

JANUARY 2020

# Questa Del Rio News

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**BIGHORN SHEEP**

Page 16

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**BREATHE**

Page 9



QUESTA • RED RIVER • CERRO • COSTILLA • AMALIA • LAMA • SAN CRISTOBAL

## Questa: Taos County's Thrifting Destination!

By NICK NAGAWIECKI

Questa has developed quite the reputation as a thrifting destination. This summer saw another great addition, with the arrival of the Kiowa Thrift Store, right next door to CarQuesta on Hwy 522. The pantheon of three thrifts shops: *Jay's Unique Thrift Shop*, *Artesanos de Questa (Twice as Nice)*, and *The Kiowa Thrift Store* now anchor Questa as THE place to buy resale goods in Taos County. Taos has several thrift stores, along with traffic, parking problems, high prices, and crowds. Many of these resale shops sell their goods at boutique or retail prices, warranted or not.

High-quality retail space is key to capturing potential business. Questa has a unique combination of available space, low rent, and clear access for traffic and parking to make retail locations thrive. The thrift shops occupy spaces that might otherwise be vacant. Vacant properties are a huge liability for any town, especially in central locations. They can attract crime and be a health and safety hazard. If Questa's thrift stores remain successful, there will be greater incentive to improve



Photo by Emily Wilde

*Artesanos de Questa- Twice as Nice Thrift Shop, 41 Highway 38, Questa, NM 87556, next to the Questa Post Office.*

its urban infrastructure. New sidewalks, improved drainage, and good roads are important to making the town safe and attractive for its residents—and visitors.

Thrifting in Questa is gratifying because its shops are quirky, fun, and unpredictable. You never know what you will find with second-hand goods! Thrift shoppers appreciate a good adventure. It is a beautiful drive to Questa from all directions and some frequent visitors to

the area, whether for recreation or to visit family, make it a point to visit Questa's thrift shops every time they come. It is estimated that at least 500,000 people pass through Questa every year, either along the Enchanted Circle route or coming from Colorado.

There is an economic concept called the "paradox of thrift." The business lobby promotes the idea that as people try to save more money, less money is

brought into the economy. Then less money in circulation will cause demand to decrease, and therefore, workers will earn less. Some would argue, therefore, that the process of saving money actually causes a local economy to lose money. It is a dogmatic approach because it requires a consumer to blindly funnel money into an economy and expect it to be paid back. Whoever came to that conclusion

**THRIFTY QUESTA** continued page 24

### Positive Thoughts

by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

Happy New Year, everyone! January begins the second decade of this new millennium! You might have wondered where you would be in January of 2000 when you were younger; I did. But the thought of 2020 never crossed my mind!

When Y2K threatened to shut down the grid and everything cyber, I was at home in Massachusetts with a husband, two children, and half a cord of firewood for the fireplace, just in case. On December 21, 2012, like so many around the world, twenty of us gathered at Spirit Fire, a rural retreat center, to dance, meditate, and celebrate the old ways of humanity to fall away so that a new cycle of light, goodness of heart, and creative open minds

could come forward. I still believe that is so and is happening. Maybe you do, too, no matter what hardships currently beset humanity or threaten life on this planet. Together, with everyone and everything included, the first decades of this millennium can mark the century when humanity chooses peace and well-being as paramount. May it be so.

**POSITIVE THOUGHTS** continued page 28

## EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Jan 27-28th  
ONLINE AUCTION  
starting at 6pm

Jay's Unique Thrift Store  
is selling  
ALL their inventory.

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# Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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#### OUR MISSION

To Inform, Inspire, Connect and Unite the Communities of Northern Taos County.

#### NUESTRO OBJETIVO

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This month some of us have a day off to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—and it's a Monday, yay! Some of us don't have the day off, but Dr. King's dedication to justice, peace, and brotherhood is worth celebrating. I am a huge fan of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I understand what he did for our country and what he stands for. I often think of Dr. King's many great quotes, which give me inspiration.

Years ago, I accepted a job teaching media to at-risk youth in Gallup, NM. My first social event there was a three-day community-wide celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Until then, MLK Day for me was just a date on the calendar when the banks were closed. Gallup celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with gusto. They make it a big deal and it was a life-changing experience for me.

The weekend kicked off with an open mic poetry and music jam of vintage protest songs as well as outstanding original work by talented locals. There was a march to commemorate not just Dr. King, but all the individuals who have taken a stand for civil rights. Hundreds of participants (or maybe thousands?) marched from the county courthouse to the armory, a few miles away. There we attended an expo with speeches about justice and equality, and an art exhibit from school children displaying what they gleaned on the topic in their social studies and history classes. There were booths and exhibits from organizations, large and small.

All over the country during World War II, while Japanese-Americans were dragged into internment camps, one of Gallup's shining moments in history was when the town defended their Japanese citizens, who were well-respected in the community. A bridge and a high school in Gallup were named after a war hero, Hiroshi H. Miyamura. The initial "H" apparently stands for Hershey because his teachers couldn't correctly pronounce Hiroshi.

Racism is a sensitive topic in Gallup. It boasts the title "Indian Capitol," and Native Americans of many tribes live or visit there. Gallup also has a beautiful mosque and is home to many Palestinian and Muslim people—who knew?

I was lucky enough to live in Gallup for five years for an education in multi-culturalism. The experience has shaped who I am today. I was there when the town was reinventing itself, much like Questa is now. The two communities have much in common. From all appearances, driving through on the highway, one would have no clue at what lies under the surface; the rich history, the outstanding people, the creativity, the courage and commitment of citizens to move through struggle into a shining future. As Questa transitioned from a mining town, it became a community struggling with unemployment, typically resulting in social ills related to poverty and uncertainty. Now, Questa is a community that is courageously addressing its problems and experiencing growing pains, I hope that we remember the life and works of Dr. King and the many who have come before him and after him to make this world a better place for all people.

*The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace, and brotherhood.* —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BLESSINGS TO ALL IN THE NEW YEAR  
FROM ALL OF US AT QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS

# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO HAVE SENT US CONTRIBUTIONS!

WHAT IS GOOD FOR OUR PAPER IS  
GOOD FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

— Everyone at the Questa Del Rio News

CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR JANUARY ISSUE, THANK YOU!

WENDY CLARKE, PETE CRIDER, LISA FOX, ELLEN GOINS, BRANDON GONZALES, KATHY GONZALES, CARRIE LEVEN, TODD MICHAELS, JIM NAGLE, NIKI NICHOLS, FELIZ ORTEGA, KIMBERLY RITTERHOUSE, MARK SIDERIS, TRACEY STONE, PEGGY TRIGG, RAPHAEL WEISMAN, MICHAEL YOUNG



**WHEW! ANOTHER YEAR HAS COME AND GONE!**

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who participated with the 2019 Taos FEEDS Taos annual food drive in the Questa, Cerro, Costilla and Amalia areas.

This was our 34th year distributing food for Taos FEEDS Taos. We gave out 150 food boxes in the areas of Questa, Cerro, Costilla and Amalia, and distributed over 1,200 food boxes throughout Taos County with enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

Special thanks go to Lillian Trujillo and Marina Garcia for helping take applications. They also assisted with

the distribution of the boxes along with Delena and Coony Trujillo. I really could not have done it without them. I am grateful for the partnership between Harvest Questa Church and Taos FEEDS Taos.

In addition, the 1115th National Guard Transportation Unit delivered the food to Questa and Costilla, and Chevron/Entact helped us unload the truck along with their generous monetary donation. As they do every year, Kit Carson sent their employees to assist with the preparation and distribution of the boxes.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!  
LOUISE GALLEGOS  
VICE PRESIDENT, T  
AOS FEEDS TAOS

**KIT CARSON REC CHANGES SOLAR RULES**

Recently we decided to go solar. Since I was constructing a new shop/garage on my property I decided that it would be a good place to install the system so I prepped it accordingly. Ready to move forward I contacted three solar companies intending to compare their proposals. I started with PPC Solar and was informed that Kit Carson Rural Electric Co-op was being difficult to work with because they had started to restrict the size of installations. Undeterred, I told them to move forward with a proposal. Next I contacted Valverde Energy who said that they were no longer accepting new work for solar installations and were considering closing the doors on solar installations. They too mentioned that Kit Carson REC was making the process too onerous and customers were unwilling to move forward due to new restrictions.

I then contacted Sunpro Solar, a national business with an office in Santa Fe. I made an appointment for what I

was told was an onsite evaluation. When that date arrived I received a phone call and was informed they were no longer making site visits in the Kit Carson REC service area since few customers were willing to move forward with the new restrictions in place. They were more than happy to provide me with a proposal remotely for a system that would offset only 35% of my annual usage, their understanding of the effect of the new restrictions.

Based on the information received from two of the companies, one proposal indicated that it would take 7-1/2 years to recover a cash investment at 100% offset and over 15 years if that investment was financed. At 35% offset, that increases to 15+ years on a cash investment and over 30 years if financed. It quickly became clear to me why people are not moving forward with solar installations.

In an effort to better understand the new restrictions I called Kit Carson REC. Three days later I received a call back from COO Richard Martinez. He explained briefly the Coop's solar objective and goals. We had a brief conversation about net metering, then agreed to meet personally. At our meeting Richard again explained the Coop's solar objectives and the status to date. We then discussed the new net metering restriction implemented just a couple of months ago. The new policy restricts the size of private solar installations to offset daytime use only. Depending on the specific situation, that results in smaller solar arrays which only offset 35-50% of a home's total usage.

Mr. Martinez said the rationale were basically twofold:

The expense of additional equipment required to protect the grid from private systems i.e., voltage regulators to prevent spikes in voltage. I am no electrician, but my inquiries suggest that additional equipment is not necessary. Spikes in the voltage are most likely to occur at

the large solar arrays that are providing over 90% of the regional solar supply. When I asked about these occurrences to date, Richard could only recall one. It occurred at one of their large arrays.

The cost of energy production. As an example, he asked why the Coop should pay \$.12/kw when they can acquire it for \$.04/kw? This economic concern is unfair to the membership. I as well as others who desire to install solar are not interested in becoming net solar producers, only in offsetting our use. This cost is not significant in the contribution of these small owner installations. The regulations state that any over-production on any annual basis will be compensated at the market rate.

When asked if this new policy was put out to the membership for consideration Richard's response was that it was not a policy, but a practice. Whether a policy or a practice, these restrictions have potentially significant effects to all Coop members. In effect, Kit Carson REC has made it financially undesirable, if not infeasible, for private installations. These restrictions are also having a significant impact on business/free enterprise within the Coop's service area.

Kit Carson REC is member-owned and as such requires its members be actively involved in setting policies and making decisions. To date, the membership has not been invited to participate in a policy/decision with such significant impact and, according to Richard, the Coop has no plan to do so. It is the responsibility of every member of Kit Carson REC to let Coop leadership know and understand that member participation in such significant policy/decision making is not only important but required.

KURT WINCHESTER

LETTERS continued page 4

**CAV Thrift Store**  
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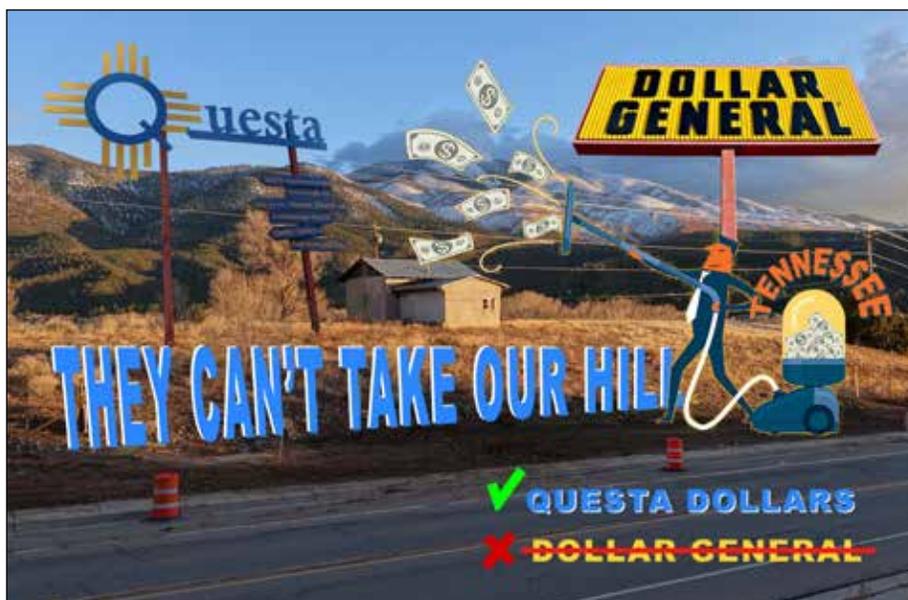
LETTERS *continued* from page**To The Editor**

It seems that Dollar General is determined to come to Questa, no matter how many signatures are gathered in opposition or how many local businesses (and the people who work for them) will be hurt. This giant, out-of-state corporation (with over 15,000 stores, nationwide) is charging forward, regardless of what the people of Questa think of their plans.

The business seems unconcerned to be seen as unwelcome interlopers, imposing themselves upon this community. What a great business model; to elbow your way into an already saturated market (a competing dollar store stands less than a mile away) while alienating the very people whose business you seek. With a real estate contract in your back pocket, a fleet of corporate lawyers and no applicable zoning ordinance to inconvenience you, it's full speed ahead toward dollar store domination in Questa!

If Dollar General will not be deterred, then how can we make sure that we have a good, law-abiding corporate citizen in our midst? According to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dollar\\_General#Perpetuating\\_economic\\_distress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dollar_General#Perpetuating_economic_distress) it would be naive to expect Dollar General to meet a high standard voluntarily, without clear expectations and diligent oversight. This corporation has a history of "financial irregularities," false statements, allegations of fraud and failures to report adverse financial information, resulting in a 2001 settlement of \$162 million in U.S. District Court.

There is also a long, ongoing history of health and safety violations, citations and fines by OSHA. Don't imagine that disputes will be resolved easily or amicably; only three years ago, Dollar General



Thank you, Daniel Hutchison for sending this graphic along with online petition to Dollar General at <http://chng.it/4JCLJrbw>

contested an adverse ruling by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, seeking to negate tribal jurisdiction over a company store built on tribal land. At stake was Dollar General's liability in a lawsuit brought against a local manager who assaulted a tribal member employed at the store. Fortunately, the Supreme Court upheld the lower court's ruling, but this corporation's all-out effort to avoid accountability and nullify its agreements is a cautionary tale for Questa.

Speaking of corporate behavior, Questa residents eyeing employment opportunities with Dollar General might wish to read the following article: <https://www.abc12.com/home/headlines/Swartz-Creek-woman-takes-push-for-overtime-reform-to-Washington-DC--305516641.html>

At the very least, we must insist that this Fortune 500 company (\$26 billion in 2018 revenue) pay its own way. Did someone recruit them to come here? Are we competing with other small northern towns for the prestige of having a Dollar General? It's true that there will be some

temporary construction jobs, but what else will this corporation contribute to our local economy that would justify a free ride? According to studies, these dollar stores typically create fewer jobs at lower pay than the independent groceries they aim to drive out of business <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/19/business/dollar-general-opposition/index.html>. Any money spent at the new Dollar General will be siphoned off to corporate headquarters in Tennessee. When you shop at Questa Market, your dollars stay right here.

I still hope that Questa will persuade Dollar General to go away, but if not, our village leaders must resist the temptation to grant them tax abatements or other financial incentives. In addition, we should insist that the company fund any infrastructure improvements made necessary by its presence, be responsible for any disruption of traffic and utilities caused by construction and effectively mitigate erosion of the landscape on this hilltop property.

One last thing; This special place we

live in is one of very few remaining "dark sky" areas in the U.S., where we can marvel at the glory of the Milky Way. The last thing we want is a large, brightly lit parking lot adding to the rising glow on the horizon. In 1999, the State of New Mexico passed the New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act (NSPA), which requires all counties and municipalities to enforce the provisions of the act, strictly regulating the types of outdoor lighting installed and the manner of their installation for all new buildings. Dollar General's all-night security lighting scheme should come under close scrutiny, along with any application for replacement or revision.

