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Questa Del Rio News

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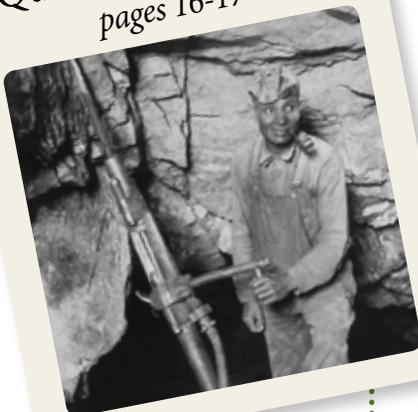
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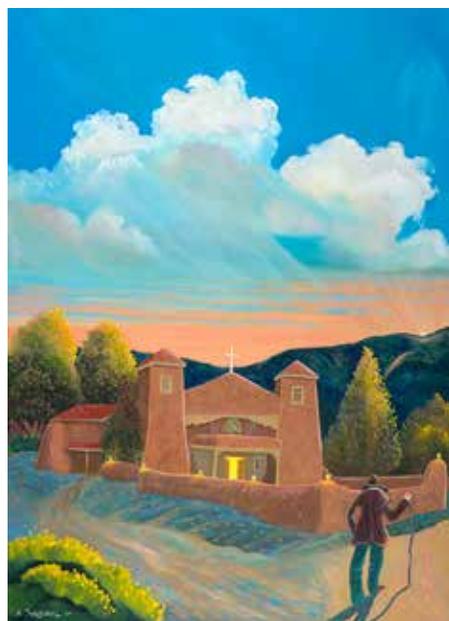
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A Fundraiser For Questa's St. Anthony's Church



Art by Ed Sandoval

Local artist Ed Sandoval captured the beauty of Questa's St. Anthony Church in his original painting, above. He generously donated rights to the parish to reproduce the image as an ongoing fundraiser to help with upkeep of the church.

By LOUISE GALLEGOS

Ed Sandoval was born and raised in Nambe, New Mexico. His roots in New Mexico go back to the late 1500s. Growing up, he learned a love of the land and the importance of giving back to his community.

Mr. Sandoval loves painting old adobe churches and decided one day to take a drive to look at the St. Anthony Catholic Church because he hadn't seen it in a while. He had heard how the people in the community came together to save their beloved church and he wanted to see the result. WOW, he had no idea what to expect. He was very moved when he realized the love and dedication that the community had to make it all possible.

Mr. Sandoval decided to add a few of his own touches to the painting. He added luminarias in the doorway because that's what

FUNDRAISING cont'd on page 4

State Engineer Puts Economic Future Of Taos County At Risk



Courtesy Photo

By STAFF WRITERS

The Village of Questa and surrounding communities in northern Taos County have faced many challenges over the decades. There is no doubt that the closure of the Questa Mine by Chevron Mining Inc. ("Chevron") in Questa Mine in 2014 presented an immediate and future challenge to continued economic growth. But Questa met that challenge. With the recruitment of Taos Bakes, the subsequent development of the Questa Business Park, continued river restoration activities, support for local businesses, and the creation of the Questa Land & Water Board to promote the divestment and economic development of surplus Chevron properties, Questa is well placed to build on its successful track record of economic growth and job creation.

Unfortunately, our economic future is now at risk due to two recent decisions by the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE) as led by the new State Engineer, Mr. Mike Hamman, who is from Taos.

The first decision, made on February 7, 2022, was to deny the application to transfer 3 acre feet of water rights from the Chevron tailings site to the Wild Earth Llama Ranch, an eco-tourism and animal rescue operation looking to irrigate pastureland and offer a visitor experience. The ranch is located in El Rito, a few miles north of Questa. The community-led Questa Land & Water Board (QLWB) recommended Chevron proceed with the transfer. The application was submitted to the NMOSE on January 16, 2019. There were no public protests and Chevron even assisted with completing hydrology studies for the transfer.

The second decision, also made on February 7, was to deny the application to transfer 4 acre feet from the tailings site to Patrick Shaw and Jennifer Kostecki-Shaw, a local couple in El Rito wishing to expand organic local food production to address local food security needs and to serve as a center to teach and support organic gardening and permaculture. The QLW Board also recommended this

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Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

It was one of those rare days in February; a warm, beautiful day between storms, an early spring fever kind of sunny day. I found an excuse to not sit at the computer, pattering around outside on the back deck, about 18" off the ground when OOPS! I tripped and went flying, off the deck, in cinematic slow motion. Next thing I knew I was lying on the ground, screaming in pain. I heard a distinct crunching sound. I had broken my arm, my right arm, of course.

I am now a member of the El Rito Chapter of the Broken Right Arm Club, the fourth member in a two-mile radius, weird! And the epidemic has spread to Questa and beyond. While in the orthopedic doctor's waiting room, I said hi to a *Questeño* who had broken his arm, the right arm, of course.

To make the most of this, I am enjoying the benefits to my brain of using my non-dominant hand and strengthening my wimpy left wrist.

Usually, I work hard every month on the *Questa Del Rio News*. This month, though, I have been useless. The show must go on and I want to thank our team for stepping up, especially our assistant editor extraordinaire, Martha Shepp. She did a fine job making sure this March issue happened, with not much help from me. Thank you to all our contributors who got their submissions to us on time. February is a short month and it was challenging enough getting our paper out with two or three fewer days on the calendar.

I would also like to give a shout out to the Latir Volunteer Fire Department's First Responders, under the guidance of their fearless leader, Jona Olsson, who arrived on the scene within minutes to manage the situation with my broken arm. Thank you to Fred Patton, Olga Gressot, Angela Bates, and Cynthia Najim: wonderful neighbors all, and such masterful EMTs. Thank you for showing up and doing what you do so well. Thank you to Raynelle Sanchez-Cordova and Isaiah Fernandez, for the fun ambulance ride. And thank you to my partner Pete, who is quite skilled at taking care of me. I can't imagine life without him!

Thank you to all our neighbors who are so generous and caring and all the medical personnel who set me on the path of healing. Thank you, everyone, for your guidance and support.

Lou "Lefty" McCall
Editor, *Questa Del Rio News*

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO ANOTHER DAZZLING EDITION OF THE QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS!

YOLI ACOSTA, LINDA BETZ, CHRIS COTÉ, CLAIRE COTÉ,
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LAUREN TRUJILLO, DAVID VEDOE, CYNTHIA RAE-VIGIL, VALERIE VIGIL,
JOHN AND IDA WALSH, KAREN WEBER,





To the Editor:

I was confused to open the February 3 – 9 Tempo magazine [*Taos News*] to see a headline “Questa ‘Milagro Beanfield’s Wars’ Mural.” The full-page article featured a photo of a pastoral gardening mural dwarfed by a grotesquely giant Hollywood-type sign beneath the mural spelling out “MILAGRO.”

The article, by and about the mural artist, David Vedoe, explained that “The mural pays homage to Taos resident artist John Nichols’ book and film, ‘The Milagro Beanfield War.’” And the mural’s purpose is “to become a visual part of the ongoing economic development of Questa.”

Put simply, nobody asked me for permission to use my name or work to pay homage to the mural, or to the “ongoing economic development of Questa,” or to construct the enormous and insulting MILAGRO sign beneath the mural. It’s insulting to the people of Questa, and to all the population of northern New Mexico. Also to myself, who would never allow so blatant an exhibition of my name and work to daily bombard the good citizens of Questa, or the inhabitants of any other village on earth.

I wish a fact checker at the Taos News had contacted me before it published the article, to see if I knew about the requested project, supported the attachment of my name to the work, or agreed with the garish MILAGRO sign underneath the mural. My answer would have been a very emphatic “NO!”

Everything connecting me or my work to that mural is an invasion of my privacy and my work, and also an attack on the privacy of Questa citizens whose community, beauty, and rich history deserve to be represented a lot more widely than by the story of a single novel written by John Nichols.

If that MILAGRO sign goes up I will seek legally to remove it. Otherwise, my hope would be that the people of Questa, and their visitors, will simply allow that lovely mural, by itself, to speak on behalf of their wonderful town and its enduring legacy.

Sincerely,
John Nichols

Kudos to the graphic designer on your local paper. She/he is doing classic and readable layout design. A delight. In terms of graphic design, your designer is doing a much better job than the Sunday NYT magazine, which appears to be the output of a first-year design student without any theory or education about graphic design, not to mention typography, but only in possession of a laptop. Appalling.

C
(retired graphic designer)

Thank you, fellow graphics person. Along with some schooling, I actually grew up sleeping on the floor of the newsrooms, helping my parents get their small town newspaper published every week back in the day of darkrooms and paste-up, so I appreciate that! Now, this paper is as much of a labor of love to say the least. By the way, poorly executed graphics just hurts my soul too, I hear you. :-) Thanks again and best wishes!

Emily Wilde
Questa Del Rio News
Graphic Design/Pagination

I have been in Questa for six years now and have never seen any ballot proposals for low-income housing or proposals for a regular community center that is open five days a week for everyone—adults, teens, all ages etc... a skate park project is a fantasy during a national pandemic.

Pat



The theme in March revolves around the Spring Equinox of March 20. In the pagan/wiccan tradition, *Ostara* is the Spring Equinox. March 1 is Maha Shivaratri, the Hindu festival celebrating fertility and regeneration, honoring the Gods *Shiva* (the male) and the goddess *Shivkta* (the female). This year, Mardi Gras is also March 1, a big celebration before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, followed by 40 days of fasting or doing good to your body. March 3 is *Losar*, the Tibetan Lunar New Year, launching the Year of the Water Tiger. Saint Patrick’s Day is March 17, and Holi, the Hindu festival, is on March 18, the full moon, celebrating the triumph of good over evil and the changing of the seasons from winter to spring. This month I chose to interview at Roots & Wings Community School in Lama. I arrived in the classroom where six middle school students volunteered to be interviewed outside. I am grateful for the courtesy the students showed me while I visited.

The Questions: What activity or project do you like to do in the early spring? What are you grateful for this coming spring? Is there a sport you play in the spring or share with family and friends?

Aliyn (7th grade)
I am going to Tucson, Arizona with my dad and grandparents on spring break. We are first going to stay in Palm Springs to play paintball, and then go to Tucson to stay at my grandmother’s house. We plan on visiting the Slot Canyons, a five-hour drive from Tucson. I am grateful for this opportunity with my family.

Dusty (7th grade)
Spring skiing! Going to Alta in Salt Lake City with my dad and brother. Skiing makes me feel good and it’s fun to hang out with my family and friends. I look forward to the weather getting warmer to do more outside sports like hiking and biking.

Claudio (8th grade)
I am grateful to be able to go outside and be more with my dad. Springtime is a busy time. I want to make a garden with flowers and grow corn, squash, and other vegetables. Hiking is good but fishing is out, I don’t do guts or worms.

Jim (6th grade)
Usually I go dirt biking out in the mountains. I bike with family and friends in racing competitions at a track in Albuquerque. I like going fishing with my uncle in Amalia. I like to begin barbecuing, ribs, steaks, burgers, hot dogs...

Mike (6th grade)
I have a goal to help my parents out because I love them a lot. I help my dad with the plastic project to build things like benches and little sheds. I would like my dad to help me build a cross for my cat, Chloe.

Kyla (8th grade)
A lot of time looking at blooming plants, the new colors, how things come to be, how they grow. I love the feeling of spring, my favorite season, it’s calming. I am grateful for living up here in the mountains where nature is all around me. I like to hike alone and enjoy backpacking trips with my school in the spring.

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Questa Del Rio News

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The Society of Professional Journalists declares four principles as the foundation of ethical journalism and encourages their use in its practice by all people in all media. We have adopted these principles as our own:

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- Minimize Harm.
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The North Central Food Pantry Feeds the Community



Photo by Becca Pockrandt



Photo by Alberta Bouyer

Red River Valley Charter School Middle School students participate in a service learning project with the Food Pantry. The students had a great time helping the community.

Archive photo of Kate Cisneros, Jeannie Masters, Tommy Lyles, and Mo Treadwin when Chevron donated the white truck to the food pantry.

