

# - EL AVISO -

JULY 2005

## PLAGUE

There are many cases of plague in northern NM and we need to be more informed. Information from the New Mexico Department of Health followed a case of plague in a cat in El Rito being identified recently. (Although the Dept. of Health information is mostly concerned about humans, it can apply to your animals as well).

Plague is an infectious disease of animals and humans that is caused by the bacterial germ called *Yersinia pestis*. It is a severe, life-threatening disease in humans that is fortunately rare, even in New Mexico. Nonetheless, about half of the cases of human plague in the U.S. each year occur in New Mexico.

### **How common is human plague in New Mexico?**

The number of cases varies by year, ranging from 0 to 27 cases per year. From 1983 through 2004 there were 123 human plague cases in New Mexico, for an average of about 6 cases per year. Since 1993 the number of cases has dropped to an average of 4 cases per year.

### **Is there a particular time of the year when plague cases occur?**

Yes, the majority of New Mexico plague cases occur during the warmer months of the year, May through September. Most of these cases result from exposure to plague infected fleas, because this is the time of year when fleas, rodents and people are most active and there are more chances that infected rodents and/or fleas can come in contact with people. However, cases have occurred during other months of the year. Wintertime cases usually result from direct contact or handling of plague-infected animals.

### **What is cat (feline) plague?**

Cats that hunt can get plague by eating plague-infected rodents, or sometimes by fleabites. Symptoms in cats are fever, tiredness, and loss of appetite. Sometimes a cat will develop a swollen lymph node, usually under the jaw. Cats can transmit plague to their owners or veterinarians through biting, scratching, or from an oozing infected lymph gland. Cats can also develop plague pneumonia and although rare, spread plague to people by coughing.

### **Which animals carry plague in New Mexico?**

Rodents are the main type of animal that carries plague in New Mexico. By rodents we mean squirrels, chipmunks, mice, woodrats, prairie dogs, and gophers. Rabbits can also carry plague. **Rock squirrels** and their fleas are the primary source of human plague cases in New Mexico. Wild and domestic carnivores, including dogs, cats, coyotes, and bobcats can become infected with plague, probably by eating plague-infected rodents or rabbits. These animals vary in their response to plague infection, with some animals showing no symptoms at all.

**It is important to recognize that dogs and cats may transport plague-infected fleas from areas where rodents live into the home.**

### **Is plague curable?**

Yes. Plague is curable with antibiotics (both in animals and humans), but medication must be started right away to avoid serious complications. People can die of plague infection, particularly if appropriate treatment is delayed. Of a total of 238 human plague cases in New Mexico, 30 (14%) were fatal.

*LAS CLINICAS DEL NORTE: A Community Health Center, Established in 1972*

Serving the communities of Abiquiu, Ancones, Barranco, Cañon, Carson, Chili, Cañones, Cañon Plaza, Duranes, El Llanito, El Pueblo, El Rito, Gallegos, Gavilan, Ghost Ranch, La Cueva, La Madera, La Mesa, La Zorro, Las Casitas, Las Tablas, Los Pinos, Medanales, No Agua, Ojo Caliente, Olguin, Petaca, Placitas, Plaza Blanca, Rio Chama, San Miguel, Servilleta, Servilleta Plaza, Silvestres, Tierra Azul, Tres Orejas, Tres Piedras, Tusas and Vallecitos and Youngsville

► **How do people get plague in New Mexico?**

People usually get plague by being bitten by a rodent flea that is infected with the plague bacteria. Fleas become infected by feeding on rodents that have plague bacteria in their blood. Fleas transmit the plague bacteria to humans and other mammals during the feeding process.

Another, less common way of getting plague is by handling sick or dead animals that are infected with plague. An example of this would be a hunter or trapper who catches a plague-infected rabbit, coyote, bobcat or other animal and then skins the animal without using gloves. Plague bacteria in the animal's blood and tissues can enter cuts or scratches on the person's hands and result in disease. Plague may also be transmitted by exposure to infected respiratory droplets from a person or domestic cat with plague pneumonia. This is extremely rare and has not occurred in New Mexico.

**What are the symptoms of plague?**

Symptoms of plague usually appear two to seven days after infection. The most common signs are:

Sudden onset of high fever  
Muscle aches and headache  
Chills  
Extreme weakness

In about 75% of cases, a lymph gland in the groin area, under the arm, or in the neck becomes extremely painful, tender and swollen. This is called a "bubo" and this form of plague is referred to as bubonic plague.

