

EL AVISO

April 2003

Las Clinicas del Norte

is CELEBRATING its

30th Anniversary

MONDAY, MAY 5TH

STARTING AT 4:00 PM

Public INVITED

REFRESHMENTS will be SERVED

LCDN was formed in El Rito, 1973, with a budget of \$50,000 and three employees. It has grown to become a major organization in the area, with over 60 employees and a budget of over \$3,500,000. The LCDN system now has three clinics, headquartered at the El Rito clinic, with two satellite clinics in Ojo Caliente and in Abiquiu.

We offer primary care services for your entire family. We hope to be the regular source of health care for you and all your family members. Our mission is to provide full accessibility in quality primary health care services for all clients. Our physicians, dentists, counselors and other professional staff are committed to listening to you, treating your individual needs and answering your questions.

LCDN offers preventive and primary medical, dental and mental health services; medical outreach, enabling services, urgent and emergency care, hospital care and contracted specialty services. Referrals to other specialists and hospital services in Española, Los Alamos and Santa Fe are available as needed. A drug room at each site ensures medications at time of visit. Also available: nutritional counseling, acupuncture, laboratory services and physical therapy.

Renovation of the Abiquiu clinic is the latest improvement in the Las Clinicas system. The updated facility will be open by the end of this month.

We will be adding a building that houses the Counseling and Community Services (CCS) Department, offices for the Abiquiu outreach and diabetic promotora, space for billing and technical support people, and a new larger community room that will be open for public use.

The addition of space for the CCS Department will be especially valuable for our patients. There will be more flexibility in scheduling and, with their own private space, the department personnel will now be able to preserve confidentiality when performing their tasks.

There will now be extra space in the main building for medical uses, for example, a larger pharmacy and another exam room.

LAS CLINICAS DEL NORTE: A Community Health Center, Established in 1972

Serving the communities of Abiquiu, Ancones, Barranco, Cañon, Carson, Chili, Cañones, Cañon Plaza, Duranes, El Llanito, El Pueblo, El Rito, Gallegos, Gavilan, Ghost Ranch, La Cueva, La Madera, La Mesa, La Zorro, Las Casitas, Las Tablas, Los Pinos, Medanales, No Agua, Ojo Caliente, Olguin, Petaca, Placitas, Plaza Blanca, Rio Chama, San Miguel, Servilleta, Servilleta Plaza, Silvestres, Tierra Azul, Tres Orejas, Tres Piedras, Tusas and Vallecitos and Youngsville

WASHINGTON, DC.

A consumer magazine, *Consumer Reports*, says it found harmful bacteria, much of it drug-resistant, in almost half the chickens it bought from stores nationwide.

The bacterium campylobacter, which can cause food poisoning, was found in 42 percent of 484 fresh broiler chickens tested for a survey in the January issue of *Consumer Reports*. The magazine said Tuesday that 12 percent of the chickens had salmonella, another bacterium. Both bugs can cause diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain and sometimes death.

The report said people sickened by the bacteria would stay sick longer, and treatment would be more difficult for doctors because 90 percent of the campylobacter samples and 34 percent of the salmonella resisted treatment by commonly used antibiotics such as tetracycline.

"That's a very uncomfortable starting point, and it goes to reinforce the growing concern about the use of antibiotics in livestock production," said David Pittle, vice president for technical policy at the magazine's publisher, Consumers Union.

The report said consumers could kill campylobacter and other germs by cooking chicken thoroughly so it is not pink. Experts recommend heating a whole chicken up to 180 degrees and chicken breasts to 170 degrees.

Bacteria can become stronger if they survive drug treatment. Many have blamed the increasing prevalence of drug-resistant bacteria on doctors' over prescribing antibiotics and patients' misusing them. Other groups now argue that farmers who use antibiotics in barnyard animals to prevent illness and speed growth are compounding the problem.

They want Congress and the president to enact a law restricting the drugs' use in animals. Pharmaceutical companies and

producers have fought back. Ronald Phillips, a spokesman for the Animal Health Institute, which represents animal drug companies, said the drugs make food safer and protect animals. "In addition to making farmers more efficient, there is also a disease prevention role that that is playing," Phillips said. "Because when you stop that use, those animals get sick."

Sierra Club and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy had similar results from a smaller-scale survey also released Tuesday, in which it tested 200 whole chickens and 200 packages of ground turkey bought at stores in Des Moines, Iowa, and Minneapolis.

Richard Lobb, spokesman for the National Chicken Council, said the surveys were misleading and did not show that producers have cut back on some antibiotics usage. "There is nothing in either of those studies that I know of that actually ties resistance to usage of antibiotics in live animals," Lobb said.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates animal pharmaceuticals. It proposed guidelines in September for drug makers to rely on when determining whether new animal drugs would increase the problem of drug-resistant bacteria.

The agency also banned a poultry antibiotic two years ago because of evidence it makes people more vulnerable to becoming ill from drug-resistant campylobacter. But the drug, Baytril, is still on the market as its manufacturer, Bayer, fights the ban, arguing tainted grocery-store chicken doesn't cause most illnesses.