By JOAN MACDONALD

The North Central Food Pantry plays an important role in helping to provide food for Questa and the surrounding communities. The pantry currently serves as many as 300 families at each of its twice-monthly distributions.

Throughout the year on Thursdays, we have loyal volunteers who give freely of their time to unload and box food that is brought to us from the Santa Fe Food Depot. Twice a month on Fridays, our volunteers help with the food distribution to our families. This year at Thanksgiving we provided turkeys to all of our families through a most generous anonymous donation.

In December, the Red River Valley

Charter School delivered food to the pantry which the students had been collecting throughout the fall. Fourteen 7th and 8th grade students joined our volunteers to help pack and distribute food boxes. They were a great help and the opportunity gave them a chance to see firsthand the importance of giving to their community.

Due to the continuation of COVID-19, we still only have drive-through pick-up, and all volunteers wear masks. As a reminder, the volunteers will only load food boxes into car trunks, since we don't want to expose our volunteers to any unnecessary health risk. To help us all stay safe, we ask all clients to wear masks and to please clean out their

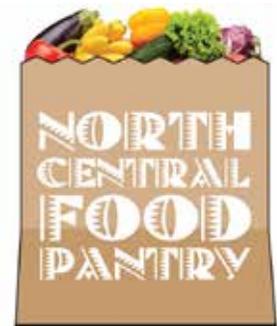
trunks before each distribution, to make room for the food boxes. Our first priority has been and continues to be keeping both our clients as well as our volunteers safe during this ongoing pandemic.

We sincerely appreciate donations of any amount to the pantry. The money will help provide food for many families and many children. If you'd like to donate, there are three ways to do so:
 By mail to North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556
 On our website: ncfpquesta.com
 In person, to one of our board members: Jeannie Masters, Kate Cisneros, Nancy Parker, Joan MacDonald, or Gaea McGahee.

If you need an emergency food box,

please call either Jeannie Masters at (575) 779-9194 or Nancy Parker at (505) 699-7563. For the latest information, please see our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/questanewmexico>

Thank you to Questa and surrounding communities for supporting the North Central Food Pantry.



FUNDRAISING cont'd from page 1

a church really is—it is light. Next, he added a sunrise in the background and the scar in the mountain (known as *almagre*), an annual ceremonial destination for members of Taos Pueblo. It is sacred to them and the history behind it. "It's the history of our land and our people."

When Mr. Sandoval finished the painting, he was telling a friend how im-

pressed he was with the love and spirit of the community. The people all came together and gave of their time, money, effort and good will. His friend suggested giving the rights of the painting to the church to make prints so they can earn money to keep the restoration going. He thought about it and agreed that that's what it is all about. The community gave so much, the least he could do is provide the image for them to make cards, prints, and do whatever they can to raise money for the upkeep of the church. To

Mr. Sandoval we are forever grateful for this wonderful gift.

Thanksgiving 2020: Mr. Sandoval contacted me about a painting of the St. Anthony Church that he was gifting the rights to St. Anthony Parish in Questa, New Mexico with the copyright and proceeds made from the sales.

Currently, there are four different sizes of prints available for sale at Rael's Store & Coffee Shop and in the near future will be offering coffee cups with the church image on them. We will continue

to offer new ideas as time goes on.

To clear up any confusion there may be, SARCHP restored the church but any further fundraisers would be through St. Anthony Parish for the upkeep and maintenance of the church. For more information on the fundraiser, or Ed Sandoval's prints and cards of St. Anthony's Church, go by Rael's Store & Coffee Shop and talk to Cynthia Rael-Vigil or call Louise Gallegos (575) 613-5490. Your support of our fundraisers are truly appreciated.

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Business Profile

J&L POWERSPORTS
By MARTHA SHEPP

Two happy people doing what they love, two dogs, and a snake named Stew. What a cool thing, Questa's previous pizza restaurant transformed into a specialized powersports repair shop with a sterling reputation, right here on the main drag!

"I never wanted to do anything else but open my own shop—I knew this since I was a little kid. And I always loved taking things apart to see how they worked," the petite Lauren says enthusiastically. Following that dream, Lauren Trujillo has established a business with partner James Newfer that is 100 percent service-based and knowledge-intense, of things you and I might never think about too much; the inner workings of high performance engines.

Late on a Friday afternoon just after a snowstorm, I stopped in to J&L Powersports' new store and shop. They officially opened their doors in May of last year, but only recently got the marquee sign up. The front door greets me with a reassuring, "Everything off-road done right." They wo/man the shop every day from sun-up to sundown, with only Monday and Sunday off for their own endeavors... but I'm pretty sure they also work on motors in their leisure time at home. When work is play...!

In the front part of the shop, which used to be an open air dining area when the building was Primetime Pizza, products are neatly arranged on shelves. (How serendipitous that the black and white square linoleum fits the motorsports theme!) The strong fragrance of new rubber permeates the air; tires are stacked in artful arrangements and the vibe is spic-n-span clean. I walk on in, pulling open the heavy door, to the service counter. Behind it on the left is a door to the work area. I see a glimpse of a dirt bike on a raised platform, for ease of access. Certifications from various high-end training institutes are posted high on the front wall; you can feel assured these two have the dedication, training, and experience to do their work right.

Lauren greets me and the two other shop hands who figure largely in their uber-fun J&L Facebook posts (look at the fast-frame video of an engine being rebuilt on the bench!): Domino and Bella, peer up from their spots behind the counter. Thick-bearded sparkly-eyed James emerg-



Courtesy Photo

J & L Powersports, at 2431 Hwy 522, the heart of service in the heart of Questa.



Photo by Martha Shepp

James Newfer with helper Domino, who is equal parts coyote and white healer.

es from the work room, his hands black as soot from taking apart the deep innards of some lucky customer's engine. Everyone here is eager to please!

Lauren and James, both age 29, had experienced working as diesel mechanics, shop foremen, and other situations where they were the hired hands; and both wanted to have the independence that owning their own shop would afford. When they discussed setting up their own business, Lauren was ready to come

When J&L Powersports was founded in 2021, we set out to provide the finest servicing shop in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains area. After spending many years in the industry, time and time again we kept seeing a lack in good quality service being done right. We decided we could change that. We stay at the forefront of the latest technology, while retaining our knowledge of older machines. Whether your machine is old or new, we have the finest mechanic standing by to fix any problem you may have.

—Lauren and James



Courtesy Photo

All the crew on their Christmas float last December.

back to family roots: her grandfather had moved to Questa in 1979, and her family was here. And so, the business was born and doors opened in 2021. Their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/jlpowersports21>) chronicles the days and their obvious enjoyment of what they do in problem-solving your difficult engine problems, preventive maintenance, rebuilding transmissions, engines, and carburetors, changing a tire, installing accessories, providing parts, doing insurance claims, or even just a good deep clean that will have you back on your motorcycle, ATV, dirt bike, side-by-side, or snowmobile in no time!

Word of mouth has gotten them steady work; some folks come from as far as Espanola to get their vehicles in top shape. Lauren says they have not done much advertising. Having a contract with off road vehicle rental places in Red River keeps their plate full, too. I ask them about hiring others or expanding the business, and they are both really happy to say, "Nope, just the two of us keeps things manageable and allows us to maintain the high quality we strive to give our customers. Once you're supervising others' work, you depart from the sense of quality control and customer

service that we want our business to be all about," says James, who speaks from the experience of managing six mechanics in three different shops in the north Texas panhandle. "When you have to check on their work in addition to your own, you get mighty busy not doing the work you love."

Maybe you saw Lauren and James and their elaborate float at the Questa Lights Parade on Dec. 4? Doggies proudly wore red and green hats, while James and Lauren had mile-wide smiles. They are not only a high caliber shop but have invested in being good citizens of Questa who give back to this community.

More about the owners:

LAUREN TRUJILLO

Growing up in Red River, the love for the outdoors started early for Lauren. With the Red River Motorcycle Rally every year, Lauren's passion for motorcycles grew. She dreamed of having her own motorcycle business. Lauren attended Motorcycle Mechanic Institute in Arizona and became a master technician in Harley Davidson and Yamaha motorcycles. She then went on to get her Associates degree in diesel mechanics.

JAMES NEWFER

Growing up in Michigan, James was always out exploring, whether on his ATV or in his boat. With his passion for powersports, James attended Motorcycle Mechanic Institute in Arizona for Harley Davidson and Yamaha motorcycles. Like Lauren, James was ready to go out on his own, having worked on just about everything from assembling new machines to full engine and transmission rebuilds and everything in between.

Then there's Uncle Dave, Lauren's inspiration since childhood, and last but not least, in his steamy terrarium in the service area, Stew the boa constrictor, nurtured by James since 2015. "Sometimes he gets a cuddle," says Lauren, but I'm sure glad to see him comfortably basking under the heat light and enclosed in his terrarium.

J&L Powersports is located at 2431 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556. Open Tuesday-Thursday: 9am - 5pm, Friday & Saturday: 9am - 6pm and are closed Monday & Sunday. Contact jlpowersports21@gmail.com; (575) 586-2417. See them online at <https://www.jlpowersports21.com/> and on Facebook and Tic Toc.

Co-Existing: Fire Shaping The Landscape

By CHRIS COTÉ

For thousands of years the air in summer was filled with a mild smoky haze. People co-existed with fire in the landscape, whether caused by natural phenomena or by humans. Fire was a shaping force: frequent fires created the landscape in which we live here in the western United States. But since full suppression of wildfire became policy over 100 years ago, our landscape has dramatically changed. This western landscape has been denied the maintenance it requires. Devastating wildfire is the result of excess fuel buildup, which then burns catastrophically, threatening communities and severely damaging watersheds.

Fire in the west creates the same nutrient recycling as slow decomposition does in wetter climates. In addition, fires aid in recycling grasslands, opening up meadows, and thinning forests into healthy stands.

The beautiful aspen forests are a product of stand-replacing fire. There is a natural cycle in which the aspens grow after a burn: they nurture the conifers growing in their shade. The conifers grow large enough to overtake the aspens and the aspen stems die. Then in 100 or 200 years, a lightning strike starts a fire, the conifers burn, the aspens (which do not actually die, but survive as a giant root system) sprout again and the whole cycle repeats.

Historically, ponderosa pine forests were very open park-like stands of large trees and fire would burn through every 10 to 20 years, cleaning up needles and debris and thinning the stands to a healthy stem count. The piñon/juniper forests have been slowly creeping into grasslands, which were “short grass prairie.” Frequent fire would thin the new growth and there would be pockets of larger trees, which would withstand the low-intensity grass fire.

Appreciating these cycles requires us to think and see beyond our human timescale. Native peoples have known and practiced prescribed fire for hundreds, if not thousands of years, and have purposely set fire to the landscape to open grasslands and meadows and to thin stands of trees. Elk and deer will always prefer to graze on land that has been recently burned, which provides a higher nutrient content in its new growth.

Landscape and fire management policies are evolving to safely reestablish the natural role of fire in our ecosystems. Today, forest and grassland managers are



Photo by Chris Coté

Crew on right is strip burning a broadcast burn to reduce fuels and recycle nutrients. On the left, firefighters hold the line to make sure no fire escapes the control feature, in this case, a bulldozer line.

working to do what fire has done in the landscape for millennia, but the land is vast and the resources are few.

In Taos County, we have several organizations working to get back in alignment with natural cycles. One group is the Taos County CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) Core Team, which was sparked by the late Ron Gardiner, a Questa resident with a passion for watershed protection. The collaborative group includes federal, tribal, and state agencies, county and municipal governments, neighborhood associations, Firewise Communities* and individual landowners. Anyone is welcome to attend either by Zoom meetings or join us on outdoor field trips until we can all get together again around the table.

This group explores ideas and identifies priorities for “landscape scale restoration.” This involves mechanical fuel reduction and prescription (RX) burning, which are often dovetailed.

There are basically two types of RX burns—broadcast burns and pile burns. Broadcast burns can cover a large landscape very quickly and emulate a natural fire. Fire managers work out details to make sure the fire behavior is within certain parameters for optimum fuel consumption and that the smoke ventilation is the best it can be. The objective is to have a healthy mosaic of land with the most

efficient use of resources (people, engines, and sometimes a helicopter), with the least possible amount of smoke impact on communities.

