

FREE

April 2016.
Volume 4, Issue 10.

Donna Hernandez-Mathieus
Librarian/Editor

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Rio Abajo Community Library
28 S. Calle de Centro
La Joya, NM 87028

(505) 861-8289

Website: www.RACLibrary.info
Email: RACLibrary@hotmail.com
Facebook:
www.Facebook/RACLibrary

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered in New Mexico – owned and operated by volunteers and with donations

April Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
11:00 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Fridays 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

DONATE TO OUR BUILDING FUND!
www.GoFundMe.com/RACLibrary



RAC Library Leaves



Fire Sweeps Along Rio Grande



On the morning of Palm Sunday (March 20th) a small burn to clear brush became a flaming conflagration. Crews were called out to La Joya around 11 a.m. Sunday after residents spotted the first signs of trouble. By the time firefighters got on scene, the fire had grown to about 50 acres.

State Forestry officials said they were preparing for something like this, because of all the dry weather lately. Not only were our volunteer firefighters from Veguita and Abeytas on duty, but we also had other fire departments from Jarales and others, State and Federal Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife, and the Bureau of Land Management.



Throughout the day Sunday, firefighters had two missions.

Some crews started laying fire lines with bulldozers, clearing the weeds and brush to help slow the flames. Elsewhere, volunteer firefighters stood by, waiting to guard structures from the flames if necessary.

A large firefighter presence was maintained in La Joya, at the Our Lady of Sorrows Church. At one point, flames got within about 300 yards of the church, while anxious neighbors looked on. An air tanker was brought in to drop fire retardant, but other than that, crews mostly just let the fire burn while homes were closely watched and protected.



On Sunday night, officials said no buildings were in danger but crews remained on scene overnight just in case.

On Monday, officials said the fire had grown to about 300 acres after jumping the river Sunday evening. Fortunately, no one was injured and no structures were damaged.

Fire officials reassembled and brought in more crews to help dig additional fire lines on Monday. They said it could have been a lot worse if the winds hadn't been so slow.

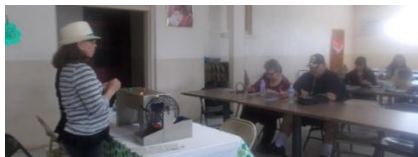
Kelly Voris, Abeytas Volunteer Fire Chief, pointed out that about 80% of all firefighters in the country are volunteers. The excellent response from all the trained volunteers, plus all the back-up resources and personnel meant that no one and no property were harmed. Chief Voris sends his salute for all the help.

Thomas Ortega of the Veguita Volunteer Fire Department is urging all farmers that are burning to clear underbrush to please insure that once the burn is complete, to take the time to double-check the area. If there are any hot spots left, soak it with water until no smoldering embers remain. The best bet is to make sure the entire area is cool – not warm or hot, before leaving it to do other chores. ✂

RAC Library News

Annual St Paddy's Bingo

Our annual fundraiser took place on March 20th (Palm Sunday). Although it was technically past St. Patrick's Day, the spirit of the leprechaun prevailed!



Sporting a jaunty Irish hat, Irene Saiz volunteered to oversee the number calling (pictured above).



As the prizes were won and door prizes distributed, the Irish spirit became more evident with cheerful St. Paddy's accessories.

The annual event is the RAC Library Board's big push for the year's funds, and some amazing gifts and support came in from shops, companies and private supporters. Some included:



- ★ Auge's Jeep ★
- ★ Walmart-Belen ★
- ★ Phillips 66 / A&W – Belen ★
- ★ VEGUITA TRADING POST ★
- ★ Pete's Restaurant ★
- ★ Rutilio's Restaurant ★

A great big THANK YOU is extended to all our supporters – those that donated cash, goods and help, and those that came for the fun. This support always encourages us to keep the Library doors open and to work at growing.

