

Newsletter

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Photo by Matt Briney on Unsplash



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: 1923-2023

May/June 2023

On Fighting Censorship

*Submitted by Jason E. Shoup,
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All too often in libraries, we hear the scary stories of those that have succeeded in taking books away from our communities; stories of our colleagues, our profession, and our freedoms under attack. What we need to hear more of are the stories of the communities that have prevailed and overcome the book banners and of the libraries that were victorious in their defense of the Freedom to Read. Rio Rancho has had the good fortune to be one of these success stories.

On behalf of the Rio Rancho community, I want to thank all of you who helped support the Rio Rancho Public Library in the fight against censorship – I know that many of you wrote letters to the Governing Body, shared messages of support and encouragement on the NMLA listserv, and kept this community's library in your thoughts. Thank You.

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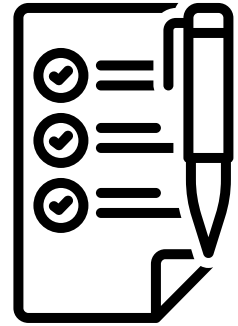
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Update on Fighting Censorship in Rio Rancho

At the beginning of April 2023, Rio Rancho Library admin received word that groups known as the Coalition for Conservatives in Action (CCIA) and MassResistance (MR) were planning to protest LGBTQIA+ materials in the public library and demand that the Rio Rancho Governing Body remove these materials from the collection.

The warning came just in time, and the Library was able to work with City Management and the City Attorney to prepare for their attack. Senior leadership carefully reviewed library law and the laws around open meetings and limited public forums; reached out to the ALA, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and Everylibrary.org for support; asked the Library Advisory Board to reach out to library supporters in the community; and prepared a list of talking points for library staff, city employees, and the Library Board.



The first attack came during the City of Rio Rancho Governing Body meeting on April 13th, where four local members of the CCIA and MR spoke before the city council and a packed council chamber to demand that the Library remove materials they deemed inappropriate. They spoke about the graphic nature of the material and their fear that children might be exposed to depictions of same-sex relationships. In response, 28 supporters spoke in defense of the library's Freedom to Read policy and against attempts to ban and censor library materials. Over subsequent meetings the small handful of book banners who spoke on the evils of LGBTQIA+ materials were repeatedly drowned out by the multitude of strong voices standing in support of the library; speakers ranging in age from their teens to their nineties; members of the LGBTQIA+ community alongside pastors, ministers, veterans, and elected officials. Between these Governing Body meetings, City and Library staff worked hard to prepare the elected officials with the facts about book bans, and the dangerous negative consequences that would result from listening to the minority voices of those who would ban the books. Library supporters spoke to their elected officials and letters of support poured in. On May 11th, the City of Rio Rancho Governing Body voted unanimously to affirm a resolution in support of the Library, the Collection Development Policy, and to free and open access to information and ideas.

Although this act has not entirely silenced these book banners in Rio Rancho, it has set a strong precedent that their voices have no strength in this community. Throughout all of this, the ratio of library supporters to book banners has stood at around 10:1 – and Library administration has a strong dedicated local coalition of community members who are eager to organize and show up at a moment's notice to defend and support their library.



**Rio Rancho City
Council Meeting.
May 11th, 2023
[click to view](#)**



LIBRARY STORIES

BOOKS ON THE BACKROADS



“Library Stories: Books on the Backroads” will air June 15th on KNME 5, Albuquerque’s Public Television Station at 7pm. A one-hour documentary, it will take you to the New Mexico villages of El Rito, Vallecitos, Dixon, Glenwood, Jemez Pueblo, Magdalena, Datil, and Abiquiu where libraries provide much more than books and computers. It will show on KRWG, Las Cruces, on June 25th and KENW on a date to be announced.

The film presents how these libraries nourish the unique culture of each of these communities, from native language classes in Jemez Pueblo to Low Rider Truck and Treat on Halloween in El Rito. It speaks about how these libraries were established and the challenges they face in keeping their doors open.

The Land of Enchantment has 98 public libraries; over half located in small-towns. They sustain their villages’ social, cultural, economic and educational life. New Mexico filmmakers Mary Lance and Ben Daitz tell some of their stories and the integral role they serve in their communities.