Pile burns work basically the same way, and the process follows mechanical fuel treatments. The excess fuel, usually cut with chainsaws, has been piled and is burned in colder times outside of fire season, when the likelihood of escape is very low. Sometimes a hybrid technique is applied, where the fuels are cut, left on the ground (lop and scatter), and then broadcast-burned.

These days we might see a remote smoke column get larger and wonder why. Managers understand that a natural ignition can be allowed to reintroduce itself into the ecosystem for “resource benefit.” If it is deemed no threat to communities or infrastructure, the fire will be monitored and managed. Any human-caused wildfire (not RX) will be suppressed.

There are hundreds of successful RX fires that run smoothly and safely. Very occasionally something might go wrong. However, the risk of allowing fuels to continue to accumulate unchecked poses a much greater threat. It is not the position of this article to justify accidents, only to put forth that the foremost priority of any prescription burn management team is the safety of firefighters and civilians—and fol-

lowing that is the health and protection of the land and communities that we all love.

To become involved with the Taos CWPP Core Team, contact JR Logan, Taos County WUI Coordinator, at johnrogerlogan@gmail.com.

Find information about Wildfires and RX burns at <https://nmfireinfo.com>

*Find information about becoming a Firewise community at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

Chris Coté, of Wildfire Fit, is available for consultation and wildfire risk reduction assessments. Chris has been a wildland firefighter for 20 years with hand crews, helicopters, and engines. He is a former Chief of the Latir Volunteer Fire Department and a NFPA Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist. He now runs Wildfire Fit, a business to help us get ahead of the threat of wildfire. Contact him at (575) 779-5937 or WildfireFit.net.





MR. JOHN WALSH

Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate Schools in Questa are lucky to have John Walsh on their faculty. He and his wife retired and moved to San Cristobal to live near their daughter, Elizabeth, who is also an educator. Even though he turned 71 on Super Bowl weekend, he still has a lot to offer his students. He loves the energy at Alta Vista, and he loves being around kids.

Mr. John, as his students call him, grew up in Silver City, NM, where he married his high school sweetheart, Ida Belle. They both attended WNMU; she went into education and he majored in chemistry and worked as a chemist in the mining industry.

Retirement didn't really suit them so it didn't last long. John began driving a bus for the Taos Schools and then became a full-time substitute teacher. He was then hired as a PE teacher at Alta Vista and now also teaches math and social studies, which he loves. Ida Belle is also in the classroom again, as an educational assistant at Alta Vista, teaching reading to kindergartners. Her students call her Miss Ida. She is in the process of renewing her teaching license from 1976!

John began sharing elementary student classroom work with the Questa Del Rio News—lucky us!—for the “Sproutings” feature in our education section. As a boy in Silver City, John was a paperboy for four years for the Silver City Daily

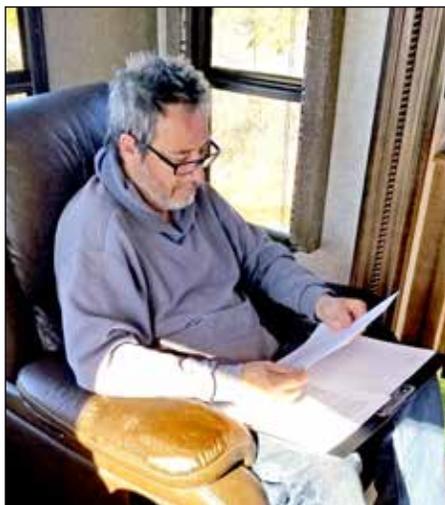


Photo by Ida Belle Walsh

When not teaching, you're learning: Alta Vista teacher John Walsh works on his teaching dossier, to get relicensed. Elementary school teaching is a full-time, overtime profession!

Press, on a 12-mile route he covered on his bicycle for 60¢ a week (because he spent the majority of his profits on comic books). He also loved reading Jack London books, which taught him to heed the call to adventure. There's a special place in his heart for small town newspapers like the Questa Del Rio News. After graduating from college, John and Ida Belle moved to Playas, NM where John worked in the mining industry.

When John was a kid he so loved to read, he would sneak a flashlight under the covers at bedtime: “A book is a wonderful thing.” It makes him sad that young people now don't have the same passion for reading. It's not the same, he says, reading from a cell phone, iPad, or computer screen. He noticed that when learning went virtual during the pandemic the students really fell behind.

John was raised in a family of seven brothers and five sisters, so he has a high tolerance for chaos. He attended eight years of Catholic elementary school, where he got the heck beat out of him by nuns. He can relate to those students in

his class who have a tough time staying on task. Then at Jesuit high school, it was the Jesuit priest that gave kids demerits, which led to the gym teacher taking a sawed off softball bat, have you grab your ankles, and whop. In spite of the harsh discipline (which nowadays is called abuse), he made it through. In a family with 13 kids, his parents wanted him to have a good education. His dad was a surgeon and a leading member of the community in Brooklyn. He often said his education was the benefactor that allowed him his life choices, stressing the word “choices.”

Reading is a family thing, he says, and he encourages all parents to support students to read at home. Mr. John does add that the students help him a lot with technology—they've taught him a bunch. He now provides bikes to the Summer Reading program at the Questa Library in a program called “Bikes for Books.” He says if you fish with the right bait, you will catch plenty of fish!

One of John's proudest achievements was living in a tipi in the Yukon with his wife and two daughters. He admits to being a tree-hugger. They had a dog team, they were all warm, safe, and cozy and had everything they needed. The girls were homeschooled and the whole family read alot. After a year or so, the Canadian Mounties found them and kicked them off the public land. Who knows where their life journey would have taken them, had they not been uprooted?

From there, John was not keen about returning to his former career as a chemist and called the next phase of their lives “from freezer to frying pan.” He and Ida Belle moved to Phoenix and both started a medical massage practice after training there. In Los Lunas, NM they worked out of John's sisters' clinic, helping clients with worker comp injuries. They also spent many years renovating a 2,500-sq.-ft. adobe home that was built in 1850.

They had finally found that feeling that comes with self-actualization. It was a good time, and their young family thrived.

When John's mother died, it was time for another change, so they chose to retire and moved again. The daughters grew up and moved away.

The funniest part about his PE teacher role during COVID-19 was a virtual comedy: barking like the neighbor's dog was chasing you down the street, while having the kids run around their Zoom portal living room or bedroom trying not to get bit. Now, as a 4th-grade teacher, his favorite PE activity has been accompanying the students on ski trips. QISD students from first through twelfth grades all receive four free ski days and ski lessons this winter, thanks to funding through the school board. Other school districts offer ski days, but students have to pay and it isn't cheap. He had several students in class who kept saying they didn't want to ski; but after one beginner lesson and numerous falls, they were all beaming and fired up by the end of the day.

Mr. John would like to give a shout-out to Red River Ski Area for agreeing to sponsor Questa Schools with open arms and welcoming them with friendly faces.

He also wants our readers to know that we ought to be proud of Alta Vista: it's a great staff, a great school, and they really work well together as a team. He praises Kimber MacDonald for doing such a fine job as principal. He calls Alta Vista a quality product, heading in the right direction.

Mr. Walsh likes living in a small town: it's a web of families—people know and help one another. He tries to bring a positive spin to everything he does. He and Ida Belle love being part of the Questa and San Cristobal communities and the community at Alta Vista is happy to have them here working to benefit our young people!

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BODY MIND SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

MOVING TOWARD SPRING

We are no longer heading into winter, but moving toward spring and green things. New life, new beginnings, and perhaps a brighter day.

My words are few this writing, as the death of three friends as well as other challenges within this last month have left me a bit empty of inspiration. I would like to share with you a poem by John O'Donohue that I feel speaks for many that may have also lost friends and loved ones. I feel that the poem also speaks in a way of going into the winter of life and coming into the spring.



Photo by E. Wilde

On the Death of the Beloved

By John O'Donohue

Though we need to weep your loss,
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,
Where no storm or night or pain can reach you.

Your love was like the dawn
Brightening over our lives
Awakening beneath the dark
A further adventure of color.

The sound of your voice
Found for us
A new music
That brightened everything

Whatever you enfolded in your gaze
Quickened in the joy of its being;
You placed smiles like flowers
On the altar of the heart.
Your mind always sparkled
With wonder of things.



Though your days here were brief,
Your spirit was live, awake, complete.

We look towards each other no longer
From the old distance of our names;
Now you dwell inside the rhythm of breath,
As close to us as we are to ourselves.

Though we cannot see you with outward eyes,
We know our soul gaze is upon your face,
Smiling back at us from within everything
To which we bring our best refinement.

Let us not look for you only in memory
Where we would grow lonely without you.
You would want us to find you in presence,
Besides us when beauty brightens,
When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.

When orchids brighten the earth,
Darkest winter has turned to spring;
May this dark grief flower with hope
In every heart that loves you.

May you continue to inspire us:
To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love
Until we see your beautiful face again
In that land where there is no more separation,

Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,
And where we will never lose you again.

POEMS OF THE MONTH

Steeple Chase

by Elizabeth Brunazzi

Young Buddha escaping the sleeping castle,
your beautiful young wife, your infant son, your
horse's hooves velvety, silent over the pavement
stones, the cosmos conspiring in your mission,

You ascend on your white mount charging over
rooftops, then steeple tops,

Young Chagall loved his wife to tears, his horse
still white riding over Russian rooftops after her
death in Paris he painted her white against the
still cobalt sky, the hearts and flowers he offers
her still red as ever, and his cow who keeps
jumping over the moon,

I'm the dish round as a silver full moon running
hand in hand with my spoon big as a house

and you're the cow jumping over me again, and
from the ground the big brown dog and the little
black and white dog are still laughing their heads
off as we take off into the sky,

Just ahead in the near distance three white dwarf
girls with monkey faces, bound together like a
packet of cigars, float in the ether, and what are
they telling us not to hear, to see, to speak of?
Hold onto my hand, moonie spoon.

Anthropology

By Karen Weber

Anthropology, what use are you
in these days of singular, weekly visits to the
market

seeing only masked faces searching

for a carton of eggs, a can of tomato soup, a bunch
of celery stalks?

Anthropology, can you tell us why
the Pueblo people deserted the Chacoan plain,
leaving the intricate star-viewing portals,
the footways between settlements?

Anthropology, will you show a way to leave
the crisis of burnt forests and homes sprawling into
their depths,

of the orca carrying her dead baby in the poison
waters of the Salish Sea,

of the puffin bird becoming only a cartoon on a
cereal box?

Anthropology, you sweep off the dust of the
ancient,

speak of cultures and evolution,

of tools made and kinships formed,

can you tell us the way as we dim the stars we
once navigated by?

Karen Weber is a writer, educator, activist, and frequent visitor to Taos County. She resides in Santa Fe. For more visit her blog at karenweber.net

Don't Get Caught In The Rope

By DARWIN STAR

One of the first things you'll be told
when you start working around horses
happens to be one of the most important:
Don't get caught in the rope.

In its most basic iteration, this means
that when you're leading a horse with
a rope, loop it up and hold your hand
around the loop, not through it.

The reason for this is simple: horses
are unpredictable. Sometimes they run
off. If that rope suddenly gets pulled
and wrapped around your fingers, hand
or wrist, you're suddenly hitched to a
1000-pound beast. You can get dragged a
long ways before it stops.

I like the metaphor, too. What other
ways can you still hold the rope but be
safe to let go of it at a moment's notice?
In friendships that might look like al-
lowing your friends the dignity to make
their own decisions without meddling
for specific outcomes. In careers that

might mean keeping your resume
updated and networking consistently,
so you have a backup contingency if the
workplace suddenly turns sour. Maybe
it's making sure you have a stash of cash
and an emergency bag packed and ready
to go, with clothes, toiletries, and essen-
tial documents. Or maybe it's having a
spiritual or meditative practice worked
into your schedule.

Horses are naturally free animals.
They don't like to be confined; they
want to roam. I think most people are
drawn to horses because they have that
same tendency.

