

APRIL (FOOLS') 2021



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SPORTS SECTION

QUESTA HIGH BASKETBALL Takes State in Zoom Tournament!

See Photo Essay in Sports Section

Welcome to our XXL Earth Day, Easter, and April Fools' Edition.

We hope you find it EXTRA EXTRA informative.

So that we don't cause excess confusion, the April Fools' articles/ads will have a little joker hat icon near them.



State-of-the-Art Questa Outlet Mall Breaks Ground in Summer 2021



F. Otto

Proposed interior design of the new outlet mall shows the latest in interior design trends. With a large allotment of interior space for early morning mall walkers and mid-afternoon entertainment from modern pop icons like Menudo and New Edition. (Actual photo is from the set of the third season of Netflix show *Stranger Things*)



F. Otto

Blazing new modern movie theater will show the newest releases like *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* and *Robo Cop* in Dolby Stereo SR. (Actual photo is from the set of the third season of Netflix show *Stranger Things*)



By GABRIELLA GUCCI,
FASHION CORRESPONDENT

The Questa Chamber of Commerce has announced an exciting new development for the area! This summer, construction will begin on a premium outlet mall adjacent to the Industrial Park. The parking lot will accommodate up to 250 cars, and will include premium stores such as Eddie Bauer, Guess, Le Creuset, Samsonite Luggage, Banana Republic, Coach, and Brooks Brothers for Men. In total, fifty stores will be part of this new high-end shopping experience!

After a lengthy debate about the proposed construction during their last meeting, some objections were noted. The Chamber agreed to proceed with construction of the mall in the belief that the hundreds of shoppers expected to frequent the mall on a weekly basis will provide a much-needed economic boost to Questa.

Community members with any concerns or questions about the construction of the outlet mall can contact the Chamber to voice their opinion. However, please keep in mind that if you do call, Chamber members will have to fess up that they know nothing about it, since the outlet mall plan is just a figment of this writer's imagination. APRIL FOOLS!

Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS

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Questa, NM 87556

OUR MISSION

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

NUESTRO OBJETIVO

Es informar, inspirar, contactar, y unir a toda la comunidad del norte del condado de Taos.

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BY THE 12TH OF THE MONTH

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LEditor FROM THE EDITOR

"What we are doing here is so important, we better not take it too seriously."

— Shunryu Suzuki Roshi

Welcome to our Fourth Annual April Fools' edition! People still talk about some of the crazy stories we have published in previous years. This is really fun for us, a nice way to get over the winter doldrums and lighten up. April Fools' is an opportunity for us not to take ourselves too seriously, as Zen Masters such as Suzuki Roshi and Uncle Henry remind us.

Only once (that I know of) have we seriously offended anyone with an April Fools' story. And since we offend people occasionally, if not regularly, that is not TOO terrible. Our advisors tell us that hearing from readers, whether they are pleased or not, is a good thing. It means that people actually read what we write, think about what they read, and that we are doing our job. Some might argue that pushing buttons is what journalism does. True journalism reports the facts, which isn't always comfortable.

Maybe we see something in this newspaper or on national news that upsets us. It can be helpful to observe what bothers us and why. Being naturally aware of suffering is the hallmark of sensitive souls. When we witness the suffering of others (think Easter and the crucifixion of Christ), or the destruction of our planet, (think Earth Day) it means that we are seeking clarity, a process that leads to greater and sometimes profound sensitivity. When we want to be more clear, we will notice more suffering than others, both in the world out there, as well as our own interior landscapes.

The past year has brought a wake-up call, hopefully for the whole world, and at least to many people. As if from a dream, much of the world realized they have been sleepwalking. Going about a life on autopilot, with habitual behaviors that can be destructive or at least not helpful, can suddenly be viewed for what they are— something that needs to change. This has been happening on a national and international scale, as well, with governments striving for more transparency to offer real solutions to real problems. It has been a year of transformation, sometimes painful. Not everyone can face their demons, or as I prefer to call them, angels in disguise. Some individuals may not be able or want to slow down. It can take time and patience and a lot of self-care.

But I digress; we were talking about not taking ourselves too seriously! In addition to April Fools' Day, this is also our annual Earth Day issue, and we are excited to offer you some great stories about creative and sustainable solutions with Earth Day events going on right here at home.

We are celebrating Easter this month and in this paper we are not addressing commercialized aspects of the holiday like chocolate bunnies. We hope you and your families have a wonderful *Sagrada Semana* (Holy Week). And congratulations to those lucky folks who received an Easter ham from the North Central Food Pantry—Enjoy!

AND April is National Poetry Month, so dust off your favorite old poetry books and spend time with your beloved poems and poets. Why not fire up your laptop or pick up your pen and journal! There is no time like April to write down those powerful words that keep going through your head, sometimes over and over, until you actually do something with them. There is something about springtime and flowers busting through the soil that inspires poetry, so we are featuring New Mexico Poet Laureate Levi Romero in our Literary Locals section. We hope that April is your time to experience more poetics and gratitude in your life, no matter what that looks like. And remember, "What we are doing here is so important, we better not take it too seriously!"

— LOU McCALL AND THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING POETS
OF THE QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS - HAPPY APRIL FOOLS' DAY!

Successful Public Vaccination Day In Questa



Daniel Hutchison

Over 700 registered persons patiently stood in line to get vaccinated at Questa High School on Tuesday, March 2. Cars were lined up along Sage Brush Road all the way to Highway 522. The vaccine clinic was a cooperative effort of the New Mexico Department of Health and many local agencies, businesses, and individuals.

By JONATHAN HUTCHISON

The community came together for a very effective vaccination event, thanks to a cooperative effort by the New Mexico Department of Health and numerous local community agencies. Approximately 700 people received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the Questa High School gymnasium on Tuesday, March 2. Many received their first dose, while others received their second (or booster) shot. This was the second public vaccination event to take place in Questa, in addition to a special session for area first responders.

The objective of this vaccination event was to vaccinate senior citizens, the group most vulnerable to COVID-19, as well as those with at-risk

health complications. Fortunately, enough vaccine was on hand to immunize members of other age groups, too.

Excitement was in the air as people celebrated the end of their wait for the vaccine, and the light at the end of the long pandemic tunnel. Old friends

caught up (masked and socially distanced, of course) as they waited patiently in line, while incoming cars stretched all the way from Questa High School to Highway 522.

Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova acknowledged the following

community agencies that helped make this event possible:

- Taos County Office of Emergency Management
- Taos County Fire & Emergency Medical Services, including personnel from the Questa, Latir, La Lama, Costilla, and San Cristobal fire districts. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics administered vaccines and screened participants, while fire personnel provided traffic control and general support.
- Village of Questa
- Taos County Sheriff's office staff and Taos Central Dispatch
- Taos County Senior Center staff

VACCINATION EVENT PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED SOCIAL CONTACT

Seniors report that the vaccination events attracting large numbers of people have provided welcome relief from social isolation. People came from Taos and other parts of Taos County, as well as Colorado. For some, there was a lot of joy in seeing old friends and neighbors. Although the usual hugs were missing and some people didn't recognize each other, it was fun, and a good reminder about what we have been missing. These events also give us hope that we will soon be allowed to gather again when the pandemic is over. Many community members are grateful to those on the front lines who worked together to get those vaccines out.

VACCINATION EVENT cont'd on page 36

THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL, INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGALACTIC CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR FORTIETH ANNUAL APRIL FOOLS' ISSUE: WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

LINDA BETZ, JAY BOUCHARD, JOSE CHAVEZ, DALE CISNEROS, SR., DALE CISNEROS JR, DINA COLEMAN, JANIE CORINNE, CLAIRE COTÉ, PETE CRIDER, CULLEN CURTISS, CAROLINE GALLEGOS, LOLA GANLER, MARTA GLOVER, PRISCILLA PRESLEY GUTIERREZ, LUPE ESTRELLA, PAUL FIGUEROA, JAVONNE GOODMAN, DANIEL HUTCHISON, JONATHAN HUTCHISON, GILLIAN JOYCE, RACHEL KUC', ANDREA LAWRENCE, MARGARET LEJUSTE, CARRIE LEVEN, RENEE MARTINEZ, SARA MARTINEZ, KIMBER MACDONALD, JEANNIE MASTERS, GAEA MCGAHEE, JIM O'DONNELL, POETRY MAGAZINE, QUESTA CLINIC, MIKE RITTER, KIMBERLY RITTERHOUSE, LEVI ROMERO, JENNIFER SCHLESINGER, JUNE SUMMER, PATTY TORRES, PEGGY TRIGG, JOHN WALSH & ALTA VISTA STUDENTS AMBER A. , SIERRA O, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS, LAURA VALLEJOS, MARK LEWIS WAGNER, SCOTT WYLAND

Sharon Pacheco and Christina Hendrix Win NorthStar's February Contest



Ellen Wood

From left to right, Art Trujillo, Lucas Lovato, Sundance Stadtler, Rodney Cordova, and Malaquias "JR" Rael at NorthStar's drawing of February's puzzle winners.

By ELLEN WOOD, AD AGENCY FOR NORTHSTAR TIRE & AUTO

Rodney Cordova covered his eyes while reaching into the can to pull out the two winning entries for NorthStar's February puzzle contest. His workmates, Art Trujillo, Lucas Lovato, and Sundance Stadtler, witnessed the drawing while NorthStar's manager, Malaquias "JR" Rael, held the can filled with entries. The winners, Sharon Pacheco and Christina Hendrix, each received a gift certificate for an oil change.

Numerous people from Questa and surrounding communities solved the word search puzzle in the February issue of Questa Del Rio News and brought or mailed it to NorthStar. Some entrants passed the time in the

lobby waiting for their car or truck to be repaired or for new tires to be put on, by finding and circling the words in the puzzle and putting their entry into the jar.

The series of NorthStar Tire and Auto ads featuring puzzle contests began in the January issue of Questa Del Rio News. "The March NorthStar ad was a crossword puzzle, which seemed to be more difficult than the others, so the guys in the shop had to give hints," said Rael.

This month's ad is a word scramble puzzle. The two winners of the April puzzle will be announced in our paper's June issue. No purchase is necessary to participate in the puzzle contest and have the opportunity to win a free oil change!



Kudos to Lou McCall for such a wonderful job on the OCHO article. She took the time to interview a number of people and still construct the coherent history of OCHO into an enjoyable read. We always tried to make OCHO as inclusive, warm, and welcoming as possible. The article conveyed that spirit and the role we played in incubating creative ventures that spread their wings.

Grateful to the community, Ms. Barrie Andrews and Min Jae Hong
artbarrie@gmail.com

The paper keeps getting better and better, folks!!! I usually just skim through things... but this edition kept me reading each interesting topic. Thank you all for a great job done, I look forward to the April paper!

With gratitude
Maria Mikhailas

You do a wonderful job with the paper and it's such a blessing to receive it every month! It helps me as a relative newcomer to keep abreast of what's happening locally and also to learn more about the rich history of this area. Keep up the good work!!

Joan

From the editor: It is so gratifying to hear how much the paper means to the community, thank you for sharing with us. You are the reason we do this every month. We always love to hear from our readers. We would also like to thank all the folks out there who send us their contributions. Keep 'em coming!

Assistant Editor,
Martha Shepp

Dear excellent newspaper: Would it be possible to publish photographs – identifying each artist – of the artworks on the banners?

The banners are eye-catching and make a statement about the art community here. But at 20 – 25 mph, driving carefully, they can't be fully seen as individual artworks.

They're enticing, I'd like to look at them attentively.

Thank you.
Marsha Skinner

Marsha, that sounds like a great idea for a future issue! We will see how we can do that. In the meantime, on a day you're not too busy, you can park your car at the Questa Visitor Center and take a walk through downtown where you can look up, see the artwork, and the artist's name (along the side of each banner). There are three different sets of banners: Retablos from St. Anthony's Church, historic photos, and these, the local artists. Many of the local artists represented in these banners can be found at www.northern-newmexicoartists.com with their other artworks and biographies. We appreciate your appreciation of the Questa art community, thanks for writing!

P.S. Last month's issue announced these, and we listed all the artists. Here they are again: Ruth Archuleta, Monique Belitz, Diane DeFremerly, Roger Harrington, Sandra Harrington, Marcos Herrera, Betsy Irwin, Clarence Lacome, Lou McCall, Gaea McGahee, Maria Mikhailas, Betsy Peirce, Michael Rael, Mike Ridder, Martha Shepp, Peggy Trigg, Armando Vigil, and the youth of Questa.

Questa Del Rio News Columnist Wins New Shoes

STAFF WRITERS

In mid-January, Wood received a phone call from Dr. Whitehouse saying his office had had a drawing of all the reviewers in the previous quarter. Ellen Wood was the name picked as the winner of a new pair of HOKA shoes of any cost from The Running Hub in Santa Fe! So Wood went to that store in Santa Fe, tried on several pairs of shoes, and chose a pair of \$160 HOKA shoes that were perfect for her. In this case, it's true that one good deed deserves another.



Kathy Namba

Congratulations Ellen Wood! Thank you, Dr. Paul Whitehouse of Santa Fe.

WE SHIP!

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**GREETING CARDS
BY MONIQUE PARKER**



ABUNDANT LIVING WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

April 16 & 17 • Friday & Saturday • 6:30pm
an in person & virtual event : Register at lwmsite.org

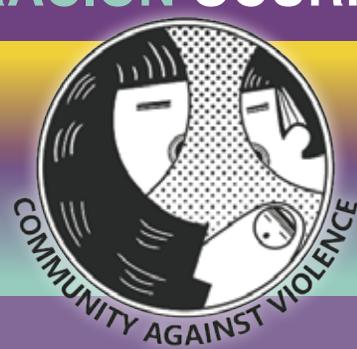
Friday: Pastor Lou Ann Lee
Saturday: Pastor Tomika Preston

Grow through what you go through

WORD LIVING MINISTRIES
Living Word Ministries • 12 Llano Road, Questa NM 87556



LA CURACIÓN OCURRE AQUÍ



Desde 1978 (mil novecientos setenta ocho), Community Against Violence (CAV) ha apoyado a los sobrevivientes de violencia sexual. ¿Conoce a un sobreviviente? Puede que seas la primera persona que le hayan dicho. O podrían estar compartiendo contigo semanas o años después de que sucedió. Es importante responder con cuidado.
"Te creo" "No fue tu culpa"

Para obtener ayuda para usted o para alguien que ama, llame a la línea de ayuda directa de 24 horas del CAV al 575-758-9888 o visite TaosCAV.org.
Creemos que todos merecen estar seguros.

945 Salazar Road, Taos NM
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TaosCAV.org

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PASSION to PROFIT\$

FREE WORKSHOP SERIES

E-Commerce Toolkit for Rural Businesses

Jay Bouchard, of the LOR Foundation, presents the toolkit LOR sponsored to help business owners in rural areas create e-commerce websites.
FREE, everyone welcome!

Join the Workshop on Thursday, April 1 at 6:00 pm via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82723797091?pwd=M0svbHNacUVnNkpPZ2VkdTdqdRtdz09>
Meeting ID: 827 2379 7091 Passcode: 846370 Call in: (346) 248-7799



Pandemic's Silver Lining for Taos Area Small Businesses

By JAY BOUCHARD

Last spring, when the pandemic forced businesses to shut their doors across the world, it seemed tragic. After the initial shock, many businesses began to think about exploring selling their wares and services online, and in doing so may have saved a bad situation from becoming worse. Some had to start from scratch, having no online presence, and other local businesses were able to make their existing online selling platforms more robust, with the assistance of a program from the LOR Foundation. "COVID-19 peeled back some real vulnerabilities in our business communities," said Jake Caldwell, LOR'S Taos-area program officer.

Last summer, in the wake of the early shock of the pandemic, a partnership was birthed with the non-profit Taos MainStreet—The Business Alive

program. Downtown Taos MainStreet is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as the action-based implementation organization coordinating with the Town of Taos, Taos County, businesses, property owners, and community partners to achieve a shared vision of the historic downtown district.

Business Alive debuted at a time when e-commerce in rural America was already a growing priority: in 2019, one third of rural small businesses in the U.S. made less than 20 percent of their sales online. The pandemic, though, prompted an e-commerce boom: Some small businesses more than doubled online sales during the holiday season, and initiatives like those in Taos could sustain the momentum.

From this summertime experience of working with five downtown Taos businesses, LOR Foundation has created a

free toolkit/handbook that any Taos-area business can now access to pursue e-commerce, with their learnings and best practices. It draws on the successes and challenges of the Business Alive program, and provides an easy-to-understand step-by-step program to get businesses online and bring in more income at minimal cost.

There is a learning curve, though, since setting up an e-commerce site isn't as easy as simply clicking a button, and there's a lot to consider before diving in. From breaking down what you'll need to get started, to weighing the best platform options and just what's required to continue growing your site, this handbook aims to make it easier for aspiring online merchants anywhere to find successes of their own.

You'll need to consider your goals, bandwidth, and budget. Start by asking yourself these questions:

- **What is the goal of your website?**
- **How much are you willing to spend?** Website costs can range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand.
- **How large is your inventory?**

- **How comfortable are you with technology?** You don't have to be Bill Gates to build and manage your own website as well as your point-of-sale system (POS). Some content management systems (CMS) provide simple templates from which you can start from scratch, and Shopify is among the most popular because it can function as both a CMS and point-of-sale system.

- **Getting the word out:** You'll also need to let people know about your new site. A budget-friendly option to consider is setting up a Facebook and Instagram ad account and budgeting a small amount to boost posts and create ads targeting potential customers in your geographic area. LOR's social media overview toolkit can help you get started.

To access the toolkit/handbook, go to <https://lorfoundation.org/stories/creating-e-commerce-for-small-business/>. At the end of this article, there is a link where you can download the toolkit: "Creating an E-Commerce Website: The Basics."

This handbook helps rural merchants launch online versions of their stores.

House Representative Ortez Speaks at March QBEN Meeting



By LYNN SKALL

"In Taos County there is \$700,000 to \$1 million in utility-rated debt from COVID-19," reported Kristina Ortez, the freshman House Representative for District 42, in her first public community meeting, speaking at the Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network Zoom meeting on March 10.

Of her four sponsored bills that have passed the House and are in line to be heard in Senate committees, Representative Ortez said, "The bill that will do the most good in our district is House Bill 206, The Utility and Affordability Relief Act. Low-income families experiencing utilities debt due to COVID-19 will be able to enter into a payment plan that gives them twice as many months to pay back the debt, and for every dollar paid, half of the remaining debt will be forgiven."



Courtesy Photo

Newly elected New Mexico State Representative Kristina Ortez, spoke at the March QBEN meeting, her first public community meeting since taking office.

Ortez is proud the House has passed over \$7 billion in COVID-relief support measures during this year's legislative session. "Remarkable work is being done in the House and Senate on expanding broadband access—that's a

big issue for our small businesses, our workers, and families during recovery," reported Ortez.

A bipartisan bill will increase the low-income tax credit for families, raising it from \$24,000 to \$37,000 a

year. \$200 million is being appropriated for rental assistance and utilities. Other COVID-relief packages include grants, loans, workers compensation for employees contracting COVID while on the job, and unemployment insurance increases. "We're getting the funds out the door to help our fellow New Mexicans," said Ortez.

The bill to legalize recreational marijuana will impact Taos County, as the county will get to decide at what level sales would be taxed, and how those funds are to be used, such as to address substance abuse disorder.

Local citizen Francisco Gonzales, concerned about the social issues around alcohol and addiction, questioned Ortez about her support of HB 255. This bill allows package stores and restaurants to deliver alcohol to customers' homes and makes it easier for restaurants to serve spirits, in addition to beer and wine. The bill is intended to bolster bars and restaurants that have suffered financially during the pandemic.

QBEN MEETING cont'd on page 36



Business Profile

CISNEROS WATER WORKS
By LOU MCCALL

Right here in Questa is a father-son team who drill and service wells all over Taos County. They have other family businesses, as well. Fate got Dale Cisneros Sr. into the well drilling business 27 years ago. He was looking for someone to drill a well and couldn't find anyone. After asking around, he got the name of a retired couple who had moved to Amalia from Wyoming. The older gentleman had sustained a back injury and had stopped running his well-drilling business. Dale asked him if he wanted to sell his rig, thinking he could drill his well himself. And the rest is history...

Dale laughs now at how young and stupid he was (his words, not mine). He didn't even know how to drive the huge truck home! Another twist of fate helped him get the business going. Dale had heard through the grapevine that someone local with a well business had laid off an experienced driller. As it turned out, that driller was looking for work and he was able to show Dale the ropes to get the business going.

