On the Delicious Trail 2023
Amigos Mexican Restaurant has the flavors you remember

By Christine Road
The Hired Pen

Bishop, CA—Amigos brings the atmosphere and the umami to downtown dining with its daily specials and specialty signature dishes. Celebrating 30 years in town, current owner Rosie Garcia is carrying on Ned Zearle’s original recipes since 2018. She says they are lucky to have loyal local customers, and she adds the “unique dishes that make us stand out” continue to bring new and returning people into the restaurant.

Amigos signature dishes have savoriness, richness, and a depth of flavor development. Known as “umami” (Japanese word for rich and savory) in the cooking universe, Amigos achieves these layers of flavor with unique sauces, meats and seafood, and the restaurant’s Specialties, which include favorites like Enchiladas (Suizas) Vera Cruz and Cancun Enchiladas. Their Daily Specials (only available that day of the week) truly shine, such as Tuesday’s Baby Lobster Enchiladas and Saturday’s very tasty Tropical Enchiladas Yucatan (all Specials served with rice and beans), with “four kinds of fruit blended with Pasilla chiles to make the sauce for these chicken and guacamole enchiladas topped with Jack cheese, cilantro, and mango. This is one of the trademark dishes served at Amigos.”

The menu has a wide selection of tostadas, a giant taco salad, burritos, the Palapa Taco (seasoned white fish) with its crispy, seasoned cabbage slaw topping, and the restaurant offers a large selection of beers, wine, and some cocktails too. They serve a nice selection of tacos (authentic Mexican soft style or American crispy style), and the Street Vendor or Gordito Especial plates offer diners three savory tacos, and a special “homemade relish sauce” on the Street Vendor style tacos. These “regional” favorites take full advantage of the care with seasonings, and flavor development, and these menu dishes bring an umami not found in “fast food”/drive-thrus.

Amigos, say Garcia, is also well-known for its friendliness, atmosphere, and “the locals know its personable.” Garcia notes the restaurant has family members working, and the staff make it “all, one big family” at Amigos. “We’re blessed to live in the area,” Garcia adds. And, “luckily, the locals continue to keep coming.”

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Ralph Michael Sigler
1950 - 2023

Ralph Michael “Mike” Sigler passed away peacefully on March 23, 2023, just a week shy of his 73rd birthday. Mike was born March 24, 1950, in Bell, California to Ralph L. Sigler and Beverly A. Sigler. Soon after graduating from Bishop Union High School in 1968, he was called to serve his country by joining the Navy, during the Vietnam War.

Upon returning home, Mike settled back in his hometown, where he enjoyed the beauty that the Eastern Sierra had to offer. Mike spent much of his time on his boat fishing and diving, even starting a local dive club. He met his wife Cheryl (Piet), and the two were married in May 1983. In 1991, Mike sold his business, Bishop Auto Body, and he and Cheryl moved their family north to Gardnerville, NV. Mike continued to work hard in the auto body industry in Gardnerville for many years until he retired.

He loved being on his boat with a fishing rod and a cold drink in hand, and a San Francisco Giants game on the radio. He often said, “A bad day of fishing’ sure beats a good day working.” He lived a full life, and he will certainly be missed. Mike is survived by his wife Cheryl Sigler, daughter Carmen Schafer, and Megan Everet, numerous grandchildren, as well as his mother Beverly Sigler, and siblings Tom Sigler (Linda), and Ed Sigler (Tammy). Mike was preceded in death by his father Ralph Sr., brother Marvin, and sister Cheryl.

A special “thank you” to the VA and to the Northern Nevada Veterans Home for caring for Mike this last year. We will forever be grateful for the love and care he received. A celebration of life will be held on July 15, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., at Millpond Recreation Area in Bishop, CA. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Lewy Body Dementia Resource Center at https://lewybodyresearchcenter.org/donate/, to support promising scientific advances for LBDD.

Please bring your own chair.
Friends of Our Lands

\textbf{Nature, Connectivity, and Credit}

\textbf{Resource fair July 15 in Bishop}

Apply for credit to enjoy nature!

2 tacos FREE to the first 200 attendees! Raffles, music, and more!