Next time you're feeling frustrated
or confined, ask yourself: "Did I possi-
bly get caught in the rope?" If you did:
no shame. Sometimes you've gotta be
dragged a fair distance before you learn
not to loop the rope around your hand
next time. And next time, do a double
check to make sure those loops aren't go-
ing around your fingers, hand, or wrist.

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Try a Little Tenderness



**LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

Are you your biggest critic? I sometimes am—I'm always looking for perfection. But I have a trick up my sleeve for changing my perspective: I try a little tenderness. That means loving myself exactly as I am, especially those parts of my personality and body I wish were different.

How about you? Do you love yourself just as you are? Or do you judge yourself harshly? Think of how difficult it would be if you were working on a

new project and a drill sergeant was hovering over your shoulder shouting at you—telling you how inept you are, screaming into your ear that you're worthless and have no talent and how could you possibly think you could handle that new project? Part of loving yourself is catching your mind when it goes into self-criticism.

If your focus is on what you don't like about yourself, you'll attract more of the same: images in the mirror you don't like and aches and pains you don't want. That's what it's like if you're trying to create new habits in the face of self-judgment.

The love I'm talking about gradually ripples out and touches the whole of humanity.

Moment to moment we're creating our lives. Often, we're not even con-

sciously aware that we're creating. Our thoughts, beliefs, and memories are influencing what we're creating, even at a cellular level: every day 300 billion cells in our body die and new ones are created without our conscious direction. Emotionally, we are more likely to experience events that stimulate the emotions we "practice" most often. Of course, we don't want to be creating more insecurity or COVID weariness, but as we concentrate on these emotions, we're creating more of the same. When you surrender critical thoughts of yourself and open to inspiration, your steps are taken not alone, but with the Divine. And with the Divine, you walk with joy.

Here's what happened to me not too long ago: old mind programs surfaced when I was throwing away a canvas that didn't work out after painting it over and

over. I berated myself for not being talented enough and told myself maybe it was a fluke that I sold so many paintings. Then I suddenly realized what I was doing to myself when I heard the tune in my head, "Try a Little Tenderness," and I changed my thought patterns to lift myself up.

Next time you're feeling weary and critical of yourself, remember these words from that old song, "All you got to do is try. Try a little tenderness."

Ellen Wood of Questa is an award-winning author as well as an artist using the name, Maruška. The website for her books and paintings is www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com/ellen-wood. Contact Ellen at ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

Translation by Teresa Dovalpage

Trata con un poquito de ternura

¿Te criticas mucho, más que lo que te critican otras personas? A veces me sucede —siempre estoy buscando la perfección. Pero tengo un truco escondido para cambiar mi perspectiva: trato con un poquito de ternura. Eso significa amarme a mí misma exactamente como soy, especialmente aquellas partes de mi personalidad y de mi cuerpo que yo desearía que fueran diferentes.

¿Y tú? ¿Te amas tal como eres? ¿O te juzgas con dureza? Piensa en lo difícil que sería si estuvieras trabajando en un nuevo proyecto y un sargento de instrucción estuviera mirándote por encima del hombro, gritándote—diciéndote lo inepto que eres, chillándote al oído que no vales nada y que no tienes talento y que cómo se te ocurrió pensar que podrías manejar ese nuevo proyecto. Parte de amarte a ti mismo es detener la mente cuando esta entra en modo de autocrítica.

Si te enfocas en lo que no te gusta de tu persona, atraerás más de lo mismo: imágenes en el espejo que no te gustan y dolores y molestias que no quieres. Eso es lo que pasa si estás tratando de crear nuevos hábitos frente a la autocrítica. El amor del que estoy hablando se propaga gradualmente y toca a toda la humanidad.

Momento a momento estamos creando nuestras vidas. A menudo, ni siquiera somos conscientes de que estamos creando. Nuestros pensamientos, creencias

y recuerdos influyen en lo que estamos creando, incluso a nivel celular: cada día mueren 300 mil millones de células en nuestro cuerpo y se crean otras nuevas sin nuestra dirección consciente. Emocionalmente, es más probable que experimentemos eventos que estimulen las emociones que "practicamos" con más frecuencia. Por supuesto, no queremos crear más inseguridad o cansancio por el COVID, pero a medida que nos concentramos en estas emociones, estamos creando más de lo mismo. Cuando dejas de tener pensamientos críticos sobre ti mismo y te abres a la inspiración, tus pasos no se dan solos, sino con lo Divino. Y con lo Divino, caminas con alegría.

Esto es lo que me sucedió no hace mucho tiempo: los programas antiguos de la mente surgieron cuando estaba tirando un lienzo que no salía bien después de pintarlo una y otra vez. Me reprendí por no tener el talento suficiente y me dije que tal vez fue una casualidad que hubiera vendido tantos cuadros. Luego, de repente me di cuenta de lo que me estaba haciendo a mí misma cuando escuché la melodía en mi cabeza para "Trata con un poquito de ternura" y cambié mis patrones de pensamiento para animarme.

La próxima vez que te sientas cansado y te critiques a ti mismo, recuerda estas palabras de esa vieja canción: "Todo lo que tienes que hacer es intentarlo. Trata con un poquito de ternura."

Ellen Wood de Questa es una autora galardonada y una artista que usa el nombre Maruška. El sitio web de sus libros y pinturas es www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com/

ellen-wood. Póngase en contacto con Ellen escribiéndole a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

Traducido por Teresa Dovalpage

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**We are excited to share our
QSAT 2022 dates: August 13 and 14
Questa Studio Arts Tour —
"Where Artistic Traditions Meet!"**

Our planning committee is already busy behind the scenes. We have some exciting news: This year we will be featured in *Southwest Art Magazine!* Additionally, the QSAT website has gotten a complete makeover. It is now sleek, cohesive, and to the point. It features both tour artists and other local area artists and craftspeople. Please check it out at northernnewmexicoartists.com.

Interested in being an artist on

**Art for All! Free Workshops Return to
the Youth Center this April**

Save the dates! On Sunday afternoons, April 3 and 10, from 3 – 5pm, Nick Nagawiecki will lead interested people of all ages (ages 12 or under need to be accompanied by an adult) in learning enjoyable basic weaving techniques with wool provided by our local Virsylvia Farm animals and their owners, Tyler and Amelia. You've seen them at the Questa Farmers Market and they now offer a local CSA and produce at their market north of Questa.

the tour? You are eligible if you live north of the intersection of Hwys 64 and 522, south of Sunshine Valley, and west of Red River. The cost per artist is \$60 and is due by March 31. This fee also includes membership in the parent non-profit, the Questa Creative Council (QCC).

**There are two options for joining
in the 2022 event:**

RETURNING ARTISTS are not required to fill out another application. Just let Peggy Trigg know you'll be joining the tour again. We will need your updated contact information, where you intend to show your art, and if you would like new images on the website or in the brochure. You can pay for the QSAT via the QCC website (<https://questacreative.org/>), the northernnewmexicoartists.com website, by mailing a check to the QCC at PO Box 1025, Questa, or by dropping it off at the ArtQuesta Gallery. Peggy Trigg's email is pegtrigg@gmail.com.

NEW ARTISTS can pick up an application at the Questa Post Office, ArtQuesta, Rael's Store & Coffee Shop, or by visiting northernnewmexicoartists.com for a downloadable form.

Be sure to get your application form in ASAP, as space is filling up rapidly!

If you are a business and would like to sponsor the QSAT, please let us know. We are eager to work with you to build a partnership that supports your business, our community, and artists. Our Community Outreach Committee has some unique and exciting opportunities for you. This is a community-wide event. Join us in the fun!



Contact Martha Shepp at sheppmartha@gmail.com to hold your space or for more info. Space will be limited to 10.

**NeoRio Inspirations
~ Reflecting on 12 Years**

NeoRio, an innovative art and community event, took place every fall from 2009 through 2020. Now we are reflecting on 11 years of outdoor art in the sublime setting of Wild Rivers and the unique virtual version during the pandemic, in order to celebrate, reflect on, and learn from the arc of this long-standing, experimental outdoor contemporary arts event; and also to create a bookend for the annual event series to engage with and highlight NeoRio artists, artworks, food, themes, music, and natural beauty.

NeoRio Founder and Director Claire Cote is in the process of revisiting and editing photographs, video, and audio from each year's event. As part of this reflective process, she will be gathering new short audio and video statements from people about their experiences at NeoRio. (Don't be surprised if you get a call from her requesting a brief interview!) With these materials, she is creating a short film and catalog book of NeoRio's 12 years. The film(s) will be available online and premiered in the Questa area in early summer (location and date will be announced). The catalog book will be available digitally and for purchase. "My hope is that these pieces will provide closure for the project, but also inspiration for other projects of its kind, combining innovative arts, music, community, local food, and traditions in an outdoor setting, whether in our area or in other locations," Claire says. This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by



Photo by Nichollette Coddling

**NeoRio participants enjoying the food, music,
and poetry, 2018.**



Photo by Christopher Perez

**From the site-specific series "Reconciliation:
Sculpture for Humans and Pollinators" by artist
Viviane Le Courtois, 2016.**



Photo By Lorelee Mattison

**Rio Grande Gorge view from Montoso
Campground, 2018.**

the National Endowment for the Arts. To contribute a reflection on NeoRio, contact Claire at (575) 224-9066 or emailforleap@gmail.com. To donate, send a check to QCC with NeoRio in the memo or donate on the QCC website, QuestaCreative.org.



Courtesy Photo

Chris Arellano and Bernie Torres

**Northern New Mexico Music on
Facebook Live, Another Concert**

Northern New Mexico: Past & Present's celebration of local musical traditions will continue with its second Facebook Live concert, with Project Director Chris Arellano. Plans are for it to be held in March or April in Costilla. This performance will focus on musical traditions from 1960 to the present, with story and song. We hope for a full video recording to be edited into a polished product in the next grant cycle.

Virsylvia Farm and Market's hours are 11-5 Wed-Fri, and 11-3 on Saturdays.

You can learn more about the local produce and products they carry from their farm and other local producers--including beef, lamb, microgreens, flour, honey, cheese, and more--and how to sign up for their 2022 CSA program at www.virsylviafarm.com

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Artists Express Their Thoughts Of Winter

By MARUŠKA
A.K.A. ELLEN WOOD

There's still time to catch the "Inner Reflections Through Art" show at the Questa Public Library, which is up until March 31. The works of art by my fellow artists are marvelous. Questa Public Library Exhibit Coordinator Peggy Trigg organized and hung the exhibit with help from Library Director Sharon Nicholson.

Ten artists participated; some entered two pieces, but we are featuring just one per artist. You might want to contemplate the questions that the artists were asked to think about while creating their works: What do you feel and ponder during the winter months? Is it a time for reflection on the past or perhaps the long dark nights and on dreaming? Or is winter a time for possible feelings towards your hopes and dreams of the future; maybe of your planning of things to come, of the days lengthening or possibly far off summer adventures?

C'mon over to the Questa Library and see the show!



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Vase
By Michael Ridder



House in Snow Field
By BJ Konior

Creating peace and silence,
as a snowman stands silently.



Swooping Emeralds
By Claire Coté

My young kids LOVE food coloring, so we experimented painting with food coloring and salt, and were delighted by the unexpected outcome.



Underwater Panther Mask
By Betsy Irwin

In Southeastern Native American lore, the Underwater Panther swishes his tail to pull people into his watery world of illusions, reminding me how information surrounding COVID-19 can be confusing, to say the least.



Fecundity
By Diane DeFremery

Contemplate the improbability of our very existence. The ocean refuses no river. Nature will inspire us; peace be with us all.



Family Myth
By Monique Belitz

After not seeing my siblings and parents for four years, I visited them last fall and clearly noticed that each family had created their own myths, and my family had also.



Pupil
By Sandra Harrington



Intermingle
By Peggy Trigg

A reflection of the intermingling of our energy, strengths, and weaknesses that we all possess. The colors, shapes, and lines work together to form cohesiveness. Life is all about balance.



Dive Deep
By Roger Harrington

This painting harkens back to my college days and the style that I was working in when abstract expressionist Gandy Brodie became my mentor and champion. The colors and imagery speak to my looking forward to warmer weather and my need to travel.