The film also talks about The New Mexico Rural Library Initiative, (NMRLI,) which is working with the legislature to build a one million dollar endowment for each of the 55 rural libraries in the state. Many of New Mexico’s rural libraries are run by a single paid employee or volunteers.

“One of the big problems in rural libraries is that employees are paid minimum wage or a few dollars above it,” said NMRLI director Shel Neymark. “There’s a library director in Northern New Mexico who managed a \$500,000 capital project, besides running the library, managing volunteers, writing grants, and she gets paid \$12 an hour and that’s just not right.”

Ben Daitz is a physician, a writer and documentary filmmaker. His many films have been screened and honored by PBS, American Public Television, and film festivals. Recent documentaries include: THE SUN NEVER SETS, aired on NM PBS, about Española New Mexico’s Rio Grande Sun, one of the best small-town newspapers in the country. He has been a contributing writer for the New York Times, the Atlantic, Undark, and Eclectica.

Mary Lance has over forty years’ experience in documentary production and archival research. Her independent documentaries have been distributed widely in the USA and abroad at institutions including Film Forum, Tate Modern, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art and broadcast on public television and Sundance Channel. She has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and foundations. www.newdealfilms.com930

Some of the 55 rural libraries eligible for endowment funds will host watch parties at various times and dates to support the New Mexico Rural Library Initiative. The endowment will help pay employee salaries, maintenance and upkeep of facilities, provide books, technology, and programming.

The Trailer can be seen here: <https://vimeo.com/763849>



Celebrating Acequia Culture with our Community



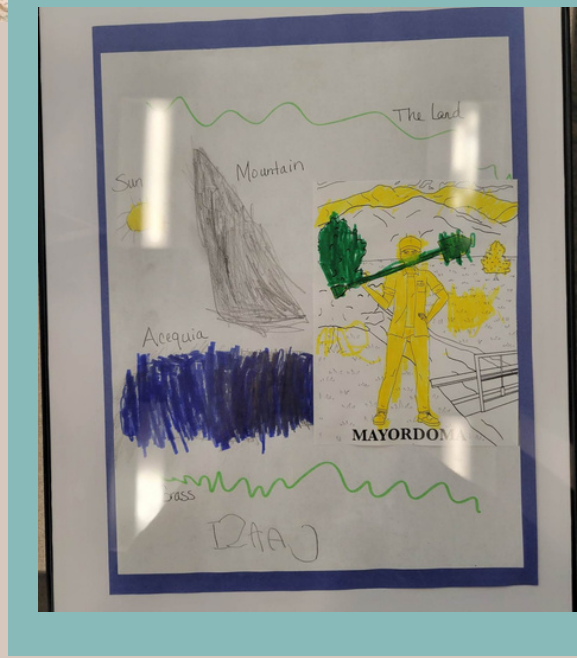
YOUR UNM-Taos library recently hosted a book talk for the release of *Water for the People: The Acequia Heritage of New Mexico in a Global Context*. This new anthology features essays by world-renowned acequia scholars and community members highlighting acequia use, history, and culture in northern New Mexico, Mexico, and beyond.

On May 5, 2023, editors Enrique Lamadrid and José Rivera, along with chapter authors Sylvia Rodriguez, R. Jack Meyers, Miguel Santistevan, and Arnold Valdez, came to the UNM-Taos Klauer Campus to promote their new book and share the beauty of acequia culture with our community. We had over 100 people in attendance—our most well-attended program to date!—and even had a few out-of-towners in the audience. We got great feedback from our attendees, and it was amazing to see such an outpouring of support from our community!

As a special treat, the library asked the PreK class at UNM-Taos's very own Kid's Campus to create water-themed artwork—and boy, did they deliver! Not only did our Little Lobos make drawings and paintings of water, but they also made a large diorama showing how acequias are constructed.

We displayed their masterpieces at the event, and everyone was blown away by the creativity of our future water protectors.

We also invited community organizations to take part in the program. We were joined by the Taos Valley Acequia Association and Society of the Muse of the Southwest (SOMOS) and had copies of the book for sale through local bookseller [op.cit. Books](http://op.cit.Books).



