

# Rural Revitalization Initiative Newsletter

Des Moines Municipal Schools

Spring 2010

## WHEN GOOD IDEAS COME TOGETHER



Congratulations and Welcome to Dr. Tena Hoyle, recently selected as Superintendent of Schools for the Des Moines School District!

Dr. Hoyle has accepted her new position because she likes working with this school district's staff and community; she's impressed with a commitment to the school district and its students. She describes her passion for school improvement, "that it's a community wide initiative; that public engagement is how we continue to have public schools in our society". She has an excitement about giving a voice to the staff and community. She's impressed with the professionalism, the quality of teaching and the commitment to students at Des Moines Schools. In her recent work with the Rural Revitalization Steering Committee, Dr. Hoyle demonstrates a wonderful understanding for this community's assets, community development needs, small school challenges, and local values. She's all about careful planning, hard work, and an ongoing analysis and celebration of successes. She likes how our kids are and wants to be involved in their school lives. She has shown up in the right place at the right time; our good ideas have come together.

She has been an assistant professor at the University of Wyoming; worked as a self-employed consultant, trainer, grant writer and program evaluator, taught in K-12 and post-secondary classrooms. She's on a mission from her heart. **Dr. Hoyle invites everyone in our communities to get to know her and get on board with special work and activities to benefit the school district and our students. If ever there was an open door, hers is one.**

## BECOME AN OFFICIAL WEATHER SPOTTER

Severe weather is the most likely emergency situation that can affect our communities and our people. Communication needs are critical in order to forecast and respond to emergency weather conditions. In our corner of the state, radio and television communication is limited, cell phone service is unavailable in some places and limited in others, NWS radar operations are limited, and our residents are scattered few and far between. An important link to emergency response is a network of weather spotters who can report weather information to the National Weather Service. **The call is out for community volunteers who are willing to train and be available for weather spotter information.** Weather spotters become the "eyes and ears" of the National Weather Service and provide valuable weather reports which cannot be replaced. Spotter reports, coupled with radar, satellite, and other data, has enabled the NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings and statements for types of hazardous weather. Spotters are valuable community assets.

A SKYWARN Spotter Training Class is scheduled for April 30th, two sessions at 1:00 and 6:00 PM at Clayton Civic Center, 124 N. Front Street in Clayton. Training covers flash floods, tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, lightning, and winter weather. This year's training includes all new training material. The training is free and no prior experience is needed.

For more information, contact: Zina Schamber, Union County Emergency Manager, 575-207-5454 or Kerry Jones, National Weather Service, 505-244-9150, extension 223.

Mark Your  
Calendars!



Kid's Academy  
July 6, 7, 8

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Museum Board at Folsom Museum invites YOU to volunteer for Spring Cleanup and other museum projects, as the Board works to upgrade and expand the museum and its programs. Contact a Board Member NOW!

### CONGRATULATIONS! CLASS OF 2010!

Commencement: May 22nd, 7:00 PM

Commencement Speaker: Erin Morrow

## FOCUS: FOLSOM MUSEUM/PROGRAMS

*In quarterly newsletters, it is our intent to focus on community assets. We can best honor the past and celebrate the future with this assets-based approach to community development.*

*In Folsom, a small group of dedicated citizens works diligently to fulfill their mission: to instill pride in our remote and rural community by sharing history of the Northeastern New Mexico area and its connection to our present and future. Generosity and support from the New Mexico Humanities Council has assisted the museum board to upgrade its museum status and bring special events to our communities, since its acquisition of the museum building from the Doherty family in 2007. Recent applications and approvals from the CAP and MAP museum assessment programs have enabled the board to move forward with exciting projects. Short term goals include reorganization of the museum, the development of annual museum events, and overall improvements. What's needed now is broad community involvement. We can make individual contributions by volunteering for clean-up projects and other administrative activities and by participating in scheduled events:*

- *May 15th, Dry Cimarron History Tour starting at 8AM at the Folsom Museum*
- *May 22nd, Folsom Man Archeological Site Tour, tours a 8AM and 1PM.*
- *July 10th, Western Night Under the Stars, 5:30 PM at the museum.*
- *August 7th, Folsom Grand Opening of the Smithsonian Exhibit, New Harmonies: Roots of American Music.* Made possible by a grant from "We the People" project, NM Humanities Council. Featuring Bayo Seco, Jeanie McLerie and Kenneth Keppeler, 10AM-5PM with educational interpretation.
- *August 21st, Folsom Gym, Traditional Music of Penitentes and Latin Mass, 3:00-5:00 PM; September 10th, Des Moines School, Mariachi 101 with Gil Sperry, 1:00-3:00 PM; September 11th, Folsom School, Mariachi 101 with Gil Sperry, 7:00-9:00 PM; September 16th, Des Moines School, Music of the Dust Bowl by Kathryn Flynn, 1:00-3:00 PM; September 16th, 3rd Annual Run Around the Rim Race/Walk, 6:30AM; September 26th, Folsom School, Heritage of Jewish Music by Sharon Neidermann, 3:00-5:00 PM; October 8th, Des Moines School, Bayo Seco, Jeanie McLerie and Kenneth Keppeler present traditional American music , 1:00-3:00PM.*



Museum Board: Marijo Balmer, Abbie Reeves, Vinita Brown, Kay Thompson, Linda Behrendsen, Eleanor Krusi, Betty Short, Mike Schoonover, Pam Lile. Phone: 575-278-2122; Website: [www.folsommuseum.org](http://www.folsommuseum.org)

## READY. . . SET. . . GO!

The Community Beautification Workgroup works to develop and implement projects that improve the attractiveness and well being of our communities. As Spring approaches, and "spring fever" happens, we should direct our energies to identified projects in each of our communities and in between. We encourage residents to get involved with community government or other organized efforts to make our communities look just a little bit better. Share your ideas with others. Ask for workgroup support if RRI can help. Watch for opportunities to get involved.

Planning for Summer 2010 Kids Academy is underway. Mark your calendars for July 6, 7, and 8 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM for students in grades 1-6. Activities will also be planned for parents who travel to the school at Des Moines. Tentative Kids Academy activities will include basketball, baseball and maybe even some tennis, make your own volcano, art activities, music projects, healthy snacks and food preparation, physical recreation, journaling, and other valuable lifelong learning activities. Contact The Education Workgroup to get involved as a volunteer or for additional information as it develops.



### LESSONS IN PATRIOTISM LIVE FOREVER

Ask a soldier from our communities why he gives so much to our country; he might just tell you it's because he grew up around that way of thinking. Clearly, the people in our school communities value lessons of patriotism and in obvious ways, the school district and its professional staff have always emphasized patriotic attitudes. Mrs. Burchard noted recently that even when our school enrollment is declining, we still have a "full house" at the annual Veterans Day Program. Veterans walk in to deliver real life lessons of love and service to America; students in all the grades value that time. Teachers follow up with support activities in their classrooms. That's who we are; that's what we want for our kids.

We have a long history of our own people who give to military service, including those who have recently served in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts: Riley McNabb, Darryl Martinez, Wesley Sadoris, and Robert Wingo. **Thank you to men and women in military service wherever they are!**