**"bet your bottom dollar,
the sun'll come out tomorrow"**
By Maruška a.k.a. Ellen Wood

I was full of optimism when I painted this piece, mostly because the song "Tomorrow" from the musical "Annie" kept singing in my head.

A Mural Atop A Hill

BY DAVID VEDOE

The start of this project can be traced back to when I gave a presentation about murals at the Taos Ski Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, back in 2019. Mark White, from Questa, asked if I could do a mural in Questa. He explained about the beautification initiative and the plans for Questa to integrate murals on buildings throughout the village. *[Editor's note: Discussions on beautification through QEDF director Lynn Skall were perhaps the inspiration that caused Mark as an individual to set up this commission with David and Andy. This mural is not a part of the project, which would have required larger community input.]*

The mural wall at Andy Martinez's Roadrunner Welding shop is a bit unusual as a wall for murals: It is a large wind shelter wall for the outdoor shop, made out of steel. The two large, curved segments, to the left, are old pieces that were once used as a gunny sack slide, up in the Red River Brandenburg Park, I was told. The two next panels are very heavy old sliding steel doors, and the last panel is part of a toolbox for the shop.

I did some sketches that would fit



Photo by David Vedoe

High atop the hill on the south end of Questa on the west side of Hwy 522 is Questa's newest mural, designed and painted by Taos mural artist David Vedoe.

the unusual shape of the wall and be simple enough to be clearly visible all the way from the highway below the shop. I chose bold vivid colors as we have here for the New Mexico sunsets, red for the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and green

bean plants in various stages of growth fitting the variations in the panel sizes. Mark wanted to feature water: Agua es Vida = Water is Life, to be part of the image, so we added irrigation water between the rows of dirt the beans grow in.

The cross was already there when we began the mural painting process, which is dependent on nice sunny winter weather. The large dark primed metal panels get extremely hot during the summer, like an oven; the paint must be applied when the temperature is at least 40 F, so the timing in the warm, sunny, not too cold, not too hot, part of January was pretty perfect.

It is always interesting to work directly with clients, in this case two different people—Andy Martinez, the shop owner, and Mark White. Mark commissioned me to create the mural, to transform an environment, to create site-specific artworks and to make sure everybody is happy and satisfied with the end product that will be visible and hopefully a beloved landmark over the Village of Questa for many years to come. They both told me they were very happy with the result.

The mural measures about 14 x 45 feet and is situated high up on the top of the hill west of Questa on Highway 522 at Andy Martinez's Roadrunner Welding Shop (575) 779-4239. Mural artist David Vedoe can be reached at (575) 779-3789; facebook.com/vedoe.

Recognizing Questa Business Beautification Efforts

By STAFF WRITERS

There are quite a few murals throughout our village, and the desire to create more persists, to beautify and brighten our communal spaces. A

year ago, our cover story presented the Questa mural project. Plenty of other individual mural efforts have spun off, and we're happy to report on these new murals, initiated by private land owners

and those who commission them. This past year, including the most recent one (see above), two have sprung up at the Questa Farmers Market site, and on the Yoga Sala building.

Are you interested in murals in Questa? Come join the fun—mural painting season is upon us. Contact Lynn Skall at (575) 586-2149; lynn@questaedf.com for more information.



Photo courtesy of Gaea McGahee

Mural at Questa Farmers Market designed by Rae Lewis and created with Rae and community painters.



Photo courtesy of Gaea McGahee

Mountain Mural on the side of Yoga Sala designed by Rae Lewis—mostly painted by Rae and Gaea—and several community members who dropped by!



BIRD IS THE WORD

By BRYCE FLANIGAN

GREATER CONSERVATION FOR THE LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN

I had the pleasure of speaking with John Hayes of Audubon Southwest and Lindsay Larris of Wild Earth Guardians about their efforts to conserve and protect the Lesser Prairie-Chicken. This grouse once roamed across its habitat hundreds of miles wide, between Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico, but has seen a 90% reduction in their habitat over the past 100 years. As the American West expanded, oil and gas drilling, corn fields, and more recently wind farms, have all encroached on them.

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken once numbered in the millions and gave inspiration to the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and Nehiyawak (Cree) people for their “chicken dance,” which celebrates the relationship between people and the chicken, which was a staple food source for these tribes long before colonization. Today the chicken continues to inspire people across the world, thanks to viral videos of the male’s iconic mating dance, in which he balloons the red pouches on

his neck, erects his antennae-like plumes, and furiously stomps the ground, jumps, flutters, and chirps for prospective mates.

Though grazing herds of cattle are negatively affecting the grasslands that these chickens call home, grazing animals can live in harmony with prairie chickens as they did for centuries: long before ranchers, wild buffalo herds roamed and grazed on the plains. The key, said Hayes, is “rotational grazing” that allows the grasslands to replenish during off seasons. Year-round grazing leads to depletion of habitat.

While wind energy is cleaner in terms of emissions produced, the huge structures instill fear into prairie chickens, as they detect places for predators to hide and strike from above. The Sagamore Wind Project in southern New Mexico was hailed upon its completion as a step forward for renewable energy, but Hayes noted that this project would not have gone forward had the prairie chicken been declared “endangered” by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2014, rather than just “threatened.”

The protections offered by the “threatened” listing were reversed a year later when a Texas district court ruled in favor of Permian Basin Petroleum Association and found that the Fish and Wildlife Service acted “improperly” in declaring the Lesser Prairie-Chicken threatened, as they “failed to take into account” the efforts of ranchers and oil companies to conserve land for the grouse. Both conservationists I talked to lauded the

individual efforts of ranchers and the cooperation of oil and gas companies, but both also flatly stated that “it’s not enough,” as the chicken hasn’t rebounded nearly enough despite these actions. As their population stands now, a bad drought or windstorm could wipe out the entire species.

Hayes explained that the Lesser Prairie-Chicken acts as a sort of “canary in the coal mine” for the overall health of grasslands at large. Larris explains that if an indicator species such as this goes extinct, it’s a warning of our heading toward another Dust Bowl. So what do they want to see done to protect this precious grouse? Hayes wants to see the Fish and Wildlife Service list the chicken as “endangered” and expand the area considered “impacted” by human development, and the federal government could send money to ranchers to help them improve their land and make it more hospitable to the chickens. Larris wants a proper “endangered” listing for the New Mexico and Colorado populations, and wants to see the funds and regulations behind the listing get implemented.

The good news is the past few years have shown a slight uptick in population. When I asked Hayes if he thought we’d ever see the prairie chicken return to its historic population of millions, he wasn’t optimistic, explaining that it would require the restoration of the entire Great Plains region. The goal is to have a “sustainable population” that can maintain itself in the face of extreme



Courtesy Photo

weather events. Larris was pleased with the proposed endangered listing from Fish and Wildlife, but again stressed the importance of following through on that with federal funds and on-the-ground implementation of protections.

Would you like to join in the efforts to protect the Lesser Prairie-Chicken and other endangered animals in New Mexico? Check out Audubon Southwest and Wild Earth Guardians. Audubon has a “bird-friendly beef” certification consumers can look for when buying meat to support ranchers participating in conservation efforts. Sign up for their email at nm.audubon.org. Wild Earth Guardians offers an action alert newsletter for litigation campaigns and public comment periods pertaining to endangered and threatened New Mexico animals: sign up at wildearthguardians.org.

In Fishing, Water Temperature Matters



By TONER MITCHELL

In winter, when trout can get as slushy as the waters in which they swim, anglers go on believing there’s some secret to success. Just because I fish a lot, some people assume I know this secret. Where are the fish? What are they biting on? Well, the fish are in the water. And since it’s winter, I know that most of the time, they’re biting on nothing. I know that such smarty pants answers are often the refuge of a fisherman who’s less than fully confident in his mastery of the craft. We divert, we distract;

BS is our jam.

Nevertheless, there are facts one can know to increase the chances of success during the snowy season. Trout are cold-blooded (ectothermic), animals with metabolisms that rise and fall with the temperature of their environment. A trout’s metabolism revs up to optimum when the water is between about 50 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit, the common scenario during our early summer when fish really start pigging out. When the water gets too warm, as it often does in August, a trout can overheat and its metabolism will shut down. The same holds true when the water’s extremely cold, when anglers often have difficulty catching fish.

A turned-off car does not burn fuel; if it doesn’t burn fuel it has no need for it. Same goes for a trout, whose metabolism is its engine, when the water’s too hot or cold.

None of this is to say that a trout won’t eat when the water temperature is outside of the ideal range. Indeed, a hot trout in extreme stress may need some caloric intake to keep its system from collapsing. For all animals, the barest existence comes at some cost, which explains why on the warmest and coldest days, one might entice a trout to eat by bumping it on the nose with a worm.

What to do when the water temperatures are extreme? When the water’s above 70 degrees, don’t fish at all unless you plan on harvesting every fish you catch (heat-stressed fish usually die during or after being hooked).

During winter, the fish are slow, and their food is slow too. This reminder is particularly important for lure and streamer anglers. On cold days, a fast-moving lure looks unnatural and can cause a trout to ignore it or spook. In my opinion,

drifted baits and flies offer the best chances for hookups, as they enable stationary fish to consume your offering with the least effort. Learn to read streams to understand where such fish may be, which, you may have guessed by now, is usually where the current is slow.

Bait is an especially good strategy because, while trout feed mainly by sight, their acute sense of smell enables them to find food with minimal effort. Ask anyone who ice-fishes Eagle Nest—a stinky bait will pull in hound-dogging fish from quite a distance. Salmon eggs stink. Powerbait stinks (and how!). Worms stink too, but in a good way.

Of course it’s difficult to know how the water temperature is influencing fish behavior if you don’t know what it is. Buy a water thermometer. It’s one of the most important pieces of gear you can own.



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Funding is available for organizations located in Questa, Taos, and Moreno Valley areas, BUT as in 2021, Chevron funding is only available to organizations whose work directly benefits the Questa area. 



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Chevron is proud to sponsor this ad in support of the *Questa Del Rio News*.

Questa and the Questa Mine: Part 1

By MARTHA SHEPP AND MANY OTHERS

This community paper is endeavoring to offer a Questa mine history series over the next few issues, to bring you stories from mining's earliest discovery right up to the present. The landscape around Questa, Red River, and Taos, like many parts of the west, is marked by a cultural history of mining. When hiking, even in what are now protected Wilderness areas, it's not uncommon to come across remnants of prospecting pits, mine shafts, or old mining equipment from early in the previous century.

For a long time, the "Moly" Mine WAS Questa. Its other cultural, economic, and social aspects became pale background figures. The mine is in the timeline of Questa, for sure, in a big way. It grew to become the largest mine in the Rio Grande watershed and has over 100 years intertwined with Questa history. By 1926, it had become the second largest producer of molybdenum in the world (after the Climax mine in central Colorado): An amazing legacy!

In my experiences with community building, even from the time I was a teenager witnessing (and sometimes helping) my parents working with NGOs at the neighborhood level, I was continually impressed by the positivity and forward momentum resulting from a community that got to know their true history: the unique imprint that each place has—for ill or for good—and celebrating it.

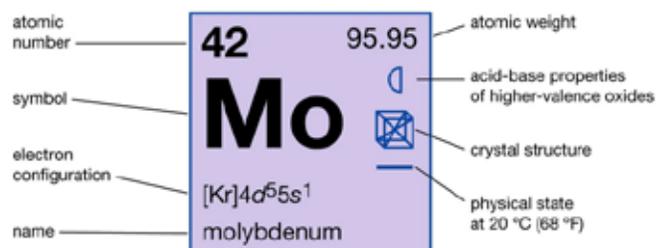
The Questa History Trail accomplished this, and is a resource for any of us to view by walking the half-mile loop, or digging more deeply into the team's research through the trail website. State and national historic archives are available for the digging, too; and our public library is beginning to put documents together, thanks to donations of research materials from Judith Cuddihy, co-author (with Tessie Rael y Ortega) of Questa history opus Another Time in this Place—[online here](#). Who can Questa become in "post-mining" economy and culture? This is what the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) and all of us aim to discover and nurture, new endeavors and talents, reviving old cultural pathways along the way, many that were perhaps too overshadowed by the mine's prominence.