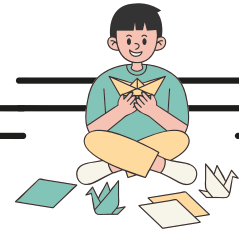
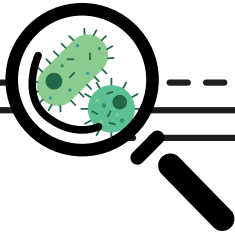
It was truly a joy celebrating such a vital aspect of northern New Mexico culture with our community, and we are so thankful to our presenters for sharing their knowledge and passion. ¡Que vivan las acequias!

For those interested, you can view the full recording of the book talk on the UNM-Taos YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hiuj_6OaXg

It is that time of year again: a lot of summer fun! The Silver City Public Library is happy to announce its annual Summer Reading Program. Children, teens, and adults can register to get a log, bingo, or game board and track their participation at their own pace. Earn prizes and enter the end-of-summer prize drawings by reading and coming to events! Registration is open now.

The Summer Reading Program is made possible by the Friends of the Library.

We have a lot of activities for kids and adults. Mondays the Grant County Extension office will lead activities such as Germ Detective and American Flag Painting. Every other Monday is a family movie. Tuesdays we have a craft great for kids ages 6-12. We will be doing stuff like making music makers and exploring symmetry. We will also have multigenerational and teen events. Multigenerational events, like origami, are great for the whole family, kids and adults. Teens will be able to make sugar scrub, learn bicycle maintenance, and more throughout the summer. Some of the events we hold year around, like Robots, Future Engineers, and Minecraft Club will happen 1:00-2:30pm on Saturdays. All events are free, and no registration is required. Limit 45 people for Tuesday or Thursday crafts.



June 16th 2pm-4pm will be a teen party. Teens are encouraged to come and have food and play video games. On June 23rd 10 am - 1 pm Explora is coming to lead us in science activities! Wrapping up the month of June, there will be a presentation by the Advocates for Snake Preservation on June 30th 3:30-4:30pm. Come learn about snakes and maybe even get to touch one. There will be more in July! Sign up for summer reading for a full calendar.

Other ongoing, weekly events offered by the Library include:

- Babytime Tuesdays at 10:00 am. Stories, songs, rhymes and movement for infants 0-24 months and their caregivers; and
- Storytime Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Stories, songs, and rhymes for children up to five years of age and their caregivers.

The Silver City Public Library is happy to announce that it will be a food site for the summer. Starting June 5th, kids can come by and grab a meal. This will be happening Monday-Friday at 11:30-12:30, on the library lawn.

The Silver City Public Library is located at 515 W. College Avenue. Contact the library at (575) 538-3672 or programs@silvercitymail.com for more information about programs, or visit the website, silvercitypubliclibrary.org.



2023 Summer Reading Program

June 3rd - July 28th

#silvercityreads

Registration starts May 8th Come in to register!



Performers:

Anne Lincoln Foam Party on June 3rd at Penny Park!

Advocates for Snake Preservation

Jamie O'Hara—Magic

Explora— hands-on science

Aspen Black— Music

Prizes rubber ducks, plush animals, games, robots, bath toys and more

Silver City Public Library

515 W. College Avenue

Silver City, NM 88061

Activities:

Hands-on crafts

Silver City Extension Programs: learn skills like home sciences and agricultural studies.

Story Time: Wednesdays at 10:00am. Look for themes on our Facebook page.

Baby time: Tuesdays at 10:00 am. Come play with toys and interact with other babies.

Multigenerational activities

Movies, Minecraft and more!



The summer reading program is made possible by the Friends of the Library

<https://>

silvercitypubliclibrary.org/

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Come out and enjoy the great sight



-- San Juan River --

BALLOON RALLY

June 16, 2023 - June 18, 2023 Bloomfield Soccer Field

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

"Mass Ascension" at 6:30 am

Balloons take flight from Bloomfield Soccer Fields

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

"Mass Ascension" at 6:30 am

Balloons take flight from Bloomfield Soccer Fields

"Balloon Glow" at 5:30 pm

Music and entertainment for everyone.
Watch as hot air balloons light up the night sky at the
Bloomfield Soccer Fields

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023

"Mass Ascension" at 6:30 am

Keep looking up as the pilots fly their balloons and take in
some breath taking views.

