Multicultural center offers Spanish lessons to all

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It’s no great secret that Spanish speakers are the single largest minority group in the United States — and that means those of us who speak English as a first language might be greatly served by learning to effectively communicate in the Lingua Espanola so many of our friends and co-workers use on a daily basis.

To that end, the Moab Valley Multicultural Center (MVMC) is offering Spanish language classes that are tailored for beginners that want to learn the language. The classes, which are taught by Lin Kolb, will start on Tuesday, Oct. 31 and run through Tuesday, Dec. 19. Classes for beginners will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m., with an advanced class held from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. For those who wish to take an intermediate/advanced class, there will be one offered each Wednesday, starting Nov. 1 and running through Dec. 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All classes are $5 per session.

The center’s executive director, Rhiana Medina, said classes like this are important for everyone that wants to learn a new language — or brush up on their skills linguistically.

“For a variety of reasons, classes like this are important because in your job, or out in public, being able to speak and understand it is important because the predominant second language in Moab is Spanish,” Medina said. “If you are a parent, maybe your kids have friends that speak Spanish, so it will help in interactions with them as well.”

According to Medina, anyone who has ever heard the lilt of beautifully spoken Spanish, also known as Castellano, a Romance language that grew out of Latin and smatterings of Arabic, Galician, French and Italian, knows the beauty and expressiveness it possesses.

“Another great reason to learn Spanish is that it allows you to be more expressive and say things, in an elegant way, that you can’t really say quite the same way in English,” Medina
said. “There are feelings and thoughts that are much clearer when you speak in non-English languages.”

For more information about the classes, call MVMC at 435-259-5444, or visit moabmc.org/programs.

ByBy Greg Knight

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