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‘Cabin Fever Festival’ to Ward Off Winter Blues with Colorful Fundraiser, Feb. 27 in Jemez Springs, NM

Chile Cook-Off, Carving Auction, Live Music Part of Festivities

JEMEZ SPRINGS, NM—Though Punxsutawney Phil’s prediction that spring will arrive early is welcome news, those restless to escape indoor boredom can take the short drive to Jemez Springs, New Mexico for the family friendly Cabin Fever Festival, Feb. 27 from 11a.m. to 5 p.m. A portion of all proceeds will benefit the local non-profits in the Jemez Valley.

“The Cabin Fever Festival is one of the few events taking place in the state on Feb. 27, when Valentine’s Day is over, Superbowl has ended and the lull in between winter and spring makes many of us stir crazy,” said Cody Lewis, one of the planners of the event.

“This family friendly event is a great way to come alive in winter – from tasting unique flavors at the Chile Cook Off, to watching art being created, to hearing live music by local artists – it’s a truly unique event in beautiful Jemez Springs, just a short drive away.”

Formerly known as the “Fire and Ice Festival,” the Cabin Fever Festival will feature five professional Chainsaw Carvers from the Sandia Bear Company who will transform solid wood into works of art, with live demonstrations throughout the day and a chance to bid on the pieces at auction. Fire pits and a heated ticket booth will be available.

Festival goers will have a chance to sample the best chile in the state with a Chile Cook-Off where the public will vote on their favorite New Mexico chile. Anyone interested in competing can contact Cody Lewis at 575-829-3366 or cody(at)jvcu(dot)org.

Native American food from Dave’s Burgers of Jemez Pueblo and other vendors sell food. Jumpers and playground equipment will be available for the kids.

A “Crosscut Log Cutting Contest” will give teams an opportunity to compete against other teams to see who can saw logs the fastest. Entry fees are $5 per person for the competition, and whoever wins with the best time will be rewarded with a pot of cash.

Live music will be performed throughout the day and arts and crafts vendors from Jemez Springs, Jemez Pueblo and the surrounding area will sell handmade items at the festival. Those with a sense of humor may enjoy a staple of the festival – “Chicken Poop Bingo” – where chickens ultimately determine who will win cash. Proceeds of “Chicken Poop Bingo” will benefit Jemez Sustainable Solutions.

A raffle will be held with two chances to win a fully paid weekend in Jemez Springs on a future visit. The first package, valued at over $500, includes two nights stay at Elk Mountain Lodge, dinner at Los Ojos Restaurant and Salon, massage and soaks for two
at Jemez Springs Bathhouse, and lunch at Highway 4 Cafe. The second package, also valued at over $500, includes a two night stay at the Jemez Mountain Inn, dinner at Los Ojos, breakfast at Highway 4 Cafe, lunch at Stagestop, and massages at Cañon del Rio. Raffle tickets are $5 per ticket or three tickets for $10.

There is no charge to enter the Cabin Fever Festival, however visitors can purchase tickets for activities and the chile tasting.

In 2015, the event drew as many as 300 visitors. The event will take place at Fitzgerald Park in Jemez Springs’ Village Plaza.

For more information, visit facebook.com/CabinFeverFestival. For general information on the village of Jemez Springs, visit jemezsprings.org.

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