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PRECHECK INC. ANNOUNCES EXPANSION TO ALAMOGORDO

At the conclusion of a whirlwind series of events, Governor Richardson, Cabinet Secretary Rick Homans (NMEDD), Jim Colson, President of New Mexico Partnership, New Mexico Partnership's Clark Krause, Alamogordo Mayor Don Carroll, and OCEDC members joined in a celebration to announce the decision of PreCheck, Inc. to place the expansion of their Houston, TX, operation here in Alamogordo. Present at the 13 February 2006 press conference representing PreCheck, Inc., were Glenn Woolsey, Vice President of PreCheck, Inc., and Mike Piana, VP for Marketing and Sales at PreCheck.



Governor Richardson was on hand to make the announcement and officially welcome PreCheck, Inc. into the New Mexico business community. The Governor also explained the states pledge of \$1.5million in capital outlay request for roads and infrastructure, in addition to the other financial incentives the company stands to receive due to the high-wage tax credits and in job training funds.

It is anticipated that PreCheck will hire more than 200 employees over the next five years to staff its data processing facilities in Alamogordo. The new facility will be constructed in the northwest portion of Alamogordo in an area newly opened for development. The Heritage Group has donated 20.8 acres valued at \$1.5million for the development within its planned community of Mesa Village.

The most significant challenge is the rapid timeline required by the company for completion of construction of the 20,000 square-foot facility, as they would like to be fully operational before the fall of 2006. However, there has been an unprecedented level of cooperation between the city staff, community business leaders and private sector to facilitate the on time completion.



The City Commissioners of Alamogordo are in the process of approving a job creation incentive of \$675,000 in addition to the incentive package offered by the state. The commitment by PreCheck to offer higher-wage salaries across the board will guide the local economy in a positive direction, according to Ed Carr, the Executive Director of Otero County Economic Development Council. The search for local talent to fill those positions has already begun and, as anticipated, the response has been great as new people are attracted back into the workforce by interesting work with attractive salaries.

PreCheck specializes in performing background and credentialing checks for health care facilities, and enjoys a nationwide clientele.

FORT BLISS EXPANSION IMPACT: ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS & SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

OCEDC traveled to El Paso to meet with Corps of Engineers and Small Business Administration personnel of the El Paso and Albuquerque offices as well as representatives from the delegation to discuss the eligibility of New Mexico contractors for construction on Ft Bliss.

In the past New Mexico contractors particularly SBA-8A contractors have been excluded from contracting for Ft. Bliss construction projects. Due to the large number of SBA-8A contractors in the El Paso area, historically the El Paso SBA office has limited the eligibility for Ft. Bliss contract bidders to the El Paso region.

Rebecca Rizzuti, Field Representative for Senator Jeff Bingaman, set up a meeting with the Corps of Engineers and SBA preceding a contractors meeting in El Paso on the 17th of January 2006. Ms. Rizzuti also invited Susie Cordero, representing Senator Pete Domenici's office, and Donna McClanahan, Field Representative for Congressman Steve Pearce. At the meeting the Corps of Engineers agreed to open up all of the upcoming Ft. Bliss expansion construction contracts (approximately \$2-3 Billion) to multiple Corps of Engineer districts. This opens the door for New Mexico contractors to bid on all of the construction contracts that are coming to Ft. Bliss as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision to relocate the 1st Armored Division from Germany to El Paso. This is a huge development for New Mexico contractors and a significant win for OCEDC.

CONTINUED GROWTH - A POPULATION ESTIMATE

January 2006 saw a considerable increase in commercial construction compared to Jan. 2005 due largely to the permitting of 18 apartment units near the center of the City. The average value of each permitted home increased from \$186,700 in January 2005 to \$252,398 in Jan 2006.

Using a utility formula to calculate a population estimate, there has been a steady 6% growth in population over the last 5 years within the city of Alamogordo. Estimates by calculation show a population of 36,971 in January 2002, rising to 39, 281 in January 2006. Allegations of growth at this rate are supported by the increasing in housing constructions previously reported.

OCEDC MEETS WITH LEGISLATORS AND UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

On 7 February, 2006, Senator Dianna Duran from District 40, and other Otero County state representatives, members of the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce' Transportation Committee, OCEDC, and private business owners, met with officials from Union Pacific Rail Road to discuss cessation of rail service to Otero County. Early fall of 2005, OCEDC was made aware that Union Pacific had determined to cease rail service by January 2006 to customers in Alamogordo. Local customers included Mescalero Forest Products and McFarland Cascade. At that time OCEDC requested support from Senator Bingaman and Governor Richardson, who sent a joint letter to the CEO of Union Pacific, Richard Davidson, requesting that Union Pacific reconsider service to Alamogordo. In a letter dated 28 November 2005, Mr. Davidson replied that due to the limited traffic requirements in Alamogordo, it was not economically viable to maintain service, but that Union Pacific would consider future service should demand increase.