I hope readers will call upon Questa Mayor (and County Commissioner) Gallegos and the Village Councilors to do all in their power to send Dollar General packing. If that's not in the cards, they must work to ensure that our municipal and county governments hold Dollar General accountable at every turn, requiring full compliance with each and every regulation, without exception or exemption, in order to minimize the adverse impact of this unnecessary and unwanted business upon our community.

Remember; Dollar General's corporate scale allows them to undercut family-owned grocery stores on price and drive them out of business. This is by design. If they do come here, let's rally around Questa Market and other local stores in return for their years of service to this community. Let's keep our local family businesses afloat and their workers employed.

SINCERELY,  
JONATHAN HUTCHISON  
~ EL RITO/LATIR

## Searching for a QEDF Executive Director

STAFF WRITERS

The Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) is searching for an executive director. The current director of economic development, Lindsay Mapes, is transitioning to lead the growing Questa Lodging Project with the San Antonio del Rio Colorado Historic Preservation (SARCHP) non-profit, best known for the rehabilitation of the San Antonio de Padua Church in Questa.

"It's been a fulfilling and productive last three years," said Mapes about her time at the helm of the QEDF. She

has worked on over a dozen projects, including starting the Questa Fishing Derby, being a key player in the creation of the Questa del Rio News, and making the push for offering short-term rentals in Questa.

"Questeños have welcomed me into their homes and I feel like I'm a part of this community," she commented. "I'm thrilled to be able to continue my work here in a new capacity; a more focused role."

The Lodging Project, having received \$200,000 in grants last month and over \$25,000 in grants to date for senior citi-

zen homeowners, will require dedication and focus to grow this innovative project to fiscal sustainability. "One of the first projects I worked on in 2017 was completing an inventory of vacant homes in Questa, with help from Esther Garcia and Ashley Cintas. It has grown, and now has the same budget as the QEDF. It needs more attention to launch the project successfully," she commented.

While the QEDF will miss Lindsay leading their organization, there is an opportunity for someone to fill her shoes.

"I feel like I have started a lot of

fun and meaningful projects. It's time for someone to take these projects and the organization to the next level," said Mapes.

The QEDF has a big role to fill in finding a new executive director, and we are curious and excited to see who the Board selects.

They are accepting applications for the position until January 2. If you are interested in throwing your name in the hat, email QEDF board chairman, Malaquias Rael, Jr. at [mvr@questaedf.com](mailto:mvr@questaedf.com) for a full position description and economic development plan.



By ELLEN GOINS

If you'd like to experience the feel of wilderness—while skiing or snowshoeing on groomed trails—check out Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Area near Red River. This mountain gem exists because many years ago my father, John Miller, decided to chuck a secure job with a windowless office in Amarillo, Texas, and head to the mountains of northern New Mexico. I was two, the youngest of three children (though a fourth was soon on the way).

Dad worked as an assistant manager at the Red River Ski Area, then as a mining engineer at the molybdenum mine in Questa Canyon. Mom became a part-time ski instructor at Powder Puff Mountain—a beginner ski hill in Red River—and had her hands full taking care of four children.

A few years later, in 1970, with partners Gary and Fran Starbuck, dad and mom decided to buy Powder Puff Mountain. With a mere 700 vertical feet, Powder Puff had few runs and no trails to speak of—other than “Expert,” which was so short you could go straight down without breaking into a turn. Lift tickets were \$6 for adults and \$4.50 for kids. Lessons were \$5. Powder Puff was also one of the first Western ski areas with snowmaking, a concept so novel that one of our brochures featured a picture of a snow gun and the triumphant caption “We make snow!”

Mom soon had fans who fell in love with her cheery yet often wandering radio ski reports. The same could be said of her loudspeaker announcements at Powder Puff, which were used to sell lessons, find lost parents and kids, broadcast events, and occasionally forget precisely what she wanted to say. “Attention, please,” she'd sometimes announce, only to leave her listeners hanging, waiting for information that never came. Once, when my sister went skiing in

the early morning, her voice blared out, “Attention, please, Linda Miller, you put a hat on right now! It's cold outside!”

Dad was (and still is) known for his sense of humor. He once put up a sign that instructed people from Central Standard Time to set their watches back 42 minutes instead of one hour, “because of the altitude.” He got a kick out of watching people trying to make the correct calculations.

In 1979, my parents sold Powder Puff and began offering backcountry lessons and tours in the Upper Red River Valley. In 1985, after skiing at Royal Gorge in Soda Springs, California—the largest groomed cross-country ski area in the United States—Dad was inspired to build a groomed area on a plateau atop Bobcat Pass. The Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area opened in the winter of 1985-6 with about 10 kilometers of trails.

Today, it's grown to 33 kilometers of ski trails—groomed for classic and skate skiing—that meander through large aspen groves and old-growth forests with views of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness, Gold Hill, the Moreno Valley, Touch-Me-Not and Baldy Peaks; as well as 15 kilometers of snowshoe trails, and about 3 kilometers of dog-friendly trails. Rentals include touring, performance and skating skis, child tow-sleds, and snowshoes. Lessons are offered for beginners to advanced skiers. It is located 3.5 miles east of Red River, just below the summit of Bobcat Pass on Hwy 38. Info: 505-754-6112 or [enchantedforestxc.com](http://enchantedforestxc.com).

Geoff Goins and I bought The Enchanted Forest in 2010 and I admit that some years drought and the ups and downs of business made it hard to get by. Like my dad, I suppose, we're led by optimism and love!

### ENCHANTED FOREST EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe Tours:  
Saturdays — Jan. 4 & March 7, 2020

Valentine's Day Yurt Dinner Party:  
5:30 pm, Friday, Feb. 14, 2020

“Just Desserts” Eat & Ski (& Snowshoe):  
Saturday, Feb. 23, 2020

Headlamp Snowshoe Tour: Saturday,  
March 14, 2020

[enchantedforestxc.com](http://enchantedforestxc.com)



Photos by Ellen Goins

Luminaria Ski and Snowshoe Tour on Christmas Day.



Skiing in Red River at The Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area.

# Rio Grande Water Fund Celebrates 5th Anniversary



Rio Grand River, Wild Rivers, Cerro, New Mexico

Photo By Emily Wilde

By TRACEY STONE,  
NATURE CONSERVANCY

As The Nature Conservancy-led Rio Grande Water Fund celebrates its fifth anniversary, leaders report that much-needed forest thinning has increased a whopping 1,000 percent since the Fund's launch! The annual average of acres thinned was 3,000, but for the second consecutive year, the Water Fund has collectively improved 30,000 acres of forest at risk for wildfire.

The Water Fund is a collaborative effort with 85 partners, designed to increase the scale of forest restoration to help prevent catastrophic fires and secure drinking water for one million people in New Mexico.

"The really exciting aspect of the Rio

Grande Water Fund is that in order to achieve this goal, the business community, the private sector, and the public sector have come together to leverage funding to make this happen," said Martin Haynes, New Mexico Business Water Task Force. "Due to the cooperation of everyone, we're seeing more work on the ground."

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority was the first public utility to make a significant investment in the Water Fund. Its \$1 million commitment supports projects from Albuquerque to Colorado.

According to Katherine Yuhas, who serves as Water Resources Manager for the utility, "We want to ensure clean, secure drinking water for everyone. The

surface water we use for drinking travels more than 200 miles from its source to our customers. Improving forest health in the watersheds along that route is a key part of our water plan."

The effort is paying off. In the last two years, fires that could have become severe were slowed. Flames burning as high as 100 feet in the air dropped to less than four feet when the Cajete Fire moved into areas that had been thinned in the nearby Santa Fe National Forest. Similarly, east of Albuquerque in the Manzanita Mountains, lightning sparked a fire. Instead of a catastrophe, the flames burned to the ground, thanks to recent forest thinning in the Cibola National Forest.

"Our Water Fund has become a model of land and water management for other

countries and cities across the US," says Terry Sullivan, TNC's state director for New Mexico. "The key is our collaboration and partners. Together, we can truly make a difference."

## BY THE NUMBERS: Since the 2014 launch

- 140,000 acres treated with thinning, controlled burns and managed natural fires
- 330,000 acres in the planning pipeline
- 210 estimated forest jobs created
- \$18 million overall economic impact
- 5 northern New Mexico communities provided financial support
- 5 stream and wetland restoration projects completed

# The RTD Blue Bus System—More Accessibility

By JIM NAGLE

Work on Phase V and VI of the North Central Regional Transit District (RTD) Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan has expanded into Taos County. Most significant is the construction of their first Park & Ride facility, located by the KTAOS Solar Center at the southeast corner of US Highway 64 and NM 150. The RTD Park & Ride Taos is a fully developed and improved ADA-compliant parking facility which can accommodate 83 cars on the RTD Blue Bus TSV Green, Evening Night Rider, and Questa routes. It will also accommodate future routes that may need to connect at this location.

The Park & Ride includes an ADA-compliant bus shelter, concrete pads, lighting, and will provide more ef-

ficient and safer access for buses moving in and out of the stop. The development is the result of a long-term usage agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT).

Construction was also completed on the southbound stop, opposite Cid's Market on Paseo del Pueblo Norte, which includes a bus pullout with ADA-accessible concrete pad and shelter. Additional improvements for a new shelter and pad are earmarked for the Taos Public Library, the Guadalupe Church parking lot, the northbound stop outside Cid's Market, and the northbound stop located on Paseo del Pueblo Sur and Bertha St., all in the Town of Taos.

"Upgrading RTD bus stops and facilities to be in compliance with the Amer-

icans With Disabilities Act has long been one of the primary goals of the District and we're proud to be expanding the program to Taos and Taos County," stated Daniel Barrone, NCRTD Chair and Mayor of the Town of Taos. "We are especially pleased to be adding so many site improvements to the lot by the Solar Center, which for years existed as a virtual parking free-for-all. Now it will be clean, have amenities, and provide safer

access for people using the location."

The NCRTD received funding from various agencies representing the populations they serve, including the Northern Pueblos Regional Planning Organization, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), through NMDOT.



# Why Our Children Need the Library

By SHARON NICHOLSON,  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

One of the first social skills we help our children understand is sharing. Probably every culture values citizens who know the importance of working together. Library time immerses children in a sharing system. There are major advantages to sharing copies of books, DVDs, and other media. We might all purchase our own personal materials, but libraries foster a commitment to sharing that is beneficial.

Parents and family members set the stage for treating things as important, long-lasting objects instead of disposable ones as children first learn to check out books and media, and then to return the items for others to use. It is also a great way to talk about sharing common re-

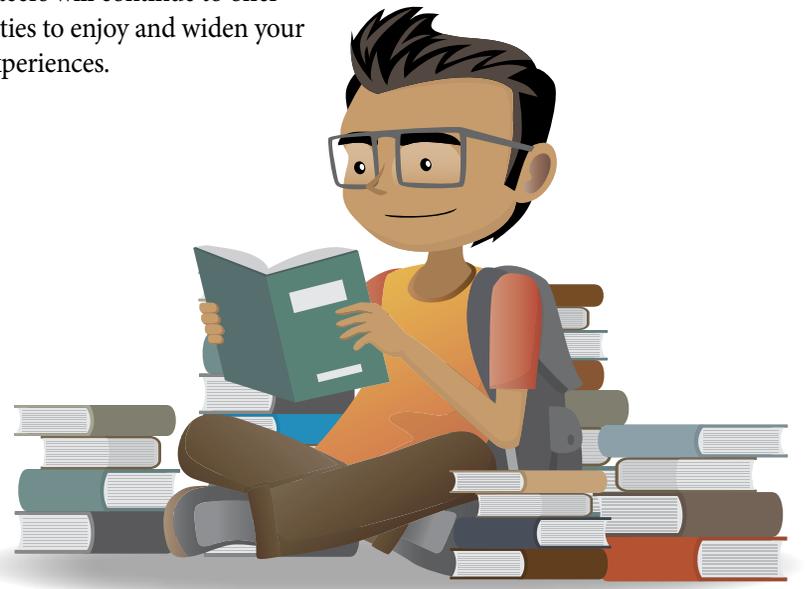
sources and how we must learn to think beyond ourselves.

**Here is a short list of the valuable resources you share when you and your children regularly visit and use the library:**

- free educational resources for everyone
- language learning
- free classes for adults and children
- ways to experience other cultures, generations, and ideas
- preservation of history and expanding world views
- a boost to local economies
- connections between communities
- life lessons

Most small, rural libraries are at the center of the community. They serve as a way to connect your family and to the

people who live and work around you. Our own Questa Public Library will soon be expanding in size, and its staff and volunteers will continue to offer opportunities to enjoy and widen your family's experiences.



## JANUARY EVENTS AT QUESTA LIBRARY

### JANUARY 7 2:30 PM

The Friends of the Questa Public Library Board meets at the library. This is the vital group that makes things happen for our library. They are always looking for community participation and feedback.

### JANUARY 14 2:00 PM

The Questa Library Advisory Board meets at the library. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

### JANUARY 16 10:30 AM-NOON

Kitty Club for our kids ages 0-3 at the library. Our tiniest community members get together for some special fun. Singing, playing, reading, activities, snacks, and parent sharing.

### JANUARY 17 1:00-3:00 PM

The Questa Youth Center Art room will be open for Library Fun Friday. Our focus this month is to continue working with clay. We'll finish glazing our masks and learn simple

sculpture techniques. All youth are welcome to attend. Come and explore clay!

### JANUARY 27 3:30-5:00 PM

Questa Library Book Club meets at Rael's Coffee House. This month we are reading any book of your choice by any female author. Join the lively discussion. Our library has lots of books that fit this description! All are welcome to attend.

[www.questalibrary.org](http://www.questalibrary.org)



Photo by Peggy Trigg

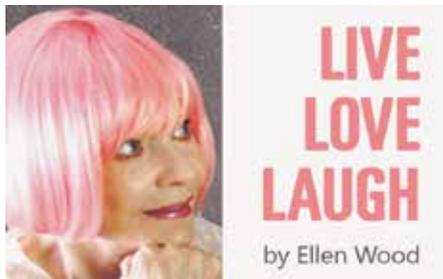
Fun Fridays working with clay!

# WE HAVE A WEBSITE!!!

# QUESTANEWS.COM



# I live with a maniac!



She never shuts up. Talks incessantly. Trump! Trump! Trump! She's obsessed with him. Very opinionated about everything.

Like any garden-variety maniac, she'll get upset about things over which she has absolutely no control. Like the time we were flying back from Australia and on the last leg of our trip, the small plane encountered a storm and was bouncing up and down and sideways. The truth was, she couldn't do a darn thing about the situation. But she panicked anyway – grabbing the arm of the young man sitting next to her,

who was completely flummoxed by her imposition.

She...who says she's unafraid of death! She...who says that when she dies, she wants to leave while experiencing a high-frequency vibration. What does she think would happen if the plane plummeted from the sky and crashed? If not death, what? Unafraid? Hah!

Sometimes she says: "I'm happy. Life is good." I love hearing that and I must say her little chats with herself give me good dialogue when I'm writing fiction.

But her relentless narration of everything she sees, everything she's thinking; her agreeing with herself, her arguing with herself, drives me crazy.

Here's a sample: "How awful! No more recycling of plastic or glass in Taos County. What a sin." Then, "Oh, come on. You used to grumble about having to separate all that stuff anyway. Now you pretend you're so holy and caring about

the environment?"

That's how her conversation with herself sounds. But you know what? I'm glad I'm telling you all this because it means I'm aware of her – I'm witnessing her – and watching my thoughts is my number one daily practice that's helping me along my path to youthfulness and joyful living.

She's been talking inside my head for more years than I can remember, but I wasn't aware of her constantly jabbering and complaining about aging until 15 years ago. That's when I "woke up" and realized my beliefs and programming about getting old were creating a life that I did not want.

I heard things like, "I'm going to die of Alzheimer's just like my mother did." And, "I have no energy anymore." And "I'm too old to date." And "Sure, I'll go to your house for the 4th of July – if I'm still alive."

That voice was also giving me organ recitals: "Old age is tough on my intestines." And "My goodness, the risk of a heart attack increases dramatically for men after age 45 and for women after age 55."

How about you? Ever notice how that person inside your head is always rambling on – sometimes firing up your creativity – sometimes leaving you stressed out and exhausted?