Dale Sr. studied business and earned his BA at the College of Santa Fe and his MA at New Mexico Highlands University. As a young man just starting out, with a young family, it was a stretch for him to finance the \$100k needed to purchase the rig, but he worked hard and paid it off in one year. Dale's brother, John Cisneros, also worked with the young company, originally named Cisneros Well Drilling. There was such a need for wells in the area, that in the first year they drilled over 100 wells, usually two to three wells per week! At one point they were so busy that they worked for over 35 days without a single day off.

Dale's son, Dale Jr., was 9 years old when the business got started. He loved to ride along and spent a lot of time with the rig. At one point, his uncle John was working on a well and said aloud that he needed a pipe wrench. He turned around and there was Dale Jr. dragging a 48" pipe wrench that was bigger than he was. Right then and there, his dad said it was time to put him on the payroll!

Dale Jr. graduated from Penasco High in 2006. As the recession hit, the

well business slowed way down; no one was drilling wells. Whenever his dad asked his son what he wanted to do when he grew up, the answer was always the same, "Drill wells." His father insisted he go to college, as there was so much uncertainty at the time and he wanted his son to get an education. He told him to at least go for two years and then see what happens... So, Dale Jr. went to UNM Medical School and got an Associates Degree in Nuclear Medicine. After graduation he handed his dad his diploma and said, "I still want to drill!"

The recession continued, business was slow, and Dale Jr. continued his education, soon completing his bachelor's degree, also in Nuclear Medicine. Despite his professors encouraging him to go to medical school, he still wanted to drill.

Now Dale Cisneros Jr. is a busy young man. He is married with two young children, and besides working alongside his father in their family businesses, he works in the Nuclear Medicine department of Holy Cross Hospital in Taos. His son, Dale Cisneros III, at 4 years old, is already riding along and showing interest in helping out with the family business. They will transition the business name to DDD, to include all three generations.

The father-son team encourages people to dowse for water before investing in drilling a well and they have some interesting stories. Paul Martinez of Amalia is what they call a water-witcher. The Dales work with Paul a lot, since he can always find exactly the right spot for water, and can also tell how deep the well will need to be.

Dale Sr. and Jr. started another water business, called D's Ice, that has turned out to be a booming business. They started their ice business out of their home. They provide ice to Questa, Red River, and the Costilla area. Over the 4th of July weekend, D's Ice delivered almost 1000 bags of ice!

The three generations of Cisneros: Dale Sr., Dale Jr., and Dale III are all working on their latest project, the new Eagle Rock RV Park on Highway 38, adjacent to Eagle Rock Lake. The RV park will offer 100 RV spaces. They plan to have everything up and running by the spring of 2021. Los Tres Dales and Cisneros Water Works began providing services to the Questa area almost three decades ago, and give every indication that they will be around for a few more.



Martha Shepp

Dale Cisneros, Sr.



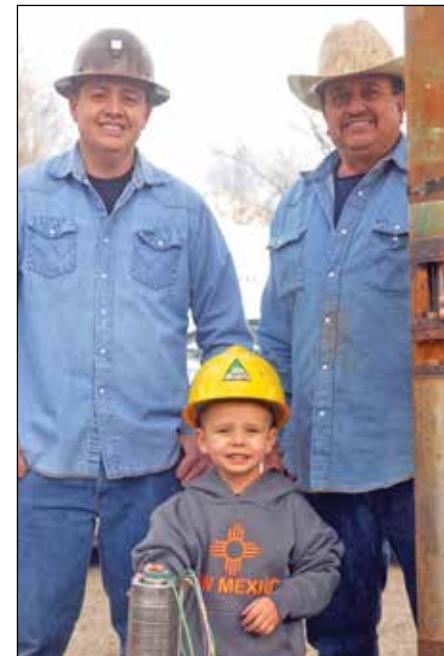
Martha Shepp

The start of a business: this is the original rig Dale Sr. purchased 27 years ago.



Martha Shepp

Little Dale III is with an individual home-sized well pump. His grandpa is steadying a community well pump, recently extricated from the earth.



Martha Shepp

From left to right: Three generations of Cisneros, Dale Jr., Dale III, and Dale Sr.

Cisneros Water Works are your guys!

Do you need to dig a well, fix a well, buy or service a pump, buy ice, or find more information about Eagle Rock RV Park? Call Dale Sr. at (575) 770-7259 or Dale Jr. at (575) 613-0182.

Community Businesses

TELL US ABOUT A BUSINESS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FEATURED HERE. NEWS@QUESTAEDF.COM



IS THE QUESTA HISTORY TRAIL "HISTORY?" NOT AT ALL!

By MARTHA SHEPP

Here's a long overdue update on your community walking trail, The Questa History Trail. If you're not familiar, you'll certainly know it by its tripod kiosk with the big "Welcome" and map, on Highway 522 at the stoplight corner, in beautiful downtown Questa. In its eight stops through the heart of Questa, its interpretive signage traces topics such as ancient settlements, rare geologic features, multi-cultural origins, religious devotion, acequias, the role of mining, the restoration of Questa's 1800s church, and more. Its soft opening was on National Trails Day, 2018, when over 75 visitors gathered and walked, with local guides.

The original group who met in 2016 to start creating the trail were:

Mark Sideris – Historic Saint Anthony's Church Restoration Project foreman, carpenter, and landscape-engineer advisor.

Flavio Cisneros – Retired history teacher and oral-history facilitator.

Jeanie Masters & Kate Cisneros – North Central NM Food Pantry founders and co-directors, and oral history facilitators.

Tim Long – Small business owner, carpenter, and seasonal ranger at Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

Alberta Bouyer – Founding Questa Tourism Director, writer, marketing consultant, and project administrator; currently chair of the Questa Creative Council.

Martha Shepp – Artist, editor, and the project's graphic designer.

Carrie Leven – Archaeologist with the Questa Ranger Station. (and photographer)

Claire Cote, LEAP director – artist and educator, gentle instigator, mother, and radical homemaker. Oral History collector and image archive facilitator.

Gaea McGahee, LEAP Creative Associate – Questa Farmers Market founder and manager, adjunct anthropology faculty with NMSU/DACC. Oral History collector and image archive facilitator.

A grand opening and celebration for the Questa History Trail was to take place in June 2020, but with the pandemic... you know that story of delay and attempted new plans! Another twist has entered the picture, though: St. Anthony's Church began renovation work on a new parking area during the "pandemic pause" but the new level of dirt—much lower—has disturbed access to stop #5 on the trail (giving acequia history) just at the spot where Mark Sideris had built a beautiful new bridge to accompany the information and guide visitors along to sign #6 without having them walk along the narrow road, a safety issue. (See before and after photos.)

Which is not to say that The Questa History Trail cannot be walked, because as a self-guided tour, the only obstacle at this point is having to skip stop #5. By the way, did you know you can get a map of the route at the Questa Visitor Center, or download it from the website, Questa-Traill.org, where loads of supplementary history information is also available? It's a great source of detailed history of Questa, for students, teachers, and history buffs.

Alberta Bouyer, team leader for the History Trail, says, "Our project team has worked for four years, with so much support, both in-kind and in the thousands of dollars, from not only generous residents, but from village, county, state, and federal sources. All of these supporters have put so much trust in our community to build this valuable asset, we are



Alberta Bouyer

Tim Long and Walter Dunlop help build sign frames at Mark Sideris' studio on the church plaza, 2017.



Alberta Bouyer

Before the new church parking lot grading, the sign was in place and awaiting just a few railroad ties to complete the walk up to the acequia and new bridge. Here is retired history teacher and project member, Flavio Cisneros, looking at the new permanent sign.

so looking forward to having an opening celebration this June!"

What's the upshot? Team members and the church will resolve the stairs and access issues, and go ahead with the Trail's grand opening and celebration in



Martha Shepp

After the parking lot changes, quite a leap in distance from the ground!

June 2021, so watch for updates here and on the trail website. Stop #5 may not be ready but the show must go on!

The team also needs new helpers and team members (students! teachers!) to help keep the trail moving forward. Be in touch! For more information, contact Alberta at albertalatir@yahoo.com

"Our younger generation are interested to know the history of the community. Who else but us can share this?"

—Flavio Cisneros, retired history teacher and St. Anthony's church parishioner

Wanted! Artists and Volunteers for the Questa Studio Arts Tour

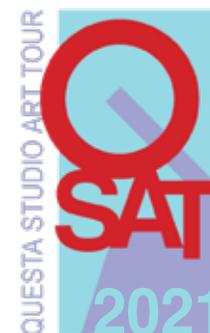
By PEGGY TRIGG

It's that time again. The Questa Studio Arts Tour is taking applications for the 2021 tour, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15. Currently we have over 30 artists and more than eight hubs or studios confirmed. Artists are excited about the potential of the 2021 tour and are eager to join; would you like

to? See application information below.

In addition to artists, we are also looking for volunteers to be in the planning group. This group of artists and art lovers will meet approximately five times and will make the major decisions to be implemented for the tour. We need your input! This is a community show, and we want it to represent ideas from the whole area.

If you are an artist and would like an application for the tour, you can pick one up at ArtQuesta, Rael's Market, or online at northernnewmexicoartists.com. If you are an artist and can't do the tour, you are still welcome to join our website! If you are an art lover and are interested in volunteering, or just need more information, please contact Peggy at pegtrigg@gmail.com.



Northern New Mexico's Music: Past and Present Project

By MARTHA SHEPP

Chris Arellano has completed his second interview with Ernie Marquez and has already recorded with Joseph Marquez, both men who have been part of Los Penitentes Brotherhood, and who are willing to share the traditions, tunes, and lyrics. Chris is studying the melodies that have been passed down for over a thousand years with Los Penitentes/Hermanos y la Morada. (See related story on page 20.) He describes "There is a deep spiritual journey through the lyrics (prayers) and the melodies are sung a capella. These will somehow be represented in the May concert at the conclusion of this first phase of my research and recordings." Next, he will be exploring the northern New Mexico/southern Colorado tradition, Los Dias New Year Celebration, which dates back hundreds of years.

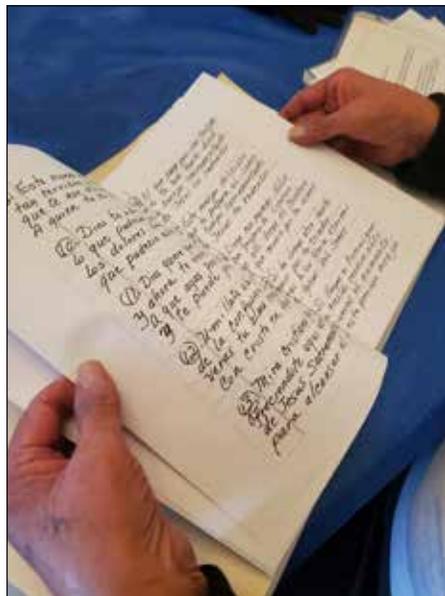
This project is a collaboration with the Manitos Community Memory project and Questa Stories. Both entities gather and share voices, stories, images, and traditions of the communities of northern Taos County and southern Colorado villages. The work Chris is doing will become part of these archives. This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts, and Taos Community Foundation.

Learn more at QuestaStories.org and Manitos.net. Donate to support this project at QuestaCreative.org.



Chris Arellano

Joe Marquez



Chris Arellano

Joe Marquez's handwritten volume of the ancient hymns with project director Chris Arellano.



Chris Arellano

Ernie Marquez, at home with his music, and ready to share the musical history of northern New Mexico with project director Chris Arellano.

QUESTA POTTER MICHAEL RIDDER

I work as a potter in a home studio. My work is thrown on a potter's wheel. It is fired to cone 6 in an oxidation atmosphere. The complete creation of the work from start to finish is accomplished by me alone.

I have lived in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado for most of my life. I have worked with clay for about 38 years, off and on. I worked as a behavioral health counselor for 28 years and always maintained a home clay studio during that time. I worked in clay as time allowed and never lost interest in that medium. I have been working in clay full-time since moving here, about six years ago.

Clay is the material that I am most drawn to in the creative process. Work-

ing with clay allows me to follow a daily rhythm that I find most rewarding. Creating a vessel over several days or weeks, from forming to glazing to firing, requires patience and a commitment to a process that is thousands of years old.

I focus on the present, so my work evolves and I hope to bring a freshness of intention to each piece I make. I strive to produce functional work that will allow me to share my feel for the material so that those who see and use my pots may share in the experience of creation. I make kitchenware, dinnerware, and pottery.

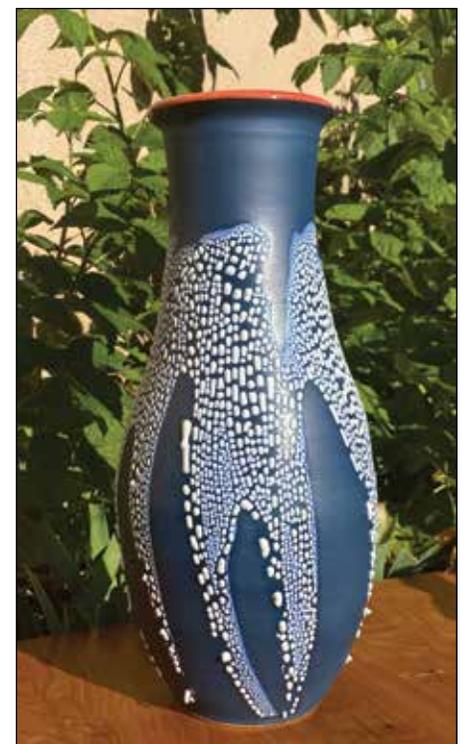
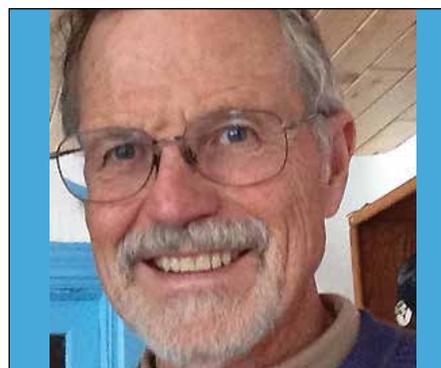
I enjoy interacting with my customers through gallery openings, art/craft fairs and our own annual studio tour. These galleries in New Mexico represent me: La Mesa Gallery in Santa Fe, Patrician Design Gallery in Albuquerque,

and Magpie Gallery in Taos.

Reach Mike or see more of his work here: michaelridder.com, <https://northernnewmexicoartists.com/michael-ridder/>

Photos Courtesy the Artist

Right: "Blue Vase" by Mike Ridder
Bottom: Mike Ridder



BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

BE A COFFEE BEAN

As our readers may have noticed, I often write about the mind and the thought processes that we humans tend to ignore. We pass off our thoughts without even a hint that we, in that very moment, are cultivating and feeding the growth of that thought and the impact it has on our lives. It is imperative that humanity be more conscious about how we use our thoughts because they are the source of creating the lives that we lead.

I choose to write from as many angles as possible in hopes of stirring an awakening in our readers about the importance of our thinking. Even though many people say they understand, I have heard from some readers a lack of understanding. Here I offer a short story focused on the thought processes involved in reacting to life's challenges.

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. He placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third. He let them boil, without saying a word.

Then he pulled the eggs and potatoes from the pots and placed them in a bowl. He then poured the coffee into a cup. Turning to her, he asked "Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer" he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked. He explained that the potatoes, the eggs, and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity, the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, became soft.

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside became hard.

However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to boiling water, they changed the water and created something new. "Which one are you?" he asked his daughter.

"When adversity knocks on your door how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

—Author unknown

Our life journey can present many events and challenges along the way, and when they cross our path, it is an opportunity to look at how we react. This is an important part of our life lessons, because how we respond to life's situations sets the stage for our emotions, our thinking, and our physical conditioning. Challenges help us master how we use our mental and emotional as well as physical presence to determine how we react.

Like the potato, which I see as the girl in this story, the response is to become soft with a tendency to wallow in the story, the "woe is me" of life, becoming depressed. Like the egg, we can respond by hardening, which can lead to being shut off from life and can also lead to anger. The egg turns against any possibilities and approaches the situation with the heart and mind closed. In both cases, there is the tendency to rethink, rehash,

and retell the story over and over to ourselves, and that is our trap. When we read a book we turn the pages from one part of the story to another; we don't sit on one page and stew about the story.

Like the coffee bean, we are aware that we have within us the ability to transform the boiling water into something pleasant, something useful, and possibly something new. We too have that transformative power within to empower our response to challenges. That is the deep inner strength that is far greater than the physical. It gives us the power to choose how we use our minds and our hearts to meet our challenges.

Many trials can be extremely difficult and when those times arise, if possible, think of the situation as a way to learn more about ourselves and become stronger in the mastery of our thoughts and emotions—if you feel so inclined, pray or ask for help. Remember the woman in the story went from suffering to smiling when she drinks the coffee of transformation.

You will not break loose until you realize that you yourself forge the chains that bind you.

—*The Disappearance of the Universe*
by Gary Renard

Positive Thoughts

by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

Last September, five inches of snow took us, and migrating birds, by surprise. Those few days and nights of frigid temperatures combined with snow, found small migrating birds literally dropping from the sky. Though I had started throwing birdseed the winter before, the takers were merely the few sparrows and chickadees that had wintered over here. From last September, through the winter and into spring, however, the bird population and species variety had expanded significantly here in Jaroso.

One young male Hairy Woodpecker arrived with the September snow. The male of that species has a red patch on its head. I must have been a woodpecker in a past life. The daily sight of him makes me happy! The sparrows and chickadees that nested here last year found lots of food in the new garden,



Stock Photo

Hairy Woodpeckers

with its wild and sunflowers. So, they stayed. Mid-winter, Purple Finches, Red-headed House Finches, and two Nuthatches established themselves here too. Handicap-friendly bird feeders put in locations that my walker could get to all winter, plus an ice-free water source ensured by my thoughtful neighbor, has turned our two yards into songbird heaven and visual joy.

One day in early March, about 40 red-winged blackbirds stopped to refuel and drink on their way north. Great Horned Owls have mated and last year's young will be getting the boot. By the time you read this, Robins will be back and crocuses popping up.

The goal in the backyard is a permaculture haven: with fruiting bushes and trees, seed-bearing flowers that birds love, all with vegetables for neighbors and for myself. In a few years a beautiful habitat will exist, complimenting the neighboring yard with its flowers and roosting trees.

Hummingbird feeders will go up on my neighbor's portico in May. We put up three the last two summers. Any given day there can be 30-50 hummingbirds, especially for their morning joe and evening nightcap. I expect Orioles in June for the gooseberries next door. This is such fun! If you don't feed birds already, consider doing so. The thing is, once you begin, please continue. They will come to depend on you the three seasons that there is not a reliable food source other-

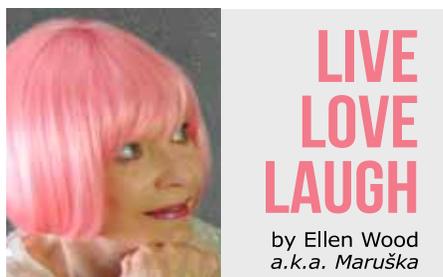
wise. But, they'll eat insects through the summer; and if you let your flowers go to seed, they'll pick them clean.

April includes Earth Day all over the world. There is so much that each of us can do in support of our Mother Earth, her ecosystems, and the creatures we share this Earth with. Creating habitat is one. Not only will you enjoy the birds year-round, but butterflies, beautiful moths, and native wild bees will float around your garden through the summer. Planting trees or bushes cools a yard in the summer, and as the trees mature, they offer protection from the wind which sucks winter heat out through the crevices of a home. Next month's Positive Thoughts will include a simple something to do when planting a young tree, to ensure water efficiency throughout the life of the tree.

Beauty, bird song, and fun! Happy Spring, Happy Easter, Happy Earth Day. As we emerge from COVID-19 with its forced decrease of human activity, take note. The sky is bluer and the air is cleaner. Together, let's keep it that way.

Get your local news from *Questa Del Rio News*

Some Things I Wish I'd Learned



Although I have no major, horrid regrets, there are some things I wish I had started sooner or realized sooner.

1. **Don't slouch.** My posture gets slouchier every day. It has been awful since I was a kid and my mom was convinced it was because I carried a big, heavy bookbag to school every day (no backpacks in those days). But regardless of the reason, at 84 my posture is really slouchy. I remind myself regularly to stand up straight but not often enough.