Back to the mine, though. This may be a good time to review, freshen up the facts, and celebrate the story of our place. I personally want to do the mine series because the "mine story" feels to me no longer alive. I heard: "It thrived, then it didn't, then it closed"—this is just too simple. The complexity of interrelated stories, the history as it was lived by human beings; this is part of the mine story, too, and worth telling again... or for the first time.

Molybdenum:

The molybdenum deposit was formed in the Questa area, under Goat Hill as follows: In the Miocene epoch, 23 million years ago, igneous rocks intruded a weak, faulted zone near the southern part of the volcanic caldera area. The intruding rocks are granite and aplite porphyries; the overlying volcanics are andesites and rhyolites. After intrusion, hydrothermal fluids (wet and hot) boiled off the intrusive rocks and deposited molybdenite in fissures in the overlying volcanic host mate-

rial, and in concentrations great enough to form many nearby deposits in the central and southern Rockies. Molybdenum is defined as a "refractory metallic element used... as an alloying agent in steel, cast iron, and superalloys to enhance hardenability, strength, toughness, and wear and corrosion resistance." It is not as black as charcoal and a bit softer than pencil lead, and is a replacement for tungsten with the advantage of being of lighter weight.



Ancient History of Questa

The Questa area has shown evidence of habitation from as early as the Paleo-Indian Clovis, then Folsom people. Around 5000 BC, as temperatures warmed, permanent settlements moved into our area following the movements of big game. Since then, however, the region lacked permanent settlements for many centuries, though the area remained a crossroads for hunting and trading between the Native Pueblo people (as the later Spanish speakers referred to them) to the south and the Plains nations to our north and east.



Courtesy Photos

Miner at the Questa Moly Mine, 1926

or 1593, more Spanish came through, following rumors of gold. Reports tell us that many did not survive. The next century saw turmoil as newcomers attempted to settle in areas already important to Native Americans, and wealthier newcomers enslaved Natives to work in diverse roles, including as miners. This continued until the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 which cast the Spanish out of New Mexico (for a short time).

The search for gold and silver north of the Questa area continued to bring travelers through this area. In 1761, Governor Manuel Portillo explored San Luis Valley for minerals⁽³⁹⁾, and in 1768, the expedition of Don Juan Maria de Rivera traveled up from Santa Fe through the Chama River area and then back down through San Luis Valley. To protect their explorations and mineral finds, the Spanish built a fort on San Antonio Mountain in 1768.

Although settlements in this location were documented several different times in the early 1800s, new residents were vulnerable to deadly conflict for generations. Several times, all residents completely abandoned the area.

The Mining Act of 1872

President Ulysses Grant signed into law the General Mining Act, designed to give incentives to the then-budding mining industry to go west and create jobs and

raw materials for a growing America. Prior to 1872, the miners themselves largely determined mining laws that had pre-existed in California. Miners would form governments in each new mining camp, which led to a lack of mining standards, violence, and little state or federal control. It also opened claims to include "other valuable deposits" beyond gold, silver, copper, or cinnabar.

Gold Rush Hits NM

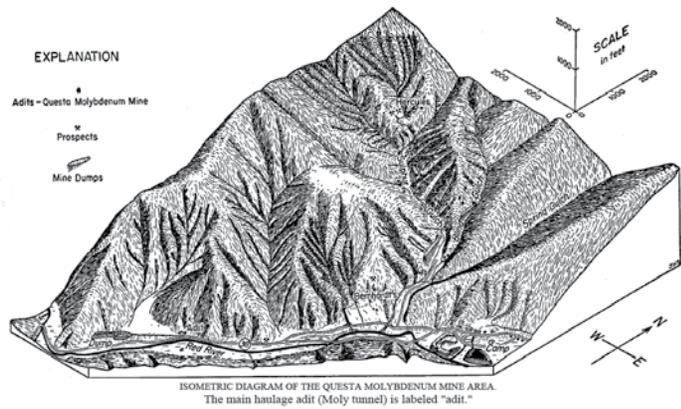
The first Rio Colorado (one of Questa's previous names) connection with the copper and gold rush in the Moreno Valley was William Kronig, who had lived and did business in Rio Colorado in the 1850s.

Moache Ute Indians had brought colored rocks to Kronig and Captain William Moore at Fort Union in 1866. Kronig and Moore sent several men to investigate the source of these rocks—Mt. Baldy—and they identified them as copper. Kissinger, Bronson, and Kelly were then sent with Ute guides to Mt. Baldy and while there, they discovered "gullies and creek beds" full of gold flakes—the secret couldn't be kept and so the gold rush was on⁽¹⁸⁶⁾ by the spring of the following year, despite Moore's desire to keep it secret.

Kronig, Moore, Lucien Maxwell, and others formed the Copper Mining Company and when work started in 1867, they found gold in large quantities. By the spring of 1868, over 3,000 people were working the gold fields and living in the new town, Elizabethtown, in the Moreno Valley. By 1899, about \$3 million worth of gold had been mined in the Baldy area⁽¹⁸⁷⁾. A new town named Red River City, up the road from the old Rio Colorado settlement, was established in 1895 after the discovery of gold in the area; that town's population ballooned to over 2,000 in 1897⁽¹⁸⁸⁾.

Gold mines such as the Midnight, Anchor, Caribel, Edison, and Memphis mines were close to Questa and were worked in the 1890s; the small, albeit short-lived towns of Midnight and Anchor sprung up at the sites of these mines. Unfortunately, ore had to be sent to Denver for treatment, and this along with legal issues regarding the land on which the mines were located resulted in their abandonment after only a few years of operation.^(A) Questa served as a shipping point for many of these placer mines. (Placer mining was done by panning or with sluice boxes, which separated minerals that had washed down from the mountains from the mud of creek beds.)^(B)

By the end of the 19th century, mineral deposits were found much closer to Questa; in either the 1880s or 1914 (historical accounts differ), two prospectors found a metallic material in outcrops in Sulphur Gulch, so named because the yellow-colored almagre scars were thought to be



sulfur. They are really the natural hydrothermal scars that date back to interglacial periods and are evidence of abundant surface water speeding the dissolution of pyrite, and freeze/thaw cycles destabilizing the rock of this mineral-rich mountain. They did not know what it was but they staked claims anyway, and at some point sent out samples to be assessed.

The beginning of World War I (1914-18) had greatly increased the demand for molybdenum, and assayers

were becoming aware of the value of the mineral molybdenite. When an assayer returned a report to these prospectors, he mentioned the presence of molybdenite and its value.

Locals and farmers knew of the chalky grey-black substance further north up the river and mistook it for graphite: they mixed it with grease and lubricated their wagon wheels. It also served as a shiny shoe polish which, unfortunately, rubbed off on everything.

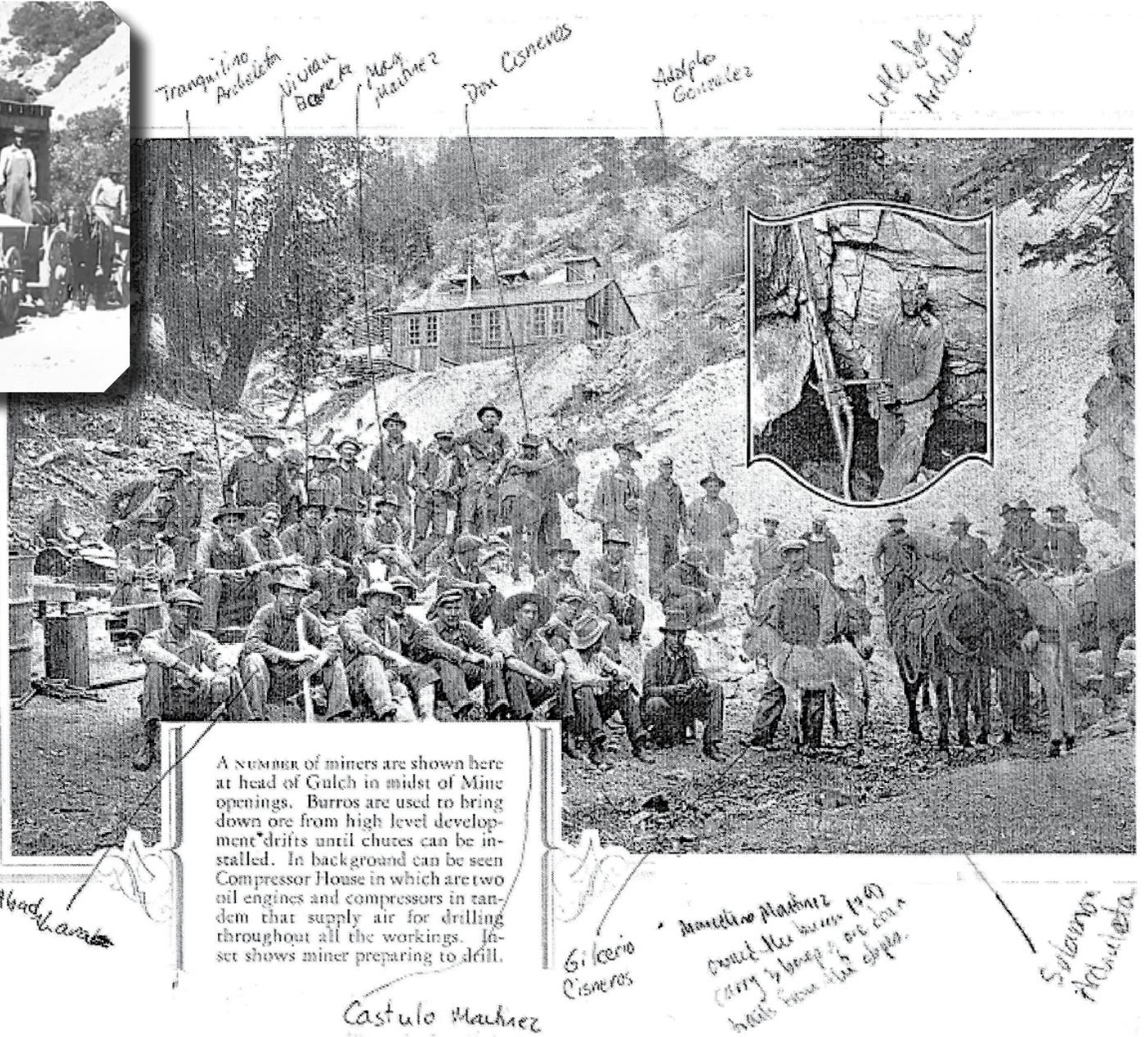
Do you have specific mine-related stories to share? QuestaStories.com is an archive for your contributions, and you can also contact me, Martha Shepp, at QuestaDelRioNews@gmail.com. I dearly want to draw upon real people and real stories by way of illustrating what makes Questa what it was, what it is, and what it can become.



It was hard labor in 1926, getting the treasure released from the mountain. Miners and mules worked in the tunnels, then horses hauled wagons of ore several miles up Hwy 38 to the June Bug Mill, previously used in gold mining, for processing.



The Red River Prospector (local newspaper from 1900) shows an ad to help secure financing.



Do the handwritten callouts on this 1926 photo at the Questa Mine identify some of your great or great-great-grandfathers? (published in the Molybdenum Corp. of America brochure)

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Wikipedia

WATER RIGHTS cont'd from page 1

transaction to Chevron. It was submitted to the NMOSE on May 7, 2021 and there were no public protests.

These two transactions represent only 7 acre feet out of up to 1,433 acre feet Chevron wishes to provide for economic development, including an upcoming donation of 120 acre feet to the Village of Questa municipal water system. This donation will be coupled with a one-off \$1 lease of approximately 1,800 acre feet from Chevron to the Village to clear up the Village's historic over-diversion of water. All of this meets the Village's 40-year water plan as required by NMOSE. The donation and lease transfers will be submitted

shortly to the NMOSE for approval. But are these plans now also at risk of being denied by the state?