In a recent trend, more and more national parks are going "cashless" and accepting payment of entrance and possibly other fees via credit or debit card only. This implies administrative efficiency and significant cost savings for the parks—to the tune of $40,000 per year for Death Valley National Park, which did away with exemptions related to armored car transportation for bank deposits, as well as staff time spent counting cash and processing paperwork, when it instituted cashless payment for entrance and camping fees on June 1.

However, cashless payment could create a barrier to access for underbanked community members who lack credit.

In response to this development, Bishop-based conservation nonprofit Friends of the Inyo, in partnership with AltaOne Federal Credit Union, Cerro Coso Community College, the U.S. National Park Service and other organizations, is putting together an English/Spanish bilingual resource fair called Nature, Connectivity and Credit (Naturalidad, Conexividad y Crédito), scheduled to take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at the parking lot of the AltaOne FCU Bishop branch at 482 N. Main Street downtown.

This is a FREE event open to the entire community. It will include food—two free tacos for the first 200 attendees, as well as food available for purchase—music, drawings for prizes, lots of useful information in English and Spanish, and the opportunity to find financial solutions that can make nature easier.

Attendees who do not have a credit or debit card are welcome to come to the event bringing with them a valid ID, matricule or passport, their social security number or ITIN (individual taxpayer identification number), and two of their most recent paystubs as proof of income, so they can apply for an account and/or credit card with AltaOne.

The idea is to have the local Latino and other underrepresented communities come and learn about credit, apply for a credit or debit card account with AltaOne, get hands-on assistance on navigating national park websites and the National Park Service app, and obtain information on a whole range of other resources to improve their quality of life, such as how to recreate responsibly in nature, how to strengthen their home against wildfires, how to recycle waste properly, how to enroll for courses at Cerro Coso Community College, how to find local jobs, and more.

The event is part of Latino Conservation Week (LCW), which this year takes place from July 15 to 23. According to the LatinoConservationWeek.com website, LCW is an initiative of the Hispanic Access Foundation "created to support the Latino community getting into the outdoors and participating in activities to protect our natural resources." During Latino Conservation Week, organizations and agencies hold events throughout the country to help promote conservation efforts in their community, and provide an opportunity for Latinos to show their support for permanently protecting our land, water, and air.

But it all begins with access to nature. Through projects like Conexividad y Crédito, we want to help make access possible for those who might otherwise be left out of enjoying our beautiful national parks and the—well as we open the door to other opportunities that credit might allow.

Chris Lowe, Director of Marketing & Community Development for AltaOne FCU, which served Mono, Inyo, Kern and Northern San Bernardino Counties, said, "Part of our mission is to improve access to financial solutions. By partnering with Friends of the Inyo and the National Park Service, we can offer services that give community members the ability to enjoy nature and in turn help with conservation efforts in the area." In 2022, AltaOne was certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a Community Development Financial Institution, a designation that allows it to receive grants from the CDFI Fund to bring access to communities that have limited or no availability of financial services.

Helping with multigenerational outreach in Cerro Coso Community College, whose students in Bishop, Mammoth and other Eastern Sierra communities can help spread the word among their parents and other relatives about Nature Connectivity and Credit.

Tanna Berman, the college’s Program Coordinator of Outreach Services, said, "Outreach is crucial to our mission and to our communities that may not have prior experience with college or access to college information and resources. Students from these communities are U.S.-born in bridging that gap for their parents and other relatives that may be interested in Cerro Coso but don’t know where to start.

Bishop Mayor Pro Tem Joce Garca, who has been supportive of this outreach and even participating in planning meetings, will deliver a bilingual greeting to attendees during the event. Other organizations expected at our local LCW outreach are the Whitebluffs Institute, the Ferrisner Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD), Eastern Sierra Interpreting Association (ESIA), Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center, Bishop Waste, Inyo National Forest, and the Friends of the Eastern California Museum. We are still accepting additional interested volunteers. Please write to info@friendsoftheinyo.org by Monday, July 10 at the latest. Exhibitors must bring their own table, chairs and shade.

See you at Nature, Connectivity and Credit Unitl then, let’s all continue to be friends of our lands.