2. **Splash water on my face,** then quickly apply moisturizer to seal in the wetness. My complexion is quite good for my age but it wasn't until I was in my 30s that I learned that water is the best thing for my face. All the creams in the world cannot do as much good for my complexion as water, splashed on and then sealed in.
3. **Update my refrigerator door before someone in the family notices** that their picture is missing. Even though I have two big doors on my fridge, there's not enough room for each person to have more than one photo. But every year when I get new family Christmas photos, I just move some magnets around to add them and promise myself I'll remove their previous year's. Somehow, I don't get around to it and someone gets

buried underneath the crowd. And wouldn't you know it? That's when they decide to visit.

4. **Pray more frequently** even when things are hunky-dory. St. Joseph is my main go-to guy and I ask him for this or that for myself or other people quite a bit. But only once in a while do I just talk to him to say hello and thank you, St. Joe, life is good and I appreciate your looking after me.

And I wish I had done these:

5. **Had more kids.** Too late now but I wish I had had more. I raised 4 biological children but I wouldn't mind having a few more, despite the challenges of the diapers and terrible twos stage—and sophomore year in high school (that was the worst). And I wish they lived closer. Like just down the road. Don't get me wrong.

I'm grateful for everyone in my family—the four kids, my two stepkids, two foster kids and all their spouses and partners, and my 15 grandkids with their spouses and partners, and my four great-grandkids (and the one on the way).

6. **Honored my mother and my father** before turning 20 years old. I wasn't a bad kid, but I appreciate my parents so much more now than I did as a child and teenager.

It's too late for these last two, but it's never too late for the others. Perhaps you can think of wisdom you've gained over the years.

Ellen Wood of Questa is the award-winning author of the series of books, The Secret Method for Growing Younger, available at www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com.

Her website is www.HowToGrowYounger.com. Contact Ellen at ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

Algunas cosas que quisiera haber aprendido

Por ELLEN WOOD

Aunque no me arrepiento de nada particularmente espantoso o monumental, hay algunas cosas que quisiera haber comenzado a hacer antes o de las que desearía haberme dado cuenta antes.

1. **No encorvarme.** Mi postura se vuelve más encorvada cada día. Ha sido horrible desde que era niña y mi mamá estaba convencida de que la causa era que llevaba una bolsa con libros grande y pesada a la escuela todos los días (no había mochilas en esos días). Pero independientemente de la razón, a los 84 años mi postura es de veras corcovada. Me recuerdo a mí misma con regularidad que debo mantenerme erguida, pero no lo hago lo suficiente.
2. **Salpicarme la cara con agua,** luego ponerme enseguida una crema humectante para sellar la humedad. Tengo el cutis bastante bueno para mi edad, pero no fue hasta los 30 años que aprendí que el agua es lo mejor para mi rostro. Todas las cremas del mundo no me hacen tanto bien para el cutis como el agua, primero salpicada y luego sellada.
3. **Actualizar la puerta de mi refrigerador** antes de que alguien de la familia se dé cuenta de que falta su foto. Aunque tengo dos puertas grandes en mi refrigerador, no hay suficiente espacio para que cada persona tenga más de una foto. Pero cada año, cuando recibo nuevas fotos

familiares por Navidad, simplemente nuevo algunos imanes para agregarlas y me prometo a mí misma que eliminaré las del año anterior. De alguna manera, no lo logro y alguien queda enterrado debajo de los muchos otros. ¿Y no te lo imaginas? Es justo entonces cuando deciden visitarme.

4. **Rezar con más frecuencia,** incluso cuando las cosas vayan bien. San José es mi amigo principal a quien recurro y le pido esto o aquello, para mí o para otras personas. Pero solo de vez en cuando hablo con él para saludarte y agradecerte, St. Joseíto, que la vida es buena y que te agradezco que me cuides.

Y desearía haber hecho lo siguiente:

5. **Tener más hijos.** Es demasiado tarde ahora, pero desearía haber tenido más. Crie a cuatro hijos biológicos, pero no me importaría tener algunos más, a pesar de los fastidios que dan los pañales y la terrible etapa de los dos años —y el segundo año en la escuela secundaria (ese fue el peor). Y desearía que vivieran más cerca. Quiero decir, como a la vuelta del camino. No me malinterpreten. Estoy agradecida por todos en mi familia —los cuatro hijos, mis dos hijastros, dos hijos adoptivos y todos sus cónyuges y parejas, y mis 15 nietos y sus cónyuges y parejas, y mis cuatro bisnietos y el que está en camino.

6. **Honrar a mi madre y a mi padre** antes de cumplir los 20 años. No fui una mala chica, pero aprecio a mis padres mucho más ahora que cuando era niña y adolescente. Es demasiado tarde para estos dos últi-

mos casos, pero nunca es demasiado tarde para los demás. Quizás tú también puedas pensar en la sabiduría que has adquirido a lo largo de los años.

Traducción: Teresa Dovalpage

AWESOME AUTO SERVICE HERE + maybe win an oil change!

OATRSNRTH _____
 ALIQUUSAAM _____
 ODOG OILONKG GUYS _____
 RLLBEEAI _____
 OTSRYWTTUHR _____
 NEW STERI _____
 OIL HAECGN _____
 UTAO AIRSERP _____
 SUQATE _____
 GEAGRA _____
 RKUTC _____
 TUOMEIOLBA _____

Solve the WORD SCRAMBLE puzzle (if too hard, ask the guys for hints) and enter our drawing. Bring it in or mail to us at P.O. Box 199, Questa NM 87556. We're giving away two oil changes. Limit one entry per family. No purchase necessary. Expires 4/30. Drawing on May 4.



575-586-0561 • 2460 State Road 522, Questa NM

COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Step-by-Step Checklist

Please keep in mind the supply of vaccine is currently extremely limited. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccine when sufficient quantities are available. Until that time, the New Mexico Department of Health is rolling the vaccine out in a phased approach. Currently groups 1A and 1B are eligible. That includes people age 75 or older and people age 16 or older who have high-risk medical conditions. However, everyone who wishes to get a vaccine is encouraged to register now. For updates on COVID-19, visit <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>

To register online:

1. Go to www.vaccinm.org
2. Click on "I want to create a new profile"
3. Put in basic information (your registration is NOT complete at this point)
4. Check text or email for confirmation code
5. Go to vaccinm.org, select "I want to access my registration"
6. Use confirmation code and DOB to access your registration
7. Complete registration (personal information, chronic medical conditions, demographic information, employer, and insurance information will all have green check marks)
8. You will get a confirmation when your

registration is complete
9. Check text and email regularly for event code

The New Mexico Department of Health will notify a pool of eligible members within your community that vaccine is available with a special event code. This opportunity to schedule an online appointment is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are not able to schedule an online appointment by selecting a specific location, date, and time, please do not show up at the event. And, please do not worry. This will not be your only opportunity to schedule an appointment. The department will reach out and notify you of additional opportunities in the future. Event codes are linked to a specific registration and can't be shared.

When you receive your event code:

1. Go to vaccinm.org, select "I want to access my registration"
2. Use confirmation code and DOB to access your registration
3. Select "Make Appointment"
4. Enter event code to schedule appointment
5. On the day of your appointment, go to vaccinm.org, use your confirmation code to access your registration, and complete the medical questionnaire.

Although the vaccine itself is free, the

administration of it is not, so you will be asked if you have Medicaid, Medicare, or other insurance, and to provide your card at your appointment. Regardless of whether or not you have insurance, there will be no cost to you for the shot. You will NOT be asked to provide your Medicare number while registering, and there is no charge to register. If you are asked for your Medicare number or told you must pay to be put on a list, you may be the target of a scam and should disengage and call the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1-800-432-2080 to complete your registration.

To register if you don't have a computer or internet access:

1. Call the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 1-800-432-2080
2. You will be asked to provide your name, DOB, address, and information about high risk medical conditions
3. Options counselor will complete your registration on your behalf
4. A representative of DOH will contact you to provide event code and information about how to schedule appointment when vaccine is available in your area
5. You will be provided a medical questionnaire to complete on the day of your appointment
For more information or assistance call the New Mexico Department of

Health at (855) 600-3453 or the Aging and Disability Resource Center at 800-432-2080.

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(505) 476-4799

Toll-free (800) 432-2080

www.nmaging.state.nm.us

COVID-19 Testing

Holy Cross Medical Center offers COVID-19 testing Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8am to 5pm (closed for lunch noon-1pm).

Testing will take place at the Holy Cross Annex Building (1421 Weimer Rd.)

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Call (575) 751-8951



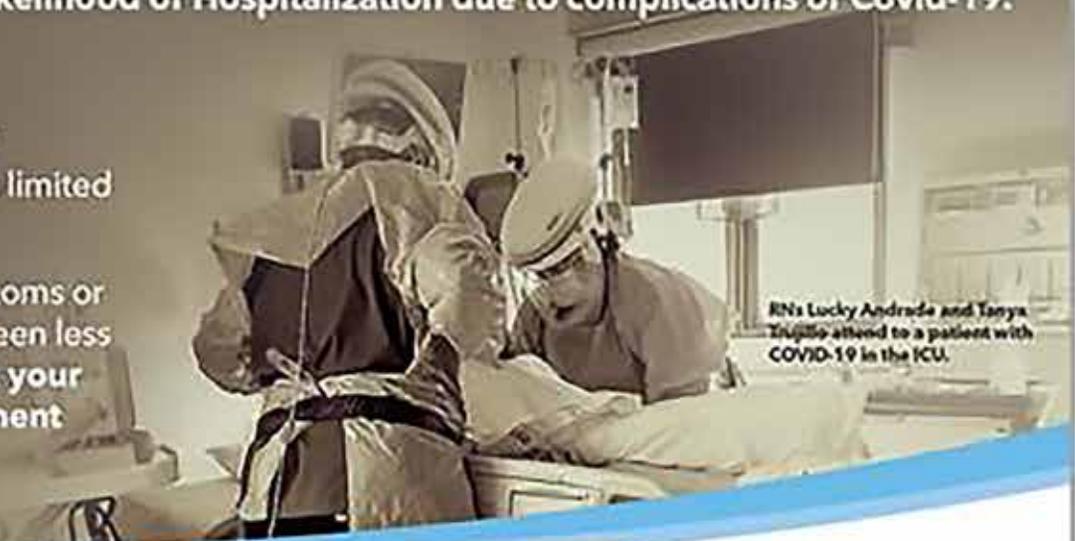
COVID-19 VACCINATION REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE HOTLINE

HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL (Taos Area)
Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Phone #: (575) 751-8950
QUESTA HEALTH CENTER
(Questa & Red River Area)
Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(575) 586-0315 x2224

HIGH RISK AND COVID-19 POSITIVE?

Antibody infusion could help reduce your likelihood of Hospitalization due to complications of Covid-19.

- One IV infusion could help.
- The FDA has authorized the emergency use of Bamlanivimab, a trial drug, and it's available in limited supply at Holy Cross.
- If you are COVID-positive, have high-risk symptoms or other serious health related issues, and it has been less than 10-days since you first had symptoms, ask your doctor about Bamlanivimab antibody treatment infusion.



RNs Lucky Andrade and Tanya Trujillo attend to a patient with COVID-19 in the ICU.



www.HolyCrossMedicalCenter.org
(575) 758-8883 • 1397 Weimer Road, Taos, New Mexico 87571

Something in the Water



By STONER MITCHELL
“BAD NEWS, GUYS.”

Our friend, Jenn, was back from doing the dishes, which, according to the protocol manual of the Trujillo Meadows yurt, required three stations: washing, rinsing, and sanitizing, followed by pouring the wastewater down the hole of the outhouse. Somehow, she'd overlooked a fork and spoon in the bin and had dumped them with the water.

Under normal circumstances, this would not have been anywhere close to a problem. But these were not normal circumstances. We had snowshoed four miles through a blizzard that would pile to our knees by the exact blessed moment that we finally reached the yurt. Safe inside, we built a nice fire. Over dinner and a game of Scrabble, we congratulated our own hustle and perseverance.

As we played, my wife read aloud several recent entries in the yurt's guest book. A common theme revealed itself, the unexplained occurrences attributed to a being called the Trujillo Toilet Troll. We learned that the troll, in defiance of logic and a properly functioning gag reflex, allegedly resides in the outhouse and is responsible for unexplained events—missing or rearranged belongings, strange noises, and such. The following day's fumbled silverware, as we would suspect, seemed like more than a random event.

Arguably harmless stuff, but against a backdrop of a remote yurt and a dangerous winter storm, our situation came



Toner Mitchell

Trujillo Meadows in the autumn.

to feel less like *Frosty the Snowman* and more like *The Shining*. The snow kept on falling, the forest grew quiet, and our minds conjured images of our doom.

As a lifelong resident of the Rio Grande basin, I should have remembered the region's penchant for preserving random legends, if not fabricating their basis in fact. There's the mythical Chupacabra. Or the Snow Vampire, a monster my dad swore could break a polar bear's neck with one hand. My grandmother, who refused to leave her house until a decade after passing away, made herself a local celebrity around Ranchos de Taos. Throughout my life, I've collected lots of these characters, and there's a story behind every one of them.

Think I'm full of it? Tell that to *La Llorona* and get back to me!

On our last night in the yurt, with



Jennifer Schlesinger

Troll's lair at Trujillo Meadows.

the fire dying down and the cold creeping in, it occurred to me that the Los Pinos—the river that runs through Trujillo Meadows—is arguably the Rio Grande's spookiest tributary. First there are the rattlesnakes, by the writhing tons. And the legendary Spirit Fish, a trout



Jennifer Schlesinger

Trujillo Meadows yurt in the snow.

that a couple buddies of mine spotted while fishing the Los Pinos 20 years ago. They guessed it at over five feet, so big that it scared them. In spite of his fear, my friend Alexis touched its tail with his

IN THE WATER cont'd on page 36

Carson National Forest Plans Spring Prescribed Burns

By JAVONNE GOODMAN

Fire managers on the Carson National Forest are planning to strategically implement prescribed burns across the forest this spring to reduce hazardous fuels before the onset of the 2021 wildland fire season. These treatments are an effective way to slow wildfires and change fire behavior.

The decision to implement a specific prescribed burn depends on multiple conditions, including the national wildland fire preparedness level and resource availability, fuel moisture levels, air quality, ventilation, and forecasted weather and winds. During the COVID-19 pandemic, fire managers consider smoke impacts to communities before making

a final decision to implement a prescribed fire.

Each prescribed burn is designed to meet specific objectives and will be managed with firefighter and public safety as the first priority. The projects under consideration between now and the end of May are:

- Approximately 4,967 acres for the Ring unit within the Valle Vidal near Cimarron, New Mexico. The intent is to treat fuels that have accumulated over the last 15 years and reintroduce fire onto the landscape to imitate a more natural fire regime.
- 1,300 acres for the La Jara unit in Taos Canyon.
- 140-acre broadcast burn for the Eul unit on Carracas Mesa in the Jicarilla

Ranger District.

- 1-acre pile burn on Cabresto Mesa in the Jicarilla Ranger District.
- 902 acres for the Mesita broadcast burn in Canjilon, New Mexico.
- 1,243 acres for the Ensenada broadcast burn in El Rito, New Mexico.
- 1,893 acres for the Martinez Canyon broadcast burn in Tres Piedras, New Mexico.

Smoke may be visible from the surrounding areas during and after ignitions begin. The Carson National Forest manages prescribed fires in compliance with New Mexico state regulations on air quality and smoke management. Smoke-sensitive individuals and people with respiratory problems or heart disease are encouraged to take precaution-

ary measures. Information on air quality and protecting your health can be found online at the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) website.

Prescribed fire is part of a science-based framework for managing ponderosa pine and dry mixed-conifer forests like the Carson National Forest to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire and allow low-intensity fire to play its natural role in a frequent-fire ecosystem.

Fire updates will be posted on the Carson National Forest website (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/carson>), New Mexico Fire Information website (<https://nmfireinfo.com/author/cnfpio>), and on the Carson National Forest Facebook and Twitter pages.

New Frontiers In Recycling: Addressing The Battery Glut

By JONATHAN HUTCHISON

Continuing our series on recycling, we turn to the proper disposal and recycling of batteries used in every household, in every vehicle, and on many job sites. We are up to our necks in batteries!

Due to the many types of batteries, disposal and recycling can seem complicated. We will spare you the many details here; our aim is to make the case for phasing out single-use batteries and transitioning to rechargeable/recyclables. This article will assist those who are ready to save money, save energy, and help save the planet.

U.S. consumers bought 15 million motor vehicles last year, along with 15 million lead-acid auto batteries. The market for lithium-ion cordless power tool batteries is expected to reach \$5.3 billion by 2025. All of them eventually degrade, to be discarded and replaced. Three billion household batteries are sold annually in the U.S. The majority are “single use,” have a limited amount of stored energy, are not rechargeable, and are generally not recycled. Most end up in our landfills. Alkaline batteries no longer have toxic lead and mercury, so most states (including ours) allow for their disposal in household trash.

Technology now exists to recycle single-use batteries... and this service is not cost efficient for most recycling programs. So, hundreds of tons of spent batteries enter the waste stream every year. To reduce the impact on our landfills, we can start by putting aside all batteries that are designed to be recycled.

The other parallel strategy is to reduce the number of batteries we use by switching to rechargeables. Rechargeable and recyclable batteries are practical for almost all applications, so when we have a choice, they're good for the environment, good for our wallets, and good for those who come after us. Using them in your household devices, while somewhat more expensive, outlast single-use batteries many times over, saving money in the long run while sparing the landfill. Even rechargeables eventually degrade and must be replaced. It's important to keep them out of your trash. The newer types, such as lithium-ion and nickel metal hydride, contain volatile chemicals and heavy metals that can leach into soils and water tables, and even catch fire in a landfill. Recycling these batteries prevents soil and water contamination. But that's not the only way they benefit the environment.

Processing centers break down recyclable batteries and harvest their chemical and mineral ingredients to be used in new products. Recovered, reused materials require less energy and water than new extraction processes and the manufacture of those new products, keeping costs down and using less raw resources. It is now possible to use recovered materials in new batteries. (See sidebar on Energizer's new initiative). The sidebar provides a number of helpful online resources to help identify the different types of household batteries, learn which types can be recycled, how to do so safely, and how to find recycling services.

So, what's the current situation here in Taos County? Battery recycling laws and regulations vary widely from state to state. According to call2recycle.com, an educational, advocacy, and networking organization, “State battery recycling requirements are in effect” in New Mexico. The NM Solid Waste website cites no specific laws or regulations, advising instead, to “contact your local municipal, county, solid waste authority, or tribal recycling program to find out what and how to recycle in your community.”

Fortunately, the Taos County Solid Waste district has several collection points for batteries, one of which is our local Cerro Transfer Station. Currently, they accept household, computer, and cordless tool batteries. Currently, the county cannot recycle single-use alkaline batteries, but point man Lorenzo Gutierrez encourages users to include all batteries when they recycle. Since many people have trouble identifying their batteries, his team collects all types and sorts them to prevent recyclable batteries from mistakenly ending up in the landfill. These are sent to Santa Fe and on to El Paso for processing, while non-recyclables currently go into lined hazardous waste landfills.

There are a number of non-governmental partners for recycling in Taos County. According to Courtney Gurno of Randall Lumber, in Taos, her store is part of the call2recycle network. Drop off spent cell phone batteries (and unwanted phones), rechargeable/recyclable household batteries, and battery packs for cordless tools. There is no fee and plastic battery bags are provided.

CarQuest in Questa accepts car batteries with no fee and a drop-off basket out front. NorthStar Auto in Questa partners with CarQuest to dispose of the car batteries they replace. Likewise,

Sean Vargas of O'Reilly Auto Parts, in Taos, reports that his store accepts spent lead-acid car batteries (no purchase required) and offers a \$10 gift card, one per household, per day. Recycling facilities exist for this class of battery and state law prohibits any other method of disposal.

Like all forms of recycling, reclaiming batteries requires attention and effort. Moving to rechargeables involves modest investment up front. The payoff, in terms of saving money, conserving resources, controlling landfill fees and taxes, and safeguarding our soil and water, is immeasurable. Remember, the

more we consumers pivot to renewable sources of energy (of all kinds), the more public demand for better infrastructure will increase. Back at Taos County Solid Waste, Lorenzo Gutierrez has lots of plans to expand our recycling programs, and is just waiting for the people of Taos County to make them happen.



