

FREE

December 2016.
Volume 5, Issue 6.

Donna Hernandez-Mathieus
Librarian/Editor

Inside this Issue

2

Library News
Holiday Fire Alert

3

Chicken Boredom
Busters

4

December Calendar
Special Orchestra
Update
Community
Thanksgiving

5

Socorro County News
December Celebrations
Natural Health Tips

6

Joke of the Month
Word of the Month

7

Future Events
Classified Ads

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

December Hours:

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

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

CLOSED December 23 & 30, 2016
(Fridays before holidays)

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



RAC Library Leaves



Sad but Thankful



On December 19, 1928, just before Christmas, Esmael Baca (better known as “Smiley”) was born. Just as he gave his Las Nutrias parents (Miguel and Rebecca Baca) another reason to smile and rejoice, so he inspired others throughout his life. Smiley passed on just before Thanksgiving and we now reflect on how thankful we are that we were blessed to have known him.

After his discharge from the Army, he worked for a time in Los Angeles, California. While there a beautiful lady named Elaine was lured by his smile and infectious personality – and, in turn, she quickly captured his heart.

Upon returning home to New Mexico, Smiley worked as a barber and for the Albuquerque Public Schools.

In their 63 years of marriage, Smiley and Elaine raised nine children – five boys (David, Paul, Bobbie, Tony, Frank) and four girls (Carol, Sandy, Becky, Cathy).

After his retirement he started farming green chili and became one of the most sought-after farmers in the Rio Abajo community.

The quality of his chili is still spoken of and discussed. Devoted to his family and church, he gave away almost as much as he sold.



With time, Smiley and Elaine were blessed with 19 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

There are many who enjoyed playing pool at the Senior Center with him. From all tales collected, Smiley was very, very good at the game.

We are left with memories of Smiley’s soft chuckle, his room-lighting smile, his gentle humor, memories of his love of music and dancing, and most of all, memories of the joy and caring he brought to everyone he met.

Everyone who knew and/or met Smiley is grateful for the blessing of Smiley. We also send out prayers and healing energy to Elaine and family. ❀



RAC Library News



Holiday Fun & Cook Books

We refuse to pass up the chance for fun -- so, we are hosting a **Holiday Party** on Thursday, December 22, from 1:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m.

We will have snacks, homemade goodies and beverages (of course, you can share some of your goodies too!). Part of the fun will be making an ornament that you can take home. Let us not forget the festive music! Everyone is invited to join the fun.

On the business side, we are preparing for the rush on holiday recipes and ideas. With some of the wonderful book donations, the selection we have available has never been better!

Work is now focused on our biggest project yet – *The Rio Abajo Community Cookbook*. We love what has been submitted and are looking forward to more! We hope we have representation from all the original families as well as

input from our newest families!

So, are you and your family ready to share any culinary “secrets?”

☆☆☆☆

SERVICES RAC LIBRARY OFFERS:

- Books, Magazines, Movies & Audio Books to borrow
- Copy services
- Faxing (local area only)
- Help with homework/research
- Job Search assistance
- Free Family Pass to 15 NM museums and historic sites
- Open computers with internet
- Notary Public services
- Snacks & Beverages ✂

Holiday Fire Alert



There is never a good time for a fire that has gone out of control, but during this time of year fires seem doubly tragic. So, our local volunteer fire departments want to share a few words.

First off, please remember that both the Veguita Volunteer Fire Department and the Sabinal Fire Department are completely made



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

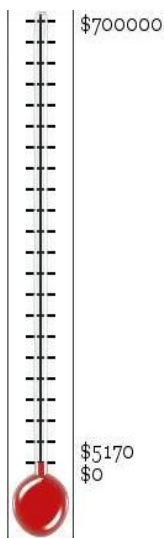
The Family Pass opens the doors to the 15 exceptional museums and historic sites listed below. From Native American treasures to space exploration, world-class folk art to super dinosaurs, ancient sites to the state-of-the-art New Mexico History Museum – our museums and historic sites celebrate the essence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

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

Sponsored by:



up of volunteers. They do not get paid even after voluntarily undergoing all the state-mandated training.