☆☆☆☆

SERVICES RAC LIBRARY OFFERS:

- Books, Magazines, Movies & Audio Books to borrow
- Copy services
- Faxing (local area only)
- Help with homework/research
- Job Search assistance



**Check out the
NM Family Pass
and get free admission
to museums & historic
sites across the state!**

The Family Pass opens the doors to the 15 exceptional museums and historic sites listed below. From Native American treasures to space exploration, world-class folk art to super dinosaurs, ancient sites to the state-of-the-art New Mexico History Museum – our museums and historic sites celebrate the essence of New Mexico!

**The Family Pass is available
FREE to RAC Library
Patrons!**

Sponsored by:



- Free Family Pass to 15 NM museums and historic sites
- Open computers with internet
- Notary Public services
- Snacks & Beverages ✂



Identifying a Livestock Guardian

By Jan Dohner

Livestock guard dogs or LGDs are a group of similar dog breeds just like herding dogs or hunting dogs belong in their own groups. Being a LGD is not a job you can train any other breed to perform. Developed over centuries by

WANT TO HELP RACL RAISE FUNDS?

Sign up for Wi-Power's internet service and give the Library as the referral. They offer unlimited internet access at the same price as local competitors.

They will donate \$25 to RAC Library for every referral

Contact Bryan toll-free at 844-547-7800 or at
bhuffstickler@twncorp.com

working shepherds, livestock guard dog breeds possess a specific set of qualities and behaviors that make them excel at this very special work.

These are the only breeds of livestock guardians readily available in North America. Other breeds are used in different countries and may occasionally be found here as well. Nothing else is truly a livestock guard dog.

- Akbash Dog
- Anatolian Shepherd Dog
- Caucasian Mountain Dog
- Central Asian Shepherd
- Estrela Mountain Dog
- Gampr
- Great Pyrenees
- Kangal Dog
- Karakachan or Bulgarian Shepherd Dog
- Komondor
- Kuvasz
- Maremma Sheepdog
- Polish Tatra Sheepdog
- Pyrenean Mastiff
- Sarplaninac
- Slovak Cuvac
- Spanish Mastiff
- Tibetan Mastiff
- Tornjak

What Makes a Livestock Guardian?

This is what is crucially important to remember – the livestock guard dog breeds have been selected for

a very low or non-existent prey drive, a longer period of social bonding than many other breeds, and a physical appearance that suggests “friend.” They have also been selected for the essential traits of attentiveness, trustworthiness, and protection of their stock.

LGDs are exceptionally nurturing and tolerant of their charges. LGDs also possess instinctual responses to first warn off threats rather than immediately attack. Successful owners take these natural LGD behaviors and carefully monitor and encourage them as their pup grows. These inborn traits can be so strong that some adult LGDs, who were never socialized with stock as puppies, still make outstanding guardians – because of the strong and correct instinctual behaviors they possess.



Due to their size and appearance, members of the public sometimes confuse LGDs with protection breed dogs. However, many LGD breeds have been tested by police, military and *schutzhund* trainers, but are unsuitable because of their important “lack of strong predatory behaviors.” This is also

why protection breeds do not make good LGDs – they have a strong predatory instinct.

The inherited LGD traits are the reason why you can't take a non-LGD breed and easily train and trust it to behave properly as a livestock guard. The prey or chase drives in many breeds are just too high to make them reliable guardians and they lack the nurturing instincts a LGD exhibits towards its charges.



Other breeds lack the protective coat to work outside in difficult weather, or do not possess the size, agility, or sense of responsibility to take on serious predators. These are also the reasons why crosses with a LGD and a non-LGD breed are just not reliable as working livestock guardians; the pups can possess the traits of the non-LGD parent. Many breeds make great all round farm dogs, but they should not be trusted or expected to live reliably with stock 24 hours a day.