Battery Types and How to Recycle Them

One-stop website with comprehensive information Battery consumption statistics, impact on the waste stream, different types, what they're made of, where and how to recycle each type:

<https://www.ehso.com/batteries.php>

Taos County Solid Waste

<http://www.taoscounty.org/368/Solid-Waste-Operations>

Edward Martinez – Director (575) 770-9127

Lorenzo Gutierrez – Code Enforcement (575) 779-8941

Email: lorenzo.gutierrez@taoscounty.org

New Mexico Recycling Coalition

(575) 224-2630

<https://www.recyclenewmexico.com>

call2recycle

<https://www.call2recycle.org>

National recycling program, partnering with big box stores and other businesses. Mail-in option and location tool for local recycling sites. Businesses can sign up here:

<https://www.call2recycle.org/the-rechargeable-battery-recycling-corporation-rbrbc-provides-free-and-easy-enrollment-for-businesses/>

Home Depot

<https://www.homedepot.com/c/ab/how-to-dispose-of-batteries/9ba683603be9fa5395fab90124a115f1>

Energizer Batteries

<https://www.energizer.com/responsibility/battery-recycling>

earth911

<https://earth911.com/?s=batteries>

How to Dispose of Old Batteries the Right Way

<https://batterysolutions.com/news/dispose-old-batteries-right-way/>

Hybrid/EV Battery Recycling

<https://www.globaltechenvironmental.com/>

Battery and Electronics Pick-Up anywhere In the U.S.

Swap Seeds!

By GILLIAN JOYCE

The Taos Seed Exchange has been a labor of love for longtime Taos County resident Nan Fisher. She began the seed exchange nine years ago and has hosted seed-sharing events and stewarded seed-exchange stations across the county ever since. In the summer of 2020, Nan asked local agricultural organization Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos to take over stewardship of the seed exchange, and they happily accepted!

Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos (AA-CT) is changing the name of the Taos Seed Exchange to honor Nan's years of stewardship. It is now called Auntie Nannie's Seed Exchange. AA-CT is also working with the Red Willow Center at Taos Pueblo and with Land, Experience, and Art of Place (LEAP) based in Questa, to further develop programs related to local seed diversity and sovereignty. Look for new seed-related programming for Taos County in the coming years.

Due to COVID-19, the usual spring seed exchange meetup event will not take place in 2021. But thanks to Nan's years of work, there are still plenty of opportunities to share seed! Seed exchange stations can be found throughout the county from late March through early July.

Seed Exchange Station: How's It Work?

All seed exchange stations are equipped with envelopes, pens, and a donation jar, as well as plenty of seed! Bring your extra seeds to donate, whether they are seeds you overbought or seeds that you have grown yourself.

BRING: If bringing seed that is not in a seed packet, please label it as accurately as you can: provide spe-



"Seeds Dreaming," by Claire Coté, 2021

The days are longer, the soil is warmer, so it's time to swap seeds! Auntie Nannie's Seed Exchange continues to bear fruit during COVID-19.

cies and variety, and ideally planting instructions. Feel free to include any other information; is it your favorite variety for canning?, or are these seeds your grandmother grew for decades?, or it is a variety you've found to be particularly frost-tolerant? Seed stories are important!

TAKE: Take new seeds with you. Use envelopes and pens to package and label your newfound seed treasures. Keep

in mind this is a community resource, so don't take more than you need for this season, and try to leave enough for the next person. If you are particularly happy about a certain variety you find at a seed station (or somewhere else), consider growing extra to produce seed to swap next year!

If you don't have any seed to swap, consider making a small cash donation. The seed stations are here for every-

dramatic, full of rich, earthy color. The geography is indeed beautiful, but without sufficient tourism residents often fall prey to illegal trafficking activities, using their boats. In a unique attempt to boost the local economy and empower its residents in another direction, the Tehran-based firm ZAV Architects, have built a brightly colored and visually engaging community right on the beach, with the sensational jagged mountain range as the backdrop.

The multipurpose development is called Majara, and is intended to tie together the lives of the local people and visitors, both culturally and economically. What you see from the sea is a cluster of candy-colored domes, like

huge, pointy Easter eggs of multiple sizes pushed down into the sand. Over 100 of these bulbous forms are grouped together amid winding pathways. The interiors are extraordinary in their different heights and primary colors and are beautifully simplistic and minimalist in design.

The structures are made using an innovative building method called superadobe, which involves layering long fabric tubes filled with earth and other organic materials, like straw, to form a compression structure. The multicolored domes were built with the help of local residents, who were trained in the superadobe process. This mud bag construction is well suited to the hot,



Courtesy Photo Nannie Plants

Taos Seed Exchange founder, Nan Fisher, who volunteered her service for nine years before the Seed Exchange was adopted by Alianza Agricultura de Taos. The seed exchange program is coming to Questa!

one—so if you don't have seed or spare cash to offer, take the seed you need anyway and consider giving back in different ways, whether it's taking a minute to straighten up the station, telling others about the seed stations, or growing some seed to share next year.

2021 Seed Exchange Stations:

1. Rael's Market in Questa
2. Questa Public Library
3. The Re-Store in Taos
4. Rio Fernando Park in Taos
5. Re-Threads in Taos
6. The Talpa Community Center in Talpa
7. Carson Café and Grocery in Carson
8. The Spot in Peñasco

Big thanks goes to the LOR Foundation for providing funding for new wooden seed exchange stations; to High Mowing Seed Company; Pueblo Seed Company; and many other seed companies and gardeners for their generous seed donations that will ensure the seed swapping season begins, full of possibilities!



**CHANGE YOUR FOCUS,
CHANGE YOUR WORLD.**

SUPER ADOBE

Hormuz is an island south of Iran, in the Persian Gulf. It lays claim to being an historic port, controlling shipments of petroleum from the Middle East. Its mountainous terrain is jagged and

arid climate, as earth-based materials are both readily available and provide wonderful thermal mass. The interiors are cool during the day as the thick earthen walls absorb the sun's heat and then radiate it back inside at night. This successful and gorgeous eco-friendly design has won multiple architectural awards and achieved its purpose of encouraging tourism, boosting the economy, and uniting the community who live there.

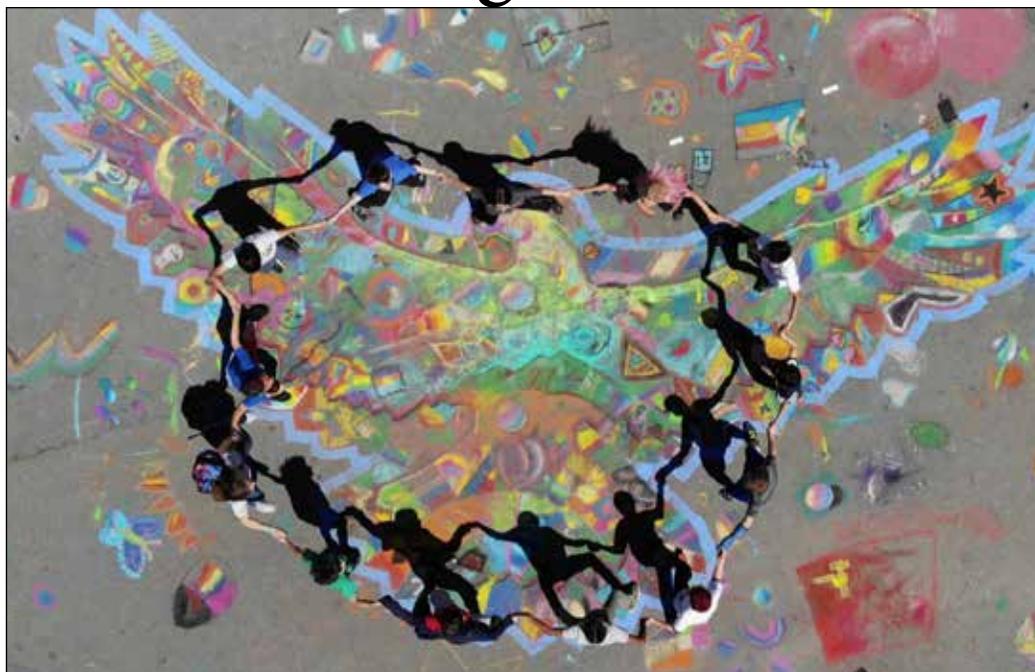
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The Global Creative Challenge 2021



Courtesy Photos

First Guinness World Record, 2008



Courtesy Photos

Mark has collaborated with community members on these large-scale works: children dance with him on this one!

ONE ARTIST IMAGINING THE WORLD CREATING TOGETHER

**EARTH DAY
APRIL 22, 2021**

We have a new exciting project. It's so big we need your help; we are inviting you and the rest of the world to be part of it.

Founder and creative director of the art endeavor he calls "Drawing on Earth," Mark Lewis Wagner, a half-time resident of Questa, will attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for the largest chalk street-art drawing, exceeding his first Guinness World Record, set in 2008. The new attempt will be on an old tennis court on the decommissioned Naval Air Base in Alameda, CA, comprising 18,000 sq. ft. He'll work on it for five days, starting on April 19.

Concurrent with Mark's chalk drawing record attempt in California, Mark invites us to be part of this global story! His creative challenge: Imagine a changed climate, imagine the world creating together, imagine a future for everyone and everything. What do you see? Dance it, draw, sing, sculpt, write, paint, digitally make it—and while you're at it, stretch your creative

spirit and go an extra inch, word, note, movement: just because you can. Set your own personal world record for your largest creative expression. You will feel better during and afterwards: more grounded, wider, more present, more alive, more able to help solve the world's problems. You can share your endeavor and see what the world is doing on Facebook, where a gallery will be created for sharing work.

Pandemic isolation and talk of climate change have been hard on everyone, but especially hard on our youth. They are afraid of something they can't see, afraid for their future, afraid for the world that they are inheriting... That's a heavy burden. Suicide rates are up around the world, especially for young people. Not having a reason to live—that's our shared problem.

We need to find creative solutions. What do we need now on the planet? We asked the Earth what it needed and it told us in no uncertain terms: imagination. Not the frilly stuff, but the real stuff: visionary powerful imagining that creates the future, the kind of imagination that put humans on the moon, made cars, cellphones and created ways that we survived other pandemics—we imagine everything first. The Earth needs humans to evolve into mature beings who use intuition and explore the mystery. Humans on earth need to grow up, to grow "in." As mature beings, we then can take responsibility for ourselves, for one another, for our communities, and

the world. Indigenous cultures call this process initiation.

Let's imagine the world we want to live in, and in so doing, make change happen. Here's how:

- Make art on or near Earth Day April 22, 2021.
- Get friends and family involved.
- Be part of our virtual team. Email us: info@drawingonearth.org for more info.
- Network with an organization in your community: art centers, schools, PTA, village or town councils, churches, etc., and get them involved.
- Network nationally: children's art museums, museums, art organizations, art festivals, etc.
- Network Internationally: every continent and all countries, UN, UNICEF, etc.

Here's how some folks are participating: Victoria has enrolled her community to create a big chalk drawing together. Bobbie Rea has her elementary school on board. Mary's neighbors are all drawing in their own driveways. All these actions are COVID-safe, and a way to help people feel connected to something bigger than themselves.

More about Drawing on Earth: we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that connects art and creativity to youth and communities around the world. We mainly focus on chalk drawing on streets and school playgrounds. We have drawn on three continents and so far worked with

30,000 kids and adults. Our first project that set a Guinness World Record for the largest pavement art covered 90,000 sq. ft. (almost 2 football fields) with chalk with the help of 6,000 people, most of them elementary school kids from Alameda, CA. It was large enough to be seen and photographed by satellite.

Mark Lewis Wagner, MA, is a traditional and digital artist, educator, illustrator, fine art painter, graphic designer, photographer, filmmaker, musician, author, college/elementary school/state prison art teacher.

Clients: Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Pixar/Disney, SpaceX, Target, PG&E, Samsung, Oakland Museum, and Oakland Zoo. He teaches art online at Chabot College and is working on a sci-fi novel called Graffiti Wars (when art saved the world—a story about art and war). Mark has created five pieces of art photographed by satellite. He spends half his studio time in Oakland, CA and the other half in Questa, New Mexico.

www.marklewiswagner.com

www.drawingonearth.org

FaceBook: [groups/dinstagrrrawingonearth01](https://www.facebook.com/groups/dinstagrrrawingonearth01)

Instagram: [drawingonearth](https://www.instagram.com/drawingonearth)



Get your local news from *Questa Del Rio News*

Celebrate Earth Day at the Questa Municipal Park

CONTINUING A LEGACY OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP: YOU ARE INVITED! FRIDAY, APRIL 23 WORK DAY AT QUESTA PARK

Let's come together in solidarity with local youth to mark Earth Day alongside communities around the world. On Friday, April 23, the day after Earth Day, from 10 am to 3 pm! Join Active8 youth, Mayor Mark Gallegos, LEAP, and community volunteers at Questa Municipal Park to plant trees, celebrate natural beauty, and work to maintain and improve assets at our park.

*The more our youth
and we all put back
towards our Earth in
recycling, repurposing,
and planting, we
will hopefully find a
balance within our
whole ecosystem.*

—Questa Mayor Mark Gallegos

The Questa Municipal Park we enjoy today exists in large part due to the vision and diligence of the Playground Superheroes Project, a group of eight Questa High School student interns who were hired through a work-study program in 2013-14. These motivated students helped transform the Questa Municipal Park with help from the Chevron Questa Mine, Community Build, and the Questa Economic Development Fund.*

Now, the Vida del Norte Drug-Free Coalition's Active8 members are continuing this legacy of youth leadership as they envision innovations at the park. Plans for a skatepark and other ideas for improvements will be explored and presented on Friday, April 23. The Active8 youth leaders are Angelica Lovato, Araceli Gonzalez, McKayla Martinez, Kalena Trujillo, Kaylee Piper, Amalia Gonzalez, Alianna Gonzalez, and Ashlynn Rael. New recruits are Dominic Vallejos, Patrick Vallejos, Marlayna Vallejos, and Esperanza Vallejos.

The first Earth Day was celebrated 51 years ago on April 22, 1970. This holiday was dreamed up by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, to mark the importance

of keeping our planet healthy and clean, and for people to renew their commitment to make positive changes in their communities.

LEAP's Earth Day celebrations in Questa started with a suggestion from Starr, the artist, seamstress, and friend to many, who passed away in January of this year. LEAP's first Earth Day event was the 2014 opening reception for "Seeds: Time Capsules of Wilderness," an exhibition of artwork by Alta Vista Elementary students, at OCHO Art + Event Space. Starr's remarkable Earth Day turtle banner hung in the window.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT QUESTA MUNICIPAL PARK!

What: Tree planting, spring cleaning & youth-led visioning for skatepark creation

Where: Questa Municipal Park, 7-1/2 Questa Municipal Park Road, just past the Library and Youth Center.

When: Friday, April 23, 10 am – 3 pm (the day after Earth Day)

Who: Everyone is welcome!

Cost: Free

Event Contact: Claire Coté (LEAP) - emailforleap@gmail.com (575) 224-9066

Youth & Future Skatepark contact:

Maria Gonzalez (VIDA del Norte); maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com (575) 779-2260

*Sourced from: https://www.taosnews.com/news/playground-superheroes-team-keeps-optimism-alive-in-questa/article_cf208386-72e6-57b7-865d-bbdb0f13b95c.html

This year for Earth Day, gathering outdoors to work safely together is especially meaningful. The day will include planting drought-tolerant trees, work on repairing the irrigation system, removal of invasive plant species, trash pick-up, and brainstorming park improvements. Of course, a hearty lunch for volunteers will be provided midday. Progress on-site is our goal, but what's more important is having fun, strengthening friendships by working together in service, and amplifying youth and community voices to shape the future of our park and beyond.

All local youth are invited and all are welcome! Please come to create the



Maria Gonzalez

The Vida Del Norte Active8, back row, from left to right: Angelica Lovato, McKayla Martinez, Araceli Gonzalez, Ashlynn Rael, Alianna Gonzalez, Amalia Gonzalez, Kaylee Piper. Front row: Esteban Gomez, Issac Ortega



Claire Cote

Previous Earth Day work day volunteers at Questa Park.

vision for a skatepark and other projects at the park. Get in touch with Vida del Norte program coordinator, Maria Gonzalez, to join in on April 23 to share your ideas and help out! If you have them, please bring work gloves and yard cleaning tools; we'll have extra gloves donated by Questa Lumber and Hardware and additional tools on hand as well.

Coordinated by LEAP (Land, Experience and Art of Place) in collaboration with the Vida del Norte Coalition, Questa Earth Day Celebration partners include the Questa Public Library, Village of Questa, Localogy, North Central Food Pantry, and Questa Farmers Market. Sponsors that have made this project possible include ACE Hardware Nursery in Taos, Questa Hardware, Los Jardineros Garden Club of Taos, LOR



Martha Shepp

Entrance to Questa Municipal Park, behind the Library and Youth Center.

Foundation, and generous individual tree sponsors and volunteers.

To join the VIDA youth leadership team, contact Maria Gonzalez, maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com or (575) 779-2260.

Information about the Earth Day event can be found at: www.leapsite.org or by calling (575) 224-9066.

Questa Junior Senior High School Celebrates 100 Years With The National Honor Society

INDUCTION CEREMONY SUNDAY,
APRIL 18 BY ZOOM

By SARA MARTINEZ

Questa Junior Senior High School is proud to join thousands of schools around the world to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the National Honor Society (NHS). Since its inception in 1921, the NHS has been a pioneer in student organizations by using a unique, forward-thinking lens to recognize students for far more than academia. NHS honors students for their outstanding academic achievement and community engagement, while providing programs and services that support their development into exemplary role models.

“As we celebrate the centennial anniversary of the National Honor Society, we recognize the important role the organization has played to develop well-rounded students who embody scholarship, service, leadership, and character,” said JoAnn Bartoletti,



executive director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), which serves as the parent organization of NHS. “For the past 100 years, these pillars of NHS have spread throughout learning communities, ultimately making a lasting impact on the education landscape across the United States and beyond.”

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in NHS activities annually, with chapters in all 50

states, and around the world. Membership recognizes students for their accomplishments and challenges them to develop their leadership further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

“NHS identifies students who want more from their education than letter grades—they want to make a valuable difference in society,” said Nara Lee, director of NASSP Student Leadership. “As we look to the future, NHS will continue to push the boundaries of student development, serving as the champion of student growth and achievement for the entire learning community.”

The Kiowa chapter of Questa Junior Senior High School will celebrate 52 years, founded by Mrs. Sally Lucero in 1969. We are proud to have been inducting new members who are willing to be leaders in the school today so that they can serve as our leaders of our global community in the future. When they are not studying, they are fully and

energetically involved in their school and community. They are musicians and dancers, champion cheerleaders, athletes, mentors, actors, artists, chefs, and gamers. They donate blood, they help referee for Little League Sports, they help their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins with chores or putting a birthday party together. Some of them even find the time to work part-time. These students are busy every day of the week. Our community is enriched with their energy and devotion.

On Sunday April 18, 2021 at 2 pm, we will induct 25 new and returning members (see list below). As with so many other things that have changed and are unpredictable with COVID-19, we will hold our induction ceremony virtually again this year. Please visit the school website for zoom login info. <https://qisd-nm.schoolloop.com/> For more information about NHS and to join the NHS centennial celebration, visit www.nhs.us/100.

The following students are candidates for selection to the Kiowa Chapter of NHS. Candidacy begins by meeting the scholarship criterion of 3.5 and no Cs for 2 semesters in a row (Spring and Fall 2020), members then must maintain a 3.0 and no Ds. Teachers and staff are then asked to review each candidate on the qualities of leadership, service, and character to confirm that these students have met all the criteria for membership.

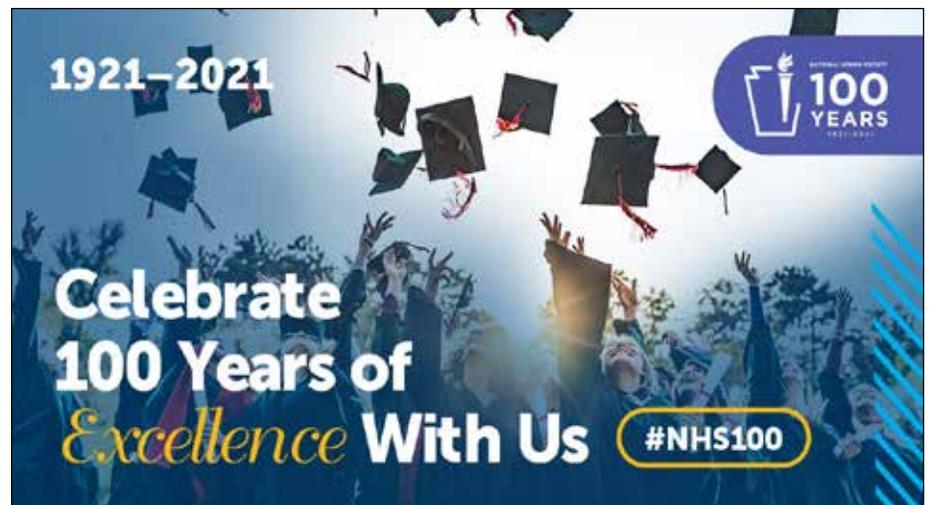
National Junior Honor Society (Grades 7-9)

Melissa Andrianos
Joaquin Arellano
Alexis Brown
*Janae Dominguez
Amalia Gonzales
Alyana Leon
*Alyse Lovato
*Liliana Martinez
Sophia Martinez
*Ariana Medina
Kaylee Piper
Nathaniel Rael
Antonio Romero
Ricardo Sanchez
Aliyah Santistevan
*Donny Santistevan

National Honor Society (Grades 10-12)

*Jaydyn Cintas
Santana Cintas
Angelica Lovato
Aalyiah Martinez
Elizabeth Martinez
Leah Martinez
Honorio Justin Rael
*Karina Rael
Annaliese Rivera

*New inductees



We are SO excited to move into our next phase of school re-entry! Due to changes at the state level, the New Mexico Public Education Department has stated that all schools shall open for all students to return to school on-site for four days per week. Families still have the option to stay in virtual learning mode, remotely, at home. On March 16 the Questa Independent School Board

approved of these changes for returning all students to in-person learning.