Plague can also cause severe infection of the blood and pneumonia. Persons with untreated bubonic plague are at risk for having the infection spread to the blood or lungs.

**Can plague spread directly from one person to another person?**

Uncomplicated bubonic plague is not contagious and patients do not place their family, friends, or health care workers at risk.

Plague pneumonia can be spread to others by exposure to infected respiratory secretions. This could occur when a person or cat with plague pneumonia coughs in someone's face. This type of spread, however, is very rare and the Department of Health acts quickly to protect any

contacts of plague patients with pneumonia. In New Mexico, there has been no person-to-person spread of plague.

**What can I or my family (or animals) do to avoid getting plague?**

- Avoid contact with wild rodents and their fleas, nests and burrows. Especially avoid sick or dead animals and teach children not to handle any wild animal, whether alive or dead.
- Make sure nests and burrows are not near your living spaces.
- Prevent pets from roaming.
- Regularly treat outside pets (dogs and cats) with an effective flea control product.
- Remove items which attract rodents to the home, such as uncovered garbage kept outside, wrecked cars, and piles of refuse near the home.
- Wear rubber gloves when skinning game and handling the uncooked meat.
- Be aware of the symptoms of plague. If you think you have been exposed to plague and develop illness, contact your doctor right away.
- (If you think your animals show symptoms, contact your veterinarian right away).

***ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS BRIEFS***

***Congratulations*** to **Margaret Martinez**, dental hygienist, who delivered a baby girl on June 11. Margaret will return to the clinic in October.

**⊗ Community Events ⊗**

**Contact Person, Joan Tollefson, Editor, 581-9103 or 581-4728**

**Las Clinicas 24-hour Emergency Number** – 1-888-678-6160

**El Rito**

**Las Clinicas del Norte Board Meeting** – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6 pm, El Rito clinic Community Room

**El Rito Library** – Tues, Wed, Thurs, 11 am – 6 pm, and Sat, 11 am – 3 pm.

**El Rito Library Board Mtgs.** – every 2<sup>st</sup> Wed, 6:30 pm at Library

**AA Meetings El Rito** – Tues, & Thurs, 7:30pm –8:30pm, at

Catholic Parish Hall, open discussion. Contact Ed S. 581-4559

**New-AA mtg.** – Sun, 5pm, El Rito Library

**El Rito Fire Dept. Mtgs.** – every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7 pm, at the El Rito Fire Station, open to the public

**Tutoring** –El Rito Save the Children Ctr, call for info. 581-4516

**Recycling El Rito** – every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm, behind Martins Store Gas Station

**Abiquiu**

**Recycling Abiquiu** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday every month, 9 am-2 pm, Abiquiu Las Clinicas clinic parking lot

**Abiquiu Fire Dept. Mtg.** – every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7 pm at Fire Dept.

**Al-Anon Meetings Abiquiu** – Monday, 5:30-6:30 pm, Abiquiu clinic, contact numbers, 581-4471 or 685-4503 ►

- ▶ **Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings Abiquiu** –  
Saturday, 12 Noon, Abiquiu Public Library
- Abiquiu Library** – Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 12:30 pm – 6 pm  
and Sunday, 9 am – 12 noon, located on the Plaza
- World Peace Meditation** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of August, 10-11am, at  
River Spirit Yoga Center. For location, call 685-4549  
Ojo Caliente
- Ojo Caliente Fire Dept. Mtg.** – every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 7 pm, Ojo  
Caliente Fire Dept.

**Northern New Mexico Community College – El Rito**

We are offering some fun, exciting classes in July!  
We have attracted world class instructors, such as  
**Jimmy Santiago Baca**, recognized world-wide for  
his poetry. Look for an open evening reading date  
with the poet and we will be providing some of his  
books in our bookstore. All these classes are three  
days or a week long. **CHECK THEM OUT!**