Well, if your answer is yes, you have noticed, then yay! Just being aware that your mind is talking is an enormous step toward freeing yourself from mental melodrama.

In next month's column you'll read my simple method for making it a habit to observe your thoughts. In the meantime, just notice the voice inside, without judgment, as often as you can.

May 2020 be your best year so far.

## ¡Vivo con una loquita!

POR ELLEN WOOD

Nunca se calla. Habla sin cesar. ¡Trump! ¡Trump! ¡Trump! Está obsesionada con él. Y tiene muchas opiniones, sobre todo.

Al igual que cualquier loquita común y corriente, se enoja por asuntos sobre los que no tiene absolutamente ningún control. Como cuando volábamos de regreso de Australia y en el último tramo de nuestro viaje, la avioneta encontró una tormenta y rebotaba para arriba, para abajo y para los lados.

La verdad es que no podía hacer nada para controlar la situación. Pero entró en pánico de todos modos: agarró el brazo del joven sentado a su lado, que quedó absolutamente desconcertado por tal imposición.

Ella... ¡que dice que no tiene miedo a la muerte! Ella... que dice que cuando se muera, quiere irse mientras experimenta una vibración de alta frecuencia. ¿Qué se cree que sucedería si el avión se cayera del cielo y se estrellara? Si no la muerte,

¿qué? ¿Que no tiene miedo? ¡Ja!

A veces dice: "Estoy feliz. La vida es buena." Me encanta escuchar eso y debo decir que sus breves conversaciones consigo misma me proporcionan buenos diálogos cuando escribo ficción.

Pero su narración infatigable de todo lo que ve, de todo lo que está pensando; ya sea para estar de acuerdo consigo misma, ya sea para discutir consigo misma, me vuelve loca.

Aquí les presento un ejemplo: "¡Qué horror! No más reciclaje de plástico o de vidrios en el condado de Taos. Qué pecado." Entonces: "Oh, por favor. Te andabas quejando por tener que separar todas esas cosas, de todos modos. ¿Ahora finges que eres muy santa y que te preocupas por el medio ambiente?"

Así suena su conversación consigo misma. ¿Pero sabes qué? Me alegra haberte contado todo esto porque significa que soy consciente de que ella existe —soy testigo de su presencia— y observar mis pensamientos es la práctica diaria número uno que me

ayuda en mi camino hacia la juventud y una vida feliz.

Ella ha estado hablando dentro de mi cabeza durante más años de lo que puedo recordar, pero no me di cuenta de su constante parloteo y de sus quejas sobre el envejecimiento hasta hace 15 años. Fue entonces cuando "desperté" y comprendí que mis creencias y mi programación acerca de lo que significa envejecer estaban creando una vida que no quería.

Escuché cosas como: "Voy a morir de Alzheimer como mi madre." Y "Ya no tengo energía." Y "Soy demasiado vieja para tener una cita." Y "Claro, iré a tu casa para el 4 de julio, si todavía estoy viva."

Esta voz también me estaba dando recitales interminables: "La vejez me resulta dura con los intestinos." Y "Dios mío, el riesgo de un ataque cardíaco aumenta dramáticamente para los hombres después de los 45 años y para las mujeres después de los 55."

¿Y qué pasa contigo? ¿Alguna vez

has notado que esa persona dentro de tu cabeza siempre está divagando, a veces disparando tu creatividad, a veces dejándote estresado y agotado?

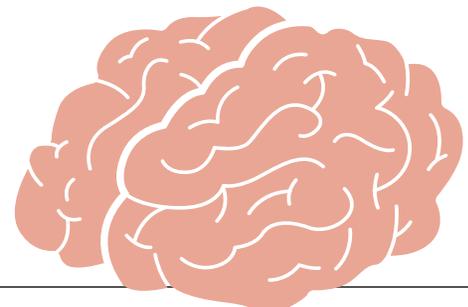
Bueno, si tu respuesta es sí, lo has notado, ¡entonces qué bien! El solo hecho de estar consciente de que la mente está hablando es un paso enorme para liberarte del melodrama mental.

En la columna del mes próximo podrás leer sobre mi método simple para hacer un hábito de la observación de tus pensamientos. Mientras tanto, solo observa la voz interior, sin juzgarla, tan a menudo como puedas.

Que el 2020 sea tu mejor año hasta ahora.

*Ellen Wood de Questa es la galardonada autora de la serie de libros "The Secret Method for Growing Younger." También es editora y colaboradora de "Late Bloomers: The Movement – Literary Gems by Taos Boomers in Their Prime." Su sitio web es [www.howtogrowyounger.com](http://www.howtogrowyounger.com) Póngase en contacto con Ellen escribiendo a [ellen@howtogrowyounger.com](mailto:ellen@howtogrowyounger.com)*

*Traducido por Teresa Dovalpage*



## DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU THINK!

**BODY | MIND | SPIRIT**

By BARBARA TRACY

## THE GIFT OF GIVING

What we give is what we get, for what we do to others we do to ourselves. There is a healing grace between one who gives with sincerity from the heart and one who receives with sincerity from the heart – a blessing for both. We are meant to give and receive; that is the nature of our human existence.

Well known spiritual teacher, the late Ram Dass, who died recently on December 22, spent a lot of time in both Lama and Taos, shared words to this effect, “We are walking each other home.” These are wonderful and comforting words, and what better way to understand them than to know that we are here to give and receive, to support and be supported, to love and be loved, to serve and be served, and

above all to do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Giving from our hearts with compassion and understanding is a gift to ourselves of those very qualities. When we sincerely give from the heart with no strings attached, we receive the most exquisite sense of happiness, because we give.

Giving can be misunderstood in our “quick and easy” society. There are those who give mindlessly, to get somewhere or achieve a goal. There are those who give as a rote practice, who may have lost the true meaning of giving. There are those who appear to give, but they are still attached to the gift and control it with conditions on how it is accepted or used. There is giving because we think we “should,” that it is our duty. And then there are those who give to get praise or recognition. None of these are actually giving. True giving is of the heart and is given freely and completely without attachment to the gift or to the outcome. When we sincerely give, our

attention is on the joy and beauty of the experience of giving. When we give from the heart, there is no loss to the giver, only a sharing of what one is able to share.

We must remember that when we give, we are not superior to those we are giving to. Even though they may seem unable to supply themselves with what we give them, they are not less than we are, and we are not more. Remember, we are walking each other home. No measure of greater or lesser needs to enter in, just the sharing of ourselves in whatever ways we can.

When depression comes into our lives, one of the most effective ways of alleviating it is to do something for someone else. Shifting our thoughts and attitudes to how we can be useful to someone else in a deeply sincere way is one of the most rewarding aspects of living. You can make a difference in your world and in the lives of everyone you meet just by giving the gift of a smile. Author and teacher Caroline

Myss talks of a scientific study proving an effective way to find relief from our own stress is to pray for others.

Jesus said, “Give and it will be given to you.”

The Buddha said that the practice of giving claims “a place of special eminence, one which singles it out as being in a sense the foundation and seed of spiritual development.”

Mohammad said, “The three best things: to be humble amidst the vicissitudes of fortune; to pardon when powerful; and to be generous with no strings attached.”

The Dalai Lama says, “Start giving first and expect absolutely nothing.”

We all have something to give, and most important in those gifts are compassion, patience, understanding, and love. Giving our love, time, and presence is one of the greatest gifts we can share.

Have a blessed, safe, and very happy New Year, everyone.

## Breath

By RAPHAEL WEISMAN

Our lives are measured in breaths: how many, how slow, how deep, how conscious? Each breath is an opportunity to be fully present. Our thoughts and feelings come and go, and we can stop for a moment to pay attention to them – or not. So it is with the breath. Often these moments of attention are accompanied by a deep breath or a sigh as we catch ourselves in the midst of a compulsive moment.

Paying attention to our breath is probably the most powerful thing we can do to ensure our health and well-being, especially when we are overcome with stress, worry, or upset. In most cases, these mental and emotional states are happening unconsciously, without our full awareness. We are caught up in the mind but by bringing our attention to the breath, we can break the spell! That moment, that pause, that breath, brings us back into our body and the present moment. By using our ability to control our breath, to slow it down, we realize that we have choices about what we think and how we feel.

We were given free will and our lives and reputations are a reflection of our choices. Our words--what we say and whether or not we follow through with our word-- reflects those choices. Our breath is the center of our own personal universe. The oxygen, life force, the

energy, light, and nourishment enters through the breath. It is how we interact with the molecules of water and air. We share the air, through speech, through how we form our words, our tone, and how we broadcast our unique signature.

Our vibration radiates out from our center like an expanding sphere, interpenetrating the spheres of those with whom we interact. We are more than just the body, the five senses. We sense each other through a web of electromagnetic fields that we generate. When we consciously take a breath, we slow down the levels of irritability, paradoxically raising the level of our vibration, as we slow down the frequency of the electromagnetic waves.

Imagine your exhalation, the out-breath like an expanding sphere sending out your highest intention for what you want, who you are, and what you have come to this planet to achieve, sending out your signature to the Universe. There comes a point when the breath reaches its maximum radius and like a rubber band, begins to contract back towards your center, bringing to you the response from the Universe, supplying you with the resources to accomplish your hearts' desires. This breath brings you into full relationship with your environment and attunes you to your body. If you add your connection with Mother Earth below you, and your connection to the Heavens above, you become

aligned vertically and horizontally. In this way you become fully present, in

your body, in your heart, and in your mind. The breath is your vehicle.

*“Uh oh. My car's steering system was repaired at an auto shop in Dallas 18 months ago. But I'm in Questa now and it's not working.”*

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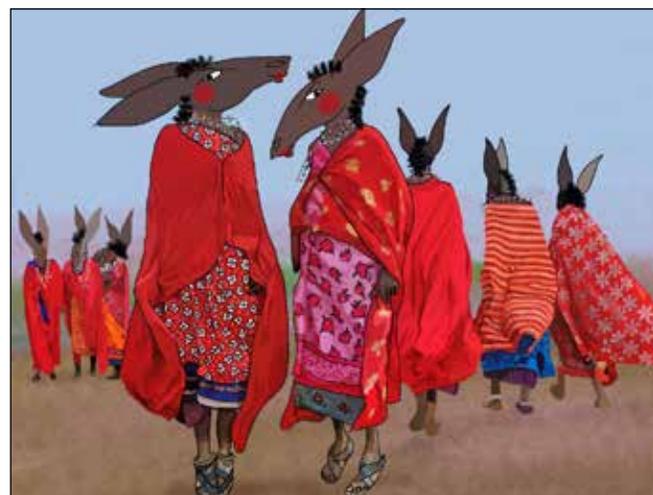
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# Wendy Clarke: The Donkey Artist of San Cristobal



By NICHOLAS NAGAWIECKI

Wendy Clarke moved to San Cristobal in 2004. With her, she brought a lifetime of experiences from around the world. It's hard not to be immediately charmed by her confidence and eccentricities upon meeting Wendy in her home. She has always wanted to care for animals and that's part of the reason why she moved to New Mexico from Topanga Canyon, outside of Los Angeles. She keeps the company of five dogs, four angora goats, two sheep, one llama (the other one sadly passed away in early December), one alpaca, and five donkeys. Wendy rails against donkeys' standing in popular consciousness as dumb animals. Her donkeys look healthy, happy, and are extremely sympathetic animals, not to mention smart.

Wendy moved to New Mexico largely because of the Taos Wool Festival. She began spinning and creating wearable art while still in Los Angeles. She developed a fondness for a particular type of wool from a breed of curly-haired sheep called Wensleydale. Wendy became friends with someone who was raising the breed who was one of the founders of the Taos Wool Festival. After showing at the Festival for many years, Wendy is now on the Taos Wool Festival Board of Directors – busy lady!

In 2013, Wendy fell from a horse and broke her pelvis. During her year-long recovery, in an attempt to hold on to her sanity while bedridden, she started making drawings of donkeys on her iPad (which she had just gotten a week before her accident!). Some of the drawings took a couple of hours and some took a couple of days, and there are now over 1,000 beautiful, colorful drawings of donkeys. It is hard to find the right words to describe them. Whimsical and

adorable come to mind, yet don't quite do them justice, fun is a good word. It is nice to think of someone lying in bed recovering from a broken pelvis having so much fun drawing loveable animals!

What is now called "The Dancing Donkeys" is a series of drawings that are hilarious, irreverent, consistent, and bizarrely sexy. She describes her animals as her muses, and this shows in her work. There is a clear level of respect shown for the subjects of her drawings. A full-on tapestry of her donkey drawings can be found on her website ([www.dancing-donkeyart.com](http://www.dancing-donkeyart.com)). The drawings are organized in a broad selection of categories, ranging from different types of dancers - ballet, jazz, and belly dancing - as well as historical figures, royals, sports, different locales, and more. If you like Africa, you can click on the donkey in African dress, which opens up a page with many more drawings in the African series, each more colorful and original than the last. These images of her fabulous donkeys are available as notecards and digital prints, which can be purchased on her website.

Wendy says she derives much of her talent, inspiration, and work ethic from her mother, Shirley Clarke, a prolific film director of the 1950s through the 1980s. Shirley's study of dance inspired her long career in film, eventually leading to an Academy Award in 1963 for Best Documentary for her film *Robert Frost: A Lover's Quarrel with the World*. Wendy, following in her mother's footsteps, was a pioneer in video art, starting in the early 1970s. Wendy's father, Bert Clarke, a book designer, was no creative slouch, either. Large posters for the Santa Fe Chamber Orchestra that feature Georgia O'Keefe's paintings are well known, familiar images in New Mexico and her father designed them.

Wendy received her Ph.D. in Psychology from Ryokan College in the Los Angeles area. She has been practicing some form of art therapy for much of her life. While in California, she worked with prisoners to create art, some of it very expressive, haunting, and profound. She worked in the HIV wards of prisons and helped the prisoners create an incredible body of work. Wendy laments that most of the people she worked within the HIV unit are now dead. She still keeps an extensive collection of their work (some of it hanging in her house) and would like to find a home for it in a more permanent collection.

Since moving to northern New Mexico, Wendy worked with Communities Against Violence (CAV) in Taos with women who have experienced abuse and trauma. Perhaps because of her background in psychology, Wendy's video work takes on a more intimate quality as opposed to her mother's bold approach to filmmaking. Wendy's video project "The Love Tapes" began in 1978 and continued through 2011, comprising short vignettes of individuals talking about what love means to them. The series has toured many digital media galleries in New York and around the world. Just recently, Wendy returned from a retrospective of her video work in London. She is still working to expand the series and include as many different perspectives as possible.

Since moving to San Cristobal, Wendy has taken an even more serious dive into fiber arts. She spins and dyes her own yarns from her alpaca, llama, and sheep's wool and uses the wool for many different creations. Her crown hats are absolutely delightful and cozy. She takes special care in preparing the wool to preserve the curls of the natural material. She says that her creations from this

wool can be found around the world, from clients in Europe to South America to New York City, with rave reviews so far. She has also dived into felting since she has such easy access to the raw materials. She makes panels of felt that can either be hung or stitched together to form clothing using her freeform patterns. Wendy doesn't wet-felt her creations. She uses special needle-felting machinery that allows her to get more detailed patterns. Her bizarre urbanite eccentricities come through in her felt work, despite the more rigid and structural nature of the traditional form of this art. Her love for her animals comes through in her fiber arts - incredible care is taken to respect the quality of the raw material and the reciprocal care and love that her animals give her.

You can reach Wendy Clarke at (575) 776-3335. You can also email her at [wendylovesdonkeys@gmail.com](mailto:wendylovesdonkeys@gmail.com) and you will have a fun visit to her website at [www.dancingdonkeyart.com](http://www.dancingdonkeyart.com)



Photo by Nick Nagwiecki

Wendy feeds her donkeys on her San Cristobal property wearing her signature wool crown and felt vest.