All on-site precautions for COVID-safe learning remain in place. Masks are REQUIRED, social distancing will be observed, and time will be built in for handwashing and other safety practices.

Questa Cheer and Spirit Team were out to welcome junior and senior high students back on March 29. Elementary students will be welcomed back with a Red-Carpet Entrance Celebration on April 6. Go Cats!

Kimber MacDonald
Lead Teacher, AVIES, RCSWLA

Maria Cintas
QISD Interim Superintendent

QUESTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT: HONOR ROLL 2020-21 Quarter 3

QUESTA HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL

12TH GRADE

Martinez, Alyyah

11TH GRADE

Lovato, Angelica
Martinez, Leah
Rivera, Annaliese

9TH GRADE

Rael, Nathaniel
Sanchez, Ricardo

HONOR ROLL

12TH GRADE

Cintas, Santana
Martinez, Elizabeth
Medina, Tiana
Molina, Monica
Trujillo, Consuelo

11TH GRADE

Danis, Tate
LaCome, Danielle
Mascarenas, Martina
Quintana, Nataniel

10TH GRADE

Chavez, Josiah
Cintas, Jaydyn
Gonzales, Juan
Martinez Jr., Jason
Martinez, Jordyn
Rael, Karina

9TH GRADE

Arellano, Joaquin
Carter, Alayna
Cisneros, Faith
Gonzales, Praxedes
Gonzalez, Amalia
Gonzalez, Marivel
Mascarenas, Marcus
Ortega, Isaac
Piper, Kaylee
Rivera, Martin

MERIT ROLL

12TH GRADE

Cardenas, Anika
Griego, Mariah
Hernandez, Ozzy
Lovato, Anthony

10TH GRADE

Gonzales, Marcus
Lovato, Mya
Trujillo, Kalena

9TH GRADE

Caraveo, Diego
Ramirez, Juan Carlos

QUESTA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL

8TH GRADE

Andrianos, Melissa

7TH GRADE

Lovato, Alyse
Santistevan, Donny

HONOR ROLL

8TH GRADE

Brown, Alexis
Cardenas, Kamryn
Gonzalez, Alianna
Leon, Alyana
Martinez, Liliana
Rael, Delilah
Santistevan, Aliyah
Vallejos, Jacob

7TH GRADE

Dominguez, Janae
Leon Jr., Ricardo
Medina, Ariana
Medina, Joshlyn
Ortega, Jocelyne
Smith, Sophia

MERIT ROLL

8TH GRADE

Rael, Ashlynn
Roberts, Savanna

7TH GRADE

Rael, Dedrick

ALTA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL

3RD GRADE

Cardenas, Patrick
Cisneros, Josiah
Dominguez, Mateo
Fernandez, Nelson
Haltermann, LilyAnn

McKenney, Ashley
Roybal, Lucia
Segura, Xayvion
Vigil-Rael, Andres

2ND GRADE

Arellano, Mariah

1ST GRADE

Depontes, Gypsy
Depontes, Sequoia
Ortega, Sebastian
Vigil, Alexx

KINDERGARTEN

Griego, Eliseo
Martinez, Lucinda
Ortega, Adrial
Ortega, Jackson
Padilla, Christopher
Rowell, Aiden
Sanchez, Cataleya
Sanchez, Fernando

HONOR ROLL

3RD GRADE

Cabanas, Alice
Chavez, Analeyah
Cisneros, Aubrey
Fernandez, Dante
Lovato, Albert
Lovato, Bella'Elizabeth
Martinez, Gracie
Ortega, Drake
Vigil Flores, Maria-Mercedes

2ND GRADE

Casaus, Damian
Cortez, Mary
Fernandez, Caridad
Gallegos, Donovan
Martinez, Evanie
Martinez, Liam
Mondragon, Xzavier
Ortega, Jeremiah
Salas III, Agustin
Young, Abigail

1ST GRADE

Chavez, Diego
Cisneros, Aylee
Gallegos, Betty
Gomez, Austin
Martinez, Skarlet
Martinez, Wayne
Romero, Lucas
Kindergarten
Cardenas, Zachary
Fernandez, Darren
Gallegos, Jeremiah
Littlepage, Alaysia
Martinez, Joseph
Pacheco, Aspen
Rael, Jason

MERIT ROLL

3RD GRADE

Padilla, Mia
Reynolds, Taylia

2ND GRADE

Gonzales, Brenda
Lovato, Sofia
Lovato, Xavier
Medina, Valentina
Michael, Joshua

1ST GRADE

Gomez, Lylah
McKenney, Ian
Montoya, Anthony
Padilla, Melody
Sanchez, Jeffrey

KINDERGARTEN

Martinez, Cecelia

ALTA VISTA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL

6TH GRADE

Griego, Urijah

5TH GRADE

Padilla, Thiago

4TH GRADE

Arguello, Gabreella
Vigil, Lyanna

HONOR ROLL

6TH GRADE

Brown, Porfirio
Cordova, Kaylei
Hurtado, Ronnie
Ortega, Delena
Ortega, Mariana
Ritchlin-Cruz, Jovad
Roybal III, Larry
Vallejos, Esperanza

5TH GRADE

Arellano, Ryan
Caraveo, Nicole
Cisneros, Analea
Cisneros, Lukas
Cordova, Hayley
Dominguez, Maliyah
Hernandez, Hector
Hernandez, Serenity
Knight, Egypt
Ortiz, Sierra
Romero, Miguel
Smith, Remington
Tannahill, Wesley
Vialpando, Isaac

4TH GRADE

Cisneros, Alya
Gallegos, Izyk
Hurtado, Makayla
Madrid, Xzavier
Ortega, Bradley
Rael, Adrienne
Rael, Jaylee
Santistevan, Joel
Tannahill, Jeremiah
Vigil, Ericka
Young, Giana

MERIT ROLL

6TH GRADE

Quintana, Corina
Segura, Areyu
Segura, Isaac
Vigil, Chanell

5TH GRADE

Buerger, Harris
Martinez, Marivel

4TH GRADE

Medina, Emmanuel
Trujillo, Mya
Trujillo, Nikkita



CRITERIA FOR HONOR ROLL:

Principal's Roll: must have 4.0 GPA
Honor Roll: must have 3.2+ GPA
Merit Roll: must have 2.85+ GPA

Questa Library Welcomes Assistant Librarian Laura Vallejos



**QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

By SHARON NICHOLSON,
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The advisory board and staff of the Questa Library are excited to announce the addition of Assistant Librarian Laura Vallejos. Many of you are already acquainted with Laura, having grown up with her or working with her at Alta Vista Elementary. We asked Laura to say a few words about herself and what she looks forward to at our library:

"I am excited about this new opportunity. My family and I recently moved

back to Questa after 15 years away. We were pleasantly surprised to find that Questa has evolved into a busy, booming village. There are so many positive changes and improvements going on here, and having options and choices makes living here more enjoyable. We wanted a safe place to help raise our grandsons. Here they can explore and move about freely, learning life skills that are as essential as academic skills.

"I am especially excited about having a new expanded library for our community. As assistant librarian, my goal is to create a welcoming and safe place where children, teens, and adults can come relax and enjoy browsing books and other media. We want our teens to come



Courtesy Photo

Laura Vallejos, Questa Public Library's newest addition.

here and hang out. They can work on their homework after school and meet their friends here. They can volunteer

to help us with library duties and in assisting younger children with activities, as well as planning teen activities. For our younger children, we are planning a Summer Reading Program with activities and special guests. We will have games, reading challenges, and prizes! Learning can be fun and exciting. See you at the library!"

Laura, we are glad you have joined us. Kids ages 4-10 are encouraged to sign up soon for Summer Reading. The fun begins June 7, Monday through Wednesday each week, from 10-11:30 am through June and then again July 12-21. Call Laura with your questions at (575) 586-2023.

Read With Libby & New Mexico Library-To-Go

By LINDA BETZ

Download free eBooks and audiobooks! On the Questa Public Library home page at www.questalibrary.org, scroll down and in the right-hand column, you'll see a light blue box link to New Mexico Library To Go.

Your local library card allows you access to tens of thousands of titles through the free apps OverDrive and

Libby. While eBooks were already widely used as a portable reading source for home and travel, their use has broadened as the pandemic continues. With limited physical library access, all of us who are now homebound can more easily access free eBooks and audiobooks.

Many readers like having the ability the apps allow, to make any book print larger and easier to read. Those who



used audiobooks for long commutes now bring them into their homes for

hands-free listening.

Why pay fees when you can get a good read on your computer, tablet, Kindle, or smartphone for free? Make now a good time to try some different technologies to add to your newfound Zoom skills! For assistance call Sharon Nicholson, QPL Librarian, at (575) 586-2023. Keep in mind that library hours are reduced because of COVID-19 to Tuesday through Thursday, 1-5 pm.

Cuesta Public Library Looks to the Future

By GENE GREEN,
HEAD LIBRARIAN

The new addition to the Cuesta Public Library will open April 31, with some amazing features. Technicians are perfecting the state-of-the-art zipline to move guests from the old building to the new wing. Use will initially be limited to three round trips per day. The originally planned main attraction, our antique carousel, will not be ready in time for the

April 31 opening, darn it.

Patrons looking for the latest best-seller or non-fiction book will be shocked at the Library's recent announcement that it will no longer be offering books to lend. "They are such a bother," said the Head Librarian, Gene Green. "People come in all hours of the day, interrupting me, wanting to check out this book or that. And then when the books are returned, I have to put them back on the shelves in order. People get

upset if the numbers aren't just right... just so someone else can take them out, and then I have to go through the whole rigmarole all over again. Geez! Honestly, I don't know what all the fuss is about, teaching kids to read..."

He continued his rant. "I don't even want to go into the bookshelves themselves. They are such unsightly things, getting in the way of the clean lines of an empty space, and we're always having to dust them. I would much rather be en-

joying a Triple Chocolate Delight made with pistachio milk."

When asked about what will happen to the discarded books, the Head Librarian replied, "A nice bonfire would be lovely, don't you think?" He went on to suggest that DVDs might be the next to go. People with questions may contact the Library at (575) 586-2023. "But only between midnight and 5 am on the second Tuesday of each week." He then added, "April Fools!" 🏰



APRIL FOOLS' DAY BY SIERRA O.

April Fools' Day is a day that people prank each other, on April 1 every year. A lot of people like April Fools' Day and some dislike April Fools' Day. There are jokes, pranks, and fun when someone pranks another and they yell "Aprils Fools!" to the person. April Fools' has been around for several centuries.

Some people say April Fools' has been around since 1582. It is a very popular day and people around the world celebrate April Fools' Day.

From Mr. John Walsh's Alta Vista Fifth Grade Class

New Mexico's First Poet Laureate: Levi Romero

FROM WIKIPEDIA

On January 30, 2020, Levi Romero, originally from Dixon, New Mexico, was appointed New Mexico's first Poet Laureate. New Mexico became the 46th state to offer an official state poet position. Taos poet Anne MacNaughton, co-founder of SOMOS, the Taos Poetry Circus, and the Poet Education Project, was among the three New Mexican poets on the selection committee who chose Levi Romero.

Albuquerque Senator Bill O'Neill, himself a poet, sponsored Senate Bill 536 of New Mexico's 2019 regular session that funded the Poet Laureate program. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the bill on April 5, 2019, which allocated \$107,000 to the New

Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs for the creation of a state Poet Laureate program.

The three-year position of Poet Laureate includes an annual stipend of \$25,000, travel and printing expenses, and part-time staff support. The position supports literacy and enhances education while enriching the arts across the state. Through speaking at statewide engagements and programs at schools and libraries, the poet will engage all New Mexicans with poetry and also document his travels via web journal and podcast. Romero was also appointed as New Mexico Quincentennial poet.

Levi Romero graduated from the Menaul Boarding School in Albuquerque and attended the University of New



courtesy photo

Levi Romero

Mexico, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in architecture in 1994 and Master of Arts in architecture 2000. Romero is an assistant professor in the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department at the University of New Mexico, where he directs

the New Mexico Cultural Landscapes Certificate program and the Digital Cuentos project. He writes his poems in both English and Spanish and loves the Manitos dialect of north central New Mexico. He prefers the term Nuevomexicano, or "New Mexican," rather than Chicano or Hispanic.

Romero has won national recognition and has made a lifetime commitment to poetry and his long teaching career. He has published two collections of poetry: *A Poetry of Remembrance: New and Rejected Works*, and *In the Gathering of Silence*, both published by University of New Mexico Press. He's also the co-author of the book *Sagrado: A Photopoetics Across the Chicano Homeland*, written with Spencer R. Herrera.

alibi

when the cop pulled up
I wondered how we were going to explain all this
'cause when you are doing something
it's not too hard to lie,
but when you're doing nothing
well, what can you say

"we're just sitting here officer,
just talking, and he's writing poetry"

I mean, how's that really going to sound
to a guy who means business
and carries a gun

By LEVI ROMERO

Levi Romero, "alibi" from *In the Gathering of Silence*.
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Woodstove of My Childhood

woodstove of my childhood
where potatoes cut like triangle chips were fried
in manteca de marrano
woodstove of lazy autumn smoke swirling away
to nowhere
woodstove of December
evacuating the cold chill at sunrise
woodstove of celebration and mourning
of post-World War II Korea y Vietnam
woodstove corner that kept vigil over
drunken nodding remembrance
woodstove corner where uncles primos
compadres
gathered on visits from Califas
woodstove corner with a warm ear for nostalgia
where Mama Ane stirred the atole and wrung
her hands
thumb over thumb praying for her children's
children's children
woodstove that witnessed six decades washing
its face at the vandeja

that saw western swing dancing in dim
lantern flame
that watched Elvis come in from across the
llano strumming
a mail-order Stella and singing in Spanish
woodstove
of the feast lamb tied up under the
crabapple tree
of early sour cherries ripening above the
cornstalk horizon
of neighbors bartering a cup of sugar
in exchange for mitote and conversation
woodstove of rain tenderly pouring into
the afternoon
and salt sprinkling onto the patio from the
mouth of the porch
woodstove of the nighttime crackling softly
of harmonious harmonica medleys
blowing before bedtime prayer
woodstove facing John F. Kennedy's
picture on the wall
woodstove of Protestant Sundays
ringing without bells
woodstove of dark earth
fat worms and acequias
woodstove of 1960s propaganda
and all the rich hippies knocking poorly at the
screen door
woodstove of private crazy laughter
of woodpeckers pecking through rough-hewn
barn timbers only to meet the sky
of rabbits nervously nibbling evening away
in the arroyo
of the water bucket banging and splashing

all the way home
woodstove of the water drop sizzle
of buñuelos and biscochitos and flour on
the chin
of chokecherry jam dropping out
from the end of a tortilla
woodstove
that heard Mentorcito's violin bringing in the
new yea
that saw Tío Eliseo bring in an armload of wood
that heard Tío Antonio coming down the road
whistling a corrido and swinging his cane
woodstove of the blessed noontime
and Grandma Juanita heating up the caldito
woodstove of the sanctified and untamed
holy spirit
of the dream awake dreamers
prophesizing in the beginning how the end
would come
of creaking trochil gates left open forever
of twisted caved-in gallineros rocking
in weeping April wind
of abandoned orchards waist deep
in desánimo
of teardrops that held back the laughter
of the penitente procession moving through
the hills
for the soul of the village
woodstove of the wounded faithful proudly
concealing their scars
woodstove of armpit farts and bedtime giggles
of pitchforks and axes under the bed in case
of intruders
of coffee cans filled with everything but coffee

of ten cents for a cream soda at Corrina's
of strawberry Nehis and a bag of chili chips
at Medina's
of a handful of bubble gum acá Santos's
woodstove of genius wisdom dressed up as
the village idiot
of hand-me-down stories locked away
in the dispensa
of bien loco local heroes cracking homeruns
Saturday afternoons en la cañada
woodstove
of all that and more of all that disappearing
as children played hide 'n' seek in that
abandoned goodtime feeling
while stumbling on the footsteps of tradition
woodstove that heard the fall of a people
rising in silence
that died of a loneliness without cure
that cured itself in the company
of the so many more lonely
woodstove of my childhood

By LEVI ROMERO

Levi Romero, "Woodstove of My Childhood"
from *In the Gathering of Silence*. Copyright ©
1996 by Levi Romero. Reprinted by permission
of West End Press.

POEMS OF THE MONTH

The Last of a Brotherhood, Los Hermanos Penitentes

By DEBORAH
ARCHULETA-MORENO

It is the evening of Good Friday, and there is the sound of prayers, mournful alabados (hymns), rattling of chains, and wailing; filling the air from the morada (a meeting or prayer house) as the secret rite is being practiced. Within these walls, a brotherhood, the Hermanos Penitentes, has gathered. These religious rites have been in practice as far back as 400 years ago—perhaps much earlier.

New Mexico's religious history runs long and deep. It has always been an important way of life for the Spanish communities of deeply religious people who were once isolated from others and from the formal church. These remote villages did not have priests nor access to the sacraments, therefore Los Hermanos Penitentes met the needs of their people, building their own prayer houses and carrying out their religious duties. The moradas were constructed in almost every village from southern Colorado, through northern New Mexico, and all the way to the Rio Bonito in southern New Mexico.

In 1851, the morada in Cerro, New Mexico was built (prior to the village's original Catholic church) and religious rites are still being practiced there to this day, 170 years later! At the beginning of

Lent on Ash Wednesday, the Hermanos pray at the Stations of the Cross. During Holy Week, mass will be held at the morada. On Good Friday, a procession takes place: this is known as the Encuentro (or Encounter.) The procession may vary from one community to another, but these Hermanos will carry a statue of Jesus from the morada to the church as they pray and sing alabados. The Veronicas (women who were auxiliaries, who supported the men during Holy Week.), will carry a Virgin Mary statue to el Calavario, to meet the men. There the procession is joined by family members and worshipers. El Encuentro then continues the procession back to the morada.

The number of active moradas and their numbers are declining. I recently spoke with Mr. Jose Chavez, President and Hermano of the Cerro morada. "At one time there had been 70 Hermanos, but now we are left with only six; we lost two this year," he says. Becoming an Hermano has been a tradition that is passed down from generation to generation. Mr. Chavez says, "The generation of today do not want to learn the prayers, for the reason that all the prayers are in Spanish, and the younger generations do not speak Spanish."

I believe the link of the Hermanos and their communities is too important to give up, however the younger generation may not be as devoted to the Catholic faith as their forefathers were. The new generation has a modern way of thinking, but maybe stepping into a morada that dates back hundreds of years, they could find that there is still value in the ancient teachings and the old ways.

Left: Jose Chavez, President and Hermano of the Cerro morada. Above: Mr. Chavez by the entrance to the 1850s building where the rites are practiced. Right: Statuary within the worship space, most likely brought to Cerro from Spain before this building was even constructed.



Martha Shepp



A Significant Part of New Mexico History

By PAUL FIGUEROA,
TAOS COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Camino Real, the Santa Fe Trail, and the Old Spanish Trail form a significant part of New Mexico and Taos history. The Camino Real was extended northward out of New Spain in 1598

by Juan de Oñate. Dr. Rick Hendrick's research on the Camino Real focuses on the period of the Reconquest from 1692-93 through the papers of Governor Diego de Vargas. The advent of Mexican independence in 1821 coincided with the opening of the Santa Fe Trail and the period from 1822 to 1846 for extensive trade. In 1829, Antonio Armijo led an

expedition from Abiquiu to California and this trail became known as the Old Spanish Trail in John C. Fremont's 1844 published report.

