

Rural Revitalization Initiative Newsletter

Des Moines Municipal Schools...Fall 2011

VoATeC...Reaching Students on a Personal Level

This year the Ag Shop has a new look and a new focus! It is now the VoATeC Center and the curriculum is designed to the specific interests of all its students. The main objective of the improved program is to take information students learn in their core classes and apply it to a project of interest to them, or one that involves their future career choice. There are always a number of activities going on in the VoATeC Center...speech writing to welding, record keeping to floriculture projects! Jenna Gilbert, a student in the program, submitted the following article.

Gate Latches

by Jenna Gilbert

It started out as just an idea to make it easier for ranchers around here to open their wire gates out in the pasture. My dad certainly found them handy and so did my grandma because she could finally open the tightly stretched gates by herself. So we turned that idea into an actual project. John Gilbert measured a sample gate latch and figured how much material we would need to make twenty-five gate latches. As soon as we got the materials, John Gilbert, Anthony Gallegos, Junior Escobar, Anthony Brown, and Tristan McNabb got to work on cutting pipe and strap metal, tacking a nail to a short chain, and cutting rod.



Gate Latch Manufactured in the VoATeC Program.

Talk about a well-oiled machine! Everyone in VoATeC I and VoATeC III/IV worked on these gate latches tirelessly for about a week and a half. Some people were working on the remainder of the cutting, while everything that was already cut was being welded together by one of our excellent welders. As soon as all the parts were welded together, there were several people tacking the chain onto the gate latch. After everything was perfectly put together, three or four people painted the beautiful gate latches flat black. It was sure a pretty sight; all the finished gate latches sitting side by side. All twenty-five of them, perfectly uniform. There were definitely some kinks in our assembly line process, but it is certain that we all worked very hard on this project and accomplished it fairly efficiently. Hopefully, there are more projects of this nature to come in the future.

Des Moines Schools meets AYP (again!)... Des Moines School district was one of three districts that met AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) this year. To find out more about AYP and view the district's report card visit www.ped.state.nm.us/ayp2011/.

Thank You...

To everyone who helped during the Clean-Up Days.

The Beautification Workgroup has been busy...watch for more events!

Fall Festival...a Fun Family Event!

October 29th after the Springer Volleyball Game

Des Moines School Based Health and Wellness Center is currently providing behavioral health and chiropractic services. Call 278-2619 to schedule an appointment.

Another Great Run Around the Rim!

Folsom Museum Run Helps “Spread the Word” about our Community...



Photo courtesy of Tim Keller. ... timkellerphotography.com

This year's 4th Annual Folsom Museum – Capulin Volcano Race “Run Around the Rim” was held on September 25th, with 121 runners signed up. The “Run” included ½ Marathoners, 10K, 5K and Fun Run racers from Colorado, Kansas, California, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Washington, Illinois and New Mexico. Among the racers were many “return” runners and several first-timers!

Saturday evening the Museum hosted a dinner for the runners and their families at the Folsom School House. Thanks so much to all donators and helpers! Runners received their registration packet and goodie-bags (items donated by businesses in Raton, Clayton, Red River and Des Moines). T-shirts were given to all timed racers. Musical entertainment was provided by Dino Cornay and Jason Cruz; local history was shared by Vinita Brown and Kelly Lujan; Fred Balmer entertained with poetry and more history. Night owls enjoyed a campfire and marshmallow roast!

Eleanor Krusi served as race coordinator and Jane Reaves Thomas returned for the 4th year to advise and help provide official times for our races. As the sun came up Sunday morning volunteers were at work ready with water, Gatorade and GU for the early runners. Union County Sherriff Department kept the highway safe for the runners, EMT's & Fire Departments offered aid to all participants, and the New Mexico Highway Department kept the public updated about road information.

The Folsom Museum sincerely appreciates all the volunteers. Your help and friendliness is the reason runners return... and help “spread the word” about our beautiful area and awesome race! A special thanks to Capulin Mountain employees, volunteers from Des Moines School and RRI, and everyone who played a part in helping with this event.

For information about our museum and to see the race results visit www.folsommuseum.org. Learn more about the Capulin Volcano Run on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CapulinVolcanoRun.

Contributed by Linda Behrendsen and Marijo Balmer

Workgroup Update...

Here's a quick look at a current project...

Economic Development Workgroup

Economic Development has been working on issues related to septic tank regulations. Thanks to their efforts, in partnership with the New Mexico Environment Department, some changes were recently made to certification requirements for contractors who work with installation and maintenance of septic systems. The Environment Department is currently conducting hearings statewide to solicit ideas or proposals to change and improve current regulations. Dennis McQuillan, liquid waste program manager for the Environment Department, will be meeting with members of the workgroup on October 25th in Clayton. They will be sharing ideas on changes that could be made to the regulations making them less burdensome to property owners in the Des Moines School District. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact Justin Bennett at 278-2167.