# QCC Gifts of Creativity

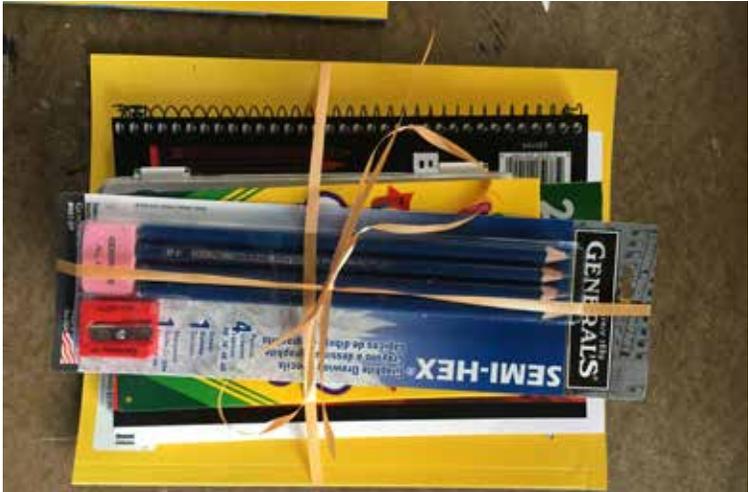


Photo by Peggy Trigg

By PEGGY TRIGG

Thank you to you, the community, for your donations that helped the Questa Creative Council buy enough art materials for 50 Youth Art Kits. The kits contained drawing pencils, colored pencils, a watercolor set, a mixed-media sketchbook, and a "How to Draw" book on either animals or monsters!

We gave out the kits to youth in December at three locations: the North

Central Food Pantry, the Questa Youth Center Art Room, and the Questa Library. We are hoping that local youth will use these kits throughout the winter to foster their creativity and develop artistic technique.

We believe that a love for the arts is an important part of our community and we want to help foster that love through supporting our youth in their creativity.

# January is Sculpture Month!

QUESTA YOUTH CENTER  
ART ROOM NEWS

The Questa Youth Center Art room will continue to be open every Tuesday from 3:30-5:30 pm through January. The focus for January is sculpting with

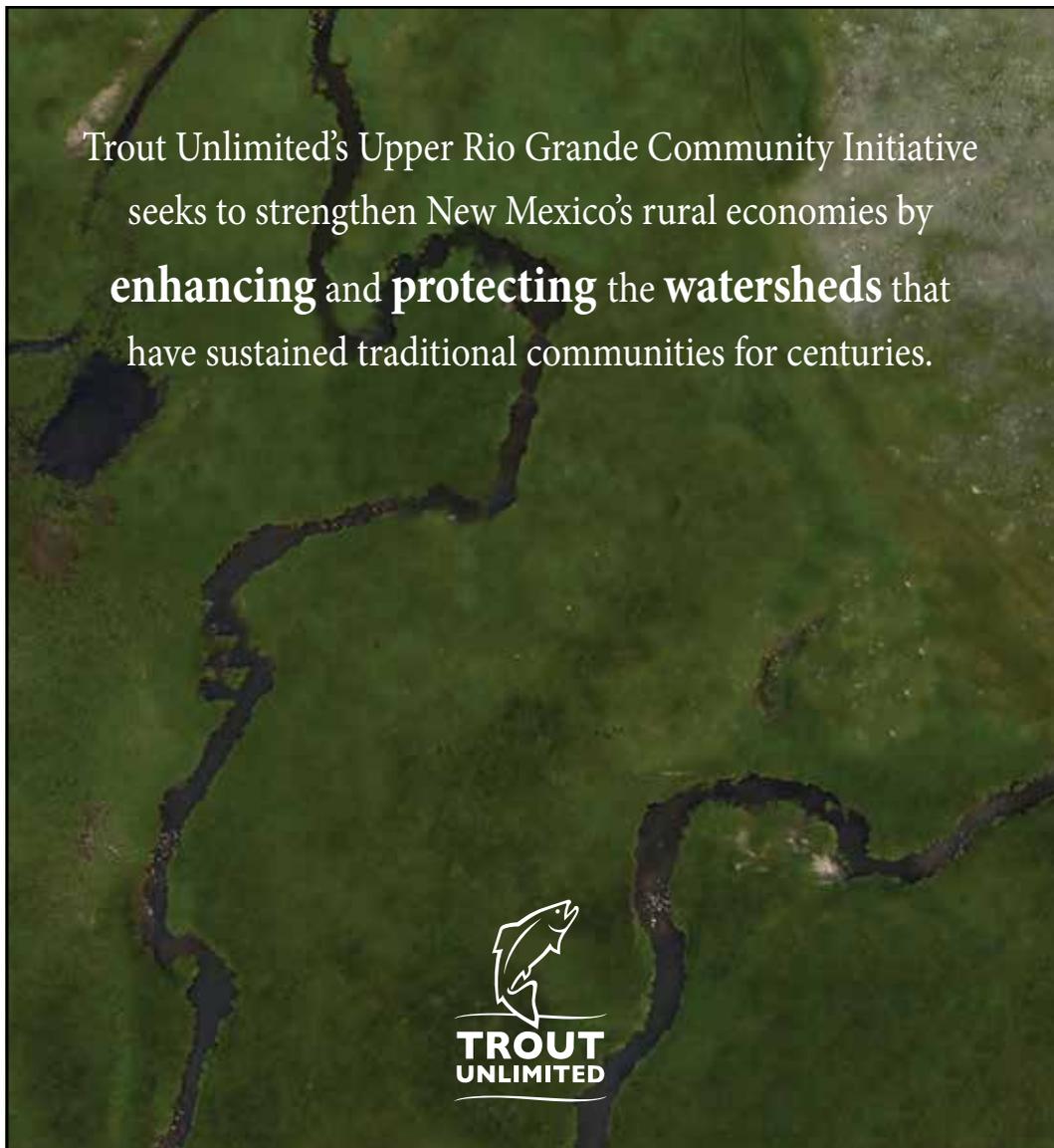
clay. We will be working on several different techniques to develop sculptures of wildlife and people.

The sessions are open to all age levels and everyone is invited to come! A small donation is suggested. See you there on January 7, 14, 21, and 28!



Photos by Peggy Trigg

Questa area artists' clay constructions created during Tuesday afternoon sessions this past fall.



Trout Unlimited's Upper Rio Grande Community Initiative seeks to strengthen New Mexico's rural economies by **enhancing** and **protecting** the watersheds that have sustained traditional communities for centuries.



Since 2013, TU has supported the Village of Questa's expansion of its fishing-based economy through re-storing the Red River, developing a restoration work force, and improving the village's capacity to lodge and serve visitors.



TU has joined a diverse coalition of local stakeholders opposing a proposed copper, gold, and zinc mine in the Pecos River watershed. The mine would destroy the economy of the Village of Pecos, which depends heavily on revenue generated by the river



For over a decade, TU has engaged in restoring the Comanche Creek watershed, supporting reliable irrigation flows and imperiled Rio Grande cutthroat trout, a species of significant cultural value.



## MICHAEL'S MOVIE MOMENTS

REVIEWS OF THE YEAR'S  
OSCAR-NOMINATED MOVIES  
AVAILABLE FOR RENT OR STREAMING

By MICHAEL YOUNG

JANUARY'S MOVIE REVIEW:  
READY PLAYER ONE



I loved this movie! While it may not be the most enlightening movie of the decade, it has to be one of the most fun to watch. And why wouldn't it, since it's directed by Steven Spielberg? He has won three Oscars and nominated for directing or producing another dozen for such iconic films as *Saving Private Ryan*, *Schindler's List*, *E.T.*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Lincoln*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *Munich*. He said that *Ready Player One* was his third most difficult film to make, behind *Jaws* and *Saving Private Ryan*.

What Spielberg has done with this movie has been attempted before—most notably with the movie *TRON*. He has outdone others in portraying not just the drama of the virtual reality gaming world, but also the artistic beauty and talent that is available there. With a budget of \$175 million, its special effects are fantastically relevant to the storyline, because they exist inside the VR world. Spielberg's presentation of that world is stimulating, appealing, and amazingly realistic.

The success of this movie, though, comes from how well it operates at linking all of its various levels. The characters exist in two different worlds—the real world (the only place you can get a “real” meal), and the VR world, which, in this movie, is called OASIS. In 2045, environmental collapse, income inequality, and corporate hegemony (sound familiar?) has produced a dystopian world where people live in trailer homes arranged in erector-set structures called “The Stacks.” The destitute population is controlled by doping them with alternate virtual realities that advanced technology provides. Aside from eating, sleeping, and pooping, people spend most of their time in the OASIS VR world.

OASIS was created by a genius named Halliday (a Bill Gates/Steve Jobs-type super-nerd). When Halliday dies, he leaves his considerable fortune and control of OASIS to whoever can find the all-important Easter Egg. This contest sets off a competition between all of



Courtesy Image

the best and worst of human impulses. Our hero, Parzival, scores an upset when he finds the first of three keys, by being smart and thinking outside the box. He attracts other like-minded characters and soon joins up with Art3mis (Olivia Cooke) and three other equally interesting characters to form a “clan” that moves towards victory in the game. Meanwhile, corporate America, in the form of a mega-conglomerate (IOI) seeking total commercialization of the internet, soon learns that it can't win in the VR world, so they figure out how to eliminate their competition in the real world.

The back and forth between the real world and the VR world is one of the most fascinating aspects of this movie. Parzival and Art3mis engage in the adventure in OASIS, but when they aren't in the game, the real-life characters are falling in love. The clan is battling the IOI 6-ers in the game, while the real-life corporate figures are literally trying to kill them. Events in one world affect events in the other, so keeping them straight isn't always easy.

Besides being visually and aurally stimulating, the puzzles presented in both worlds add to the excitement and drama. All of us in our neighborhood movie group agreed that this was not 2+ hours wasted. Spielberg has given us not just entertainment, but also a stark portrait of a possible reality—our immersion in this movie world is confirmation of its attraction. So, is this scenario a possible solution to our problems? Is it one we really want to explore?

The movie has already grossed almost \$600 million. Critical reaction is more interesting with the movie getting

a Critics Metascore of just 64, putting it in the bottom six of this year's 37 Oscar-nominated movies.

The most negative reaction came from Mary Ann Johanson, *FlickFilosopher*, who is obviously not into gaming. She characterized the movie as “a nightmare of nothingness, of empty, soulless wankery, that serves only to reassure male dorks that their pop-culture obsessions make them special and will make cute girls like them.” The movie, being about the VR gaming world, does glorify that world. And some male gamers have retreated into VR in such a way that they don't function too well with women (or anyone) in the normal world; in some cases, they are dangerously hostile. But are they all that way, and is that a fair indictment of this culture? Is there absolutely nothing the VR gaming world can offer to us? I worry about the negative effects of the VR world, but I don't agree that it offers nothing of value.

Other reviewers, mostly younger ones, complained about the relentless references to 1980s pop culture. There are multiple websites that catalog the references in the movie, or even more so in the 2011 *Ready Player One* book by Ernest Cline. The movie is unapologetic about deferring to these cultural icons. One of the best is the in-game dance scene between Parzival and Art3mis set to music from *Saturday Night Fever*. And the extended reference to Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* is a critical part of this movie, forming the basis for one of the quests. If you aren't interested in 80s pop culture, then part of the fun of this movie may escape you, but this will still be a fun movie. It should have been nominated for many more awards than

it received, and it should have won the Visual Effects Oscar.

It was not a perfect movie. It could have seen more development of the characters in the real world, especially the relationships between the members of the clan. It would probably have resulted in a longer movie, but it would have been worth it. For that reason, I have to drop my rating to 4.5 stars.

## BECOMING

Everyone has a name first, the one you are given.

Later, you must find the one you came here with so that you can live the life you saw before you arrived.

So you follow the art of your living which is the skill of your innate self to live in a world that is trying in every way to make you into its own version of you, someone who suits some other definition or path.

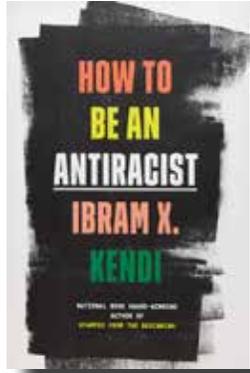
In this journey your path will take you, at the last to unforeseen endings and beginnings. And there:

At the end of the world you may find that you are not what you are born to be but what you are able to awaken within . . .

Michael Graney

*Michael Graney recently moved to Sunshine Valley after spending several years in New Zealand. Besides being a poet, he is a teacher of yoga and tai chi. He has spent his life exploring wilderness areas across the globe as a guide and explorer focusing on listening to nature in all Her voices from the most still to the most awesome. For many years he incorporated this with therapy in Wilderness Treatment*

# Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



BOOK REVIEW:  
HOW TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST  
BY IBRAM X. KENDI

By SARA MARTINEZ

On the third Monday of every January, we honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Yet fifty years after his death, our country, and the world continues to grapple with the same issues Dr. King fought against. Racism in all its forms not only continues to exist but seems to be gaining support from those in the highest branches of government.

Those we would call true racists are in the minority, but how many racist ideas and policies do the majority of us support through our own inaction?

In his book, *How To Be An Anti-Racist*, Ibram X. Kendi argues that denying you are racist is not the same as being anti-racist. He lays out a road map that anyone can use to continue the work of revolutionary thinkers like Dr. King, in order to create the kind of anti-racist society many of us dream about.

I used to think I knew what racism was. I know that I felt racism when it happened to me and I noticed it when I saw how others were treated. It was always hard to describe to someone who wasn't aware of how racism plays out in the world. Yet the definition of racism that I was using to teach anti-oppression was rooted in racist ideas and policies--at least that is what I learned after reading Kendi's book. Kendi's definitions of racism are all-inclusive and for the first time has given me some clarity into how racism works and what it was designed to do.

If you are interested in reading this book and/or participating in a book club to read books that impact our community, please email us at [news@questaedf.com](mailto:news@questaedf.com) or call (575) 586-2149.

Institutionalized racism is defined as the collection of ideas, policies, and social norms sanctioned by a government or society that oppresses peoples of color by the dominant culture, usually white Anglo-Saxon people. This is the definition I used to explain why people of color could not be racist. According to my research and understanding of racism, people of color could be prejudiced against white people, but they lacked the power in society to be racist. In Kendi's chapter, "Black," he argues that anyone can be racist because we all hold various forms of power. Therefore, we have to hold everyone accountable for touting racist ideas and supporting racist policies, regardless of their race.

The book is a collection of stories from Kendi's own life that shaped how

he now defines racism, how he hopes people will start having conversations about racism, and finally how he thinks racist ideas and policies can be changed. Kendi's lessons on racism cover a wide range of categories, from ethnicity to gender to culture, and biology. Racism can only exist when racist ideas and policies are believed by the majority of people and when those ideas and policies go unchallenged.

If you are tired of living under racist ideas and policies, I highly recommend reading Kendi's book *How to Be An Anti-Racist*. Reading the book is but one step in becoming anti-racist. Just like Dr. King's famous speeches, it should not simply be memorized and quoted, but also lived through meaningful action every day. This is the real way to honor the revolutionary thinkers of our past. To be revolutionary means to say out loud what others have been thinking, to put into words what most people know in their hearts to be true, and finally, to compel others to the tipping point.

## M L K • Q U O T E S

*"Let us be those creative dissenters who will call our beloved nation to a higher destiny, to a new plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humanness."*

*"Let no man pull you so low as to hate him."*

*"Even if they try to kill you, you develop the inner conviction that there are some things so precious, some things so eternally true that they are worth dying for. And if a person has not found something to die for, that person isn't fit to live!"*

*"Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself."*

*"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."*

*"Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."*

*"The time is always right, to do what's right."*

*"Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men"*

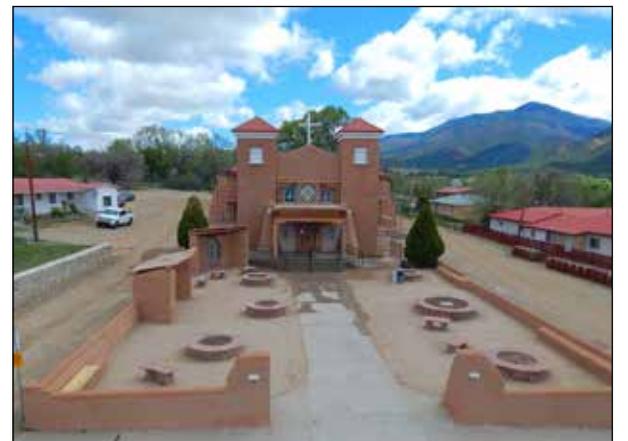
*"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."*

### Did You Know?

Two people died at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Not only did Martin Luther King Jr. die, but Lorraine Bailey, wife of the motel owner, suffered a heart attack and died after witnessing King's assassination.