In a follow-on effort to restore service, Otero County state legislators, Timothy Jennings, Vernon Asbill, Diana Duran, Gloria Vaughn, Dr. Terry Marquardt, Joe Stell, Dub Williams, Dan Foley, and Avon Wilson, requested in a joint letter that UP officials meet with them to discuss this matter. The meeting of 7 February to discuss ways to restore service was the result of that request. The meeting began with an outline of potential increase in rail-service needs in the county including the requirements of SunBaked Biscuits as they begin operations in mid 2006. James Cato from Cato Construction, and Howard Fager of Longhorn Manufacturing, also attended and discussed their projected level of rail services needed for their abrasives manufacture considering they propose locating in Otero County. The purpose for introducing Union Pacific representatives to these new companies was to show the potential future demand in Alamogordo and Otero County. A frank and open discussion ensued with all the parties participating with a result that UP will begin a direct dialogue with the new clients as well as the old clients, to determine if the aggregated demand will justify future service in Alamo. Union Pacific representatives in attendance were Brian Maher, Asst. VP Industrial Products Marketing & Sales, and Christopher Peterson, Dir of Government Affairs-Corporate Relations.

SECOND ANNUAL WHITE SANDS FILM FESTIVAL - 23-26 FEBRUARY 2006

Exciting entertainment and outstanding opportunities" was the way one visitor summed up the events surrounding the 2nd Annual White Sands Film Festival in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Four days packed with events offered training to budding and experienced film artist alike with sessions from notables with experience as screenwriters, casting directors, liaisons and even directors. The public enjoyed a number of new and classic films which ranged from animated shorts to feature length dramas and included imaginative comedies as well. All this, and "Family Friendly" too! The festival began on Thursday afternoon with screenings from the Notting Hill Film Festival in England, and the NM premiere of Tom Hank's "Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon."



This VERY special event began with an introduction by Apollo 7 Astronaut Walter Cunningham to a packed-to-overflowing house at the Tombaugh IMAX Theater. Additional special events included a Friday night pool party at the Alamogordo Family Recreation Center where more than 175 swimmers showed up to watch the film "Racing Stripes." A new event premiered this year as "A Taste of Otero County" which featured the culinary arts of students and professionals alike. Classic film was also prominent as proven by the fact that the 1925 version of "Phantom of the Opera" was a hit on Saturday. Attendees at the Saturday night feature film "Children on Their Birthdays" not only had the opportunity to hear details on the film's creation from the director, New Mexico's own Mark Medoff, but he also graciously entertained questions from the audience following the screening of his movie. Joan Griggs, Festival Organizer, offered her thanks to all participants with a special mention to the volunteers.

FESTIVAL WINNERS

Pyramid Best of Festival 2006
"The Fines" -
 Dir- Shandor Garrison
 Award: \$1000.00

Alamogordo Women's History Committee Award for Best Film by Woman Director or Producer -
"Eyes of a Child"
 Dir—Delphine Suter
 Award: \$1000.00

Mesa Verde Honorable Mention-
"Gulf War Syndrome: Aftermath of a Toxic War"
 Dir-Richard Startzman
 Award: \$100.00

Alamogordo Women's History Committee Honorable Mention for Creativity
"Avez-vous du feu?"
 Producer/Director/Animator-
 Tamarind King

The presentations took place at an Awards Breakfast served at The Lodge Pavilion in Cloudcroft. It was attended by awardees as well as festival participants, lecturers and film dignitaries.

In addition to the cash awards, each of the winning films will be screened in London at the upcoming Notting Hill Film Festival.

A total of 20 competitive films were received in addition to 8 submitted for public screening by the Notting Hill Film Festival.

"WHO'S WHO" AT THE WHITE SANDS FILM FESTIVAL

One of the most exciting opportunities at any film festival is to hear from those who are actively involved and know their business! Notables in this category who spoke after their films screened were:

Nir Bashan—Producer/Director "The Kitchen." Winner of WSFF 2005 Best of Festival award, Nir is a graduate of USC, directs commercials, shorts and features films.

D. William Gibbons—Exec Producer/Creator "14 Days in America." We dare to call him "our own" as David Gibbons is one of the co-founders of the WSFF, and a great friend of Otero County, with multiple productions to his credit.