It is worth noting that Chevron is placing a deed restriction on transfers of these 1,433 acre feet. After a transfer, the new owner cannot transfer the water rights out of the Questa area (the Village of Questa, Cerro, Buena Vista, a community near Cerro and what is now the Questa Airport, El Rito, Costilla, and Amalia) for 75 years. This resulted in a discounted market price of \$3,000 per acre foot versus \$16,000 to \$20,000 in Taos County as a whole. What happens to these rights if they cannot be transferred as the community (and Chevron) intends? Will they be appropriated by the state? Will they be

moved out of our community?

If history is any guide, the outlook is grave. The federal government did not honor the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and recognize the San Antonio del Rio Colorado land grant. As a result, most of the land surrounding Questa is owned by the federal government. Fortunately, our community has been able to work productively with the BLM and US Forest Service to continue community access to these lands.

But water is not land. If and when it is ever moved south or otherwise made unavailable, it will likely never return.

That would seal the fate of our community for generations to come. How is the Village expected to provide water to

residents and businesses? How are local farmers expected to improve food security for our community members in need? What good is all the available Chevron surplus land without access to water?

Questa has turned the economic corner after the mine shut down. But that victory and our future is now in danger of drying up, literally.

The *Questa Del Rio News* will continue to closely follow this developing story. If you as community members have similar stories to share about challenges in obtaining permits or approvals from the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, we welcome hearing from you.

Questa Land & Water Board Showcases Parcels

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

On Saturday, January 29, Chevron held a public meeting and marketing session at Rael's Market & Coffee Shop from 1 to 3 pm in order to advertise land for sale throughout northern Taos County. Representing Chevron Mining Inc. (the Chevron company that owns the land) was Public Affairs Advisor Christian Isely. Accompanying Mr. Isely was real estate broker John Johnston, with Berkshire Hathaway. Questa Mayor Mark Gallegos and Questa Land & Water Board Member and Village Councilor Louise Gallegos were also present.

The Questa Land & Water Board has five members: Chairman Juan Cisneros, Vice-chairman Malaquias Rael, Councilor John Ortega, Councilor Louise Gallegos, and Donald Gallegos.

Mr. Isely showcased 12 parcels of land in Cerro and Sunshine Valley. Mayor Gallegos discussed these potential land sales with Mr. Isely, particularly the process each proposal must go through to obtain confirmation through the Questa Land & Water Board, a committee that was organized through the joint efforts of Chevron and the Village of Questa to review the stated intentions of prospective buyers. The process would ensure that the land sold will be put to



Courtesy Photo

Christian Isely, left, at Rael's for the meeting with Councilor Louise Gallegos.

good use for Questa's economic benefit.

Prices on the land parcels range on average between \$550 and \$650 per acre, according to Mr. Isely, ranging from 40 acres to 1,372 acres.

"Chevron had the parcels appraised in 2018. Taos County has experienced a real estate boom since the pandemic started, but we are still using the 2018

prices," said Mr. Isely.

Mayor Gallegos expressed concern about developers from outside Questa or even New Mexico buying land here and subdividing it into smaller parcels for further development. That is what the Questa Land & Water Board aims to prevent.

"We want the primary benefits of

these proposals to be of economic benefit to Questa," said Mayor Gallegos.

Mr. Isely explained that the most challenging part of land sales is water rights transfers through New Mexico's Office of the State Engineer (OSE). "One issue we constantly hear is that the OSE is under-budgeted and understaffed, resulting in a lengthy application process. We very much look forward to working with the new State Engineer Mike Hamman, to ensure that water rights can be expeditiously transferred from Chevron to local farmers, ranchers, businesses, and the Village of Questa for economic development," said Mr. Isely.

Chevron acquired these properties some 40 years ago and transferred the water rights from these properties for the now closed molybdenum mine (for mining and industrial use), in 1984. "Most of these properties were acquired from local farmers and ranchers specifically for their water rights during one of the mine's boom periods in the early 1980s. Chevron is now working with the community to provide these water rights for the economic development of the Questa area. No mining occurred on these land properties. They are environmentally unimpacted," Mr. Isely added. *See the related water rights story on the front page.*

COMMUNITY CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS FAIR: Friday, April 1, 10 am- 2 pm at Taos Academy Charter School.

For High School Students, Recent Graduates, and Young Adults wanting to return to College and the Workforce, open to the entire community. Presenters include State and Local Higher Education, Local Businesses, Career and Internship Opportunities, Local Scholarships, Military Recruiters, and more. Scholarship Information, Networking and Door Prizes. **Free to attend, free to present.**

For more contact smartinez@taosacademy.org or (575) 571-3109.

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." — Pablo Picasso



Election Day is Tuesday, March 1

Voting will take place at the Village Council Chambers. Hours from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Village of Questa Council Meetings

March 8, 2022, 6:00 pm
March 22, 2022, 6:00 pm

Law Enforcement

It is very important that if you have an emergency or need to report any criminal activity you must call 911. All activity must go through the dispatch system for efficiency and safety purposes: this is common practice. If you have any questions or concerns, it's most appropriate to contact the village office at (575) 586-0694.

Questa Fire Department

QFD is looking for new volunteers! You can show up to one of their meetings or trainings, held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm. For more information call (575) 586-0250.

Library

Intro computer classes began on February 17, held on Thursday evenings from 5:00 - 6:00 pm, for six weeks. For more information or to sign up, contact the library at (575) 586-2023.



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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

- Staffing Questa del Rio newspaper booths
- Farmers Market
- Staffing and recruiting new volunteers at Questa Studio Tour
- 5th Annual Nuevo Americana Music Festival Torres Ranch in Costilla

Why volunteer?

- When we help others we experience a "warm glow"
- Boost your connections, especially with older adults
- Build trusting relationships
- Rewards in the afterlife!
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Call: (720) 662-9652

Questa Del Rio News

Oh, the places you'll go when you shop at the Questa Public Library's

Spring Cleaning Used Book Sale

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
March 3, 4 & 5

Our staff has been going through the book collection and pulling out duplicates, oldies-but-goodies, and never-borrowed. We're having a ginormous three-day book sale—come and find your long-forgotten favorites and new treasures!

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Our Questa Public Library—But wait... there's more!

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE QUESTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The arrival of spring will bring new excitement to the Questa Public Library, as work will begin on exterior landscaping for our library! The improved outdoor area on the east side of the library will be a multipurpose space for our community and will provide opportunities for outdoor meetings, family gatherings, memorials, photo ops, educational and storytelling programs for our children, or just relaxing and enjoying our beautiful mountains.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Questa Public Library, this project will move forward in phases.

PHASE 1

Extend the current patio space, supported by a generous donation from Dr. Larry Brown in memory of his wife Charlotte Brown. This phase will get under way as soon as our capricious spring weather permits.

PHASE 2

Grading the garden area, installing a

drip irrigation system, and planting 24 trees, including aspen, oak, pine varieties, and spruce.

PHASE 3

Install benches, boulders, shrubs, perennial plantings, and a water feature.

PHASE 4

Add paths, weed barriers, gravel, and edgings.

This garden project was designed by Jimmy Cisneros, of Gecko Landscaping, Taos, New Mexico. Mr. Cisneros specializes in designing landscapes that feature efficient irrigation and adapts to our high desert climate, using recycled materials when possible, and applying traditional materials in untraditional and imaginative ways. He has installed landscaping projects at many Taos County schools, government facilities, businesses, and residences.

We want this new space to evolve depending on our community's needs and wishes, and we welcome your suggestions and comments. And we hope community members will consider donating any amount in support of this



Photo By Valerie Vigil

Library landscaping now as it appears now, behind the library.

project. We particularly invite donations to Phases 2 and 3 in memory of a family member, celebrating the birth of a child, or commemorating a family event. These donations for specific trees, plantings, or

garden furniture will include a plaque describing your donation. For more information, please contact the Questa Public Library at (575) 586-2023 or stop by and visit us.

A Cultural And Humanitarian Project

THIS LAND, MY BELOVED: A TRILINGUAL ANTHOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY HAITIAN POETRY IN FRENCH, ENGLISH, AND HAITIAN

EDITORS: SENIOR EDITOR ELIZABETH BRUNAZZI, CO-EDITORS EDDY TOUSSAINT TONTONGI AND DENIZÉ LAUTURE

BY STAFF WRITERS

The poetry selected for inclusion in *This Land, My Beloved/Cette Terre, mon amour/Tè Mwen Renmen An*, represents an invitation to both the general reader and the specialist to explore the reflection and interpretation of Haitian culture and history as they are experienced in the present day, by Haitian poets inhabiting an international diaspora extending from Haiti across multiple regions of the US, Canada, and France. The editors and contributors (over 30 men and women)

have been engaged in this cultural and humanitarian project for over three years. The book will be published by Trilingual Press, Cambridge Mass, in September 2022.

The distinctive characteristics of this assembly of voices converge in the conception of the body: the body as the motherland of Haiti, the body as beloved, the body as sufferer, the outraged body, the body in lamentation, the body as resistance and site of renewal; and, finally, the body as it is ritualized in the languages embraced by these poets.

Senior editor of the anthology and food editor for *Questa Del Rio News*, Dr. Elizabeth Brunazzi will travel to France in May, 2022, for a residential fellowship of two months at the International Center for Literary Translation, in Arles, France, for final preparation, translation, and editing of the anthology. She will give presentations in both Arles and at a colloquium in Paris, June 29 through July 1. Congratulations, Elizabeth!



QUESTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK

By SHARON NICHOLSON,
DIRECTOR OF QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Questa Public Library is pleased to announce the latest addition to our staff, Valerie Vigil. As an assistant librarian, you will find Valerie at the desk and working with our children's programs. We asked Valerie to introduce herself:

I was born and raised in Taos, NM. I moved to Albuquerque and Santa Fe right after high school to pursue my college education. In 2011, I graduated with my

bachelor's in psychology with a minor in business management. I moved to Questa in 2015 and never looked back to the city life. I have an amazing husband and we have two beautiful kids. My family and I love camping, hiking, movie nights, and taking road trips. I am also a small business owner, I opened up Faithful Beginnings* in 2020 during the pandemic, and it was the best decision. I have met so many amazing people and have become a part of many wonderful organizations here in Questa and one of those is the library."

Stop by and introduce yourself to Valerie soon!

* Customized gifts and hand-made items

Questa Public Library Updates System!

We invite you to explore the new and improved card catalog, which you can find by clicking this link <https://questa.biblionix.com/catalog/>

You can browse new titles, request and reserve books, and so much more! As part of this update, you may be receiving an email notifying you that your card is expired. Don't worry, all you have to do is email (library@villageofquesta.org), call (575-586-2023), or stop by to renew your card.

We hope to see you soon!

Death Under The Perseids, By Teresa Dovalpage

BOOK REVIEW
By MARTHA SHEPP

After reading the latest novel, *Death Under The Perseids* from our own Teresa Dovalpage, I so want to visit Cuba! I don't yet speak Spanish (Duo Lingo lessons may kick in?) so I can't converse much with people there, or know a laundromat from a bar, but based on Dovalpage's descriptions of her home country, the food, and the quirky characters who comprise the action in this turny twisty mystery set in Havana, I want to go—preferably with the author as my personal tour guide.

Dovalpage's avatar in this 320+ page drama is Merceditas—Mercy, Americanized, or Mercedes. The intrigue unfolds in three places: on a cruise ship, where she was mysteriously offered free passage; in Havana, once the ship docks; and in her peripatetic mind.

Mercy is not a likable character: a seemingly superficial directionless flighty young woman, whose part-time job grooming dogs in a shishi salon in Florida is definitely not her calling. But then, she seems to not care much about anything, except to turn over and over in her mind her past romantic choices, giving herself guilt when it comes to these *amantes*, and drinking too much, which she admits doesn't help things.

Not far into the book, we learn of her current hubby, Spanish teacher Nolan, and Lorenzo, her lost love—through flashback passages, active daydreaming, tragic reminiscences, and passionate regrets. Other characters related to these two flesh out the cast and pacing; it feels at times like I'm watching, rather than reading, an episodic drama with multiple commercial breaks, as she deftly drops us in and out of a variety of places in time or space.