# RENOVATION OF ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH COMPLETED BY VOLUNTEERS, LED BY CONTRACTOR MARK SIDERIS

Photos by Carrie Leven



# Mark Sideris, Building Community



By DONNA MITCHELL-MONIAK

Remember *The Andy Griffith Show* and *Mayberry, RFD*? Its meeting place was the barbershop. Communities tend to have a focal point around which they gather. Here in Jaroso, it's the post office. For generations, Questa's focal point has been St. Anthony's Church. In 2008, when the west wall suddenly collapsed, due to age and the elements, the community sought help from the Archdiocese. Nope, no assistance there. So, Questeños organized, fundraised, volunteered, went into building mode, and saved the church. Many, many community members and even some from outside Questa were part of the five-and-a-half-year project. Mark Sideris was the project manager and building contractor. Of that experience, he said, "I can't hold a candle to lots of people who have given themselves (to this project)."

Mark moved to New Mexico from the Buffalo, New York area where he was born and raised. College at NMSU in Las Cruces brought him to warmer climes and the southwest "which had always interested me." In the early 1970s, he met Questeña Merlyn Rael and began making frequent visits to her family and the extended Rael clan here. In 1974, they married.

Mark worked for New Mexico Parks and Recreation out of Santa Fe for many years. But, at some point, the call of the hammer arose in him and, in the early '80s, Mark started a construction company. Soon afterward, still in Las Cruces, he and his wife bought an old adobe home to renovate. Success with that plus rhythmic visits to Questa set the stage for Mark's involvement in the restoration of St. Anthony's Church.

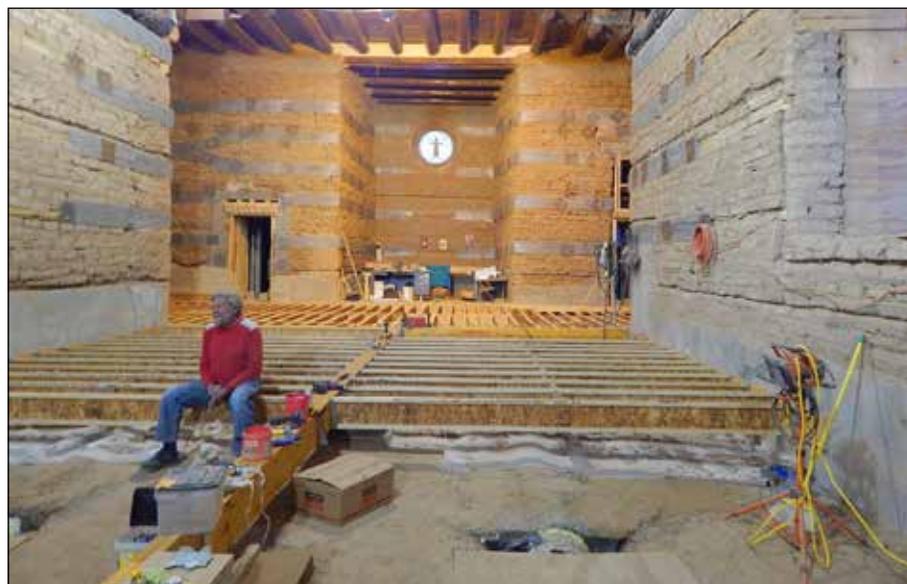
One factor was still out of place for the local flow of destiny to begin: Mark and Merlyn were still living in Las Cruces. Fate stepped in! As Merlyn was approaching her retirement, an opportunity arose to purchase a house near St. Anthony's and their extended family. They bought it, and this put Mark in the area during summers. Voilá!

When the church restoration project began, volunteers tried to meet all the needs: labor, obtaining materials, orga-



Photos by Carrie Leven

Mark Sideris, looks out from a window during the reconstruction of the St. Anthony's Church.



Mark Sideris, head of the renovation efforts for St. Anthony's Church, sits on the floor joists in the Church, March 2015



Mark Sideris with the Church model donation box, August 2015.

nizing people—the list was big. It did not take long for the people in leadership roles to realize that someone was needed to manage and oversee the entirety of the construction project: its needs, timelines, and the people involved. They looked to Mark. He says, "It turned out to be the biggest blessing of my life."

their nature."

"There's human economy and God economy. Human's is to save to create your worth. God's is: the greater you give, the more worth you have."

He mused about how genuine happiness was evident in the people he met from his first visits to the area. Mark added that while still with Parks and Recreation that he read socio-economic indexing of counties in New Mexico. Taos County was among the poorest. He turned to his wife, "Poor, yet happy." We talked about value, happiness, and the good things in life which - in the end - are your friendships, family relationships, respect, and being respected; plus giving because you can, and doing because you are there.

If you are not a parishioner of St. Anthony's, stop by sometime to see the work accomplished by the community. It is the display of the heart of everyone involved.

Mark is still building. Cabinetmaking has captured his imagination. He has ongoing projects in both Las Cruces and Questa. Summer in Questa, winter in Las Cruces. Mark sang praises for the history book on Questa: *Another Time in this Place* by locals Tessie Rael y Ortega and Judith Cuddihy. An excerpt from it is available at this link at New Mexico History. <http://dev.newmexicohistory.org/filedetails.php?fileID=21982>

Thanks to the efforts of Dan Kuehn and others, more of the book is available at <https://another-time.org> and eventually can be viewed there in its entirety.

## BEING A VOLUNTEER IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL!

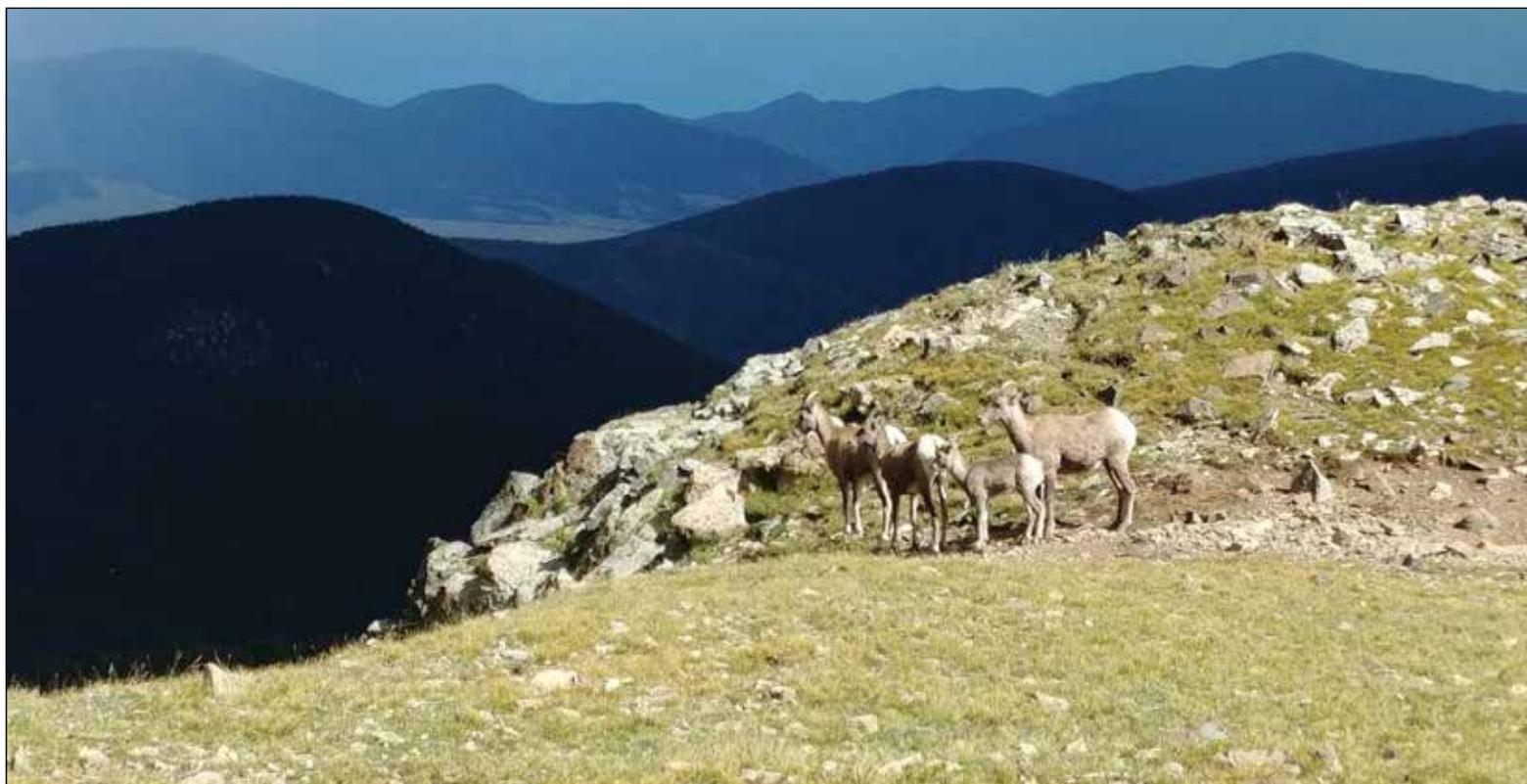
As the new year begins, find out what needs to be done in our area. How can we help? What can we give: time, energy, expertise? Read to a child or someone who is blind, help someone learn to read; cook a meal for an elder or someone who is not well; help someone learn to start a business. Volunteering is good for our health, feeds the soul, and nourishes a community. Happy New Year!

Mark was paid for a 40-hour work-week and happily put in 10-12 hour days six days per week. "After 40 hours, I became a volunteer!" He spoke of working with "wonderful people" and learning "a lot about being a volunteer."

Carrie Leven photo-documented the restoration project. "I used to go by at random hours to try and get photos in different lighting. Mark was always there, even after the others had gone for the day, touching up the completed work, fixing mistakes, setting up for the next day...."

In our interview, Mark spoke of the genuineness of the locals in Questa. "In Questa, people just help. It is sincere and totally heartfelt. I think the history of being a self-reliant community in which they had to help and work with each other shows something about

# Wildlife Highlight: Bighorn Sheep



*Photo by Nick Nagawiecki*

**A family of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep enjoying the beautiful view from Gold Hill.**



*Photo by Toner Mitchell*

**A close up of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, often seen along Highway 38 between Questa and Red River, drive safely and watch for wildlife!**

By NICK NAGAWIECKI

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep are iconic examples of New Mexico wildlife. They are most often found in the desert areas of southwestern New Mexico, and the mesas and mountains of north-central New Mexico. Wheeler Peak Wilderness, Latir Peak Wilderness, and the Rio Grande Gorge near Questa have the highest populations in the state, and their numbers have been steadily rising since the early 2000s. Because the local numbers are so strong, New Mexico

Game and Fish regularly relocate sheep to other parts of the state, where sheep populations have dwindled over time. The sheep's habitat ranges across alpine regions from northern New Mexico, up through the Rocky Mountains, and all the way into the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia in Canada. Males (rams) have large curved horns that give the animal its name. Females (ewes) also have horns, but they are shorter.

Bighorn lambs are under threat by predators such as coyotes, lynxes, bobcats, golden eagles, bears, cougars, and

wolves. The biggest existential threat to Bighorns by far was western expansion. Bighorn Sheep populations had fallen dramatically since the United States annexed the New Mexico Territory in 1846 and since it became a state in 1912. Over the past two centuries, the population fell from around two million to just a few thousand in the United States. This is because Bighorns are susceptible to diseases carried by sheep. More and more real estate development is encroaching on wildlife habitat. Bighorn Sheep have also been over-hunted.

National Park systems that regulate hunting, reduction of the domestication of sheep, and environmental protections over the past few decades have saved the Bighorn Sheep from near extinction, though there is still a lot of work to be done to protect the population.

Bighorn Sheep can most often be spotted on the drive along State Highway 38 from Questa to Red River, anywhere in the Rio Grande Gorge, and in the alpine zones of State Line Peak, Latir Peak, Gold Hill, and Wheeler Peak.

# Techniques for Catch and Release Bait Fishing

By TONER MITCHELL

Although the recent fish kill in Questa's Eagle Rock Lake caused quite a stir, I must confess that it didn't fully register with me. Dead fish weren't floating down the Red River, which pretty much ruled out toxic mine pollution as the cause. Renovated in 2014, Eagle Rock is a young body of water that hasn't yet developed the ecological complexity required to absorb certain disturbances. According to New Mexico Game and Fish, widely fluctuating air temperatures interacted with low dissolved oxygen created by rotting algae in the lake, and the result was lethal for many fish.

Hatchery trout aren't the hardest of creatures to begin with. Like those goats I've read about that keel over when someone slams a door, stockers aren't raised for long-term survival. Seeing them dead at Eagle Rock Lake is not a strange phenomenon. I see dead fish there all the time.

A couple of summers ago, I was fishing Eagle Rock with a bubble and fly rig on a spinning rod. I was doing well enough to attract the attention of several nearby children who were having a tough time. Eventually, they asked me what I was doing, and I showed them.

We took turns with my rod for about an hour, until everyone who wanted to catch a fish had done so. Posing for a picture with a fish in her fists, one little girl begged her mom to cook it for dinner.

"How?" the mother asked. "Our hotel room has no stove."

This exchange reminded me of how many Eagle Rock anglers are Red River vacationers escaping the heat of Texas and Oklahoma. They want a week of easy, staying at hotels and eating at family restaurants, and fishing for trout they don't have to cook.

When it comes to family fishing, it's easiest to set the kids up with bobbers and bait. Unfortunately, this method is generally incompatible with the relaxed vacation ideal of not keeping (killing) fish. As commonly practiced, bait fishing is lethal. Since bait is real food, a fish ingests it, along with the hook. When released, bait-hooked fish don't survive.

Or so I thought. I've been geeking out recently to some videos from a bait company (true fact: this national company sells more jars of salmon eggs in New Mexico than in any other state), and I've been impressed by the extent to which catch and release is practiced, and responsibly, among bait fanatics.

On big and small lakes and streams, these anglers have developed a variety of methods for detecting strikes quickly and, as a result, lip-hooking fish.

For example, a lot of fish could be saved if we moved away from the standard method of sending a weighted rig on the bottom, establishing tension, and waiting for a strong thud before setting the hook. When fishing eggs, worms, or grasshoppers, suspend them off the bottom by placing your weight at the end of your line and hang your bait between the small weight and a float. At the mere touch of a fish, your float will go down, and you'll set the hook before the fish has a chance to swallow. On a stream, this method is similar to fishing a beaded nymph under an indicator or dry fly. On a lake, softly jiggling your bait brings solid strikes.

Use a smaller hook and smaller bait. For some reason, fish inhale large baits with more gusto, resulting in more throat damage. A single egg will work much of the time or half a worm as opposed to a gob. Smaller baits result in more real grabs and less nibbling.

There are definitely other ways bait anglers can improve the survival rates of the fish they release. For one thing, it's a mistake to think that trout can

recover from rough handling. Dragging them across rocks and sand is extremely stressful, as is gripping them tightly or with dry hands. Never touch a trout's gills (do not hold them up by their gill plates), and remember that it cannot breathe when it's out of the water. Every second that a fish is deprived of oxygen reduces its ability to recover upon being released.

You may catch your limit before you want to stop fishing. After limiting out, break out your "release gear," barbless hooks, a net, and pliers to remove hooks without having to touch a fish or remove it from the water.

Remember that the fish you release will be there for you the next time you hit the water. If a bait angler fishes all the time, as I try to do, why wouldn't he or she come to the same conclusions that many of us have regarding catch and release? Mortally wounding fish in the throat or stomach, like exceeding the bag limit, makes for bad fishing in the future. There are bait people out there who are crazy passionate about trout and their preferred methods of catching them. Why wouldn't they also be as keen on refining their technique to make their pursuit more sustainable?