NOTE: This article first appeared in the August 2014 issue of Mother Earth News. With permission, an excerpt of the original article is presented here. For more information, see www.MotherEarthNews.com

This Month's Events

April 6, 2016 -- Wednesday
6:00 pm at RAC Library
LA JOYA ACEQUIA MEETING

Plans for the upcoming growing season will be made.

April 8, 2016 -- Friday
9:30 am at RAC Library
RIO ABAJO COMMUNITY LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING

Plans are in the works for exciting events in 2016. Everyone welcome to attend!

April 10-16, 2016
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Stop in and show some support for our own community library – which, without municipal funding, has operated over 16 years with love of our community!

April 11, 2016 -- Monday
6:30 pm at RAC Library
LAJOYA LADIES' CRAFTING CIRCLE

Work on projects, learn crafts, and visit. For info call 864-0666

April 12, 2016 -- Tuesday
10:00 am at Socorro County
Offices, Socorro
RAC LIBRARY'S PRESENTATION TO
COMMISSION

Every year we ask Socorro County Commissioners for financial support to cover operational costs. Everyone is encouraged to come and show the Commission that the Library matters!

April 13, 2016 -- Wednesday
9:30 am, Sr Center, Las Nutrias
RAC MOBILE LIBRARY

April 16, 2016 -- Saturday
1:00 pm at Macey Center, NMT
Campus, Socorro
SEC ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL
MEETING

Our district is the only one with two contestants plus so very important by-laws changes need your input!

This Month's Events

April 18, 2016 -- Monday
11:00 am at Las Nutrias Parish
Hall (Hwy 304)
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL/ROAD
RUNNER FOOD BANK

Free food is distributed for low-income households. To enroll, come in one hour early.

April 20, 2016 -- Wednesday
LA JOYA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ASSOC. MTG.

April 23, 2016 -- Saturday
FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER

April 27, 2016 -- Wednesday
9:30 am, Sr Center, Las Nutrias
RAC MOBILE LIBRARY

April 26, 2016 -- Tuesday
12-4:00 pm at Isidro Baca
Veterans Park, Socorro
SOCORRO COUNTY CELEBRATION OF
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT
MONTH

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MAY
ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5:00 P.M., APRIL 26,
2016

Northern Socorro Senior Center



By Pat White-Johnson, Site Manager

The 2nd Annual Senior Egg Hunt took place on March 24th – and it was FUN.



The anticipation mounted as everyone waited patiently for the fun to begin.

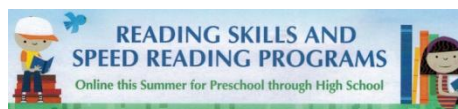
As the start was announced, the back door was flung open and the masses of humanity poured out.

The search encompassed most of the Senior Center's grounds – and the search was literally high (on tree branches) and low (amongst ground plants).

When everything was tallied and names picked, Alicia Bustillos won 1st place (pictured on the right) and Cecilia Romero won 2nd place (pictured on the left).



For all the festivity's pictures, see our FaceBook page – www.FaceBook/RACLibrary. ❧



UNM Summer Reading Program

This summer the UNM's Division of Continuing Education will be offering online instruction and independent reading in great books. The programs are for 4-year-olds and those entering Kindergarten through 12th grade.

The online classes, with a skilled and encouraging teacher, will include phonics, reading comprehension, fluency, textbook study skills, speed reading and helping to develop a love of reading.

The programs are taught by instructors from the Institute of Reading Development. Tuition varies by program level with family discounts available.

For more information or to register call 1-800-964-9974 on Monday through Friday (6am-7pm) and Saturday (7am-2pm). ✂



Elections & By-Laws Changes

On Saturday (April 16th), Socorro Electric will hold its annual membership meeting at the Macey Center in NMT Campus. Not only are elections to take place (the only contested position is in our district), but some important by-laws changes are being considered that will have long-term affects for everyone in the SEC areas.

In districts where only one person is running for a position, it is called "uncontested." The change in proposes to dispense with ballots for those positions that are uncontested and to allow uncontested candidates to acquire the position by acclamation.