**July 2005**

- 4- Fourth July Fire Works Display at softball field, 9pm  
(Thank you ER Volunteer Fire Department)
- 5-9 Folk Guitar - C. Abeyta
- 5-9 Eight Northern Pueblos (35 kids learning  
leadership skills, alcohol, drug prevention)  
staying at North Dorm
- 11-14 Retablo Making-Ivan Romero
- 13-14 Georgia O'Keeffe Art & Leadership Group  
one night stay on campus at North Dorm
- 11-15 Creative Writing - Jimmy Santiago Baca
- 10-15 Spanish for Native Speakers - Alejandro Lopez
- 20-22 CAMP program student retreat - With Ray David  
Martinez & Rosalie Gallegos (for info. 581-2144)
- 18-22 Digital Photography - Pat Roberts, Melinda Hess
- 24-30 Spanish Immersion - Alejandro Lopez
- 25-29 Beginning Spanish Colonial Furniture Making –  
A. Forget
- 26-29 Traditional Santa Clara Pottery - D. Naranjo
- 25-29 Grant Writing Class - R. Marchese
- 25-29 Fiber Arts Vegetable Dye Class - Lezlie King
- 25-29 Micaceous Clay - Felipe Ortega from La Madera

**Important notes:**

- **Affordable and fun in El Rito - Pass the word!** Senior Rate is \$5.00/credit hour. Some of these classes cost lots of money at private homes of these artists. And for only \$29.00/credit hour learn from the best. For any questions about classes call Cecilia Romero at 581-4117, Dorothy Duran at 581-4115 or Donald Martinez at 581-4120.
- **Cyber café:** Don't forget to *stop on by* at our new cyber cafe, monitored by Jonathan Cartland. Look for posted hours and activities.

- **Web site:** Check our new web site out [www.nnmcc.edu](http://www.nnmcc.edu) helped designed by students Kurt Gardella and Nipral Adikary.

**NOTICE:** Be extra careful driving around El Rito while the new water system is being installed. Machinery and large trucks will be moving and some lanes will be blocked, especially downtown.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual*  
**Family Fun  
Day**

July 31, 2005  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Ghost Ranch Conference Center  
North of Abiquiu

**Multi-generational activities  
Picnic supper**

- We are planning multi-generational activities that will amuse and entertain young and old alike. Let's bring our communities together and focus on the importance of family, especially our youth.
- Come and bring your family for an afternoon of games, swimming, information booths, door prizes and entertainment.
- The event will end with a picnic supper of burgers and hotdogs.

This event is at no charge, however  
**please RSVP to 685.4333 x 191** if you plan on  
having dinner with us.

**Sponsored by: Rio Chama Valley Leadership  
Support Network**

# EL RITO LIBRARY

**581-4608**

Your Local Resource for Books-Videos-  
Computers-Books on Tape **Literacy for all ages**

**Our summer hours are: Tuesday 11-6,  
Wednesday 11-6, Thursday 11-6 and  
Saturday 11-3**

## NEW EMPLOYEES AT THE LIBRARY

Next time you come into the Library, you will be greeted by either **Toni Kuehn** or **Tracy McBride**. These are our two new part-time Librarians. Toni is married to Dave Correia and they have two lovely daughters, Willa and Harper. (Willa and Harper love to read books and come to the Library often.) Toni and Dave have lived in El Rito since last year and are originally from Iowa. Tracy McBride has lived in El Rito for about two and half years, and at Abiquiu for another two and half years and is originally from New York. Tracy is a Hairstylist; an Artist; a Volunteer; and an Avid Reader. Tracy is also a Board Member of the El Rito Library Board and was Board President last year. Tracy has always been a diehard Lover, Donor and Volunteer of the El Rito Library. Welcome Tracy and Toni.

## SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM

Our Summer Arts Program is in full swing! We encourage KIDS, ages 5-16, from the surrounding communities of Ojo Caliente, La Madera, Vallecitos, Medanales and Abiquiu to attend these **FREE** workshops. They are a lot of fun and will help keep you busy (and not bored) this summer. If you are interested in attending, please call Julie Wagner at 581-4780.

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Summer Reading Program is also at full swing at the Library. We have only five kids enrolled in the summer reading program this year, but many new books are being read. The new books were ordered specifically for this program by Charles Bayly from the GO Bond money. Happy Reading Kids! A party will be given at the end of the program.

## ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The pancake breakfast was a success again this year. Thank you to **Joe Ross Lopez** for organizing the "Classic Car Show" and a big thank you to all the people who brought their vintage cars. Thank you **Bodes Mercantile Store** in Abiquiu for your donation of ice and milk. Thank you **John Caster**. A HUGE thank you to **Sharon Burkard** for all her hard work during all four hours of the benefit breakfast. Thank you **Sam Jewell** for the loan of your grill. Thank you **Tracy McBride, Lynn Nequin, Veronica Ortiz, Mickey Simmons, and Joan Tollefson**.