## Catch and Release Dos and Don'ts

By TONER MITCHELL

Either because your freezer's already full of trout, or you catch your limit early in the day and want to continue fishing, you will sometimes find yourself in a position where you'll want to release some of your catch. You obviously want fish to survive the fight so you'll be able to catch them again. The key to fish survival is to minimize their stress by following these guidelines:

### Dos

Land fish as quickly as possible, using maximum leverage and the strongest line you can get away with. A fish that consumes less energy will recover faster upon release.

Wear water shoes so you can step into the water and handle fish in water, hopefully without removing them from it.

Use a net. A net supports the fish and enables minimal contact with the

ground and hands while the hook is removed. Rubber net bags are best, as they remove less of the fish's protective slime than nylon bags.

Use barbless hooks. Use your fishing pliers to mash your hook's barbs for easy removal and less tissue damage. Bonus: barbless flies last longer than barbed ones, for less wrestling with the hook.

Minimize air exposure. If taking a picture, coordinate with the photographer for the timing of the shot. "Ready, set, ..." lift the fish from the water, snap the shot, and lower the fish again. Empathize: imagine having your head held underwater for more than 30 seconds, then a minute. Prolonged lack of oxygen causes permanent injury.

Kill a fish that bleeds profusely; it won't survive anyway.

### Don'ts

Never touch a trout's gills, which are essentially a fish's lungs. Gills are sensitive to injury and carry lots of blood.

Even a small nick can be fatal.

Don't drag fish across rocks and dirt. Its body is designed to be supported by water. Striking the ground can damage internal organs. If you can, avoid holding fish over dry ground in the first place.

To minimize oxygen deprivation, don't admire your catch for too long before giving it some time in the water. This is easier if you have a net handy.

Dry hands remove the slime on trout's skin, essentially protecting it from infection. Wet your hands before touching a fish you intend to release.

Don't use treble hooks, even on your lures. Do you really need three hooks to catch a fish? Refine your game so that you don't. Also, treble hooks can be dangerous to humans.





By CATHY GALLEGOS  
PRINCIPAL QJSHS  
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT QISD

**Happy New Year, QISD Family!**

Talking about the new year sounds a little strange for students and staff. Generally, we think of the new year as

starting in August instead of January! If you are in the school system, January is the beginning of the second half, the final push to get credits completed and learning ramped up so we can be ready for state testing. The winter break enables us to recharge our batteries so we can come in fresh. It was much needed.

The Questa Independent School District will start the new year with some new faces at our schools and on our school board. We welcome back teacher Sara Martinez, who will be teaching English and Math at the Junior High and High Schools, returning to her Culinary Arts class, and also assisting

the counselor.

We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Rebecca Griego and Juan Cisneros on their new appointments to the board, and also welcome back our experienced board members Tammy Jaramillo, Jose Lovato, and Matt Ortega. We also wish good luck to our departing

board members, Daryl Ortega and Ellis Garcia --good luck, and thank you for your service.

We are ready to put in some hard work into the second half of our school year. QISD is going to have a great year. With time and continued hard work, we will continue to grow and get better!

# HAPPY 2020

*Thank you!*

- El Monte Carlo
- Rael's Market
- Wildcat's Den
- The Village of Questa

Thank you for displaying ornaments and placemats made by our pre-kindergarten through 6th grade students of Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate School. We hope you like them and handle them with care! An additional thank you to Frank's Eats & Sweets for a donation. To Ancianos and Taos Living Center: we hope you enjoy the Christmas cards that we made for you! Alta Vista wishes our Village and surrounding communities a Very Happy New Year.

Joshlyn Medina and Hailey Rael  
- AVEIS Student Council Historians



# Questa's Cheerleaders Perform in London!

By LOU MCCALL

Cheerleading coach Kathy Gonzales is excited about Questa High School's All-American Cheerleaders trip to London. They flew out on December 26, and will perform in the world championship on New Year's Day. Three of the All-Americans from Questa High will be taking the trip: Danielle LaCome, Jordyn Martinez, and Jennalee Hernandez, accompanied by award-winning coach Kathy Gonzales, who is no stranger to championships. The girls were nervous and excited and worked very hard for the trip. They were required to learn three different routines for their

performance, with three "ripples," or sections—pretty complex stuff. Mrs. Gonzales said that this trip will change their lives, broaden their horizons, and give them a new and different experience of the world. Congratulations to our All-Americans representing Questa.



Photo by Brandon Gonzales

Questa's All American Cheerleaders, on their way to London! From left to right Jennalee Hernandez, Danielle LaCome, Jordyn Martinez and Coach Kathy Gonzales.

# Roaring 20s Fundraiser Successful and Fun



Photo by Todd Michaels

Teachers and staff of Red River Valley Charter School enjoy the Roaring 20s theme at their fundraiser at the MotherLode.

By LOU MCCALL

The Red River Valley Charter School held its annual fundraiser Saturday evening, December 14. It was a Roaring 20s theme, and by all accounts, it was a roaring good time! There were wonderful costumes, but that was not mandatory to

be admitted to the event.

The event was held at the Motherlode in Red River, owned by Steve Heglund and Priscilla Frondarina. Two bands provided music – Jae Lesley, James Hampton, Wayne Evanson (Christmas Jazz Compilation) and K Bolin & the Damn Band.

Decorations and displays were created by RRVCS students and staff. Special thanks go to Liz Tate for going above and beyond to make sure all decorations were ready for the night of the event. There were a silent auction and a live auction with auctioneer Dr. Bill Clymer donating his time.



Photo by Lucky Shot (Andi Truan)

The Triangle Sisters celebrate the Roaring 20s, from left to right, Maria Mikhailas, Ellen Wood and Martha Shepp.

Auction and raffle items were donated by generous Enchanted Circle community members. Photo booth and props at the RRVCS fundraising event were provided by Lucky Shot (Andi Truan). Good food was provided by Shotgun Willie's. A great time was had by all.

## COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THIS COMMUNITY.

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# Best Practices for filling out Job Applications

By NIKI NICHOLS

Good news! All signs indicate that the economy is getting better, and the unemployment rate is going down. This means that many organizations and businesses are hiring!

For most jobs, you will probably have to fill out a job application. Many small organizations use a standardized form, so you might find the same application across a variety of companies. National chains and large corporations have their own versions. Some forms are paper; others are on a computer.

## Here are some terms you should know.

- **Basic requirements:** Without meeting these, you do not qualify and will not be considered, regardless of experience (for example, “must be 18 or older,” or “must have a driver’s license”).
- **KSAs:** Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities are what you must know to do the job (for example, “familiar with the basic principles of tree growth and trimming”).
- **Skills** covers what you must be able to do and how well you can do it (for example, “use a chainsaw to clear branches from power lines”).
- **Ability** refers to your physical ability (for example, “must be able to lift and carry fifty pounds”).

KSAs are the criteria used to select an employee for a specific job. If your application doesn’t clearly show that you meet these requirements, it automatically goes in the “no” pile without anyone reading about all the wonderful things you have done or accomplished.

Most applications require similar information. Keep this basic information at hand, whether knocking on doors, using a search company or government agency, searching newspaper ads, or looking online.

Start by making a data sheet to take with you. You can make a copy of a current job application that you have already filled out, which is very helpful. You can use a notebook, notepad, or computer file to keep all your information in one place. It should include your Social Security Number (SSN), an address where you can receive mail, and a current phone number. Remember to set up a professional sounding voicemail message on your contact phone number!

It is important to have the addresses and dates associated with your education and prior employers. Include their ad-

resses, your exact dates of employment, your supervisor’s name, your last salary, and, if relevant, how many employees you supervised. If you don’t have this information, contact the schools or employers. Job applications often ask for references that can vouch for the character of an applicant. Make sure you have current contact information.

Next, add a list of the duties and responsibilities associated with each job you’ve held and training you’ve received, including dates and certifications. List relevant equipment you are comfortable working with.

## This is the step-by-step process for completing an application.

- Read through the job advertisement and the application: Then, start from the beginning and work your way through to the end. Don’t skip around—you might leave out something important. Once you have filled in the information, read through it to make sure every section is complete, and the required information is there.
- Follow the instructions! The first section is usually a set of instructions. For example, “use a pen with black ink,” or “fill out application completely.” For online applications, always use a standard font such as Times New Roman or Arial. If questions are not applicable, enter N/A.
- Keep it neat. Take your time. Enter the information clearly and completely. This is vital for a successful application, whether hand printing on a piece of paper or filling the application out online.
- Enter your personal information. Pay attention. The form may ask for your last name first, then your first and middle initial. It may also ask that you list any other names that you might have used, such as a maiden name, nicknames, or hyphenated names.
- Complete a separate application for each position, even if they are with the same organization. If there is no position open at this time, enter a job you would like (and are qualified for) with the company, such as bank teller, salesperson, or manager. Don’t say “any”—it is way too general, so you may be overlooked for a good position. The form may ask what shift you prefer. Some may also ask for your location preference. Be smart and check the options before saying “anytime, anywhere.”
- And now, a sensitive one: “Have you ever been convicted of a felony?” or “Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime?” If you have not, enter N/A. If you have, be honest. Read the question carefully and answer truthfully—a “yes” is not necessarily an automatic disqualifier, but lying is. If there isn’t enough room to explain what happened, you can provide more detail, using an extra sheet to give the necessary details. For online applications, use the general comments field at the end.
- Your educational history is also important. You may be required to provide official transcripts, certificates, and licenses. List all relevant licenses, training, and skills you possess and any relevant machinery or software you can use. Whatever your career, whether you are an Administrative Assistant, a Pest Control Technician, or a Sales Clerk, if you have completed training, earned certificates, or acquired necessary licenses, those are important to list. Include any customer-service classes and team-building courses—these are appropriate for all jobs. And if you have won any awards, such as Delivery Person of the Year for your company, keep a record of it, and write it down with the date.
- Accurately reflect your employment history and the significant duties performed. Start with the most current and work backwards to the first, unless instructed otherwise. A rule of thumb is that you need to go back no more than ten years, or four positions.
- When the application asks you to explain your reason for leaving. Don’t say “fired;” instead say “terminated for \_\_\_\_\_,” then fill in the reason (which shouldn’t be that your boss had it in for you). Instead of saying “quit”

say “Left to find a position that better uses my education,” or “Resigned to go back to school.” Don’t say you hated your job or had personal reasons for leaving. If you were laid off, give the reason. For example, “Laid off because company closed,” or “Laid off after peak summer season.”

- Give the details of your work history. Summarize the KSAs you used to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position. Say what you did and what you accomplished. Be positive—this is the first impression that you are making! From this piece of paper, the employer builds a picture of you and how your skill set will benefit the organization.
- Your work history includes jobs, internships, and volunteer work—both paid and unpaid positions. If your knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience match the job requirements, then include them.
- Last, but equally important, submit the application on time. Any application received after the closing date will not be accepted. Good luck, be confident, and don’t get too stressed!

G.A. “Niki” Nichols is a Questa resident and retired Human Resources professional, facilitator, and instructor. She has written journal articles on a variety of subjects, including facilitation, change management, and assessing training needs. Niki published an in-depth tutorial, *An Easy Guide to Job Applications That Get Interviews: A Step-by-Step Process to Prosperity*. It is available online at [https://smile.amazon.com/Guide-Applications-Interviews-Step-Step-ebook/dp/B00HJBT1OY/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=niki+nichols&qid=1576602029&sr=1-1](https://smile.amazon.com/Guide-Applications-Interviews-Step-Step-ebook/dp/B00HJBT1OY/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=niki+nichols&qid=1576602029&sr=1-1)



# Village of Questa Honors Waylon Brown

By LINDSAY MAPES

Questa Police Officer Waylon Brown was recognized at the November 19, 2019 Village Council Meeting with a certificate and a celebratory cake for successfully completing the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy. He is now a New Mexico Certified Police Officer.

Officer Brown has been with the Questa Police Department (QPD) for just over one year. Previous to joining the QPD, he was a police officer with his home community of Taos Pueblo. Previous to that he worked as a criminal investigator in Santa Fe. Although Officer Brown recently received his certifica-

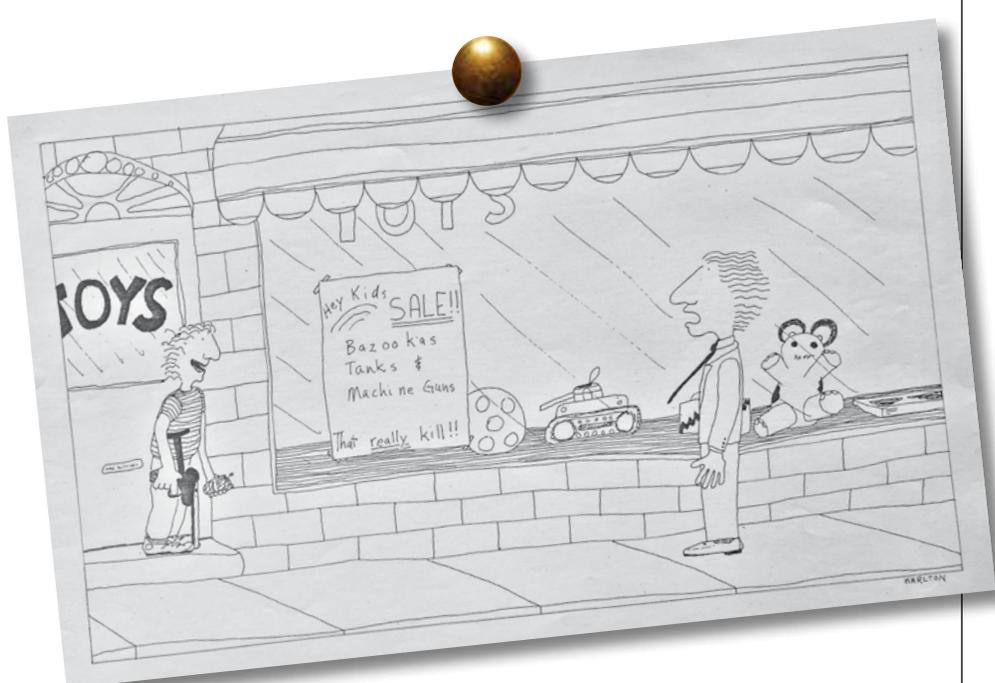
tion from the State, he has been certified federally for almost a decade.

Officer Brown spoke with meaning about his work in Questa. "Being from this area, my people have always come to Questa for sacred reasons. This year in August, I participated in the pilgrimage to Questa. My people have been coming to Questa for centuries, and to be able to work in this community is an honor." His dedication to Questa and serving our community emanated throughout the Council Chambers as he spoke. Congratulations to Officer Waylon Brown of the Questa Police Department!



Photo by Lindsay Mapes

Questa Police Officer Waylon Brown receives his State certification and recognition by the Village of Questa Council last November.



## Starting a Home-Based Food Business Workshop



NMSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Everything you need to know about starting your home-based food business in one day! Expert, research-based knowledge provided in order to learn how to navigate your business.

Thursday February 20, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, includes lunch at the Santa Fe County Extension Office, 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507

Registration: Online registration is

available thru Feb. 19 at 8 AM. You may pay with a credit card or NMSU PCard online. Or you can register online and mail your check.

Fee: \$40 - Reserves a space and includes lunch

For Mail-In Payments. Check payments must be received by Feb. 6. Please send to the following address:

ATTN: Cydney Martin  
Santa Fe County Extension Office  
3229 Rodeo Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87507

For more information about this and other workshops, visit:

<https://aces.nmsu.edu/county/santafe/>

Thank You!

## The Optimist Promise Yourself

To be SO STRONG that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance AT ALL TIMES and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have NO TIME to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



# AROUND THE BEND: GREAT LAKES USA



1.



2.