Louis Medina serves as Director of Communications and Philanthropy for Friends of the Inyo. You can reach him at Louis@friendsoftheinyo.org.
Friends of Our Lands
Associate Teacher Certificate of Achievement Program Online ¡En Espanol! Spanish Speakers Enrolling Cerro Coso Community College with Their Hopes and Dreams

Second of two parts. The first part of this article was published two weeks ago in El Sol de la Sierra in Spanish, as well as in The Sierra Reader.

It’s not every day that someone packs up his family and leaves the sandy beaches of Honolulu, Hawaii, to come and work in the sandy desert lands of Ridgecrest, California. But Frank Guevara did just that.

The 51-year-old professor at Cerro Coso Community College gave up the balmy weather of his fourth state, where he and his family had been living for three years, to open an association that would help teach the kids of the area the value of education and give them rewards that are as fresh and as sweet as a gentle, tropical breeze.

Guevara, an English-Spanish bilingual child development instructor, was hired by Cerro Coso to teach its Associate Teacher Certificate of Achievement program, a 14-unit curriculum offered through four foundational courses over a school year, online and on campus.

Launched in the fall of the 2022-2023 school year, the certificate program—which CCCC was already offering online in English even before COVID—Guevara says its target was to lead Spanish-speaking folks who are already working with small children as children providers, but looking to strengthen their knowledge base to support the growth, development and school readiness of the children in their care. The coursework meets the standards for the Child Development Associate Teacher Permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Some students, like Lupita Alvarado, a first cohort graduate who was featured in the first part of this story published last week in The Sierra Reader, enroll in the program because they are looking to be more than teaching assistants. Others, Guevara says, are looking to have the certification needed to run a children’s business out of their home.

Conducted through asynchronous Zoom meetings—meaning all students attend class online at the same time—the program gives the teacher and students an opportunity to interact with one another in real time. For Guevara’s Spanish students, being able to come together synchronously was reassuring. Traveling from age young to adults in their community, he said, first cohort students had varying levels of knowledge not only about the field of child development itself, but also working with the specific people of those communities they hoped to understand the concept of Zoom, he said. They would ask, “Where is the class? How do I get into the class?”

This is where Cerro’s living resources, like Almas Rangel, the “embedded tutor” in Guevara’s class last year, come in. Rangel, who is fully bilingual and had already completed the program, served as a mentor to the other students, which made a big difference in their progress. The college also offered the support of other bilingual staff to help students navigate through the registration process to applications for financial aid to register for the first year. For those who choose to have a computer at home, more.

They help you with everything,” said Almas, who got a lot of support from Rangel, thinks the world of her and Guevara, benefited from the use of a loaned laptop, and received financial aid that paid for just about the entire course (the per-unit fee for eligible California residents, by the way, is $48, according to the college website). Almas is already reaping the rewards as a result of graduating from the program. She recently received a promotion to the elementary school where she is employed.

And just as her students benefit from her and other college staff, so did Guevara learn from them. While his parents are both Mexican and he and his three siblings grew up speaking Spanish at home in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles, Guevara, who has a Doctorate in Early Childhood Education from Northwest University in Peoria, Arizona, had to improvise the child development Spanish vocabulary in a hurry. His students were helpful in teaching him new words, he said. They also provided useful feedback to Guevara and Rangel to help them redesign the course midstream, beginning in the second semester, to make it a more streamlined and easier for them to handle the heavy course load of class attendance four nights a week plus reading, homework, and exams, all while keeping up with the rigors of their day jobs.

“We are proud of these ladies because they’ve overcome time constraints and challenges,” Guevara said of his students. “We had this group back in August, scarred, unsure of what was going to happen,” he said, then, when graduation was held in May at the Cerro Coso main campus in Ridgecrest, most of the 17 graduating students in the program showed up, many of them with their families, “from San Diego to Stockton,” the proud professor said. Almas said Cerro Coso even made a film link available so that family members, like her own family back in Mexico, could watch the graduation ceremony live.

More information on this program, which will continue to be offered in 2023-24, as well as the entire online offering from CCCC, can be found on the campus.edu website, where a welcome message from College President Dr. Sean Hancock invites everyone to “Thank you for enrolling in our hopes and dreams to Cerro Coso Community College.”