Thank you to **Lynn Nequin** for buying our new transport cart for the Library and thank you to **John Snyder** for putting it together.

## SANTA FE OPERA

Thanks to the Santa Fe Opera, twenty kids and adults went to the Opera to see "*The Barber of Seville*" on June 28, 2005. Special thanks to **Andrea Fellows-Walters** with the Education and Outreach Program of the Santa Fe Opera. Andrea made arrangements to have free tickets for everyone, and free bus transportation to and from the Library to attend this wonderful event.

## BOOK DONATIONS

We accept donated books, art magazines and media. Many of the donated books go directly into the collection of the Library. Those items not currently needed by the library are sold to area bookstores for credit, sold at the library, or donated to other libraries and charitable book sales. All funds received from the sale of gift items goes directly to support the Library.

However, due to lack of space, we can no longer accept: textbooks (including children's); outdated encyclopedias, real estate, law or medical books; Readers Digest condensed books; Foreign language books (other than Spanish); and magazines on subjects other than art or architecture.

**HAVE A GREAT AND SAFE SUMMER!**

## ABIQUIU PUBLIC LIBRARY

685-4884

**PARTNERSHIPS** are immensely valuable to the Abiquiu Public Library. It is the only way that results can be clearly seen.

Recently, the other Georgia from the **Georgia O’Keeffe Foundation** and Pat Roach from the **Ghost Ranch Conference Center** invited our new history tour guides **Nichole Lopez, Sofia Garcia** and **Tiffany Fernandez** to visit their tours in order to see how they handle being a guide, which was very helpful in building foresight and easing the nerves about doing it the “right way”. These girls will learn a great deal that will take them forward in their lives. The above has been made possible from the **Los Alamos National Laboratory** funding community outreach projects.

Ghost Ranch also sends over volunteers to assist in our Library during the summer season. And **Las Clinicas Del Norte Director, Andy Lopez**, made a personal visit and became more informed of additional needs and left with some very promising ideas. The **Studio Tour** has also been supportive in Summer Art Programs by creating learning activities for youth.

**Chimayo Youth Corps** has **Ventura Trujillo, Julian Vaught** and **Delilah Trujillo** gathering youth groups to get involved. They will be having **game and movie nights for teenagers beginning on July 8th**. Look for the flyers! Finally, don’t forget to bring your children by on **July 5<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday) to begin carving and retablos with **Leo Garcia** or weaving with **Andrea Garcia**.

For your children’s entertainment in August there will be learning **Introductory Weaving** with Andrea Garcia in on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays approximately 10 AM to 2:00 PM; or **Carving** with Leo Garcia for ages 10 and up; or **Painting Relief Retablos** for all ages at the Parish Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Give a call to the Library and get on the limited list. This has been made possible by the **McCune Foundation** and the **Abiquiu Studio Tour**. We look forward to more relationships in the near future. Help us grow tomorrow’s youth in better with your talent and time shared.

Does anyone out there have any harness looms that are not in use or need mild restoration either to donate or sell to the above mentioned project? We are in need of at least two 30” or less. If so, please call 685-4884.

Also, Wednesdays are still not occupied and we extend the invitation for those of you who would like to share your talents with children once again just one day a week.

**Summer Reading Program 2005:** This year’s theme is “Talking Books”. We want to encourage teenagers to participate in reading four chapters or one-half hour in return for some pretty amazing prizes. We remind you that it is important to keep reading throughout your lifetime, whether just for fun or to grow in your knowledge. Bring your friends.

Our first Summer Reading project had Laura Renee Lofflin playing her harp and letting the kids feel the strings in order to “hear with their hearts” as she told them. Thank you, Laura. We would also like to thank Pam Smith and Irene for sharing their time reading and making crafts. Visit our display case showing summer project results. Each child participating fills out a reading log of books read, turns them in and receives better and better prizes each time. Some have read as many as 60 books! Challenge yourselves to see how many books or chapters you can read in just one summer. Better yet, challenge your friends and family!

**Special Announcement: Loretta Torres** passed the Librarian’s official test and is now **State Certified**.

We have gotten word from Victory Noll granting tuition support for computer classes at our Library through NNMCC community outreach. A big thanks once again to **Dorothy Duran at NNMCC** for her cooperation with our Library classes. Word and Excel are now beginning again – get your spot!

### **HOURS:**

Monday through Thursday – 12:30 to 6:00 pm  
Sunday – 9:00 am to 12 noon