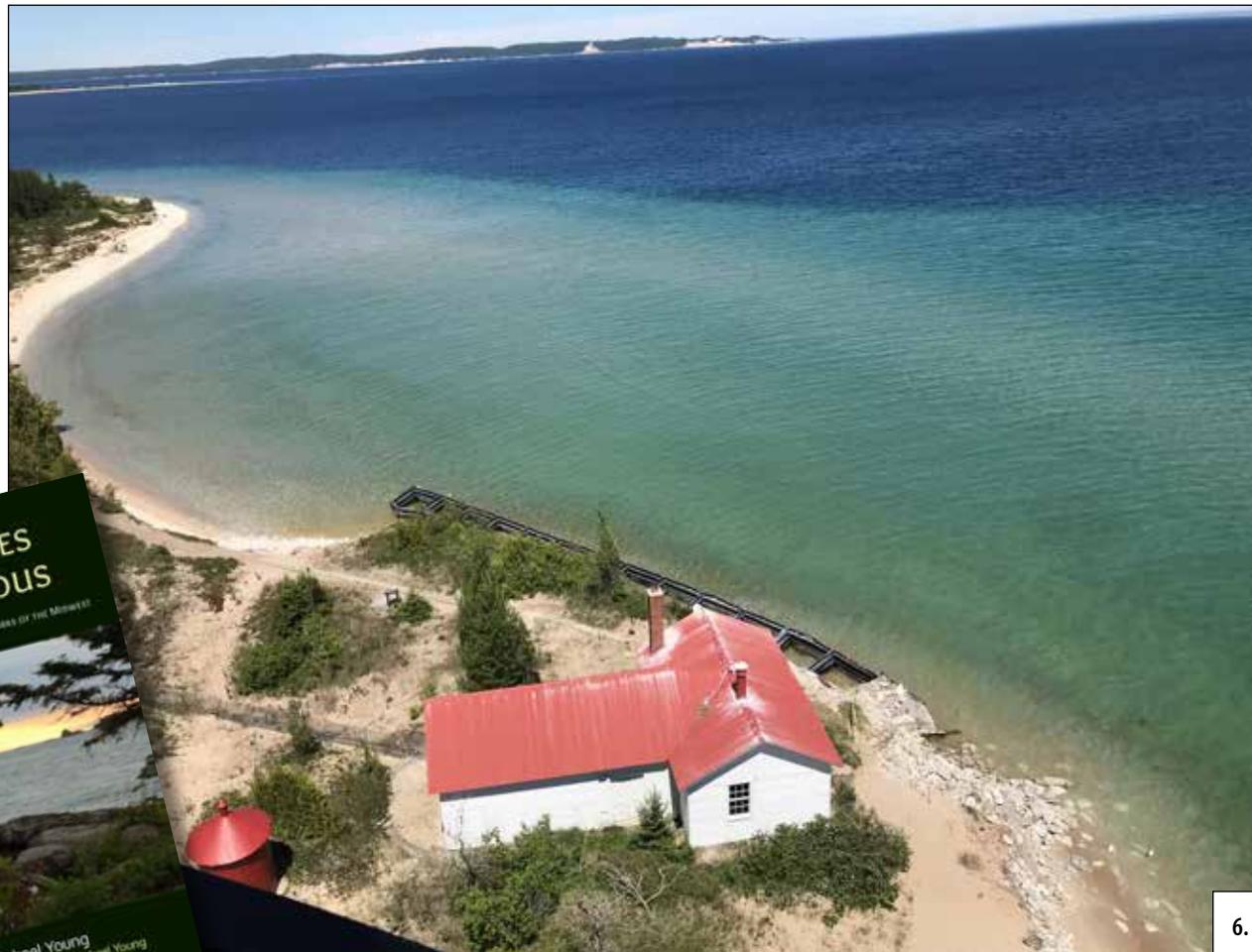
3.



4.



5.



6.

Photos by Joan and Michael Young

1. Joan and “the girls” on a hike in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, south of Cleveland, Ohio

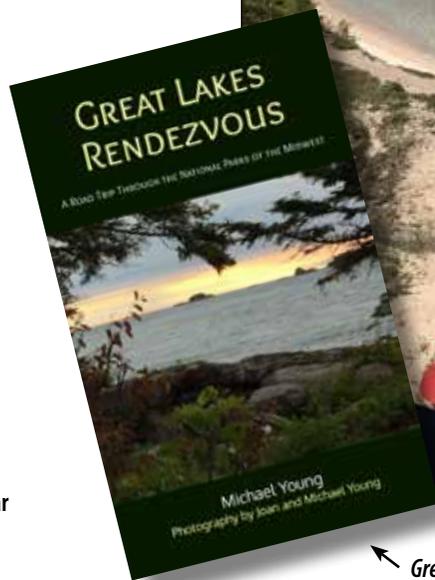
2. Architecture from Pullman National Monument, in Chicago

3. A formation at Picture Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior

4. A scene on Isle Royale - an island park in the middle of Lake Superior

5. Sunset from a beach on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

6. Lake Michigan from the lighthouse on South Manitou Island, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



← *Great Lakes Rendezvous* by Joan and Michael Young, available at [MisterParksTravels.com](http://MisterParksTravels.com)

## GREAT LAKES RENDEZVOUS By MICHAEL YOUNG

Joan and I try to take a big trip once every year. With our bucket list of more than 200 US national parks, we have plenty of options scattered all across the country. We hitch up our small travel trailer, bundle up the dogs, and hit the road, stopping in each park on our itinerary for a few days to see what it has to offer.

In 2018, our trip was the longest one yet, lasting just shy of four months. We drove a total of about 6000 miles on our journey through the nation’s midwest. Our itinerary took us through 17 different national parks, monuments, and lakeshores in eight different states, all pretty much surrounding the Great

Lakes. We spent time on or near four of the five lakes (we didn’t make it to Lake Ontario) and included nearly two weeks in and around one of our nation’s biggest cities, Chicago.

People like to ask what our favorite place was, and, really, that is virtually impossible to answer! They are all so unique and even the little parks offer something really interesting or beautiful.

One definite highlight for me has to be Isle Royale, one of the most isolated parks in the country. You can’t drive there, so we had to leave the trailer at a campsite for three days, board our dogs, and take a six-hour boat ride to get there. It’s in the middle of Lake Superior and is made of granite formations that are among the oldest on the continent.

Because the island is so isolated, it has a dense ecology of plants and animals, many of which aren’t found anywhere else in the world. We stayed at the lodge there and hiked the island for three days, barely cracking open the mysterious secrets that the island holds.

Another fascinating park, totally different than Isle Royale, was the Dayton Aviation National Historical Park. There we took a tour of the Wright Brothers’ early efforts at winged flight, as well as saw the home of one of black America’s most important poets, Louis Dunbar.

And then we bicycled the canal towpath along the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga Valley National Park in northeast Ohio. On that bike ride, Joan lost her balance, crashed, and dislocated

her shoulder, requiring a ranger rescue and an ambulance ride —oh, what fun that was!

When we went to Grand Portage National Monument and Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, we learned about the history behind the hearty French folk who explored these lakes many decades ago.

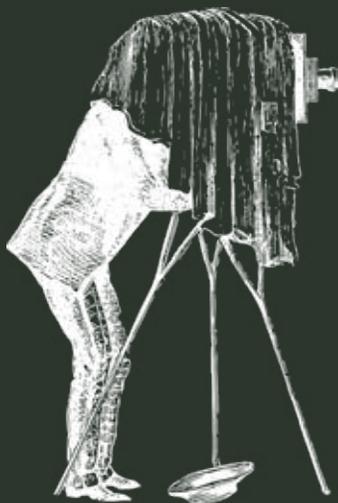
We called this trip the “Great Lakes Rendezvous.” It was our first time exploring these marvels. All these adventures and many, many more can be found on our website

[MisterParksTravels.com](http://MisterParksTravels.com). While there, you have an option to buy our electronic book, *Great Lakes Rendezvous*, which has all of our journals from this trip as well as dozens more pictures; enjoy!

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photo by Anonymous: Questa, NM - December 2018



Think you can take  
a good photo?  
Prove it.

Send us your photos of "on the scene"  
newsworthy events OR just a pretty shot for our new  
"Photo of the Month" section.

e-mail [news@questaedf.com](mailto:news@questaedf.com)  
(don't forget to include a caption and your name)

**THRIFTY QUESTA** continued from page 1

has clearly never lived in a rural setting where “supply and demand” do not function the same ways as in urban settings, where consumers have many products at their fingertips.

This paradox of thrift concept is being used as a reaction to the thrifting phenomenon currently exploding in the US. Fast fashion and mass-produced goods are unsustainable, wasteful, and bad for the environment for many reasons (a subject for another article). Consumerism, especially unconscious consumerism, is out of vogue right now. Thrifting and saving money is becoming fashionable and is shedding its previous reputation. There is a new chic among conscious consumers--thrift shops are not just for poor folk anymore.

A place like Questa does not fit within traditional economic trends because Big Box retail stores are not easily accessible. Walmart in Taos has cheap mass-produced home goods and clothing, as do the plethora of “dollar” stores that dot the landscape. As a result, thrifting is a great way to preserve the goods within the region, especially durable high-quality goods, and gives them a longer lifespan so that less energy and resources are spent bringing in new stuff. The necessity of thrifting here keeps the goods authentic within a wide range of categories. It is not just a trend in Questa; it is a sustainable economic reality.

This is illustrated in the differences between Artesaños and Jay’s Unique Thrift Shop. Fabbie at Artesaños gets her goods locally by donation, with a few consignment items. Artesaños is a classic thrift store in that the goods sold are products that are kept in the northern New Mexico region. The store started almost 25 years ago as a non-profit gallery and event space and Fabbie still sells goods from local artisans. While there is a large selection of clothes and household goods, you can also find local Questeño woodwork and tinwork that you will not find anywhere else. The apple butter sold at her place is divine!

Jay will go as far as the Canadian border to find the right auctions in order

to bring back a trailer full of goods to sell. Therefore, he is bringing “new” goods into our market. The circulation of outside goods through Jay’s, and local circulation through Artesaños and Kiowa means that the thrift market in Questa will always stay healthy and interesting. This is good news for consumers who live here and also those passing through the area. Jay sells many high-dollar collectibles in his shop that he finds in his scouting trips and he also has inexpensive things. Jay is a master at finding diamonds in the rough. His shop was voted as one of the top ten most popular thrift stores in New Mexico in online polls.

Questa’s newest shop, The Kiowa Thrift Store, has a wonderful location, close to Questa’s center. Longtime Questa locals remember his place as his grandparents’ Kiowa Bar and more recently Pat’s Place restaurant. While Lawrence has a good selection of great deals on clothing, household goods, and toys, he also has higher ticket items; antiques, nice furniture, and handcrafted local creations.

Whether you are searching for artwork from locals, inexpensive clothes, artwork, kitchenware or more, Questa has you covered in its thrift stores. Most thrift shoppers are willing to search through lots of stuff to find that one treasure. Apart from the element of adventure, there is also the luck factor. That’s half of the fun! In the era of buying goods from online marketplaces like eBay or Amazon, which perpetuate alienation in our culture, Questa gives a good glimpse into the past while low-price retail space serves to lift the community up.

*Artesaños de Questa- Twice as Nice Thrift Shop, 41 Highway 38, Questa, NM 87556, next to the post office*

*Jay’s Unique Thrift Shop - 12 Highway 38, Questa, NM 87556*

*Kiowa Thrift Store - 2422 Highway 522, Questa, NM 87556*



2422 Highway 522, Questa, NM 87556

Photo by Emily Wilde



Jay’s Unique Thrift Shop – 12 Highway 38, Questa, NM 87556

Photo by Emily Wilde

**LATE BREAKING NEWS:**

**Jay’s Thrift is going. Jay’s Antiques to come! You heard it here first!**



**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

Jay is auctioning off all his inventory in January online at [\\*albuquerqueauctionaddiction.com](http://albuquerqueauctionaddiction.com), therefore the doors will be closed to the public for that month. BUT Jay will have **FREE** coats, jackets, clothes and bedding out front. Please take what you need.

\* All inventory will be sold Tuesday, January 28, and Wednesday, January 29 starting at 6pm live online at [albuquerqueauctionaddiction.com](http://albuquerqueauctionaddiction.com)

Jay is liquidating everything in the store. He will then fill it with unique antiques and re-open his doors.

**ONLINE AUCTION: EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

**POSITIVE THOUGHTS** from page 1

The year 2020 somehow feels like being called – called out on small things that add up to big problems and called to be more. Called upon, too. Not in a religious sense, since that can only be known in the heart of hearts of each

person, but called upon to help humanity step forward into this new millennium, this New Age.

January remembers Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who shared his dream of equality and equanimity. This month also holds before us that vision which has not yet come to pass in the world; it’s Slavery and Human Trafficking Preven-

tion Month. January is Mentoring and Blood Donor Month, too. Give of your time and your knowledge and the blood in your veins.

January 25 celebrates the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Male White Rat (white symbolizes metal). The Chinese zodiac and its lunar calendar includes a male or female energy, plus one of the

five Chinese elements, plus one of the twelve Chinese zodiacal animals. 2020 is a Male Metal Rat year.

January is also Menudo Month! Does each family has its own handed-down recipe? Enjoy! May your New Year be blessed with kindness and abundance, friendship and respect, and a warm bowl of soup.

# ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson  
JANUARY 2020

## CAPRICORN - AQUARIUS DANCE

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars.

On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. . . When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Luke 21:25 - 28

As mentioned at the beginning of 2019 we were impacted with a gradually increasing Capricorn influence. We launch 2020 with half of our 12 planets in the sign of Capricorn, NOT including the Moon: Pluto, Saturn, Sun, Vulcan, Mercury, Jupiter. Since most of our furthest out planets are included, this energy affects the entire planet. Capricorn is the sign of Initiation and indeed it seems like the planet and humanity are undergoing a huge, group Initiation. Which segues us into Aquarius, the ruling sign for groups and group Initiation, an important meaning for the Age of Aquarius.

In April, Saturn will leave Capricorn for the first time since December 2017, and enters Aquarius, which lightens up the whole sky. It only lasts a couple of months as its retrograde motion will send it back into Capricorn for a couple more months in July. But we will end the year with Saturn firmly in Aquarius, finally leaving Capricorn behind. Some of the sense of responsibility, self-discipline and heavy burdens will ease as people come together more naturally and with the joy of recognition that we are all struggling along the same Path, up the same Mountain. Aquarius is the sign of enlightenment, of the expansive view one gets at the top of a mountain, a view well deserved after the struggle and stress of the climb. This year will be another year of climbing, but the view gets better along the Way.

**Everyone:** During Full Moon January 10, there will be a lunar eclipse; though not visible on this continent; you can still feel it.

**ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19**

**Dynamic:** The energetic shift described above for the year, can clearly be felt by you this month.

**Direction:** Determine the message.

**Soul Thought:** From despair to joy.

**TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20**

**Dynamic:** Read above. You too.

**Direction:** Ponder upon the pattern.

**Soul Thought:** When thoughts take shape.

**GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20**

**Dynamic:** Sparkling conversations keep you going the first half of the month.

**Direction:** Carry those into deeper introspection the latter half of the month.

**Soul Thought:** “He who talks does not know; he who knows does not talk.” Thoth, Emerald Tablets

**CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22**

**Dynamic:** Some sharpness builds up through the month, headed your way.

**Direction:** Smooth waters is a great deflector.

**Soul Thought:** Clash of the Titans.

**LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22**

**Dynamic:** A strong sense of shifting group energies this month.

**Direction:** Focus outward now.

**Soul Thought:** Who is your “Group?”

**VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22**

**Dynamic:** An eclipse anywhere in the world is a chance to see things differently.

**Direction:** Name your personal eye filters. . .

**Soul Thought:** . . . and then some you would like to see through.

**LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♃ SEPT 22 – OCT 22**

**Dynamic:** That oddball investment might not look so odd by month's end.

**Direction:** Stay committed to the ultimate goal.

**Soul Thought:** What are you invested in?

**SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21**

**Dynamic:** The clash may be with a love partner or a “mother.”

**Direction:** The potential for temper can be channeled into productive energy.

**Soul Thought:** When focus and self-discipline become necessary.

**SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♁ NOV 21 – DEC 20**

**Dynamic:** Your response to similar energy as Scorpio's might be to leave.

**Direction:** Discernment is called for.

**Soul Thought:** Unconditional love is always the answer.

**CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19**

**Dynamic:** Someone very close is just like you.

**Direction:** Too close for comfort? Or comfortable closeness?

**Soul Thought:** Who is The Father?

**AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18**

**Dynamic:** You're part of a group yet separate from it.

**Direction:** Step back to get a better view, but then step back in.

**Soul Thought:** It really is a dance.

**PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20**

**Dynamic:** You have a strong partnership, even when change occurs.

**Direction:** If you can't see it, get fuzzy eyes.

**Soul Thought:** If you can see it, pat yourself on the back.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## JANUARY 2020

**JANUARY 1**

New Years Day

**JANUARY 3 10:30-3:00 PM**

Questa Library Fun Friday Kid's Program

**JANUARY 7 3:30-5:30 PM**

Questa Youth Center Art Room: Clay Studio

**JANUARY 8**

Small Business Development Center consultations in Questa by appointment (575) 737-6214

**JANUARY 8 10:30-11:30 AM**

Bookmobile in Lama at Roots & Wings Community School

**JANUARY 8 1:00-1:45 PM**

Bookmobile at Questa Post Office

**JANUARY 9 2:00-4:00 PM**

Questa to Red River Trail Planning Meeting at Questa Youth Center

**JANUARY 10**

Noon Free Community Yoga, La Sala

**JANUARY 10 1:00-3:00 PM**

Questa Library Kid's Program, ArtKids!