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:

La Joya Community Development Association (\$1,000)

Socorro Electric Cooperative Foundation (\$1,000)

La Joya Educational & Charitable Assistance Organization (\$500)

Help our Library get its own building!

Donations accepted at:

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



CHRISTMAS 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 Library!**

With that in mind, it is requested that if you are going to do a controlled burn with tumbleweeds and paper (excluding garbage, household waste, etc.), it has been requested:

1. Conduct burns between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Although the volunteer fire fighters are available 24 hours a day, regulating normal burns would be greatly appreciated.
2. Please avoid doing controlled burns when it is windy.

We are Joe Ray Carrillo, Patrick Garcia,
Gloria Otero and Gary Nichols

The Enchanted Four

We play music for all occasions!

To book your next gathering, call Patrick at
(505) 866-1333



Chicken Boredom Busters

By Melissa Caughey

Chickens can get easily bored in the winter. Here are some ideas that will keep them entertained and prevent them from developing behaviors out of boredom such as egg-eating and feather picking.

Make a Piñata

Hang a head of cabbage, cauliflower, or broccoli in the run and keep your chickens dodging and pecking at the hanging,



spinning, ball. Use regular twine and suspend from a hanger, the roof of their hen house, the top of a chicken run, or anywhere they can enjoy.

They can't resist as it dangles, twirls and calls out to be pecked. Initially they are fearful, but by the end of the day you'll find it pecked with holes. It takes about 2-3 days for a flock of 8-10 hens to demolish the treat.

Bales of Hay or Straw

Place some bales of hay or straw in the coop or run. The chickens will spend hours searching for bugs, goodies, seeds, tearing them apart. Added benefits include insulation and helping to control wet areas in the run.

Try A Treat Ball

Fill a treat ball or hanging suet feeder and fill it with fresh goodies for the flock.



Add a Chicken Swing

Chickens love to swing. You can purchase chicken swings or make your own. To make your own, cut a log to approximately 18 inches long. Drill a hole through the top to the bottom of the log on each side. Thread some thick rope or chain through the holes and tie it from the rafters.

Add a Mirror

Chickens do the silliest things when you add a mirror to the coop. It keeps them busy for hours, plus they meet someone "new" each day.

To make one, you will need:

- ✓ A shatterproof mirror from the craft store
- ✓ Wood slice
- ✓ Gorilla glue



- ✓ Drill and bit
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Twine/ribbon

Glue your mirror onto the wood slice. Once the glue has dried, drill two holes at the top of the wood slice. Cut a piece of ribbon/twine and thread it through the holes in the wood slice. Knot the ends to secure it in place. Peel back the protective film from the mirror. Mount on the wall of their house or alongside the fence on their chicken run. Stand back and watch the fun!



NOTE: This article first appeared in the Grit magazine, March 2014 edition. With permission, the excerpt was presented. For more info, see www.Grit.com ✂

This Month's Events

**December 2, 2016 -- Friday
9:30 am at North Soc. Senior
Center, Veguita
SENIOR'S DANCE**

All Seniors welcome. Note Lunch is served at 11 to allow for dancing space!

**December 7, 2016 -- Wednesday
6:00 pm at RAC Library
LA JOYA ACEQUIA MEETING**

Updates on activities and water scheduling will take place.

**December 7, 2016 -- Wednesday
9:00 am, Sr Center, Las Nutrias**

This Month's Events

RAC MOBILE LIBRARY

**December 10, 2016 -- Saturday
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST**

**December 16, 2016 -- Friday
9:30 am at North Soc. Senior
Center, Veguita
SENIOR'S DANCE**

All Seniors welcome. Note Lunch is served at 11 to allow for dancing space!

**December 19, 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.

**December 19, 2016 through
January 2, 2017
WINTER BREAK -- ALL BELEN
SCHOOLS CLOSED**

**December 21, 2016 --
Wednesday
WINTER BEGINS -- WINTER SOLSTICE**

**December 22, 2016 -- Thursday
1:00 pm -- 5:00 p.m.
RAC LIBRARY HOLIDAY PARTY**
Snacks, beverages and special keepsake ornaments! Everyone welcome.

