

# LA VEREDA DEL NORTE

## Rio Grande County Museum celebrates OST's 20th Anniversary of Becoming a National Trail Historic Trail



**By Lyndsie Ferrell**

Saturday in Del Norte bloomed cloudy and wet with rain showers promised for the remainder of the day but that did not stop several area historians and visitors from coming out to celebrate twenty years since the National Historical Designation of the Old Spanish Trail and to commemorate the anniversary with stories about days gone by. The Rio Grande County Museum played host to the event, which featured new exhibits and welcomed keynote speakers from across southwestern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

The morning started off with the Executive Director of the Old Spanish Trail Association, Lynn Brittner, speaking about how the Trail became a National Historic Trail through an

*Las Verada Del Norte Chapter members*

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act of Congress. She acknowledged the many folks in the La Vereda del Norte Chapter who participated in the process, especially Ron Kessler. She addressed the attending crowd about the significance of the trail and what role it played in western civilization since the early 1800s and beyond. Brittner also took a moment to speak on behalf of the association: “We are looking for ways to revitalize the association and to bring new interest to the significance of the Old Spanish trail. We need new ideas and new members to ensure the survival of the organization we love so much.”

After Brittner, local archaeologist Ken Frye took the crowd on a “Trail Through Time” as he toured the museum and the exhibits based on the