

In The News- Roswell Daily Record  
**Tobosa celebrates 31 years in Roswell with Wild West Hoedown**

**Sunday, October 25, 2009**

A local nonprofit that provides services for people with developmental disabilities celebrated its 31st anniversary with a Wild West Hoedown banquet and award ceremony on Saturday.

Tobosa Developmental Services provides aid for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The nonprofit brings \$7 million annually into the city's economy and provides 180 jobs for people with disabilities.

"We're really proud of the progress our clients have made over the years," said Joe Madrid, executive director of Tobosa. "They're enjoying a normal life, and I feel like we've come a long way."

Madrid said when he was first named executive director many people with developmental disabilities were living in institutions and were not accepted by the community. Currently, the group's clients are making great strides and have become part of the community.

"When I came here in 1979, the community was scared of our clients," he said. "Now, they're everywhere in the community."

The annual banquet is an outlet for the nonprofit to recognize its staff members and community partners for all of their work and support, in addition to the organization's clients.

Eastern New Mexico Medical Center and **Imagine That Scrapbooking and Gifts** were given the Board of Directors Helping Hand Award and **Community Supporter of the Year Award**, respectively.

"We're really excited about the work Tobosa is doing, this community would not be the same without them," said Brad McGrath, CEO of ENMMC. "I think it's important businesses in the community to partner with these agencies."

The hospital donated \$5,000 to Tobosa earlier in the year, he said.

**"They want to be a part of the community and they're welcomed at Imagine That Scrapbooking and Gifts," said Dene Van Winkle, store owner. "They're people with emotions and feelings and ... I think we learn from them just as they learn from us."**

Deana Smith was named Employee of the Year and Pat Winchester received the Individual Achievement Award.

Rosy Rubio, Lorenzo Valencia and Joe Madrid celebrated their 30 years of service to Tobosa. Employees celebrating 5 through 15 years of service were also recognized.