Please join us for Taos County Historical Society's Zoom lecture "Reflections on Three Trails" by Dr. Rick Hendricks on Saturday, April 3 at 2 pm. Contact Paul Figueroa, paulcfigueroa@

gmail.com for Zoom login information.

Rick Hendricks, PhD. is the New Mexico State Records Administrator and previously served as State Historian for nine years. He is a former editor of the Vargas Project at University of New Mexico and has written extensively on the history of the American Southwest and Mexico.

A New Columnist Joins the Team

By DEBORAH ARCHULETA-MORENO

New Mexico—enriched with unique traditions, cultures, and beauty, I am honored to call home. I was raised in Cerro, New Mexico, where my father's family can be traced back to the first settlers in the area. My mother's family is from the southern part of the state, so I am from both northern and southern New Mexico. Currently, I reside in Roswell, New Mexico and am blessed with my husband and two rambunctious children, a girl and boy, ages 5 and 3. My husband serves on active duty with the U.S. Army National Guard.

Growing up in the mountains with the Rio Grande as my backyard, I drew much inspiration from the beauty and history that surrounded me. I paint, write, and am constantly crafting. I have an Etsy store where I sell my items and I also sell at craft fairs.

I was always fascinated with the stories and tales that my grandparents told me, which sparked an interest in history, especially the history of New Mexico. I am currently finishing my

degree in history at Eastern New Mexico University. I have my own history page on Facebook called Folklore, History, and The Enchantment of New Mexico. It brings me great pleasure to be a part of *The Questa Del Rio News*.

Folklore, History, and The Enchantment of New Mexico | Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/FolkloreHistoryandTheEnchantmentofNewMexico>
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/DeborahsArtandCrafts>



Courtesy Photos

Deborah Archuleta-Moreno



Courtesy Photos

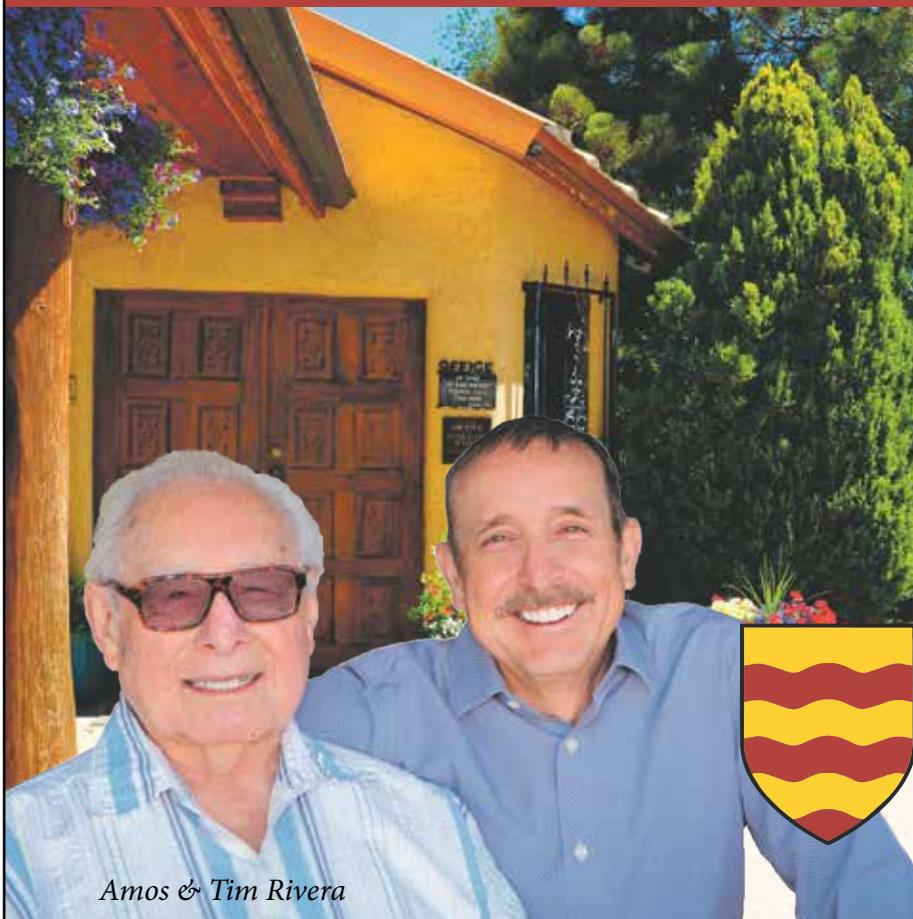
Wooden cross with turquoise inlay by Deborah Archuleta-Moreno, available on Etsy.



Courtesy Photos

Colorfully painted crosses by Deborah Archuleta-Moreno, available on Etsy.

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Llama Introduces 100% COVID-Safe Group Dining

By LOLA GANLER

The country's first completely safe dining experience during the COVID-19 pandemic was recently introduced in New Mexico's Llama community. All dining interaction is mask-free, guaranteed 100% safe, and with no limit on the number of concurrent dining companions.

"The idea just came to me!" said founder, Barth Rayal. "After working from home for a year, spending all my time on Zoomm calls, and eating at my desk in front of the computer, I said to myself, 'I'm dining COVID-free, I need to patent this!' so I did."

The Dining Room by Zoomm, LLC ©, was launched in early March and already

has a huge following, with 1.5 million members. "It's easy," said Rayal, "You just pick your membership level and make a reservation for the Zoomm Dining Room of your choice to dine with fellow Zoommers." He says Dining Rooms are categorized by type of food, type of conversation, or type of background. "You just pick what you're in the mood for."

Dining Room options by food currently include Subs 'n' Suds, Stake Your Steak, Tex-Mex-with-your-Ex, Hamburgers from Hamburg, Leftovers Over Easy, Just Eat Sweets, and the ever popular Junk Food Joint. New Dining Rooms to open in the next few weeks include Catch of Today, The Italian Scallion, Chile Chili, and for vegetarians, Beans & Greens

are the Scene.

Meals enjoyed in the conversation rooms last about twice as long, so plan accordingly. Dining discussions range from the best online shopping, current religious beliefs, past political partisanship, to the meaning of life; the newest addition is My Favorite Real Restaurants. Participants are encouraged to suggest discussion topics, as the conversations never end.

For those who want to dine with companionship but don't want to interact, preferring to eat in silence or have the need to keep working, they can select from over 10,000 background themes, providing endless options for daily inspiration, meditation, digestion, even

entertainment (think: cats).

Rayal reports that the company is growing so fast that this month he had to hire over two dozen new employees from Llama, "I'm proud that I'm helping to keep our country safe during the pandemic, contributing to local economic development, and connecting people and food with my Zoomm Dining Rooms ©. Grab your meal, put down a placemat, get comfy, and enter your Dining Room!"

To join The Dining Room by Zoomm with a yearlong membership and to make dining reservations, visit: DiningRoom@Zoommmmm.com. Mention promo code: APRIL FOOLS!



Benefit Programs Available at the Questa Farmers Market

By GAEA MCGAHEE

During the past market season, USDA Food Benefit usage was up 40 percent from 2019. In 2020, more people shopped using EBT and Double-Up-Food-Bucks.* The Questa Farmers Market can accept these benefits as well as WIC and Senior Nutrition Program Checks.

- To apply for SNAP (also called EBT and food stamps): Go to www.hsd.state.nm.us or call (800) 432-6217. If you have SNAP, you will receive Double-Up-Food-Bucks automatically at the market. When you take out \$25 from your SNAP EBT Card at the Questa Farmers Market, you'll get another \$25 to spend on local fruits and vegetables. This is how you

double your money. This is a federally supported food benefit program.

- Want to receive Senior Nutrition Program Checks to use at your local market? To learn more about the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, call (505) 242-6777.

- WIC clients, would you like money to spend at your local farmers market?

To learn how to participate in the Women, Infant, Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP) Go to nmwic.org or call (866) 867-3124.

* For information about Double-Up-Food Bucks, check out this YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/wm-sEVLHEE>



TREASURE HUNT AT EAGLE ROCK LAKE

By RACHEL KUC'

On March 17, Saint Patrick's Day, the Vida Del Norte Coalition organized the Lucky Leprechaun Treasure Hunt at Eagle Rock Lake in Questa. This was a fun event where people could participate on their own, to keep up social distancing. Lucky the Leprechaun put up clues around the lake and on the trail along the Red River toward the Carson National Forest Ranger District Office.

These clues eventually led back to the lake where there were two boxes full of prizes for the kids and a few for the parents, too. The idea behind this activity was to provide something fun for people in our community to do on Saint Patrick's Day, and get people outside and moving.

It was surprising to see how many people showed up to participate. The prizes went surprisingly quickly.

This treasure hunt kicked off an idea that Vida Del Norte is promoting called the #HealthyHero Challenges. These will be monthly activities that people can do on their own and then post photos of themselves participating with the hashtag #HealthyHero, to promote healthy leadership in our community.

To find out what the next #HealthyHero challenge will be please check www.vidadelnorte.com/healthyhero. They will be posted by the second week of each month. Vida is also organizing an event for Easter that will take place on April 3, the Saturday before Easter. To find out what this event will be and where it will be held, please visit www.vidadelnorte.com or keep an eye out for the flyers. Vida wants to give special thanks to the employees at the Questa Ranger District for giving permission to have the treasure hunt at the lake and for keeping that area so nice for the community. Also, thanks to everyone who came out on Saint Patrick's Day to participate.



From left to right, Izziah Gonzales, 12; Mariah Gonzales, 4; their mother, Pastor Kristi Gonzales, with Zachariah Gonzales, 2; and Micah Gonzales, 10; Koda Segura, 11



BettyMaria Gallegos with her treasures.



Izyk Gallegos with his prizes after the treasure hunt.



Enriquetta Gonzales helps to decorate the treasure boxes.

always

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You can join our volunteer staff. Are you a writer or a photographer? Would you like to volunteer as a Volunteer Coordinator or help in another way? Join our team! Let us know! Email news@questaedf.com.

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And, of course, we can always use the cash. We have tried to make it an easy-ish process by adding a PayPal donation button on our website. For a cash donation call us at (575) 586-2149 to arrange a drop off time at the Questa Visitors Center. For a check donation, simply mail it to the following address. *QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS*, PO Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556, and please make a note that it is a donation to the newspaper. No amount is too small.

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This is very important. Tell us and everyone else what you think of us. What you think we are doing right or how we can improve. Send us your press releases. Send us your opinions for the Letters to the Editor column. (We like them to be constructive.) Send us your recipes, or column ideas or photos. Use our classifieds section to reach locals about local stuff. Advertise to your base. Engage with us, engage with our community. We need your valued feedback.

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April Showers Banned

By JUNE SUMMER

Concerns about droughts impacting the flora and fauna has forced the State of New Mexico to pass an unprecedented law that impacts all state residents: April showers are now banned through May 1, 2021.

To protect the water supply for the benefit of all residents and the budding operations in the state, no one will be permitted to take showers during the month of April.

New Mexico Governor, Michael Lohan-Grishin says, "Citizens are asked to comply with this current change during the month of April, as an investment in our future. This new New Mexico State

law, banning April showers, is predicted to save and redirect more than a trillion dollars and gallons of water, and this will ensure our state will continue to bloom and beautifully flourish in the future."

Scientific studies have proven that showers use 28 more gallons than a quick sponge bath. This study, conducted in 1999 by SPRING (Saving Precious Resources Inside the Nation's Geosphere), a non-binary group that counsels the states on the use of natural resources, precious metals, and emergent gases, has been widely accepted.

As this past winter's snowpack is average at best, SPRING raised concerns about April showers, their water waste,

and blatant disregard for the bouquet of needs within our state. So, as the melted snow runoff makes its way from the peaks in Colorado's highest mountains into the creeks, streams, brooks, arroyos, tributaries, ditches, gullies, canals, lakes, ponds, and rivers of New Mexico, the water flow will be closely monitored and restricted with these new laws in place.

The Governor admitted that enforcement will be difficult, and individuals and families are asked to self-regulate. The Governor pleaded, "Our future is at stake! We all want to see the state continue to blossom and grow!"

The Governor closed by saying, "Let's ensure that these laws don't have to be



Courtesy Photo

New Mexico bans April showers through May 1, 2021.

extended; I think we all agree that we need next month to bring us those May flowers." Then the Governor added, "Thank you for reading this far... APRIL FOOLS!"



UFO Activity on San Antonio Mountain

By LUPE ESTRELLA

I have a window in my bedroom and when I lie on my side, I can look right out onto San Antonio. He is my patron saint, so his mountain is very special to me. At night it is usually dark; nothing much to look at.

On March 8, 2018 something woke me up and I was startled to see a very bright red light at the base of San Antonio, on the northeast side. I looked at the clock: it was 1:49 am. I got up to get a better look at it. I compared its brightness to the taillights of a car on Highway 522; there was no comparison. The lights on the highway were about a mile from me, and not very bright. I have been told that San Antonio is over 70 miles away and the light was so bright and big, I could hardly believe it.

I went to get my glasses to get a better look and then I looked through the binoculars. The light appeared to be the shape of an arc, like a bowl with

several smaller lights above and around it. I thought if I stared at it long enough it would move, but instead at around 2:00 am it slowly started to fade and was entirely gone by 2:02 am. Since then I have kept a close eye on the mountain and haven't seen anything unusual.

One of our neighbors sees a lot of strange lights on Ute Mountain. One night there were a cluster of lights about one-third of the way up from the base of the mountain, yellowish white lights.

Several years ago someone was talking about seeing a huge triangular craft being chased by four army helicopters. I actually saw those huge helicopters that day along Highway 522 as I was driving. I assumed they were military. I caught them out of the corner of my eye, flying north and very low up Sunshine Valley. If they were chasing a UFO, I did not see it. A couple days later our grandson told us one of his teachers had seen it and told the whole class about it.

There have been news stories of



lights, both in the daytime and at night, that were aired on network TV in Phoenix, New York City, and other places in the U.S. These came to be known as the Phoenix Lights. Look for them on YouTube and you will see these network news stories and lots of photos. They are round little lights, sometimes in clusters and sometimes by themselves, just hovering in the sky. They were not like stars, but more like round glowing orbs.

I got a call one afternoon from my neighbor who was watching something that seemed to be hovering over our house. I went outside to look and there it was. It was almost like a silver weather balloon, just a metallic glow to

the north. She said she saw a stick or something coming out from the bottom, which I couldn't see. It was there for at least half an hour around 4:30 pm on a clear day. I went inside and came back out and then it was gone.

Even though this is the April Fools' issue, everything I have written actually happened. I have never been that interested in UFOs until recently. I heard that there are more UFO sightings in the San Luis Valley than almost anywhere else in the country. If I was a galactic visitor, I would like to come here, too.

I like to look up at the night sky and it is amazing to me how many stars there are. The number of galaxies out there cannot even be counted, let alone stars. With every star having the potential for planets orbiting around them, it seems pretty far-fetched that the Earth is the only planet capable of supporting life. It seems even more far-fetched that we are the most intelligent life in the universe.

Cerro de la Olla Wilderness Bill

FROM SCOTT WYLAND,
THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN
FEB 4, 2021

U.S. Senator from New Mexico, Martin Heinrich, is re-introducing three conservation bills. Introducing these bills early allows him to take advantage of the favorable political shift, he said. Our local Cerro de la Olla would be designated as a wilderness area within the

Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in Taos County. The other two bills in New Mexico will restrict hard-rock mining in the Pecos watershed, and bar mining on four federal sites in Sandoval County.

Heinrich said the bills had already stood a good chance of being enacted into law even under a GOP-controlled Senate and the Trump administration because of the hearty community sup-

port behind them.

Cerro de la Olla is already part of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Making it a wilderness would prevent road building there. People in this area have hunted, gathered herbs, and collected firewood for generations around Cerro de la Olla, Heinrich said.

The proposed legislation, backed by community members, nonprofit groups and tribes, would preserve the tradi-

tional land uses while protecting critical habitat for elk, bears, and other wildlife, he said.

Ralph Vigil, chairman of the New Mexico Acequia Association stated that the wilderness destination would be good for the people in that area. "If we don't take care of the land that provides us life, there's not going to be anything left for anybody," he said.

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OUT ON THE STREET
with MARTA GLOVER

Introducing the *Questa Del Rio News* regular feature from Marta Glover, our new Ambassador of Gratitude! She is interviewing local people “on the street” to ask them what they are grateful for. This month’s theme is April Fools’ Day.

QUESTION: Have you ever had an April Fools’ joke played on you or that you played on someone that changed your day or changed your life that you are truly grateful for?

Jeanna (from Lama): interviewed at the Questa Family Dollar Store

Jeanna’s son, Forrest (now 32 years old) at the age of 10, taped the sink’s spray handle so that when she turned it on, it sprayed all over her and everywhere! “He could be a mischievous fellow who never meant any harm.” Jeanna is grateful for his humor, still!

Caroline (from El Rito): interviewed at Questa Lumber and Hardware.

“I dated a man born on April Fools’ Day. On that day and continuing on with that relationship, I learned how to create boundaries. I am grateful he influenced me to take care of myself and not play the fool!”

Robert (from Taos): interviewed at a Questa area construction job site

“With my fun-loving mother, Angela, we always shared an April Fools’ joke together every year, and we never knew what that would be. We had a fruit bowl on the table full of apples and oranges. I was about 13 years old and bit into my first plastic orange. I am grateful for those silly times I had with my mother.”

Marta Glover is a resident of Lama and is grateful to be part the Questa Del Rio News.

Andrea Lawrence

Our Gratitude Correspondent, Marta Glover, with one of her horses, Matty.



North Central Food Pantry Volunteers Mostly Vaccinated!

QUESTA NEWS STAFF

Thanks to the office of the Governor, New Mexico’s food pantry volunteers have been deemed providers of essential services. Being on the front line means that the volunteers at Questa’s North Central Food Pantry could get in line early to get vaccinated, especially since many are over 70 years old. Jeannie Masters, president of our local food pantry, has worked overtime to get their volunteers registered for vaccines through Ancianos, the Questa Clinic, and Holy Cross Hospital. This has been no small feat since Jeannie was plagued with a scourge of technical issues in March. She now has a functional computer, internet, and cell phone, so thank you everyone for your patience and tech support! The end result is that almost all the food pantry volunteers are now vaccinated, something to celebrate, so our community members and volunteers can feel a lot better about coming to the Food Pantry.

Over the past year, having enough volunteers became a challenge, especially since the Food Pantry went from “self-serve” to providing curbside service. Over the summer it was nice to have young students carry boxes of grocer-



Gaea McGahee

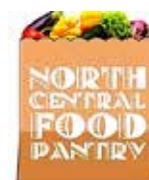
The angel among us who anonymously donated 240 turkeys to the North Central Food Pantry for the holidays last fall topped his/her generosity and purchased 300 Easter hams for the Food Pantry’s March 26 distribution. Loading up food for the next drive-up client is Lawrence Cisneros, left, and Avelina Martinez.

ies to cars—they were appreciated and sorely missed when they could no longer help. Food Pantry supporter David Rolason put together a COVID-19 online training document that volunteers can access. It is available on the Food Pan-

try’s website: ncfpquesta.com.

The Food Pantry staff wants our community to know what a blessing two local churches have been for them, stepping up to fill in the gaps to help with all the work that goes into providing food

every month. Living Word Ministries of Questa stepped up and said, no, when the Food Pantry thought it would have to close its doors. The show must go on! They teamed up and recruited volunteers from Faith Mountain Fellowship in Red River, as well. The work of the North Central Food Pantry continues to be an inspiration and can be considered a ministry of its own.



Distribution days are the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 9 am–noon at 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. For more information call (575) 586-0486. If you need an emergency food box, please call Jeannie Masters (586-0486 or 779-9194) or Nancy Parker (586-2096 or (505) 699-7563). To make a donation on the Food Pantry website go to <https://www.ncfpquesta.com/> or mail your donation to North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com.



HAWAII. NOW? REALLY?
By EMILY WILDE

It all started last year in March of 2020. Mom had planned a two-week Hawaiian extravaganza for herself, celebrating her 80th birthday. Then COVID-19 rolled out and proceeded to become our new reality. She begrudgingly canceled the trip.

In the interim, she decided it would be most enjoyable for the extravaganza to become a mother-daughter trip and surely all this COVID stuff will have concluded by December...so she proceeded to reroute and juggle all the points and credits. She managed to line up all the plans again, this time in December of 2020.