**December 23, 2016 -- Friday
RAC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FOR
CHRISTMAS**

**December 25, 2016 --
Sunday
CHRISTMAS DAY**



**December 25, 2016 --
Sunday
FIRST DAY OF
HANUKKAH**

**December 26, 2016 --
Monday
FIRST DAY OF KWANZAA**



This Month's Events

**December 30, 2016 -- Friday
RAC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FOR
NEW YEAR'S**



**December 31, 2016 --
Saturday
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING DECEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5:00 P.M., DECEMBER
22, 2016**

Special Orchestra Update

Our own musical group (NM Special Orchestra) is hosting their annual Holiday



Piñata Party. This year they will be at the Eagle Park Rec Center in Belen on Friday, December 9th, at 6:30 pm.

As well as having everyone join in the singing of Christmas carols, eating and sharing edible goodies, they also expect to have a special visitor from the North Pole.

Want to join their fun? Call (505) 864-3749 for more info. ✂

Community Thanksgiving



Our Lady of Sorrows Parrish and St. Vincent de Paul Society hosted their first Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday, December 22nd. This feast was open to everyone, regardless of religion, sex and/or color. The invite was made and the invite was accepted.

Although we took lots of pictures, our camera malfunctioned and the shots were lost. Hopefully our description of everything will suffice!

It was amazing to see the number of neighbors that came. Some came to help out, some came to share in the feast, and everyone is thrilled to have gone.

The food was magnificent. There was the traditional roast turkey and stuffing, plus corn, chili, mashed potatoes, gravies, salads, breads, multiple pies and desserts, and lots of hot beverages. The plates were piled high and the camaraderie was overwhelming.

The obvious care and love of community shown by the volunteers, spearheaded by Delma Carrillo, made even the shyest of attendees smile and feel welcome. Thank you to St. Vincent de Paul and Our Lady of Sorrows Parrish for such a warm and caring display to everyone – from the humble to the great -- during the start of this season! ✨

Socorro County News & Updates



By *Martha Salas,*
District 2 Commissioner

First off – I want to thank everyone for your support and votes in our last election. It was heartening to know past hard work was acknowledged, and more inspiring that you trust me to continue to represent you in the coming years. I continue in my commitment to do everything possible for our district and for everyone who lives here.



SABINAL COMMUNITY CENTER. Although delays caused the loss of \$100,000 in building funds, the dream of completing this Center has not died. A grant request has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and it looks like we will be able to acquire the necessary funds to complete the construction. If all goes as planned, the Center will open in 2017.

MEDICAL CENTER. We are waiting on an environmental assessment and tribal impact study that are required for projects that receive federal funding. Once the environmental assessment is in, the project will be made open for bids and shortly thereafter construction will begin. ✨

Rio Abajo Community Celebrations

December 3

Bobby McKinley's birthday

December 6

Tulonia Neria's birthday

December 7

Oweena Scott's birthday

December 8

Augustine and Alicia Lopez's birthday

December 9

Quentin Lawson's birthday

December 10

Charles L. Falcon's birthday

December 11

Theora Lawson's birthday

December 12

Janice Applegate's birthday

December 13

Laurie J Romero's birthday

Rio Abajo Community Celebrations

December 14

Tracy Lawrence's birthday
Justin Guinn's birthday

December 16

Leonel Martinez's birthday

December 17

Michele Kennedy's birthday
Lisette Sanchez's birthday
Jesus E Ortega's birthday

December 19

Litzy G Ortega's birthday

December 20

Marlene Betancourt's birthday

December 23

Marisol and Marrisa Martinez's birthdays

December 25

Ana Garcia-Grajeda's birthday
Natalie Tofoya's birthday

December 27

Suzen Marie Rosa's birthday

December 28

Stephanie Wheeler's birthday

December 30

Gaspar Piña's birthday
Jacob Teitelbaum's birthday

Holiday Travel &

If you can't afford a doctor,
go to an airport –
you'll get a free x-ray and a
breast exam; and, if you
mention anything about
bombs, you'll get a free
colonoscopy.