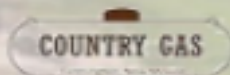
Want to be on a chase crew? Call 505.652.0880



Humpty Dumpty
Guest Balloon



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*** ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER PERMITTING ***



ALL TOGETHER NOW

2023 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Come join us at the library for fun crafts, games, and events this summer! And, as always, earn prizes as you READ!!

<p>Teens</p> <p>Thursdays - Craft - 2-3 PM</p> <p>June 8 - Book Club - 6-7 PM</p> <p>June 6</p> <p>Cool Craft</p> <p>June 20</p> <p>Countries</p> <p>July 4</p> <p>LIBRARY CLOSED</p> <p>July 18</p> <p>Robo Pets</p>	<p>Toddlers</p> <p>Wednesdays - Storytime & Craft - 10:30 AM</p> <p>June 14 - Melanie Milburn: Musical Storytime - 2-3 PM</p> <p>June 13</p> <p>Wonders on Wheels</p> <p>June 27</p> <p>Exotics of the Rainforest</p> <p>July 11</p> <p>Puffy Painting!</p> <p>July 25</p> <p>Friendship Mementos</p>	<p>Special Events</p> <p>June 26 - Quilting Workshop - 1-2 PM</p> <p>July 6 - Blood Drive - 10-1:30 PM</p> <p>July 28-29 - Day of Stories</p> <p>June 7</p> <p>Team Game</p> <p>June 21</p> <p>Olympics</p> <p>July 5</p> <p>Service project</p> <p>July 19</p> <p>E3 Museum</p> <p>June 14</p> <p>Melanie Milburn</p> <p>June 28</p> <p>Outdoor Conservation</p> <p>July 12</p> <p>Dad Caricatures</p> <p>July 26</p> <p>Prize Party!</p>
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Kickoff Celebration
June 1, 2023 @ 2:00-5:00 PM
Slip N' Slide, games, caricatures, and more!

Bloomfield Public Library

2023 Market Outlook

Featuring: Courtney Hancock, Edward Jones Financial Advisor

A good financial adviser will help you set your goals

Courtney Hancock
Edward Jones Financial Advisor

Thursday,
June 22, 2023

Bloomfield
Multi-Cultural Center-
Event Room

6pm

FREE EVENT

✓ DEBT

✓ MORTGAGE

✓ ADVICE

GRANTS PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS



Tot and me time at the Grants public library held every Thursday for littles aged birth-5 and their bigs. We have Storytime's, fingerplays, songs and crafts. Our littles have already shown so many gains and growth. They enjoy each others company and look forward to seeing each other every week. They're learning very important social skills and creating friendships that we hope last a lifetime for some. It has been a huge success.



Join us for

TOT & ME TIME

AT THE LIBRARY

Every Thursday from 10:45-11:15

Grants Public Library
Storytimes, Sensory Play,
Finger Play, Puppets, Singing
and moving.





Vista Grande Public Library held our Annual World Migratory Bird Day Event on Saturday, May 20th. This event, which we've been doing for several years – with time off for COVID – takes over the whole library and features local subject matter experts on local birds, bird-walking (walking tours of the birds near your home), Pinyon Jay researcher Peggy Darr from Defenders of Wildlife, information about the impact of poison in the food chain and creative ways. We had bird-banding demonstrations from Carol Beidleman and a burrowing owl named Grubb from the New Mexico Wildlife Center. And craft activities for the kids. This event was started by and continues to be almost wholly organized by library volunteer and former Board Member, Nancy Johnson (who also happens to be a certified volunteer from the NM Department of Aging and gives monthly informational talks on Medicare). With the growing evidence of the value of birds to humans, this program took on special significance for 2023.



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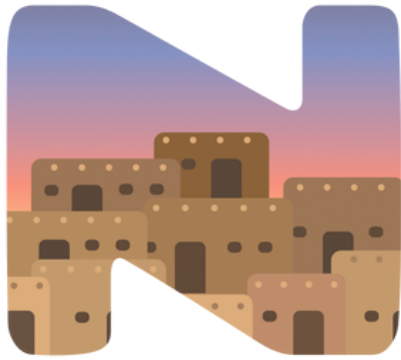
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1923-2023**

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