Another by-laws revision specifically addresses the timeline required for SEC to announce an open position for its Board as well as the precise steps for a candidate to apply for the Board position.

Last and most important is a change regarding unclaimed funds. In short, this revision states that

money that is unclaimed by SEC patrons (i.e., refundable deposits or capital credits refunds with no forwarding address) will be deposited into the SEC's charitable foundation. At the present a lot of these funds are being turned over to the State. This change will allow SEC to use all of this money for scholarships and other charitable uses.

Registration and voting will run from 1-3 p.m. and the Annual Meeting will begin at 3 p.m. As an incentive to come out, vote and stay for the meeting, a \$25 energy credit will be given to all eligible SEC voters! ✂

Rio Abajo Community Celebrations

April 3

Krishna Montoya's birthday

April 5

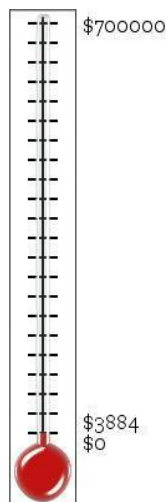
Rose Carbajal's birthday
Lydia Chacon's birthday
Kalina Chavez's birthday

April 6

Richard McCown's birthday

April 7

April Esquibel's birthday



RAC LIBRARY BUILDING FUND STATUS

Total amount needed: \$700,000 total

STEP ONE:

Site development = \$70,000 (preparing site, septic, well, electrical hook-up)

Kick-off funds provided by:

Socorro Electric Cooperative Foundation (\$1,000)
La Joya Community Development Association (\$1,000)

Help our Library get its own building!

Donations accepted at:

RAC Library and on-line at www.GoFundMe.com/RACLibrary

Rio Abajo Community Celebrations

April 8

Daisy Vallez's birthday
Dylan Wheeler's birthday

April 9

Gordon C. Lawrence's
birthday

April 17

Ignacio Gonzales's birthday

April 24

Margaret Abeyta's birthday
Luciano Lopez's birthday
Allston Patton's birthday

April 26

Sarah Martinez's birthday

April 27

Allston Patten's birthday

April 30

Nicolette Sanchez's birthday

April 31

Vince Esquibel's birthday

*IS A BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY OR
CELEBRATION COMING UP? LET US KNOW
AND WE'LL PASS THE WORD!*

Notes on NM Budget for Socorro County

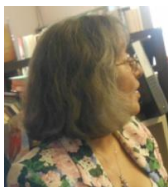
The State's budget has taken some hits and it appears they have less to work with this year. Nonetheless, it looks like Socorro County is still getting a slice of the State Money Pie.

In total, Socorro County is slated to receive \$7.7 Million in the 2016 GO Bond (General Obligation Bond) funding if approved by the voters in November. Of this amount, \$5.7 Million is to go to City of Socorro facilities, with the remaining \$2 Million to the remainder of the county.

Included is the Veguita Senior Center, which is to receive \$16,800 for meals equipment (most kitchen equipment is either not working or not working well) and \$6,800 for renovations (remember the collapsing porch, falling trim, etc.).

At this point, it does not appear that additional funds will be available to the Rio Abajo community, which includes the volunteer fire departments, community centers, the RAC Library, etc.

In either case, this money will only be released if the voters approve of the GO bonds in this November's election. This means that our Senior Center will not be able to access the promised \$16,800 until after the November election, and if approved by voters, will have to wait for the State to release the funds. ✂



Natural Health Tips

Blood Letting & Losing

By Donna Hernandez, ND, MH

In most major cities, a sneaky little venture takes place in hospitals that, while not necessarily deadly, can prove dangerous. In short, vials of blood from drug-free, alcohol-free people are collected and sold to those wanting to pass drug tests without having to give up their drugs or alcohol.

It has become clear that this problem is now an active black market in the Albuquerque metro area. So how does it work?