Rio Abajo Community Celebrations

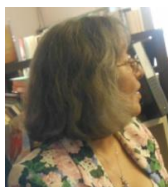
December 31

Carol Chavez's birthday
Julieta Trejo's birthday

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

Natural Health Tips

Gaming Can Boost Your Memory



By Donna Hernandez, ND, MH

Once kids open their presents, the beeping, buzzing and clicking doesn't stop. Well, take heart. Those flashy newfangled gadgets might be the secret to unlocking brain powers. California research shows that playing a video game (specifically, one of those 3D ones) can improve your memory by leaps and bounds.

You don't have to know a thing about videogames -- and you can see improvements after playing them just 30 minutes a day. Studies show that people previously unfamiliar with videogames played either the 2D "Angry Birds" game or "Super Mario 3D World" for a half hour at a testing facility. A third control group played no games at all. The 3D gamers were the ONLY ones who saw their memory improve (and it did by a whopping 12%).

Twelve percent is medically significant because that is roughly



the amount that memory begins to decline in people over 45. After that, our working memory dims -- and we lose our ability to juggle tasks at the same time, screen out distractions, or stay focused while reading or shopping.

Anyone who has looked into the vacant eyes of a gamer playing the 2D games didn't see any improvement at all. Those games can actually **SHORTEN** attention spans to that of a goldfish.



The study didn't determine why the 3D games worked so well, but neuroscientists think that there are two main contributing factors:

1. The immersive aspects of the games, where you feel like you are there working toward a goal.
2. The fact that games are full of spatial information that can help exercise and train the mind.

More studies on humans are needed to determine the exact mechanism behind this memory-boosting game play, and how 3D video games might benefit those older folks who have already started to experience greater-than-normal memory loss, as in cases of Alzheimer's and dementia.

In the meantime, you've got a new fun way of spending time with your gaming grandkids -- one that they love and that can help you **ALL** stay sharp. Enjoy!!

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



Four brothers left home for college, and they became successful doctors and lawyers and prospered. Some years later, they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the Christmas gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who lived far away in another city.

The first said, "I had a big house built for Mama."

The second said, "I had a hundred thousand dollar theater built in the house."

The third said "I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her."

The fourth said, "You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this preacher who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took twenty preachers 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for twenty years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it."

The other brothers were impressed. After the holidays Mom sent out her thank you notes.

"She wrote: "Milton, the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway."

Note #2: "Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home and I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks."

Note #3: "Michael, you gave me an expensive theater with Dolby sound, it could hold 50 people, but all my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same."

Note #4: "Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you." ✂



A Bilingual Christmas

'Twas the night
before Christmas and all through the
casa,
Not a creature was stirring, Caramba!
Que pasa?
Los niños were all tucked away in
their camas,
Some in vestidos and some in
pijamas.
While mama worked late in her little
cocina,
El Viejo was down at the corner
cantina.

The stockings were hanging with
mucho cuidado,
In hopes that St. Nicholas would feel
obligado.
To bring all the children with Buenos
and malos,
A nice batch of dulces and other
regales.

Outside in the yard there arose such a
grito,
That I jumped to my feet like a
frightened cabrito.
I ran to the window and looked afuera,
And who in the world do you think
that it era?
St. Nick in a sleigh and a big red
sombbrero.
Came dashing along like a crazy
bomber!

And pulling his sleigh instead of
venados,

Were eight little burros approaching
volados.

I watched as they came, and this
quaint little hombre,
Was shouting and whistling and
calling by nombre:

"Ay, Pancho! Ay, Pepe! Ay, Cuca!
Ay, Beto!
Ay, Chato! Ay, Chopo! Ay, Maruca!
Y Nieto!"

Then standing erect with his hand on
his pecho,
He flew to the top of our own very
techo!