Pittle said Consumers Union wants Bayer to withdraw the drug. The organization also is asking the Agriculture Department to set up a program to test for campylobacter.

Steven Cohen, a department spokesman, said the agency is working on developing such a program.

Clinic Hours in El Rito

Medical Clinic:

Monday, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday –
 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Wednesday – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Dental Clinic:

Monday, 9:00 – 7:00 pm
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday –
 8:00 am – 6:00pm
 Closed Friday

Dental Department

Effective April 1st changes will be made in the sliding fee charges in restoration and extractions. Contact the dental clinic for more information, 581-4728.

RIGHT TO PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS

Coming April 14th are changes in the way LCDN will deliver your health care. These changes include a notice of privacy practices and patients need to sign a new consent form.

This is a requirement under the Kennedy-Kassebaum Act also known as the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. This *notice of privacy practices* will be posted at all the clinics and you may request a copy of this notice. Before signing the new form your health care provider will go over it and explain it to you.

A new change is that patients will need to sign an authorization form to have our staff be able to discuss your health care with your husband, wife or children. This will ensure your right to privacy. Other changes are defined in the notice of privacy practices. Please make sure you understand your rights under HIPAA and don't be afraid to ask questions.

Announcements & News Briefs

Welcome ~ Roxanne Rodriguez, is

our new switchboard operator and cashier Reception in Ojo Caliente, replacing **Paula Archuleta**.

Job Openings: The Nursing department is now looking for a **Health Educator**. Call Thelma Chavez or Julie Hill-Clapp at 581-4728.

THE CCS department is looking for a **Case Manager/ Community Outreach Worker**. Applicant should have good knowledge of local resources, e.g. income support & other benefit programs, as well as the communities that LCDN serves. Needs to be a resident or former resident of one of these communities. 40 hours per week. Must have vehicles with current license and insurance. Competitive salary and fringe benefits. Also, the CCS department is looking for a **Psychotherapist**. Send resume to Thelma Chavez or Michael Hill, LCDN, PO Box 237, El Rito, NM 87530, or call either of them at 581-4728.

The Dental department is looking for another **Dentist**. Please call Yolanda Varela or Ed Trujillo, DDS, at 581-4728.

The Medical department is looking for a **Mid-level Provider**. Call Thelma Chavez or Rowena Archibald, MD, at 581-4728.

BILLINGS AND COLLECTIONS

LCDN is not a free clinic. Our ability to provide services depends on income received from patients paying bills.

LCDN is aware of mistakes in billing that have occurred and apologize for billing errors of the past. We are working to improve the accuracy of records, from Reception to the Billing Department. With the complexity of medical billing these days, our desire is to improve the accuracy and clarity of records.

It is important for patients to provide up-to-date insurance, address, and phone; those with outstanding bills are being called, errors identified, and payment plans being set up for larger amounts.

If a person cannot be reached but has an outstanding bill, they will be asked to talk with billing before making an appointment for routine medical care.

⊗ Community Events ⊗

Contact Person, Joan Tollefson, Editor, 776-8778 or 581-4728

Las Clinicas 24-hour Emergency Number – 1-888-678-6160
El Rito

Las Clinicas del Norte Board Meeting – every 3rd Monday,
7 pm, El Rito clinic Community Room

El Rito Library – Tues, Wed, Thurs, 11 am – 6 pm, and
Sat, 11 am – 3 pm.

El Rito Library Board Mtgs. – every 1st Wed, 6 pm at Library
Tutoring –El Rito Save the Children Ctr, call for info. 581-4516

AA Meetings El Rito – Tues, & Thurs, 7m – 8pm, at Catholic
Church Parish Hall, open discussion. Contact Linda, 747-8043

El Rito Fire Dept. Mtgs. – every 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm, at the
El Rito Fire Station, open to the public

Recycling El Rito – every 4th Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm, behind
the Martins Store Gas Station

Abiquiu

Recycling Abiquiu – 4th Sunday every month, 9 am-2 pm,
Abiquiu Las Clinicas clinic parking lot

Al-Anon Meetings Abiquiu – Monday, 5 pm, call for location,
contact numbers, 581-4471 or 685-4503

Abiquiu Library – Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 2 pm – 6 pm,
and Sunday, 9 am – 12 noon, on the Plaza

Abiquiu Fire Dept. Mtg. – every 2nd Thursday, 7 pm at
Abiquiu Fire Dept.

Ojo Caliente

Diabetic Mgt. Class – Wed, April 23, 12:00 to 1:30 pm,
Acute Complications, Ojo Caliente Clinic Conference Rm.

Ojo Caliente Fire Dept. Mtg. – every 1st Wednesday, 7 pm,
Ojo Caliente Fire Dept.

Medanales

Medanales, Rio Chama, Tierra Azul Community Mtg. –
every 1st Mon, 7 pm, Medanales Comm. Ctr., ph.#, 685-9416

Northern New Mexico Community College El Rito Campus

Schedule of Events

April 9 - Jared Daniel Concert
10:00-11:00 AM, Cutting Hall
Everyone Welcome! Solo Acoustic musician
from Arizona. This recording artist has been a
hit at many colleges and universities around
the nation. A New Mexico native; please come
see this wonderful show.