While in a hospital (particularly emergency rooms), a routine question is: "do you indulge in recreational drugs? Alcohol? Marijuana?" Regardless of your answer, blood is drawn for testing. This is where it gets interesting.

If you are not taking any chemical or alcohol substance, your blood vial is tagged – but not with your information. Shortly thereafter you are advised that your blood sample "was lost," so you need to do it again.

If you are fortunate, you will only need a second prick. Sometimes the enterprising thieves "lose" more than one vial, which means you may end up giving blood samples as many as 4-5 times.

Technically, a label with your information is supposed to be glued to each tube of blood. If you don't see this being done immediately after your blood is drawn, this is a red flag.

SOLUTION: Before a vial of your blood is carried away, insist that the label with your information be placed on the vial immediately while you

SHOPPING ON- LINE?

Sign up for Amazon Smile

(www.Smile.Amazon.com)

Make purchases as you normally would and Amazon donates a percentage of their profits to the non-profit of your choice – and of course – you want to pick
Rio Abajo Community

watch – don't let them walk away. If they "forget" to bring the labels with them, have them leave the vial and retrieve the labels. Then, watch while they put the label on and inspect the label to be sure it's yours.

In most cases taking some extra vials of blood will not cause harm; however, having drug/alcohol addicts purchase and use your blood in order to pass drug tests can be dangerous. Imagine having an addict driving a school bus, or a pot-head being responsible for coordinating a 911 call.

Hopefully this relatively new black market can be controlled (and possibly eliminated) in New Mexico. Meanwhile, we can engage the adage: Forewarned is forearmed.

NOTE: *Donna, who lives in La Joya, is a Naturopathic Doctor, a published author, and writes regular articles for publications on the internet.*✂



Joke of the Month

I love kids – especially when they tell you what they're thinking!

DRESS-UP. A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad putting on his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit."

"And why not, darling?"

"You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning."

SCHOOL. A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I

can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

OPINIONS. On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. It read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

CHILDPROOF. Brittany (age 4) had an earache and wanted a painkiller. Brittany tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a childproof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: "How does it know it's me?"

WHISPERS. Marc (age 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: "Why is he whispering in her mouth?"

ELDERLY. While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"✂

Word of the Month



Portent: (Noun) An indication or omen of something about to happen, especially something

momentous.

EXAMPLE: The spring's schnook winds are a *portent* of warm weather and summer coming. ✂

Future Events

**May 4, 2016 – Wednesday
6:00 pm at RAC Library
LA JOYA ACEQUIA MEETING**

Plans for the upcoming growing season will be made and schedules announced.

**May 7, 2016 -- Saturday
2:00 pm at Thimble Theater, 33
Calle de Centro S, La Joya
FREE SPRING CONCERT**

The Special Orchestra will be performing their first (free!) public concert at their new band shell, the Thimble Theater. Everyone is welcome to enjoy an afternoon of wonderful music.

**May 9, 2016 – Monday
6:30 pm at RAC Library
LAJOYA LADIES' CRAFTING
CIRCLE**

Work on projects, learn crafts, and visit. For info call 864-0666

Rio Abajo Community Library Board

President	Carolyn Ueberroth, Contreras
Vice Pres	Minnie Presley, Veguita
Secretary	
Treasurer	Dolores Phillips, Sabinal
Directors	Loretta Carrillo, Abeyta A. Miguel Trujillo, Architect, Las Nutrias

Federal non-profit # 83-0398943✂

Future Events

May 13, 2016 – Friday
9:30 am at RAC Library

ANNUAL RIO ABAJO COMMUNITY LIBRARY MEETING

Everyone enrolled as a patron is urged to attend to elect appropriate representatives and to direct the next year's activities

May 11, 2016 – Wednesday
9:30 am, Sr Center, Las

Nutrias
RAC MOBILE LIBRARY

May 16, 2016 – Monday
11:00 am at Las Nutrias Parish
Hall (Hwy 304)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL/ROAD
RUNNER FOOD BANK

Free food is distributed for low-income households. To enroll, come in one hour early.