With his round little belly like a bowl
of jalea,
He struggled to squeeze down our old
chiminea.

Then huffing and puffing, at last in
our sala,
With soot smeared all over his red
suit de gala.

He filled all the
stockings with lovely
regales,



For none of the niños had been very
malos.

Then, chuckling aloud, seeming very
content,
He turned like a flash and was gone
like el viento.

And I heard him explain and this is
verdad,
"Merry Christmas to All! Feliz
Navidad!"

Author Unknown ✂

Word of the Month



Heartsease: (noun) peace of mind;
the pansy or other plant of the genus
Viola.

EXAMPLE: "heartsease for
thought," he said, and kissed her.

History: 1375-1425-late Middle
English *hertes ese*. ✂

Future Events

January. 4, 2017 – Wednesday
6:00 pm at RAC Library
LA JOYA ACEQUIA MEETING

January 6, 2017 -- Friday
9:30 am at North Soc. Senior
Center, Veguita
SENIOR'S DANCE

All Seniors welcome. Note
Lunch is served at 11 to allow for
dancing space!

January 11, 2017 – Wednesday
9:00 am, Veguita Sr Center
RAC MOBILE LIBRARY

January 13, 2017 – Friday
9:30 am at RAC Library
RIO ABAJO COMMUNITY LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING

Everyone is welcome and invited

January 16, 2017 – Monday
6:30 pm at RAC Library
LAJOYA LADIES' CRAFTING
CIRCLE

Work on projects, learn crafts,
and visit. Plans also begin for
Festival of Cranes booth. For
info call 864-0666

January 19, 2017 – 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.

January 19, 2017 -- Monday
7 pm at RAC Library
LA JOYA COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Everyone is welcome!

January 20, 2017 -- Friday
9:30 am at North Soc. Senior
Center, Veguita
SENIOR'S DANCE

All Seniors welcome. Note
Lunch is served at 11 to allow for
dancing space!

Future Events

January 25, 2017 – Wednesday
9:00 am, Sr Center, Las
Nutrias
RAC MOBILE LIBRARY

January 19, 2017 – Thursday
LA JOYA COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ASSOC. MTG.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING JANUARY
ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5:00 P.M.,
DECEMBER 19, 2017

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: 1-year old Kirby vacuum cleaner with all accessories. Has about 8 hours use; very new condition. Paid over \$2,000, asking \$1,500. (575) 618-7378

HANDMADE ITEMS FOR SALE. Great holiday gifts – quilts, placemats, potholders, crocheted toys, and more! Call Fay at (505) 864-0666.

WOOD FOR SALE. (505) 859-1901

LAPTOP FOR SALE. Dell Latitude D820, Intel Centrino Duo, Vista Home Premium; 32-bit operating system, 1 GB memory; \$150 or best offer. Available to be seen at RAC Library. (505) 864-3662.

PIGS FOR SALE. (505) 249-1371.

2014 RED CAMRY FOR SALE. Asking \$13,000; (505) 618-7378.

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

PERFECT GIFT COMPUTER! Dell Inspiron 537 computer with HP w1907 monitor. Has Intel Celeron processor (64-bit); 4 GB RAM, 1T memory, Windows 7 premium (activated) and Microsoft Office 2007. WiFi enabled and includes computer desk. \$300 or best offer. (505) 417-1618

JAZZY ELECTRIC WHEEL CHAIR, never used plus vehicle carrier. Retail 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: January 22, 2017. For display ad rates, call at (505) 861-8289. ✂



*The Rio Abajo Community Library Staff
wishes you, our neighbors,
friends, patrons and supporters*

*A Blessed and Joyous
Holiday Season!!!*

Rio Abajo Community Library Board

President	Carolyn Ueberroth, Contreras
Vice Pres	Minnie Presley, Veguita
Secretary	
Treasurer	Dolores Phillips, Sabinal
Directors	Kathy Esquibel, Veguita
	Quinton Lawson, Veguita
	A. Miguel Trujillo, Architect, Las Nutrias

Federal non-profit # 83-0398943 ✂



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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