



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2011

Tuba City Wellness Center scheduled to reopen

Corrections to wellness center made, passes insurance inspections

TUBA CITY, Ariz. — Navajo Nation Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (To’Nanees’Dizi) is pleased to report a target date of July 22 has been set to reopen the Tuba City Wellness Center since a May 13 shutdown because of insurance reasons.

“The center shut down for about two months because of insurance issues and concerns,” said Ray Baldwin Louis, public information officer with the Navajo Nation Division of Health. “Corrections have been made to the building, and we foresee the center opening soon.”

The wellness center encourages good health by offering patrons workout areas in cardiovascular exercise, aerobic exercise, weightlifting, treadmills and spinning stationary bikes, Louis said.

“This is an important resource for the Tuba City community in the area of diabetes prevention,” Louis said. “We often see patients referred to the wellness center from Tuba City Hospital who have diabetes and work on managing it with physical activity.”

Before the wellness center closed, Louis explained about 300 people visited the facility each day.

“The wellness center is a life-saving facility and a program that definitely provides a valuable resource for diabetes prevention in our community,” Butler said. “Since I heard of the closure, I’ve been pressuring the Navajo Division of Health to do all they can to reopen the center. One concern I brought forward was the risk of federal dollars from the Special Diabetes Program not being expended for its intended purpose.”

“I commend those who worked quickly to reopen the center and I urged the program to do all they can within their authority to make sure all deficiencies are addressed appropriately and requested all measures be taken to prevent such a situation from occurring in the future before closure becomes the last resort,” Butler said. “This is certainly welcoming news for my community and they do miss their wellness center.”

Final inspections at the Tuba City Wellness Center are happening now.

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Ray Baldwin Louis, public information officer for the Navajo Division of Health, can be reached at 928-871-6350.