May 25, 2016 – Wednesday
9:30 am at Senior Center, Las

Nutrias
RAC MOBILE LIBRARY

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MAY
ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5:00 P.M., APRIL
26, 2016

Free Audio Magazines



Choice Magazine Listening is a free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. CML records the best articles, stories and poems from over 100 magazines. Some of the magazines include:

- National Geographic
- Sports Illustrated
- Scientific American
- The New Yorker
- Smithsonian
- Rolling Stone
- Natural History

- Time
- Horticulture
- Discover

And many more.

Any adult who has difficulty reading or holding a magazine is eligible.

CML is a nonprofit organization supported by tax-deductible donations and grants.

If you want more information, stop by the RAC Library to pick up a brochure or call toll free at 1-888-724-6423. ✂

Socorro County Commission News

*By Delilah Walsh,
Socorro County
Manager*



On April 12th (10 am) the RAC Library will make its plea for support from Socorro County. The presentation will be made directly to the Commission and everyone is invited to attend in a show of support.

April is National County Government Month. Socorro will be celebrating by hosting an event on Tuesday, April 26th at Isidro Baca Veterans Park (12-4 pm). There will be beef hot dogs, refreshments and give-aways.

All County Offices will have staff present to answer questions or provide information. Visitors will have a chance to get a close-up look at some of the tools and equipment used to keep Socorro County safe and secure.

Lastly, the South-central Council of Governments has agreed to

serve as the fiscal agent for the CDBG funds for the Veguita Health Center. We submitted all the agreements and are anxiously awaiting final grant agreements from DFA's Local Government Division. ✂

Classified Ads

LOOKING FOR MATURE WOMAN INTERESTED IN PART-TIME WORK (some weekends), licensed to drive, willing to do light house & yard work in return for free rent and negotiable salary. Background check required. If interested, call (505) 249-0545.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: LIBRARY TRAINEE for Goodwill Senior Community Service Employment Program. Displaced homemakers, veterans, homeless (or at risk of), and other low income persons are eligible, must be 55 or older; pays \$7.50 per hour, 10+ hours per week. For more information call (505) 861-8289.

JOHN DEERE RIDE-ON MOWER. 140D, only 100 hours of use. \$1,400. (505) 861-0497 or cell (505) 610-1723.

CHICKEN FRUIT FOR SALE. \$4 per dozen – can be picked up at the library. Eggs are multi-colored and full of delicious! (505) 864-3662.

JAZZY ELECTRIC WHEEL CHAIR, never used plus vehicle carrier. Retails for \$5,000, selling for \$2,500. (505) 861-0497 or cell (505) 610-1723.

Want to run an ad in next month's newsletter? It's only \$1 a month for 25 words or less. Deadline: April 26, 2016. For display ad rates, call at (505) 861-8289. ✂

Order Form for Ads, Subscriptions and Volunteers

Subscription:

☐ Request an annual subscription (with gifts and extras) to the monthly newsletter (\$15/year) to cover the costs of copies and postage (enclose a check or money order made out to Rio Abajo Community Library).

Advertising

☐ I want to run an ad for \$1 and am enclosing what I want my ad to say (25 words or less) to include in the next newsletter.

☐ Contact me regarding display advertising.

Volunteering/Donations

☐ I want to volunteer to help out at the library for one hour per week.

☐ I want more information about serving as a Board Member on the Rio Abajo Community Library Board to help direct and advise the Library (one meeting a month for about one hour).

☐ I want to donate goods and/or services for RACL fund-raising efforts.

☐ Make a cash donation of \$_____ (make check or money order: to Rio Abajo Community Library).

☐ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address: _____

Rio Abajo Community Library
28 Calle de Centro S
La Joya, NM 87028

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PAID

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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