www.tunland.com).*



# Special Olympics Summer Games

## Slated For April 26—28 in Mesa

Special Olympics of Arizona athletes will be competing in various events in the SOAZ Summer Games to be held from April 26, 2012 to April 28, 2012 at Mesa Community College. The annual Summer Games take place in a qualifying year for the 2014 USA Games.

Major events of the SOAZ Summer Games will include the standing long jump, pentathlon long jump, shot put, turbojav for athletes in various age groups, 100 meter wheelchair race, 200 meter dash coed/female and male; softball throw; kayaking; tennis; indoor athletics such as the motorized and non-motorized wheelchair slalom; powerlifting; and volleyball.

SOAZ has posted a tentative schedule of events on its website [www.SpecialOlympicsArizona.org](http://www.SpecialOlympicsArizona.org). The three-day Games will kick off on Thursday April 26th at 3:00 pm with Track events at the Mesa Community College Track. Friday's athletics will begin at 8:15 am (shot put) ALSO AT THE College Track, but the Powerlifting events—bench press and deadlift—will be held at the College's Heap Gymnasium starting at 8:30 am. The venue for Kayaking will be at Tempe Town Lake, 620 N. Mill Avenue, Tempe AZ 85281.

The Summer Games will conclude on Saturday April 28th with Outdoor Athletics, Softball, Tennis, and Indoor Athletic events at the College Track, College Tennis Courts, and the Heap Gymnasium East.

Mesa Community College is located at 1833 West Southern Avenue, Mesa AZ 85202. For information on the Special Olympics of Arizona Summer Games please contact 602-757-1669.

### Special Olympics AZ Unified Sports® Program Creates Athletic Partnerships For Team-Building, Inclusiveness

Special Olympics of AZ is the proud sponsor of a unique program called Unified Sports®, a program which pairs up athletes with intellectual disabilities with athletic partners who are without intellectual disabilities who train and compete together.

The aim is to create a unique experience for all the participating athletes in team-building, making new ties, fostering inclu-

siveness, and improving self-esteem.

Some Arizona schools are adopting the Unified Sports® program because of its value in creating inclusiveness and the opportunities it offers to athletes.

If you are interested in this program please contact Brian Quinn, Unified Sports Director, Special Olympics of AZ, at 602-230-0073.



## *Free, Cheap, & Fun Stuff To Do*



### **Cinco de Mayo**

Our valley's annual "Fifth of May" celebration means it's time for fiesta—and that means lots of great music, food, dancing, and festivity in the grand traditions of Mexico. No, it's not Mexican Independence Day (that's Sept. 16th, for you history buffs) as many people think; the Cinco de Mayo festival commemorates the victory of the Mexican Army over an invading French force twice their

size at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

The celebrations locally will be in several locations and on various days of the first week in May. Among the best-known and biggest of the festivals will be **Cinco de Mayo Phoenix Festival 2012**, in Downtown Phoenix at 622 Van Buren Street. Saturday May 5 and Sunday May 6, 2012. Admission \$5 adults, children 12 and under admitted free. Arts and crafts, music, food, and much more.



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### *Free Stuff!*

**Downtown Chandler Art Walk:** Dozens of artisans set up on streets of Historic Downtown Chandler. Free on the third Friday of each month.

**Downtown Phoenix First Friday:** Stroll in Downtown Phoenix to visit art galleries, studios, art spaces. Free on the first Friday of the month.

**Downtown Mesa Second Friday:** Live bands, art booths, galleries, shops, food, and fun. Free on the second Friday of the month.



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