As December loomed closer, we started to realize that the new reality wasn't going away. In fact, on the day we were to head to the airport, the governor of Hawaii decided to reinstate tougher regulations and voilà! we were thwarted once again. Bags in hand, we turned around and mom, being the tenacious woman she is, went back to the drawing board. Now taking this personally, mom rerouted and juggled (again), determined to win against this incredible assault on what she considered good and polite travel etiquette.

March 2021. Take three. This time around we strategically adjusting our plans a bit by staying on one island for the duration, reducing the time to one week instead of two, leaving from Denver International instead of Albuquerque, and arranging to take a \$200 (each) COVID-19 test that insurance does not cover, but was completely guaranteed to be accepted by Hawaii. (that last thing hurt). With all that we were FINALLY in the air and actually heading toward this mythical island in the Pacific! Once landing in Hawaii via Dallas, 12 hours later, we were subjected to a gauntlet of proving; proof of clean tests, proof of filing our information, proof of lodging, proof of itinerary logged onto the Hawaiian government site and proof of who we were. We then were able to move to...wait for it... yet another line to be tested once again before being allowed to finally enter Hawaii.



Photos by E. Wilde

Above: The obligatory boat in the ocean shot.

Right: Little Free Pantry, Hawaii Style.

Hawaii, we have arrived! It was worth everything. I have never been, and it was not disappointing. We rented a car and did a self-guided tour via an app that took us around the entire island and it was a super way to see so much of it in just five days. We ate great food, got good photos, and saw a ton of the island.

Despite knowing there were a lot of Japanese there, I was pleasantly surprised and so happy to be exposed to so many Japanese and half-Japanese people like me. I had a weird and pleasant sense of belonging at times, and I thought that was super funny. I didn't grow up around many Japanese people, three to be exact, so this was a new feeling entirely.

Mom and I had a great time, and believe it or not, she has already planned another visit in March of 2022! (sigh) We will see how that pans out, I guess, but I am not complaining. So with that said, until next time! I have posted many photos and videos of our trip in case you have a hankering for the tropics right now. <https://emilywilde.wixsite.com/ew-ildphotos/hawaii-march2021>



Above: The endangered Green Sea turtle is protected by many laws which is good because they come onto the beach to sleep at night all over the place.



Right: Questa Del Rio News stowed away and goes to the big island!



2021 STATE OF THE VILLAGE UPDATE
By LYNN SKALL

The past year of COVID-19 challenges has also had its benefits for Questa. Mayor Mark Gallegos began his State of the Village Update, on March 1 via Zoom, by expressing how proud he is of the community for coming together during the pandemic and staying strong. He went on to share the successful projects and accomplishments the Village of Questa has completed over the past year that continue to strengthen the community.

Following the Governor's mandates during COVID-19—staying home and staying local—Questa businesses maintained steady traffic. The Village realized benefits in gross receipt taxes, boasted the Mayor, adding “that’s what shopping local does!” Local tax revenue enables more funds to be used for community projects.

Questa has been fortunate to have received over \$9 million in federal, state, and private funding for community projects over the past two or three years. “There’s a lot of support to ensure our small community does not die like other former mining communities have. Our governing body has worked hard [with] staff, one another, senators, and representatives to provide better services to our community. It’s not just the current council, but previous mayors and council members who are also seeing the positive impact their work is now having on the community,” reported the Mayor, as he began to describe accomplishments over the last year and what’s still in the works.

The Business Park: The Questa Business Park is 80 percent complete, with only a few details to finalize and paving work to be done; then the Park will be open for business, ready to welcome new tenants. This project was a \$2.6 million undertaking in partnership with the Federal Economic Development Administration (\$1.2 million), Chevron Mining Company (\$500,000), the State of New Mexico Community Development Block Grant: CDBG, (\$500,000), and Senator Bobby Gonzales and former State Senator Carlos Cisneros helping the village recover \$400,000. “We’re proud that local con-

tractors were involved in the Business Park,” said Gallegos.

Potential tenants interested in the Business Park include a couple who want to open a small engine repair shop to work on ATVs, motorcycles, and side-by-sides (she grew up in Questa and wants to return home). Another food industry processing operation is looking to relocate from Colorado (the owners have already taken up permanent residence in this area). The Village is in conversations with a meat processor, who is also interested in opening a retail storefront. “We’re excited to see who our next tenant will be, and we hope all three will get established this year,” said Gallegos.

In addition to economic development, job opportunities and job creation, the Village of Questa focused on providing improved infrastructure and quality services to its citizens.

Cabresto Water Main: Another CDB Grant of \$750,000 was received to replace part of the 50-year-old water lines located from the Sanchez residence south to North Kiowa. Local contractor, Romero Excavating, has been awarded the project, which began in late March and will take in late March and take two or three months to complete.

Cabresto Road Paving: At the same time the water main is being replaced, Cabresto Road will be newly paved. Questa was awarded \$1 million for this project from the New Mexico Department of Transportation with special funding to help connect local roads to state highways—in this case, Highway 38. The lower section of Cabresto Road is “shovel-ready,” with the engineering and design complete, ready for the next phase of improvements when more funding becomes available.

Sewer Line Improvements: Funding received from National Resource Trustees will connect some residents to the city sewer, with a \$1.5 million price tag.

New Well: To prevent a repeat of the major water crisis in 2016, a new well is being drilled deeper into a higher quality aquifer, which will “provide better water service for generations,” said Gallegos.

Library Extension: After many years and multiple mayors sharing the same vision, the Questa Public Library is getting a new wing. The expansion received \$550,000 in legislative funding and will feature an archive room with historic photos, a small meetings area, and separate adult and children

sections. Target completion date is in April, and “everyone is invited to the ribbon cutting and to tour the new library,” said the Mayor.

Fishing, Recreation, and Wildlife: The environment is our most cherished resource and Questa is responsible for preserving these natural areas; the Red River and Eagle Rock Lake are the main attractions, with people coming to fish from throughout New Mexico and the neighboring states.

Red River Restoration: Questa has received \$1.3 million through National Resource Trustee funding dedicated to further restoration along the Red River. The work is primarily to ensure aquatic quality and protection of native habitats. Work will begin this year; residents along the river will start to see surveyors and engineers in the area.

Questa has many opportunities in the works, with plans to provide a better place for seniors to gather and engage in activities with one another. Another plan is to establish a good daycare center for early childhood development. The Mayor would like to secure funding for Emergency Medical Service and Fire Department volunteers, “They risk their lives on our behalf: they should be compensated in some way or get a stipend to do this. We don’t want to need these services and not have them be available,” Mayor Gallegos shared. He spoke with Congresswoman Teresa Fernandez in Washington, D.C. to bring attention to this need and asked for her help to come up with a solution for these services. If additional COVID-19 relief funding is made available to the municipalities, this initiative will be at the top of the list.

“These are all the things we have strived to work on for the citizens of our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me or the staff and we’ll do our best to explain any actions we have taken and get your request presented to the governing body.” Mayor Gallegos closed by saying, “We will continue to be a vibrant, strong, successful community.”

Join the Village of Questa for the State of the Village April Edition, Q & A Session entitled Hot Topics, on April 5 from 6 - 7 pm. See the Village Voice, for more information.

Mark Gallegos has represented the community as Mayor for the past seven years; he will run again in 2022 and hopes to continue in his role as mayor. To contact Mayor Gallegos, call the Village Offices at (575) 586-0694 or email him at mgallegos@villageofquesta.org.



VILLAGE VIRTUAL MEETING
"HOT TOPICS"
APRIL 5 AT 6 pm

Mayor Gallegos will host his second State of the Village Virtual Meeting, called Hot Topics, on Monday, April 5, from 6-7 pm. This will be a Q & A session and a great time for community members to ask any questions they have. To pose a question in advance, feel free to call the Village Office at (575) 586-0694 or email dcoleman@villageofquesta.org. See below for meeting information. This will also be available on our Village of Questa Facebook page and Website: <https://questa-nm.com/>.

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**Community Clean-up
Day in Questa
Saturday, May 1:
8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Roll-off dumpsters will be available at the Village for use by community members, free of charge. Times are tentative, look for flyers around town this month. For more information contact the Village at (575) 586-0694



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APRIL MOVIE REVIEW

FOR SAMA

Halfway through an already visceral documentary, we witness a stillborn birth. The small bluish baby is not moving or breathing. The doctor works feverishly, rubbing the baby's back, slapping its tiny butt, and probing its mouth. His frantic efforts go on for what seems a heartbreaking eternity until suddenly, the baby jerks its hands and feet, his lungs fill, and he lets out a loud cry.

The sustained efforts to bring life to that baby serve as an appropriate metaphor for the entire movie. *For Sama* is about the attempts to bring back life to the death throes of Syria's brutal civil war. The film is the product of more than five years of journalism in Aleppo by a young 21-year-old woman, Waad Al-Kateab. She recorded more than 500 hours of her life in the Syrian city that was President Assad's most severe target of oppression as he bombed the hell out of his own citizens, with the assistance of Russian warplanes.

The honesty and humanity of her efforts have produced what I think is probably the best of many documentaries on the brutality of the Syrian war. *Last Men in Aleppo*, *Fathers and Sons*, and even this year's *The Cave*, have all told slightly different stories focusing on the futile resistance to Assad's disgusting treatment of the people in his country, those whom he should protect and serve. But *For Sama* stands above the rest in its powerful treatment of both the inhumanity of the situation and the remarkable resilience of the people struggling to survive. Waad, in just a few frames, is able to move the viewer from deep feelings of horror at what is happening, to emotions of sympathy and understanding at residents' remarkable persistence and humanity to one another.

The film has an impact well beyond the reach of most documentaries. Part of that comes from her youth and unwavering commitment to showing the brutal

truth. Unlike many documentaries, this one is deservedly rated MA (Mature Audiences)—it does not sugarcoat the situation, nor does it hide anything from the viewer. When we hear Waad's voice commenting on what is being filmed, it is never to pass judgment: it only documents her own feelings. It is far from a "talking heads" style of documentary.

The film ranks third (out of the 38 Oscar-nominated movies) in the Internet Movie Database (IMDB) audience rating and comes in fifth in the critic MetaScore. It scored well above *American Factory*, the documentary category Oscar winner. My guess is that *For Sama* didn't win the Oscar simply because Academy voters found it too brutally honest.

We watch Sama's first years in this movie and can't help but be moved at how casual her adaptation is to the constant shelling. We see her rushed from one room in the hospital to the basement as bombs fall nearby. And we see her having a modest birthday party. The film is a journal from Waad to her own daughter to explain why her parents made the decisions they did—to have her in the first place, to stay in Aleppo up until the last moment, and then, when it looked like their very lives depend on it, to leave. As Waad says at one point: "Sama. You're the most beautiful thing in our life. But what a life I've brought you into. You didn't choose this. Will you ever forgive me?"

I've written before that one of the difficulties in evaluating documentaries is the difficulty separating the feelings for the subject of the film, and your evaluation of the filmmaker's craft itself. Sometimes you can find one of them attractive, but not the other. There is no such problem in this movie: the filmmaking is so personal and yet so poignantly honest, that the two begin to merge. I think you will have no problem being overwhelmed by the entire package.

A question that viewers will have is: why would anyone want to bring a child into such a world? The beauty of this exceptional film is that it answers that question so affirmatively. They are fighting, at least until the end, for her. And that explains just about anything humans do, both for their children and the next life. *For Sama*. An exceptional film. (5 Stars)



Community School Announces Open Enrollment and Charter Award



By JON ORRIS, DIRECTOR

Roots and Wings Community School (RWCS) in Lama, a state-authorized public charter school, was awarded the Elementary Charter School of the Year Award on January 14, 2021, by the Public Charter Schools of New Mexico (PCSNM) in a virtual ceremony. The ceremony was broadcast live on Facebook and is still available to watch on PCSNM's Facebook page.

RWCS has been approved by the Public Education Commission (PEC) to have their charter renewed, starting a new 5-year term on July 1, 2021. RWCS was approved to increase its enrollment cap from 50 to 60 Kindergarten through 8th grade students. For several years RWCS has had a long waitlist and now more students who want to enroll in the school will get in. The open enrollment period is now open with these ten additional slots available. Space is available in ALL grades.

RWCS will be returning to full in-person learning as required by the NMPED with a target date of April 12. The school is upgrading its ventilation system and making other improvements to the school and its policies



Courtesy Photo

Roots & Wings student attending class from home during COVID-19.

and procedures to comply with the required state COVID-safe practices. Families will still have the option of remaining remote for the rest of the year.

Roots and Wings Community School is an expeditionary-inspired learning school serving a diverse group of students from the greater Taos community in northern New Mexico. Set in a farm and mountain environment, Roots and Wings uses the natural surroundings, active academic approach, and personalized atmosphere to make learning an adventure. The results are students who are engaged, self-reflective, and active citizens, pursuing academic excellence, an attitude of service, and the compassionate behaviors that cultivate a connection to the unique agricultural, cultural, and linguistic heritage of northern New Mexico. To learn more about the school, see a video about our program, or to apply, please go to our website at www.root-sandwingscommunityschool.org or call the school office at (575) 586-2076.

In-Person Learning, Fingers Crossed!

By KIMBERLY RITTERHOUSE

Red River Valley Charter School has been providing learning in a 100% virtual setting since November 2020. We are currently in the planning process to welcome back students on April 5, the date announced by New Mexico Public

Education Secretary Ryan Stewart.

We are excited to have our students back on campus and are looking forward to closing out our school year in person. For more information about Red River Valley Charter School please call (575) 754-6117 ext. 130.

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Community Clean-up Day in Questa

Saturday, May 1



Roll-off dumpsters will be available at the Village for use
by community members, free of charge.

Times are tentative, look for flyers around town this month.

For more information contact the Village at (575) 586-0694

Cerro Vista Farm

Vegetable and Flower Seedlings
Grown in Cerro



Tomatoes, Basil, Peppers, Zucchini
Cucumbers, Marigolds, Zinnias, Herbs

Plants for Sale

May 19, May 26

June 2, June 9, June 16

198 Lower Buena Vista Road, Cerro

Wednesdays - 3 pm to 6 pm

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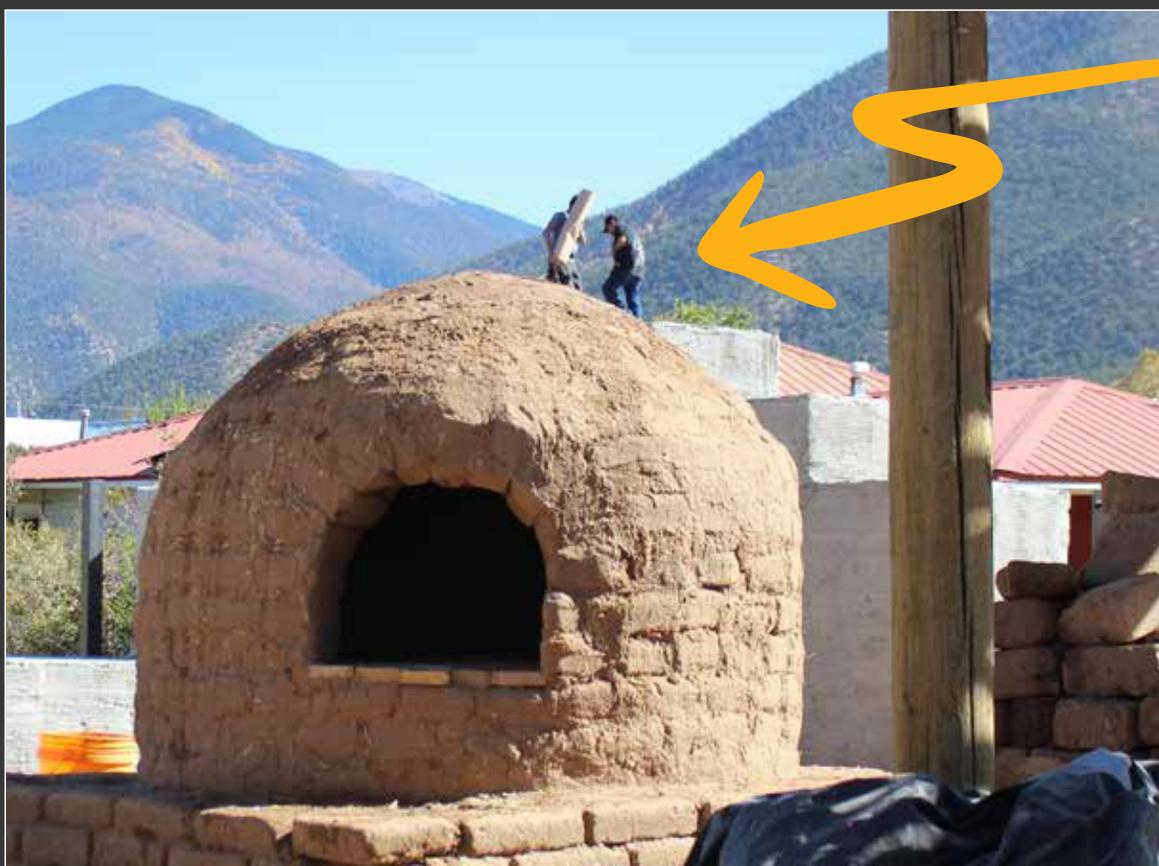
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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

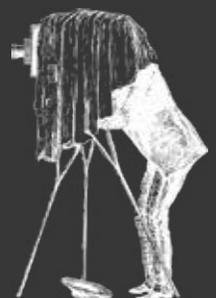


by F. Otto

New in town, helper elves. They come with credentials, references, and a great attitude.



Think you can take a good photo? Share it.



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



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QBEN MEETING cont'd from page 6

“The bill could have been expanded for restaurants to sell spirits without home delivery included,” stated Gonzales. Janie Corinne, a board member of Vida Del Norte Coalition whose mission is to prevent substance misuse in northern Taos County youth, added, “[NM has] the highest alcohol-related fatality rate in the country; it’s a very serious issue.” She asked that Ortez “shed some light” on this issue, which appears to have “put the needs of the industry above the needs of the people needing support. We would like to understand more about the benefits of the bill.” Ortez agreed, “We need to address how this will impact rural communities and what the remedies are.”

In appropriations, \$200 million was requested for Taos County; Ortez was able to secure \$1.3 million and Senator Gonzales obtained \$2 million for Taos

County public schools, the airport, the purchase of emergency vehicles and ambulances; Questa’s Cabresto Road improvement project was approved, and funds are earmarked for the Red River Charter School.

When asked about her experience as a first-year legislator, Ortez admitted that it was difficult not working with her fellow lawmakers in person, since much of what they do is relationship-based. “I’m a freshman here, no staff, unpaid—it’s very challenging, I don’t have anyone to help me to do [the outreach I’d like to see on each bill].” Fortunately, Ortez is supported by a group of seven other freshman legislators, and she has a mentor who has helped her through this first year.

She described her days as starting at 8 am and lasting until after 11 pm for the past five weeks. “We don’t know what bills are going to be heard on a day-to-day basis: we literally get a notice two hours before the floor debate

starts, so it’s a rush to read the analysis and figure out questions to ask.”

The day of the QBEN meeting was the first day that Ortez had sat in person on the House floor; all her previous legislative work has been done via Zoom. “The speaker saw me and invited me up to be the speaker on the floor, and I led us for three hours through the order of business for all of the bills. Today was very intimidating for me, but it was a very good learning experience.”

Rick Bellis, Taos County Manager, wrote in the Zoom comment section, “We need a paid legislature with paid staff to assist you so that we are all effective as a state with the short sessions we have.” A few bills this year have set the stage for that discussion, in addition to extending the legislative session to make it longer. Ortez said, “I think part of the reason [NM is] at the bottom of every poll is because we’re making decisions very quickly in a volatile

market; we need more thought, more outreach to community members.”

Lisa O’Brien, director of the Taos Community Foundation, was one of many who thanked Kristina for her work and for serving our community. She went on to say, “I can imagine it has to be really difficult to represent a community and a district and look at the health of the state; I applaud you for balancing this at the legislature for a very large body of people with so many diverse needs.”

Ortez was confident and spoke with enthusiasm. It was apparent that she is fully engaged and proud to be serving District 42. She closed by saying, “Ultimately, everyone on that floor cares about New Mexico—all want to make our state better.”

State Representative Kristina Ortez posted her cellphone number and encourages her constituents to send her text messages with questions, concerns, and comments: (575) 770-7792.

VACCINATION cont'd from page 3

- Questa Independent School District
- Albertsons Pharmacy provided the vaccines and monitored the event
- Kit Carson Electric
- El Monte Carlo Lounge in Questa and Chalupp’s Pizza in Taos provided food for event staff

Those who have received a first dose are reminded of the importance of getting their booster shot for maximum protection against COVID-19. Until a critical mass of the population is fully vaccinated, COVID-19 will continue to endanger the public. Even when fully vaccinated, it is vital to continue all efforts to prevent community spread,

especially with the emergence of variant strains of the virus. Avoid unnecessary outings and gatherings, especially indoors. Wear face masks, and practice minimum 6-foot social distancing. Call the New Mexico Department of Health Coronavirus Hotline at 1-855-600-3453 if you may have been exposed to the virus and require testing.

