

*Home to Colorado's
First and Oldest*

Events/Exhibits

April - Fort Garland
Museum – Japanese Oral
History Exhibit

April 2nd - Induction
Ceremony for Return of
the Corn Mothers @ SLV
Museum

Apr 9th - Rio Grande
County Museum – Craig
Lehmann art show
opening reception

Apr 16-24th – Natl Park
Week Free admission to
Great Sand Dunes

Apr 30th - Season opening
reception at the Rio
Grande County Museum

May 28-29th - Fort
Garland Museum - Living
History Encampment

See our [calendar](#) for a full
listing of events at the
Valley's Museums

Featured Museum - Rio Grande County Museum

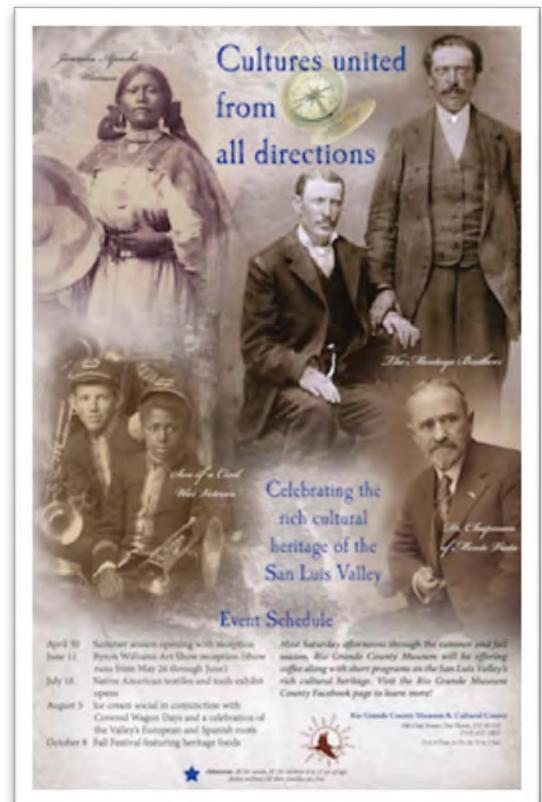
The Museum offers visitors a look into the cultural history of the area from the Native Americans, to the mountain men fur trappers, to the Mexican land grants and the settlers from New Mexico, to the gold seekers, the farmers, ranchers and merchants who came for land, freedom and a better way of life. *They came for the adventure.*

According to Louise Colville, Museum Director, “The 2016 season will start with an opening reception on April 30th featuring two exhibits - the *Old Spanish Trail* and the *Ladies of the Twin Mountain*. In June we will feature the art of Saguache artist Byron Williams. July 16th marks the opening of the *Textile* exhibit and the *Native American* exhibit. The *Textile* exhibit will feature quilts, crochet, knitting, embroidery work, Swedish weaving and Rio Grande woven blankets as well as a Navajo blanket. The *Native American* exhibit will include projectile points, photos of petroglyphs and a story of the Native Americans use of trees as an integral part of their way of life. The Museum's 2016 season will end with the Fall Festival on October 8th that will feature foods of the different cultures of the San Luis Valley and will coincide with the [Del Norte Oktoberfest](#).”

Cultures United from All Directions

Our 2016 Season Rio Grande County Museum poster celebrates the cultures that have shaped the San Luis Valley and Rio Grande County. From left to right, top row to bottom

- Jicarilla Apache woman is an unidentified woman representing the Native Americans in our area. Research continues as the museum looks to identify her so that the museum can tell her and her family's story, an integral part of the history of the Valley and southern Colorado.





The Return of the Corn Mothers is a traveling photographic/oral history exhibit of women from the Southwest who embody the spirit of community. The show is based on the Pueblo myth of the Corn Mother, a legendary entity synonymous with Mother Earth, who represents growth, life, creativity, and the feminine aspects of the world.

Read article:

<http://www.museumtrail.org/news/-return-of-the-corn-mothers>

- Nerio (standing) and Juan Santos Montoya were early settlers from New Mexico who settled in the plaza areas from the Lower Plaza west of Monte Vista to the Pinos Creek Plazas west of Del Norte.
- Whittier Jones was a Del Norte School student who eventually was an officer during WWI and played in the military band. His father was a Union soldier in the Civil War and a barber in Del Norte for 50 years.
- Dr. Norman Chapman was an early Del Norte physician who also ran a drug store. He eventually had a medical practice in Monte Vista, Summitville and Creede.

Stop by the museum for a more in-depth look into these important figures in Valley history. *A special thanks to Ruth Carapella of Pen Craft Design Company for her design work on this year's poster featured on the 1st page of this newsletter.

Hayrides into History

Hayrides into History is back by popular demand for 2016. The ride is a feature of the town's – Covered Wagons Days to be held August 1-6th, 2016.

<http://www.coveredwagondays.org>

The Hayride provides a unique perspective of a what is usually a walking tour of historic buildings but this time while seated on bales of hay. The bales are on a flat bed farm trailer being pulled by horses. The hayride takes you on a tour of a number of the buildings and homes in town that represent its 120+ year history.

“The skies are so blue, the sun so warm in winter. You can see for 60 miles by moonlight and 100 miles by day; the towering mountains reach to the sky.” Dr. McFadzen, early settler of the town of Del Norte.



Lehmann Exhibit

The Rio Grande County Museum has the pleasure of hosting a show for Monte Vista, Colorado sculptor, Craig Lehman from April 6th to end of May with the opening reception on April 9th from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Lehman is a contemporary sculptor with a unique style that is recognizable with a quiet, mystical and peaceful quality. He manages to find a balance between intuition and intellect with stoic beauty.