**April day to TBA - Our Annual Spring
Cookout** for staff, faculty and students.

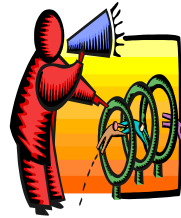
God Bless our Troops as we wish them
and their families the best.

And we would like to wish everyone a
happy and safe Easter Holiday.

Just a brief note to let everyone know that
our Kids, Kows and More program went really
well. We had 400 students attend this one-day
event with 30 volunteer adults.

Thanks go to our Local Schools, Ensueno
de Corazon Ranch, NMSU, Rio Arriba County
Extension Office, Rio Arriba County Farm and
Livestock Bureau, Rio Arriba County Soil and
Water Conservation Office, RHOC-Espanola.
Thanks again and especially to our wonderful
crew here at the El Rito Campus.

For more information please contact
Donald Martinez @ 581-4120.



Great News

Congratulations to the **Mesa Vista
Mystikal Danz Drill Team** for placing first
at the Drill Team competition held in Santa
Fe last month. The Mystikal Danz Team
also participated in this year's Bilingual
Conference held in Albuquerque.

The Mesa Vista drill team consists of
Jessica Maestas, Shauna Martinez, Alisha
Alire, Ryan Chacon, Kayla Avalos, Frances
Herrera, Sasha Alire and their sponsor,
Monica Romero.

BookMobile Schedule

Tuesdays - April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd

Abiquiu, at Bode's – 1:15 – 2:00 pm
El Rito, at the P.O. – 2:20 – 3:15 pm
Las Madera, at P.O. – 3:35 – 4:15 pm
Ojo Caliente, at P.O. – 4:30 – 5:15 pm

NOTICE

Abiquiu Library Hours have changed

Sunday – 9:00 am – Noon
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
12:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Closed

Friday and Saturday and Most Major Holidays

EL RITO LIBRARY

Your Local Resource for Books-Videos-
Computers-Books on Tape- Literacy for all ages

**Our hours are: Tuesday 11-6, Wednesday
11-6, Thursday 11-6 and Saturday 11-3**

DON'T FORGET!!!

Natalie Goldberg from Taos, New Mexico will read from her latest work, *Top of My Lungs* at the El Rito Library on **Sunday, April 13**, at 3:00 p.m. We will have copies of her book for sale and Natalie will be happy to sign them. This reading is part of the library's on-going series of literary events.

THE QUILT RAFFLE – get your tickets now!

We will also be raffling the beautiful quilt donated by the El Rito Quilters Guild before Natalie's reading. You can still come by the library and buy your tickets. Refreshments will be served.

LIBRARY SPRING-CLEANING.

Spring is in the air and the Friends of the Library will be spring-cleaning the El Rito Library on **Friday, April 25**. We will be starting at 9:00 a.m., taking down all the books to clean the shelves, and continuing through the whole day and evening. The more volunteers, the less cleaning each individual will have to do. Cleaning supplies will be available, all you have to do is show up and help. If you are interested in helping clean the inside of the library, please call us at 581-4608.

MORE CLEANING!!!

It is time for our *Second Annual Community Cleanup Day*. This year it is scheduled for **Saturday, May 3**. We will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Library and continue on to other areas of the community. We hope to give away t-shirts and will definitely have a picnic at 1:00 p.m. at the NNMCC for all our volunteers. We encourage anyone who is interested, but cannot participate with the group, to pick up trash at your own property line.

COME SHARE A DAY WITH OUR HISTORY!

A New Mexico Heritage Preservation Event

will be celebrated at the Library on
Saturday, May 10, between 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

This event is to remember and record the history of this building where we are located. This building first housed a school, and then Las Clinicas del Norte and now the Library. Come listen to or tell the stories of life in this building throughout the afternoon on Saturday, May 10.

We are looking for individuals who have some history to tell in association with either the elementary school, the clinic or the library and also are hoping to find persons who might have pictures or any memorabilia (especially from the elementary school) and who wants to share them for this day. We want this event to be a great success, so we would really like to hear from you. If you are interested in helping us out, please call the Library at 581-4608 for more information.

HISTORY INFORMATION.

The second issue of the magazine "La Herencia" has arrived at the library. This issue, which focuses on Hispanic issues, includes an article about an artist who found a peaceful and creative way to deal with the tensions about land ownership that arose in the community of Chilili. "La Herencia" can be checked out of the library. We will be keeping all the issues of this magazine because it is a great source of information about past and present New Mexico.

NEW ACQUISITIONS. The Library has received several new books, books on tapes and videos, including the Spanish language film, *"Mexico, Mexico-Rah, Rah Rah"*, and the animated Japanese film, *"Grave of the Fireflies"* which tells the story of a boy and his younger sister trying to survive the period of the Second World War in Japan. Very powerful!

REMINDER: If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please drop off your donation at the library or mail it to: El Rito Library, P.O. Box 5, El Rito, NM 87530.