Mark Medoff—Director "Children on Their Birthdays." Winner of countless awards, including a Tony Award for "Children of a Lesser God," this renowned playwright, screenwriter, author, and director of stage, film and opera resides in Las Cruces where he serves as artistic director for the new Creative Media Institute for Film and Digital Arts at NMSU.

While much of the festival was sheer entertainment, a great deal of valuable information was imparted to eager students of film. Celebrity Seminars included:

Donn Finn—Casting partner of Mali Finn Casting. Donn taught professional preparation for the MFA cinema acting program at CSU-Fullerton. Recent casting credits include "Titanic," "L.A. Confidential," "The Green Mile," and many, many others.

Jim "Grubb" Graebner—Now director of Film Technician Training program at TVI, Grubb served as Executive Director of Duke City Shootout, Flicks on 66, and DigiFest Southwest Film Competitions.

Ann Lerner—Ann is Film Liaison for the City of Albuquerque and assisted coordinating the production of numerous television commercials and documentaries over the past few years.

Sam Smiley—Currently a script consultant in LA and Europe, Sam served as a professor at several major universities over the past 30 years. He has recently published a book on dramatic writing published by Yale University Press titled "Playwriting: The Structure of Action."

We are excited and privileged to have tremendous support from such wonderful people! Thanks to each of you.

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE ANNOUNCES ASSIGNMENT OF F-22A TO HOLLOWMAN

In an announcement dated March 1, 2006, the Pentagon expressed its intent to base two F-22A Raptor squadrons at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, a mission that would replace the F-117 stealth fighters currently at the base. While the plan is still subject to an environmental impact assessment, some Raptors could start arriving from the production line at Holloman in late 2008. The Pentagon has expressed its desire to retire the F-117 stealth fighters currently based at Holloman during FY2008. The F-22A program calls for a total of 183 aircraft with production slated through 2012. Currently the F-22A is based at Langley AFB, Virginia. Elmendorf AFB, Alaska was announced previously as the preferred location for the second operational bed-down, with the preferred third and fourth bed-down locations for the F-22A at Holloman Air Force Base and Hickam Air Force Base respectively, according to Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force General T. Michael Moseley. He also stated: "The proposed plan is for these units to have active and National Guard personnel at both locations. As the Air Force moves forward with this next generation fighter, combining our forces to leverage our assets with our active duty and guard forces gives us the best possible team to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America as we continue to fight the global war on terrorism." The aircraft has stealth and supersonic capabilities and is equipped with the latest avionics and weapons systems. It is suited for both air to air and air to ground combat missions. Each squadron is likely to consist of 18 F-22's. Senator Jeff Bingaman noted that the Raptor has emerged as the Air Force's premier fighter, and that HAFB is well suited for this important new mission. Senator Domenici commented that the future of the base is indeed bright.



COMMITTEE OF FIFTY VISIT WITH DIGNITARIES IN WASHINGTON D.C.

OCEDC President David Gottula and Executive Director Ed Carr, serving in their dual roles as Committee of Fifty members, joined in the Committee's annual Washington, DC, the first week of March — a trip that proved to be perfectly timed. Committee members met with the General John Corley, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force and were on hand for the official announcement of the F-22A "Raptor" (see above) coming to Holloman AFB as one of the replacement missions for the retiring F-117's.

Other meetings of note included those with General Ron Keys, Commander of Air Combat Command discussing additional possible future missions for Holloman; General Stephen Mundt, Director of US Army Aviation Task Force, Colonel Burke (Program Manager) and Col Pickering discussing the Warrior Program; Chief of Staff Colonel, Commander of German Armed Forces Command-US & Canada, with GAF, and German Embassy Air Attaché Colonel Pradel, on the continued presence of the GAF at Holloman and Fort Bliss; as well as with Senators Domenici, Bingaman, Lott, and



Representative Pearce and their staffers and military legislative aides. The F-22A bed-down at Holloman will coincide with the phasing out of the F-117's, and the Air Force anticipates an integration of the Air National Guard with the F-22s. Local jobs will be generated due to the Ft. Bliss expansion and the associated Corps of Engineer Projects. It appears that the combination of the Army's 1st Armored Division, Future Combat Systems, Evaluation Brigade Combat Team and now the F-22, will focus DoD attention on Holloman and the region generally.

Pictured in front of General Corley's office are delegation members (left to right) David Gottula, Andrew Riggs, Bill Burt, Toots Green, Charlie Ferrell (C-50 Chair) and Ed Carr.