**JANUARY 10 11:00 AM-2:00 PM**

Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry!

**JANUARY 11 8:30 AM-4:00 PM**

VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION strategic planning retreat RSVP, see notice in classifieds

**JANUARY 11 10:00-11:15 AM**

Free Yoga For Service Veterans, La Sala

**JANUARY 13**

Korean American Day

**JANUARY 14 3:30-5:30 PM**

Questa Youth Center Art Room: Clay Studio

**JANUARY 16 10:30 – NOON**

Wildcat Kitty Club Questa Public Library

**JANUARY 17 1:00-3:00 PM**

Questa Library Kid's Program, Youth Center Art Room, Clay

**JANUARY 19**

World Quark Day

**JANUARY 20**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**JANUARY 21 3:30-5:30 PM**

Questa Youth Center Art Room: Clay Studio

**JANUARY 14 3:30-5:30 PM**

Questa Youth Center Art Room: Clay Studio

**JANUARY 24 1:00-3:00 PM**

Questa Library Kid's Program, Homeschoolers Welcome!

**JANUARY 24 11AM-2PM**

Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry!

**JANUARY 25**

Chinese New Year: The Year of the Rat

**JANUARY 27 3:30-5:00 PM**

Questa Library Book Club, Rael's Coffee House.

**JANUARY 28 10:00 AM**

Red River Chamber Board Meeting, RR Conference Center

**JANUARY 28 3:30-5:30 PM**

Questa Youth Center Art Room: Clay Studio

**JANUARY 28 6:00 PM**

Questa Village Council Meeting, Village Hall

**JANUARY 28 6:00 PM**

Questa School Board Meeting

**JANUARY 28 10:00 AM**

Red River Chamber Board Meeting, RR Conference Center

**JANUARY 28 5:00 PM**

Red River Town Council, RR Conference Center

**JANUARY 31 1:00-3:00 PM**

Questa Library Kid's Program, ArtKids!

For a complete list of January events in Red River, go to <https://redivider.org/events/calendar/2020/01>

**JANUARY IS:**

- Menudo Month
- Blood Donor Month
- Braille Literacy Month
- Mentoring Month
- Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month



To discover your Rising Sign, or for more information, contact Charlene R. Johnson, [www.SkyDanceAstrology.com](http://www.SkyDanceAstrology.com), or email: [SkyDance@SkyDanceAstrology.com](mailto:SkyDance@SkyDanceAstrology.com)

Esoteric Astrology is focused on the rising sign more than the sun sign (we suggest you read both) and provides clarity, direction and answers for those seeking a higher level of life.

**HELP WANTED**

**Executive Director for Questa Economic Development Fund**

Duties include implementing the economic development plan with an emphasis on tourism, marketing and recreational development. For a copy of the economic development plan and job description, or to submit your resume and cover letter, email [mvr@QuestaEDF.com](mailto:mvr@QuestaEDF.com) by January 2, 2020. See related article on page 4.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Visitor Center is seeking seasonal volunteers**

to help operate the Center. Starting October 1st, 6 hours per day from 1 to 5 day per week, days per week depending upon your availability. Please contact the Wild Rivers Visitor Center for more information at 586-1150.

**Do You Have a Home Rehab Business?**

The Questa Lodging Project is compiling a list of Questa-area GB-98 contractors, roofers, landscapers, electricians, plumbers, and handymen and women to rehabilitate homes in Questa. If you own a business in the Questa area, have a Questa business license, and fall into one of these categories, please call to get in our directory so we can send home rehab customers to you! 575-586-2149 (more details on page 4)

**Housesitters:** The Questa Lodging Project is compiling a list of housesitters. If you would like to be in the directory, please call so we can tell people about you! 575-586-2149.

**Housecleaners:** The Questa Lodging Project is compiling a list of people who clean houses, especially for short-term and vacation rentals. If you would like to be in the directory, please call so we can tell people about you! 575-586-2149.

**WANTED**

**Our wonderful old wood stove**

is on her last legs. I'm seeking her replacement: a slightly used wood stove for our large house, efficient and affordable. Please contact gabrielle. herbertson@gmail.com

**LAND FOR SALE.**

**35 gorgeous (not all flat) off-the-grid acres** in Sunshine Valley. Reduced to \$25,000. Call 575-770-3064.

**FOR SALE**

**Nice Used Restaurant Equipment,** 8ft custom steel prep table 30" wide, steel tables and rolling rack, Berkel 14 qt. mixer, Market Forge steam sleeve and boiler 40 gallon, FAEMA due espresso machine and grinder, Kenmore fairly new freezer 61" L x 27-1/2" W x 34" H, 1- 3ftx30" steel prep table, 3- 4ft. x30" steel prep tables, Kenmore Elite freezer. Call 586-0064 or [swfox@icloud.com](mailto:swfox@icloud.com).

**Full-size Frigidaire refrigerator/freezer and gas stove and oven.** Used but very clean. Too large for my cabin! \$400 OBO. Tel (561)290-9173 or email [tillsuchtime@gmail.com](mailto:tillsuchtime@gmail.com)

**Solid oak regulation pool table,** cue sticks, balls, lights. Great condition. Previous owner: Ray Vinella. \$1500, call Lynn or Krissie at 586-0515.

**Mariachi Questa just got a new shipment of chile!** This year's crop for sale. Green chile powder for \$9 a pound and red chile powder in medium, hot and extra hot for \$7 a pound. Please spread the word! Ask any Mariachi Questa member or call 779-5601.

**Freshly harvested Tipi (teepee) poles for sale.** Poles are pre-order and harvested for you. Denubbed, peeled, and dried. Delivery and set up available for an extra charge. Multiple lengths available. Contact Wendy for price: [thetipilady@gmail.com](mailto:thetipilady@gmail.com) or 541-497-0287.

**NOTICES**

**THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to the Questa Del Rio News! Your support means a lot to us, we cannot do it without you!**

**Jay's will be closed for the month of January.** All inventory will be sold 1-12 to 1-29 online with <https://myauctionaddiction.com/> For information call 505-252-0915 Lloyd Swartz. Everything in store will be liquidated and will be filled again with Antique. Unique goodies. Come find your Treasure in Questa. January 28 and 29 starts at 6pm live!!!

**VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION** strategic planning retreat on Saturday January 11th. At My Tia's restaurant in Cerro, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. All interested people are welcome. Lunch included with RSVP. [maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com](mailto:maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com) or 575 779-2260

**Colcha Embroidery Group meets** on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 10AM to noon at the Costilla County Economic Development Conference Room, 401 South Church Place, San Luis, CO. For more information call Marcella Pacheco at 719-672-4237.

**Red River Ski Area is open** and the Torchlight Parade and Fireworks will be every Saturday during ski season!

**The Questa Visitor Center is now closed** for the winter, see you in the spring!

**Music lessons** - piano, guitar, ukulele, accordion, base, saxophone and recorder, contact Nat Wilson, 575-779-2725, lessons at La Sala in Questa, 2331 Hwy 522.

**Bluegrass Music Jam The Juice Caboose** in Red River, every Thursday night at 6:30 pm

**Weekly Music Jam Rael's Coffee House** in Questa, Every Thursday at 6:00 pm.

**Maps & More available from Carson National Forest**



By Denise Ottaviano

Fuelwood permits, maps, Interagency Passes, and other products will once again be available for purchase at the Carson National Forest (CNF) Supervisor's Office in Taos. These products are also available at all ranger district offices.

Questa Ranger District office is open 9AM-12:30PM, 1:30-4PM, 575.586.0520.

Supervisor's Office in Taos is open from 8AM to noon and 12:30-4:30PM, 575.758.6200

**Dead and down fuelwood permits are currently not available.** Permits are not sold from January through April. These permits are generally available starting May 1, through December 31, forest wide. We will provide updates in the spring when the permits become available.

**Forest maps are \$14.** Maps for the CNF and all other national forests in the country can also be purchased online at <http://www.nationalforest-mapstore.com/>.

**For a listing of our forest maps,** visit our webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/carson/maps-pubs>

**America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Passes are \$80.** For more information about these passes visit the following webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/passes-permits/?cid=fseprd553944>

**Rock permits** must be obtained at the Ranger District office where the rock will be collected.

Customers may purchase all products by check, credit/debit card or cash.

**For more information** about the Carson NF visit our webpage <https://www.fs.usda.gov/carson>.

*"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."*



**QUESTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**JOB VACANCIES**

Executive Secretary

Application Packet Available at <http://qisd-nm.schoolloop.com>

Application packet should include: Complete QISD Certified Application, Letter of Interest, Current Resume, (3) Three Employment or Education References (Include Current Names, Titles, Addresses and Phone Numbers) Satisfactory Background Investigation. All applications will be screened. Selected applicants will be invited for an interview. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**

**Submit Applications to:**

Kathy Gonzales, Human Resources Specialist

Questa Independent School District

P.O. BOX 440

Questa, NM 87556

**Need Something? Have Something?**

**LIST IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**

**Starting at flat rate \$10 for 25 words or less (25 word min. 50 word max)**

**DINA COLEMAN** [delriocoloradoads@gmail.com](mailto:delriocoloradoads@gmail.com)



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## QUESTA

### ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH IN QUESTA

Father Andrew Ifele 586-0470  
 Saturday 6:00PM,  
 Sunday 7:00AM in Spanish -11:00AM in English

### MISSION CHURCHES:

Sagrado Corazon in Costillo - Sunday 9:00AM  
 Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Cerro-  
 2nd & 4th Saturdays 4:00PM  
 Santo Niño in Amalia- 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4:00AM

### HARVEST QUESTA

Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales  
 2558 Hwy 522  
 Sunday 11:00AM- 12:30PM  
 Phone 575-770-5906  
 Visit us online: [HarvestQuesta.org](http://HarvestQuesta.org)

### LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez  
 12 Llano Road  
 Service: Sunday 10:30AM  
 Nursery and Kids' Church at 10:30AM  
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00PM  
[www.lwmsite.org](http://www.lwmsite.org)  
 586-1587

### PATH OF LOVE

Teachings of Herman Rednick  
 Sunday 7:30AM class and meditation  
 586-1454, Hilece  
 Sunday 10:00AM Alice Bailey Theosophy Study Group  
 586-4641, Francis [www.earthjourney.org](http://www.earthjourney.org)

### QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 miles north of Questa on State Road 522  
 We are excited to offer Bible Class at  
 9:30AM on Sundays  
 Followed by worship at 10:15AM  
 We pray you will join us!

### KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

Tibetan Buddhism  
 Thursday at 4:00PM Chenrezig  
 Friday 8:00AM-Green Tara  
[gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com)  
[www.earthjourney.org](http://www.earthjourney.org)  
 586-1454 or 586-1038

### ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Service 10:30AM  
 Potluck & Fellowship 3rd Sunday of the Month  
 Highway 196, Amalia  
 Pastors: Lorenzo & Arleen Lucero  
 575-770-5716

## RED RIVER

### CROSS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

(Standing in the Gap)  
 The Way Coffee House, 201 W. Main Street  
 Sunday 10:00AM, Wednesday 6:30PM  
 Children's Church at Both Times  
 Pastor Chris Torres (505) 600-5859

### FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Corner of River Street and Copper King Trail  
 Sunday 10:30AM

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

103 High Cost Trail  
 Sundays 8:15 AM and 10:30AM  
 Pastor Joe Phillips 754-2882

### ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

North End of Silver Bell Trail  
 Saturday 6:00PM  
 (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)  
 Father Andrew Ifele 586-0470



## QUESTA LODGING PROJECT CLASSIFIEDS

Call 586-2258 or e-mail [Lodging@QuestaEDF.com](mailto:Lodging@QuestaEDF.com)

**EMBARGO TRAILER**, one bedroom one bath available now \$650 per month/ first month's deposit. One bedroom, one bath, tenants pay electric, water and propane. Nice quiet location, wood stove and furnace, Great landlord and neighbor, Washer and Dryer included, photos available on request. No pets, no smokers

### LAMA LOFT

Unique lofted 1 bedroom 1 bath home in Lama, house sits on 3 acres and is only 5 years old. Perfect for a 1 person or a couple. There are many special features to this home. Rent is \$1250. per month, plus utilities.

### LAMA FOREST SERVICE AREA

3 bedroom 2 bath Trailer home nestled next to the forests. Nice quiet area with great views, large yard space, full size washer and dryer in a nice sized laundry room, semi furnished, this home is perfect for a small family wanting to live quietly in Questa. All utilities are tenants responsibility. Propane heat. No pets, allowed. Housing assistance considered. \$1000. per month \$1000. deposit. Available September 1.

### CERRO CASITA – AVAILABLE NOW

2 Bedroom 1 Bath, unfurnished cozy adobe house located in a quaint area in Cerro. Bathroom recently remodeled to accommodate wheelchair accessibility. New tile in the kitchen area along with new door framing. The house is heated with propane and comes with 3 wood stoves that the tenants can use Outdoor pets are allowed with a \$100.00 pet deposit (ie, only small dogs, or only 1 cat, etc), Outdoor smokers only, no smoking inside the house. Other improvements include new carpet in the bedroom and wood floor in the living room. Located on 1 acre of land, fenced in with a small porch in the front. Perfect for star gazing at night. Parking is uncovered. Washer and dryer available. \$650.00 per month with first and last month deposit . Prefer at least a year lease but willing to

negotiate. Will consider traveling professionals. Utilities are renter responsibility. They average \$60 a month, more in the winter due to propane. Wireless internet included for a year. Renter provides modem

### ROMERO'S RENTALS

Available December 1st. Apartment ,1 Bedroom 1 Bath located just off Highway 522 in Questa. \$550 per month, utilities included, \$250. deposit required. No pets allowed.

### CERRO STUDIO AVAILABLE NOW

1 Bedroom 1 Bath Studio, Washer and Dryer included. Furnished except for bed. \$550 per month, \$250 deposit. Must sign 6-month lease. No pets allowed.

### ROOM FOR RENT

Shared spaces \$350. per month plus utilities. Looking for an individual between 20-40 years old Males welcome, female preferred. No Smokers, drug users, or partiers. No pets allowed

### HOUSING NEEDED

Single professional with dogs. Very clean, great references. Looking for 1 or 2 bedroom.

Professional individual looking to relocate to Questa area. Seeking a small rental apartment between \$700- 800. Utilities included. Internet is a must

School teacher looking for a small 1 bedroom in Questa area. Needs a month to month lease



## AA MEETINGS

**Sundays 10-11:00 am**

Open Meeting

Questa Youth Center

**Mondays 7:00pm**

Harvest Questa

2558 Highway 522

**Tuesdays 7:00pm**

Erik's Workshop

417 E. High St., Red River

## AA WORDS OF INSPIRATION

I AM A MIRACLE!

The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous.

He has commenced to accomplish these things for us which we could never do for ourselves.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 25

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

Questa Del Rio News



*2020 Happy New Year!*

Best wishes to all of you from all of us!

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**



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**KEITH D. JAMESON, D.D.S.**

Questa Dental Center  
2451 Highway 522  
575-586-0259



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Hemp for Healthier Living

https://dagglebeez.com

**AU STORAGE SHED**

\* Billboard advertising space  
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2680 Highway 522  
Questa, NM 87556



575-586-1620

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575-586-0419/0418

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