If you or someone you know would like to enroll in the Associate Teacher Certificate of Achievement Spanish Language Program of Cerro Coso Child Development Department, the college has two upcoming fall enrollment support sessions in Zoom in Spanish scheduled for Thursday, July 6th, 6-8 p.m. By July 18th, 6-8 p.m. Please email Education Advisor Altonia Guzman at altonia.guzman@cerrocoso.edu in Spanish or English, asking which session you would like to attend, and a link to that online session will be provided to you. During that enrollment session, you can ask about financial aid possibilities for those who qualify, and any concerns regarding a student’s undocumented status.

Until next time, we will meet you on the pages of The Sierra Reader. Let’s continue to be friends of our lands.

Linda Medrano is Director of Communications and Philanthropy for Bishop-based conservation nonprofit Friends of the Inyo. You can write to him at lmedrano@friendsoftheinyo.org.
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180 days per year beginning August 17, 2023
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1 hour per day, Monday-Friday 7:30 - 8:30am
180 days per year beginning August 17, 2023
Salary Range F $15.50 - $17.61 depending on experience

All positions over 4 hours/day offer retirement, paid time off and a health insurance plan with dental and vision benefits. Full job descriptions available at the District Office.

When schedules allow, positions may be combined but shall not exceed 8 hours per day.

Deadline to apply: Open until filled
Applications and full job descriptions are available at the District Office, 656 West Pine St. You may also contact Marianne Yonge, myonge@bishopschools.org or by phone 760-872-3680.
Donations Wanted • New Items Arrive Every Day!

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce is a community-based, membership-driven non-profit organization that works to sustain and improve the local economy. The chamber provides education, advocacy, networking, and referrals for its 300+ member businesses. The visitor’s bureau division of the organization focuses on destination management and marketing.

The Chamber Board of Directors provides strategy, policy, and oversight for the organization’s small staff. We are fortunate to have this dedicated group of business leaders serving our community. They contribute in a diverse array of perspectives, experiences, and talents to the organization, states Chamber Executive Director Tamra Thurston.

The annual election was recently completed, and the Chamber is pleased to announce the following slate of leaders for 2023-2024.

President Cheryl Underhill. Cheryl serves on the Board of Eastern Sierra Cancer Alliance, NMD Foundation and BN of Bishop Parks & Recreation Commission. She is a life member of NH Auxiliary, VFW Auxiliary Post 8638, American Legion Auxiliary Airline International, Bishop Lions Club United We Ride, Moms Club, American Red Cross (Diaster Action Team), and Salvation Army Shelter Team. She participates in many other community activities.

Vice President Suni Ladd. Suni’s family operates Ladd Hospitality Management, focusing on mid- to franchise hotels. In Bishop, they run the Bishop Western Bishop Lodge and Comfort Inn. Suni proudly represents his family’s second generation of hotel ownership in Bishop.

Treasurer Robert Sharp. Robert is the Bishop’s President of Eastern Sierra Community Bank overseeing operations in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes, and Bridgeport. Robert is a native son of the Eastern Sierra, is a graduate of Brigham Young University and studied abroad before returning to our region. Community involvement is very important to Robert — he enjoys working with many local civic organizations.

Immediate Past President Sarah Friedland. Sarah is co-owner, with husband Dennis, of Bishop’s local Grocery Outlet. Sarah is a past President and director of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. She has a bachelor of arts in global business from the University of California, Davis. Sarah is a past president and chairman of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and has been a member of the Chamber since 1996.

Board Member Manuela Kaczor. Manu is a businesswoman and the owner of Kaczor Orthodontics, a practice she and her husband Dr. Steven Kaczor founded in 1984. They are the proud parents of two children and are active in the Bishop community, serving on numerous committees and organizations.

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce is committed to working with our community partners and organizations to promote Bishop and the Eastern Sierra region. We encourage you to support these organizations and the businesses that support them. By supporting the local economy, you are supporting the community that you call home. Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions or would like to become a member of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, please feel free to contact us at 760-760-5422 or visit our website at bishopchamberofcommerce.com.
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