This Questa vaccination event was a huge success, thanks to the coordination of Chief Cordova and his team and the extraordinary cooperation of so many—citizens and staff alike. Let’s build upon this success by continuing to work together in the same spirit to help one another get through this pandemic.

WATER cont'd from page 13

fishing rod, causing it to surge away, its tail pushing waves from bank to bank.

Go ahead, laugh. While you’re at it, remember *Truchacabra*, the monster Rio Grande gorge trout that has amassed a terrifying body count through a career of many decades (that’s right, a really old trout that kills people!).

Then search your memory banks for a night three years ago. You should remember a news account of a rainbow-colored streak scorching the winter sky northwest of Questa, a UFO crashing behind San Antonio Mountain, a blaze of turquoise light. Might this craft have been occupied? By what, or whom? No one knows, as the vessel was never recovered. What we do know, according to the guest book in the Trujillo Meadows yurt, is that eerie mischief has not abated ever since.

After slogging back to the car through a couple feet of new snow, we found it half covered by the snowplows. As rotten luck would have it, a snowplow drove up at the exact moment when it could no longer be of help, since we had already dug ourselves out. So, I had difficulty suppressing a scowl or a finger, because not only had he buried us in the first place, I saw him wink at me as he passed by. Kind of like he was trolling me.

Toner Mitchell has been called worse than “Stoner.” He said it didn’t help that his sister put that in cheers during basketball games. “Toner, Toner, he’s no stoner. If he had a liver he’d be a donor.” Toner is the New Mexico Water and Habitat Coordinator for Trout Unlimited. He has worked with Questa for several years on fisheries and natural resource issues as a member of the Village Economic Development Leadership Team. He is a regular contributor to  *Questa del Rio News.*



Jennifer Schlesinger

Bad snowplow!

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ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
APRIL 2021

BLESSINGS AND CHALLENGES

“The seven hills before the mountain you climb.” —Dr. Douglas Baker

Triangles contain the most important energy of the Universe. The Universe was created when the Word (Note, Number, Song) sounded out the first three rays—Truth, Beauty, Goodness—of the seven rays, which then dispersed down into the 12 signs of the zodiac and into the chakras of man. Every religion has a trinity—Father, Son, Holy Spirit—Vishnu, Brahma, Shiva—Osiris, Horus, Isis, etc. In astrology, a 120-degree relationship between two planets forms the beginning of a triangle, called a trine. This is considered a beneficial relationship, one which often gets overlooked as we tend not to notice our blessings as often as we notice our challenges. When three planets form trines with each other, creating a Grand Trine, it's considered the greatest blessing possible.

But the Soul loves a challenge. Challenges offer us opportunities for growth which is less likely with a trine. Thus, we say that a trine works best with a challenge. Therefore, this month offers a great opportunity. Not only do we have an ongoing challenge between Uranus and Saturn, but we also have a Grand Trine for most of the month. That challenge is about the upheaval of the status quo, particularly in government and social systems. The Trine offers an opportunity for intellectual communication and the desire to interact and understand our fellow human beings. That challenge can be stubborn and fixed in its approach, but the Trine can lighten the mood. By the end of the month the trine shifts into a more “feeling” mode, bringing back the opportunity to connect on an emotional level. . . or not. Knowing this energy flow exists, however, gives us the opportunity to tap into it at the highest possible levels.

Everyone: First of three Super Moons for the year on April 27.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: You're in your element the first half of the month.
Direction: Hold that thought.
Soul Thought: “A mind that is stretched by a new idea can never go back to its original dimensions.” —Oliver Wendell Holmes

Taurus ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♀ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: The second half of the month feels better but you may also feel pushed.
Direction: Digging in your heels just plows up the dirt.
Soul Thought: When stepping aside is better. . . like the bullfighters do?

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: Do you think you're tackling one big dog after the other?
Direction: Tackle them with charm.
Soul Thought: Words can be weapons, but they can also win the war.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: This challenge with your energy could make life more interesting.
Direction: Look for clarity by month's end.
Soul Thought: “I will leave the light on...” —song by Sawyer Brown

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: The energy of starting over is still fresh.
Direction: Get clear on why.
Soul Thought: What can the Lion and the Ram do when they work together?

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: Sometimes it's hard to remember that we're all in this together.
Direction: Know it.
Soul Thought: The World is a reflection of me.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: While you are in a potentially tough position, it's clearly working off karma.
Direction: And building up your good karma bank account.
Soul Thought: The Soul loves a challenge!

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: NOW communication lightens up.
Direction: As long as emotions don't infect your words.
Soul Thought: “Poetry is language against which you have no defense.” —David Whyte

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ☉ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: You are part of this Grand Trine.
Direction: Discern your blessings.
Soul Thought: What is Truth, Beauty, and Goodness?

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: No question you are getting through a very tough job.
Direction: Make sure it is on behalf of all of humanity.
Soul Thought: “Small and invisible as this contribution may be, it is yet an opus magnum.” —Carl Jung

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: Your point of the trine cuts through all the challenges.
Direction: Express your joy!
Soul Thought: The world needs it.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: You may be struggling with what is right or wrong.
Direction: Feeling torn or confused helps one find the deeper answers.
Soul Thought: Who invented right and wrong?

To discover your Rising Sign, or for more information, contact Charlene R. Johnson, www.SkyDanceAstrology.com, or email: 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 2021

APRIL 1 6 pm

Free Passion to Profits Workshop featuring a presentation of the complimentary E-commerce Tool Kit developed by the LOR Foundation and Main Street Taos. Join the workshop via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82723797091?pwd=M0s5bHNacUJnNkpPZ2VkdTdqdnRtdz09> Or call-in at (346) 248-7799. Meeting ID: 827 2379 7091 Passcode: 846370

APRIL 3 2 pm

Taos County Historical Society- Zoom Lecture “Reflections on Three Trails” Dr. by Rick Hendricks. Contact Paul Figueroa, paulfigueroa@gmail.com for login. See page 22 for more info.

APRIL 4 11 am

Special Easter Service, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt at Harvest Questa. 2558 Hwy 522, (575) 770-5906

APRIL 5 6-7 pm

State of the Village April Edition, Q & A Session. Title: Hot Topics. See Zoom details on page 30 or contact the Village at (575) 586-0694 or dcoleman@villageofquesta.org for more information.

APRIL 6 6 pm

Questa Independent School District Board Meeting online via Zoom; call the Administrative Office for the Zoom link and access code to participate, (575) 586-0421.

APRIL 8 6 pm

Thursday Night Jam Session at Rael's Market & Coffee House; bring your instrument to jam or just bring yourself and enjoy. Free! 2430 NM-Hwy 522 in Questa (575) 779-9249

APRIL 9 9 am – noon

Food distribution for everyone at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486.

APRIL 10 4:30 pm

Yoga Sala book group by Zoom, sign up here: <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/events-workshops/>

APRIL 11 11 am

Teen Challenge at Harvest Questa, 2558 Hwy 522, (575) 770-5906

APRIL 13 6 pm

Village of Questa Town Council Meeting online via Zoom; call the Village Office for the Zoom link and access code to “attend” the meeting, (575) 586-0694.

APRIL 14 6 pm

Monthly Questa Business Entrepreneurial Meeting via Zoom, QUESTA BEAUTIFICATION & SPRING CLEAN UP DAYS, free, everyone is welcome. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87849364259?pwd=Mms0TjBBR1dJR2FyUWlCem44RVVZQT09>

Call in by phone: (346) 248-7799 Meeting ID: 878 4936 4259 Passcode: 282982

APRIL 15 6 pm

Thursday Night Jam Session at Rael's Market & Coffee House; bring your instrument to jam or just bring yourself and enjoy. Free! 2430 NM-Hwy 522 in Questa (575) 779-9249

APRIL 16 & 17

Abundant Living Women's Conference. Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Road, Questa. (575) 741-0805

APRIL 17 10:30 – 11:30 am

In-person Qigong special class with Martha Morgan at Yoga Sala Questa <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/classes-2/>, (575) 224-2102.

APRIL 18 2 pm

Questa Junior Senior High School, National Honor Society Virtual Induction Ceremony. Visit the school website closer to the event for zoom login info. <https://qisd-nm.schoolloop.com/> See page 18 for more information.

APRIL 19 3:30 pm

Questa Public Library Book Club meets via Zoom. The book for April is anything non-fiction. Call the library at (575) 586-2023 for the invitation to the meeting.

APRIL 22 6 pm

Thursday Night Jam Session at Rael's Market & Coffee House; bring your instrument to jam or just bring yourself and enjoy. Free! 2430 NM-Hwy 522 in Questa (575) 779-9249

APRIL 26 6 pm

Vida Del Norte Monthly Coalition Meetings are the last Monday of every month. Zoom link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8578620293> or the Meeting ID: 857 862 0293. Contact Maria Gonzalez for more information 779-2260.

APRIL 20 6 pm

Questa Independent School District Board Meeting online via Zoom; call the Administrative Office for the Zoom link and access for the meeting, (575) 586-0421.

APRIL 23 9 am – noon

Food distribution for everyone at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486.

APRIL 23 10 am – 3 pm

EARTH DAY/WORK DAY at Questa Municipal Park, 7-1/2 Questa Municipal Park Road. See page 17 for more details or contact Clair Coté: emailforleap@gmail.com (575) 224-9066.

APRIL 24 10 am – 1 pm

Writing Workshop with Nick Jaina. Register at <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/events-workshops/writing-with-nick-jaina/>, (575) 224-2102.

APRIL 24

Yoga Sala book group, 4:30 pm by Zoom, sign up here: <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/events-workshops/>, (575) 224-2102.

APRIL 27 6 pm

Village of Questa Town Council Meeting online via Zoom; call the Village Office for the Zoom link and access code to “attend” the meeting, (575) 586-0694.

APRIL 27 5:30 – 7 pm

Restorative Yoga with special guests providing live music at Yoga Sala. Register at <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/classes-2/>, (575) 224-2102.

APRIL 29 5:30 pm

Restorative Yoga with special guests providing live music at Yoga Sala. Register at <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/classes-2/>, (575) 224-2102.

APRIL 29 6 pm

Thursday Night Jam Session at Rael's Market & Coffee House; bring your instrument to jam or just bring yourself and enjoy. Free! 2430 NM-Hwy 522 in Questa (575) 779-9249

MAY 1 8 am – 4 pm

Community Clean-up day in Questa. Roll-off dumpsters will be available at the Village for use by community members, free of charge. Times are tentative, look for flyers around town this month. For more information contact the Village at (575) 586-0694

MAY 9

Mother's Day Free Photography at Harvest Questa, 2558 Hwy 522, (575) 770-5906

SPECIAL DAYS IN APRIL:

- APRIL 1** Holy Thursday, April Fools Day
- APRIL 2** Good Friday, World Autism Awareness Day, Children's Book Day
- APRIL 3** Love Our Children Day
- APRIL 4** Easter
- APRIL 7** World Health Day, National Walking Day, No Housework Day, National Bookmobile Day
- APRIL 8** Empanada Day
- APRIL 9** National Day of Silence!
- APRIL 9** National Day of Silence
- APRIL 12** Ramadan begins
- APRIL 15** Tax Day, World Art Day, Get to Know Your Customers Day
- APRIL 22** Earth Day
- APRIL 23** Talk Like Shakespeare Day

APRIL IS:

National Awareness Month for: Alcohol, Child Abuse, Cannabis Fair Housing Month, Military Child Month, Guitar Month, Garden Month, Parkinson's Awareness Month, Volunteer Month, and Poetry Month

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EVENTS OR CALENDAR LISTINGS! NEWS@QUESTAEDF.COM

HELP WANTED

Questa Del Rio News seeks part-time Social Media/Website coordinator, approximately 10 to 20 hours per month, work from home. Salary based on experience. Contact Lynn@questaedf.com or (575) 586-2149.

Vida Del Norte Coalition is excited to collaborate with the Questa Schools to bring the Botvin LifeSkills Curriculum to students. Vida Del Norte is currently seeking an intern to receive the LifeSkills training and funding to eventually turn this into a full-time position so that we can reach more students with this prevention program. For information contact Vida Del Norte Director Maria Gonzalez at maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com or call (575) 779-2260.

WELDING INSTRUCTOR NEEDED to teach a hands-on dual-credit class at the new Questa High School Welding Lab, a partnership with UNM-Taos. Classes are slated to begin when Covid restrictions permit in-person learning. The class will be held on Fridays for 3-4 hours with a maximum of 10 students. Welding certification preferred, past welding experience may qualify in place of certification. For more information, and to apply, contact Lynn Skall, Questa Economic Development Fund, 575-586-2149.

NOTICES

Community Clean-up Day in Questa. May 1st. Roll-off dumpsters will be available at the Village for use by community members, free of charge. Times are tentative 8 am – 4 pm, look for flyers around town in April. For more information contact the Village of Questa at (575) 586-0694.

QEDF Street Clean-Up in Questa! Please plan to join us and the Village of Questa on Saturday, May 1, and join our clean up committee, more great fun coming up! For more information, call Larry Sanchez at (575) 779-0995

Roots and Wings Community School (RWCS) in Lama was awarded the Elementary Charter School of the Year! The school has a long waitlist and is increasing its enrollment from 50 to 60 Kindergarten through 8th grade students. The open enrollment period is now open for ALL grades. To learn more, see a video about our program, or to apply, please visit www.rootsandwingscommunityschool.org or call (575) 586-2076.

It's April – and time for Poetry! I'm once again curating Poetry Month events for SOMOS this April in honor of National Poetry Month. All readings are free to attend and take place via Zoom. More detailed information on the readers (along with Zoom links) is available on the Calendar section of the SOMOS website, somostaos.org. Please join in to support these wonderful poets from Taos and beyond! Wishing you all the best, Ariana

Did you know you can receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Colorado if you are a resident of Taos County? Valley-Wide Counseling and Support Center in Alamosa, CO is now accepting appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations for anyone over 65 years of age, health care workers, first responders, and educators. Please call (833) 350-1113 to get started. <https://vwhs.org/> For vaccine appointments, call (719) 587-9610

North Central New Mexico Food Pantry: Distribution days are the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 9 am – noon. 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. For more information call (575) 586-0486. If you need an emergency food box please call: Jeannie Masters (586-0486 or 779-9194) or Nancy Parker (586-2096 or 505-699-7563). To make a donation on the Food Pantry website go to <https://www.ncfpquesta.com/> or mail donation to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com

Questa One-on-One Business Counseling Drop-in Hour by the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos with Anwar Kaelin. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL No appointment needed. Third Thursday of every month, from 2 – 4 pm. Business owners, independent contractors, or entrepreneurs in Questa can drop in for one-on-one business consulting and training. Planning, accessing capital, marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, international trade, and more. <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219> Join by phone: +1 346 248 7799, Meeting ID: 575 737 6219. For specific appointments call (575) 737-6219.

LOVE NOTES FROM LISA "Your mind is a garden. Your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds!" —Osho

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a writer, photographer, social media whiz, fundraiser, or grant writer? We are always looking for contributors to the Questa Del Rio News! Wanna help? Contact us at news@questaedf.com or check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/QuestaNews/>

FOR SALE

24-inch HP printer for sale - Designjet 510 printer series. Prints large-format technical documents, with high quality output for CAD drawings. Must sell, price negotiable. Email lynn@questaedf.com.

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Many NCRTD Routes Now Operating on Regular Route Schedules

FROM JIM NAGLE

Many North Central Regional Transit District Blue Bus routes have begun to operate on their regular route schedules. Seating remains limited to provide social distance and adhere to the limiting of persons to groups of five or less. Please visit the routes section at RidetheBlueBus.com for the latest information on all routes.

Face coverings are required to ride the Blue Bus and must remain on for the duration of one's trip. The NCRTD continues to take aggressive measures to clean and disinfect passenger vehicles daily. The District's top priority is to continue service to the public, and to keep them and our employees healthy and safe. We ask that anyone experiencing flu symptoms refrain from boarding our vehicles.

For more information, please visit www.RidetheBlueBus.com or call (505) 629-4725 ext. 2, or toll-free (866) 206-0754 ext. 2.



JELLY BEANS FOR SALE: THE SIZE OF A SMALL BULLDOG— THE BLACK LICORICE ONES ARE THE BEST. \$30/LB. 



Public Health Order announced on August 27, 2020:
Houses of worship may operate at 40% capacity indoors.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH

Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470
Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 7 am in Spanish,
11 am in English

MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:

Costilla - Sagrado Corazon - Sunday 9 am
Cerro - Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe - 2nd & 4th
Saturdays 4 pm
Amalia - Santo Niño - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

HARVEST QUESTA

Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales
2558 Hwy 522
Sunday 11 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesday Women's Bible Study on Zoom 6 - 7 pm
Check newspaper calendar for evening prayer dates
Message us for Zoom links
Phone (575) 770-1714
Visit us online: HarvestQuesta.org

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez
12 Llano Road
Service: Sunday 10:30 am
Nursery and Kids' Church at 10:30 am
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm
www.lwmsite.org
(575) 586-1587

PATH OF LOVE

Sunday 7:30 am class and meditation
Introductory Meditation Class Sunday 3 pm
(575) 586-1454, Hilece

THEOSOPHY

Sunday 10am Alice Bailey Theosophy Study Group
(575) 586-4641, Francis

QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 miles north of Questa on State Road 522
Sunday Bible Class Sunday 9:30 am
followed by worship at 10:15 am

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

Tibetan Buddhism
Tuesday 11 am - Green Tara
Thursday 3 pm - Chenrezig
gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com
www.earthjourney.org
(575) 586-1454

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

(575) 586-1947

AMALIA

SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH

1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

RED RIVER

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Corner of River Street and Copper King Trail
Sunday 10:30 am
First Baptist Church of Red River
103 High Cost Trail
Sundays 8:15 am and 10:30 am
Pastor Joe Phillips (575) 754-2882

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

North end of Silver Bell Trail
Saturday 6 pm (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470



Next QBEN Meeting
Wed, April 14
6:00 pm

The Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network monthly meetings are free to attend and all Questa area businesses are welcome and encouraged to participate. The purpose of QBEN is to act as a central hub of information, a place to share business ideas and resources, and to have a voice in helping to direct Questa's future.

JOIN US ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH VIA ZOOM

Here is the link to join the meeting by video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87849364259?pwd=Mms0TjBBR1dJR2FyUVlCem44RVVZQT09>



Call-in only: (346) 248-7799

Meeting ID: 878 4936 4259 Passcode: 282982

For more information about QBEN, contact Cynthia Rael-Vigil, owner of Rael's Market and Coffeeshop in Questa's Town Center on Hwy 522: cynthiaraelvigil@yahoo.com call (575) 779-9249, or just stop by the Market and say hello (with mask in place).

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Questa Del Rio News



Have a voice in your town's future

Attend public meetings via ZOOM!
These meetings are open, and public comments are welcome with a limit of 3 minutes. Check the websites for agenda topics and past minutes. Call your Town Hall for accurate dates and times. (which are fluctuating currently)

VILLAGE OF QUESTA

<http://questa-nm.com/>

Questa Village Council meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 6 pm at Town Hall

Mark Gallegos,
Mayor

mgallegos@villageofquesta.org

Renee Martinez,
Town Clerk/Administrator
rmartinez@villageofquesta.org

Village of Questa Town Hall
575-586-0694
2500 Old State Rd. 3
Questa, NM 87556

RED RIVER

<https://reddriver.org/>

Town Council meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm at the Conference Center

Linda Calhoun,
Mayor

mayor@reddriver.org

Georgiana Rael,
Town Administrator
grael@reddriver.org

Red River Town Hall
575-754-2277
100 E Main Street
Red River, NM 87558
P.O. Box 1020



AA MEETINGS

Alcoholics Anonymous
Online Zoom Meetings:
https://aa-intergroup.org/directory_audio-video.php

For Information on local meetings call Mose at 575-224-4326

AA WORDS OF WIZDUM
April Fools' 2021

If you have a drinking problem, stop drinking.

ZEN WIZDUMB

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575.224.2102

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Register: YogaSalaQuesta.org



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Questa Dental Center
 2451 Highway 522
 575-586-0259

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stichsjones@gmail.com

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<https://daglebeez.com/shop> daglebeez@gmail.com

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 Fax: (575) 586-1916

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