Courtesy Photo

Cuban author Teresa Dovalpage, translator for *Questa Del Rio News*.

The perceptive and often lovely descriptions are few and far between, but they hold the book together: scenes of Havana, her grandmother's garden, and food. Here are some of my favorites:

Javier drank furiously. I watched him—his rodent-like countenance, with furtive eyes and a small round mouth.

The pendant light didn't work—something had gone wrong with the wiring, Mamina said. She turned on a brass table lamp supported by two chubby cherubs. We sat in the rocking chairs that were, like everything else, "vintage," with carved spindles and busted cane seats. The leather sofa was better avoided; it had angry springs poking through, ready to stab the behind of whoever sat on it.

The inside of the cathedral felt like a warm cocoon. The combination of the dark space and Yotiel's sugary voice made me sleepy. I started to drift off. Suddenly, perhaps due to the sweetish sandalwood

fragrance that filled the temple or the potent smell of roses somebody had brought in, I felt like vomiting.

She sprinkles Spanish slang throughout, but kindly, always hints enough at the meanings in English in subsequent sentences to keep non-Spanish speakers like me interested and engaged. I loved both the sound and meaning of *Lo Pasado*, *pisado*: "stamp on the past" or "let bygones be bygones."

I admit to wanting to see Mercedes develop into more of a self-directed and less shallow character as I read along, but I had to settle for the loving descriptions of her grandmother and her house—the one Mercedes grew up in. Mamina's can-do attitude in the face of crumbling infrastructure, shortages of essential goods, food rationing, and broken everything, her nurturing and obvious love "just as she is" of Mercedes, grandmother's home cooking—these pull the reader deeply into the heart of "home," transcending specificity of locale to tug on the universal human heartstrings. These pose the question and answer of what it means to feel

rooted, connected, and loved. Ultimately, this is at the heart of this book, not the murder, the missing persons, the motives for revenge, and certainly not the unlikely way a single letter ties up all the loose ends: although those qualities make for a fun ride!

Death under the Perseids, by Teresa Dovalpage, published Dec. 7, 2021, by Soho Press, Inc., New York, NY, www.sohocrime.com, hardcover, 336 pages.

Teresa Dovalpage is a Cuban writer and professor of Spanish and ESL at New Mexico Junior College. She was born in Havana and left for the United States in 1996. Dovalpage earned her doctorate in Latin American Literature from the University of New Mexico. She has published 12 novels to date. Her third novel, *Muerte de un murciano en La Habana* (*Death of a Murcian in Havana*, Anagrama, 2006) was runner-up for the Premio Herralde.

Her next novel *El difunto Fidel* (*The Late Fidel*) won the Rincon de la Victoria Award in Spain in 2009. She has also published several plays and short story collections. She is the *Questa Del Rio News*' official Spanish translator and translates Ellen Wood's *Live Love Laugh* column every month.

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Vida Del Norte Annual Retreat Recap



By CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Saturday, January 22, the Vida Del Norte coalition held their annual retreat at their office in Questa—a time for coalition and community members to get to know one another, review goals, and create strategic planning. We also discussed data findings from recent, relevant local surveys.

Coalition Coordinator Maria Gonzalez reviewed the two main goals of the coalition. These goals are determined by the Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant:

- Goal 1: Establish and strengthen collaboration among communities, private nonprofit agencies, and federal, state, local, and tribal governments to support the efforts of community coalitions to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth.

- Goal 2: Reduce substance abuse among youth and, over time, among adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse, and by promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse.

Later in her presentation, Maria discussed the importance of capacity building within the coalition. She explained that “targeted recruiting” involves several key steps:

- Identify the work to be done
- Determine the skills, knowledge, and resources needed
- Identify which individuals and/or organizations can be recruited
- Recruit new (and existing) members to do the work

This involvement from the community is the coalition's most valuable resource.

During the lunch break, participants filled out an evaluation to gauge where the coalition is strong and what needs improvement.

Find out more about all the various ways that you can get involved with Vida Del Norte! Visit www.vidadelnorte.com/get-involved.

Having committed and engaged members, volunteers, and community partners is crucial to the coalition's success.

Janie Corinne, the coalition evaluator, presented findings of a recent annual survey assessing alcohol use in Taos County. 74% of adults age 18-25 report drinking alcohol and 33% of these individuals report binge drinking. This is especially concerning since the brain continues to develop until the age of 25 and alcohol use can impair that development process. See the rest of the survey findings at www.vidadelnorte.com/data.

Brian Salazar gave a presentation on how best to communicate with youth when having conversations about substance misuse prevention. Brian has recently been hired as the QISD counselor. His presentation stressed the importance of talking to youth with respect.

Five youth members were also present at the retreat. They brought up some important points that address how the community can come together to create better opportunities for the youth that might help prevent them and their peers from misusing substances. They talked

about how they can feel let down by adults and how, often, when they share their opinions, it seems that no one cares or listens. One young lady even said that she would not want to ever raise kids in Questa because there is a lack of opportunity here. One young man said that he would want to raise a family here because feels that it is a good investment to come back to your community. All of the young people discussed how they would like to see a wellness center or have the school gym open after hours. More group activities outside of school like camping, fishing, and arts and crafts were also decided. The support and consistency that they are getting in school was an issue: one young woman thought that staff evaluations at the school could be beneficial. All of this input from the youth and the presentation by Brian Salazar about effective communication helped the adult members of the coalition to better understand how important it is to be respectful and listen to the concerns of young people when they want to be heard, especially if we hope for them to listen and understand the dangers of substance misuse.

O B I T U A R I E S



Jimmy Arellano, age 50, a resident of Albuquerque and formerly of Amalia, passed away unexpectedly February 13, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his father Rosendo Arellano; sister Berlinda Arellano Roberts; grandparents Miguel and Eufemia Arellano, and Epimenio and Benina Archuleta; aunts and uncles Anthony Archuleta, Joe Archuleta, Johnny Archuleta, Epi Archuleta, Jr., Elmer Arellano, Everto Arellano, Eloy Arellano, Suzie Neary, and Lara Kalafatis.

Jimmy is survived by his son Izaiah Arellano; mother Martha Lucero (Eliseo); brothers Rosendo Arellano, Jr. (Michelle) and Virgil Arellano; mother of his son Viola Ann Sanchez; in-laws Gary & Maxine Sanchez, Genevieve Gomez (Robert), Marcos Sanchez (Janella), plus many loving nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives, and friends.

The family of Jimmy Arellano has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



Modesto Cisneros, age 92, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his devoted family on February 7, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife Rosita and son James; parents Francisco and Corina Cisneros; brothers Frank, Fabian (Pressy), and Jose Cisneros, and sister Josie (Gilbert) Gonzales; nephews Earl Gonzales, and daughter Clarrisa, and David Cisneros.

Modesto proudly served his country in the US Army from 1951 to 1953. He received a Korean Service Medal with two bronze service stars and was also a combat medic while in the Korean War.

He is survived by his children Joyce (Elias) Romero, Jeanette (John) Purcell, Jova (Norman) Sanchez, and Janice Cisneros; grandchildren Brian, Michael and Marcus Romero, Ramona and Joaquin Sanchez, Nicholas, Tito, and Tiffany Cisneros; great-grandchildren Jacob and Isaac Romero, and Averil Rose Sanchez, numerous nieces and nephews, and grand-dogs.

He is also survived by his brothers Stanley (Fabbie), Levi (Gail), Flavio, Richard (Vickie), and sister Irene Cisneros, sisters-in-law Irene and Maryanne Cisneros, and Carol Quintana. Rosary was recited on Tuesday February 15, followed by the Mass of Christian burial at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa with burial at the Pueblito Cemetery. The family of Modesto Cisneros has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



David Flores, age 55, a resident of Questa, passed away unexpectedly January 26, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his parents David & Barbara Flores; brother Abel Flores; uncle Theodore Flores; grandmother Dora Montoya and grandfather Eloy Flores; and grandson Raymond Abel Rael.

David is survived by his children: Kristin Flores Morris (David), Kelly Saiz (Jer-

emy Urtado), Joseph Saiz (Barbara), Danielle Saiz (Geo Palacios); grandchildren Emilie Corral, Alexandra Corral, Victoria Corral, Isaac Saiz, Hailey Saiz, Jonathan Saiz, Jordan Saiz, Jayden Saiz, Noah Saiz, Azaria Saiz, Gabriella Saiz; great-grandson Dakota; brother Bradley Flores, and many other relatives and friends.

Services were held in Denver, CO. The family of David Flores has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



Stephanie Ann Gilbert, age 64, a resident of Questa, passed away unexpectedly February 3, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Orville and Catherine Gilbert; sisters Melody Nicholson, Michelle Teter, Danielle Holloway, Bernadette Yates, and Annette Demel.

OBITUARIES cont'd on page 24

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For more information,
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Questa is an incredible place to live. We know it requires hard work from so many people to keep it that way. Thanks for rolling up your sleeves to keep Questa special.



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OBITUARIES cont'd from page 22

Stephanie was employed at Taos Herb Company for 17 years. She loved to spend time in the outdoors and enjoyed teaching her skills in canning and weaving. She also participated in the Threshold Choir in Taos.

She is survived by her husband Sean Murray, plus many other loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and cherished friends.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. The family of Stephanie Ann Gilbert has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



Virgil Wayne Gomez, age 73, of Questa, NM, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2022, at Loveless Heart Hospital in Albuquerque, NM surrounded by his

son, daughter, and son-in-law. Virgil is preceded in death by his father Virgilio Gomez, son Paul (Geno) Aguilar, sister Jenny Gomez, his beloved infant grandson Jonathan Montoya, nephew Gerald Gallegos, brothers-in-law David Maes, Senator Carlos Cisneros, and best friend Rudy Romero.

Virgil is survived by his precious mother Isabel Gomez, son Loren Gomez (Shamra), daughter Roberta Gomez-Romero (Delbert), siblings Diane Barela, Elaine Gomez (Javier), Glenda Gallegos (Gonzalo), Patsy Cisneros, Marlene Gomez, Richard Gomez aka Dickey, Ronnie Gomez (Cecil). He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren Kayla Archuleta-Walter, Audrianna Gomez, Raquel Gomez, Joshua Garcia, Forrest Aguilar, Graciela Aguilar, Aaron Montoya, Sophia Aguilar, Emiliano Gomez, Leigha Romero, Riley Hanna, and Josiah Romero. Virgil is also survived by his daughter-in-law Monica Rael-Aguilar, special friends Christine Vargas, Betty Romero, and numerous nephews, nieces, family members and friends.

Virgil graduated from Questa High in 1968. After graduation he enlisted in the US Army and proudly served his country as an airborne ranger in the 182nd Airborne Division. He ended his career as Sergeant First Class. During his career in the Army, he lived in Germany and Panama. He later re-enlisted in the Army National Guard and then lived in El Paso, TX, and White Sands, NM. Then

he moved back to Taos and worked at Vargas Co. in sales and tile setting. He also worked at Molycorp and was a squad boss during his time as a firefighter for the Carson National Forest.

He looked forward to working every year at the Legislative Session where he touched the hearts of many as well. Virgil loved riding his Harley and spending time with his family and friends. His heart and soul was in Questa, NM where he was and always will be loved by so many. Virgil will forever be known for his happy, kind, and generous ways. He will be dearly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Memorial service was held on Saturday February 5, 2022 in the Evergreen Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos, with burial following at the El Pueblito Cemetery in Questa. The family of Virgil Wayne Gomez has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



Margaret Judith Gonzales Burns, remembered as the nurse at the Molycorp Mine, passed away peacefully, February, 4, 2022 at age 90. After raising a family,

Margaret graduated from USC Nursing School, where she was named Most Outstanding Student in her class. Following her retirement from nursing, she served broadly in the Taos community. Earning her certificate as a Master Gardener, she worked with the town to bring live flowers to Taos Plaza. She volunteered her time at St. James Food Pantry and CAV Thrift Store. Margaret's service to her community will be missed, but her legacy will live on. Arrangements by Rivera Family Funeral Home.



Berlinda Arellano Roberts, age 55, a resident of Albuquerque and formerly of Amalia, passed away unexpectedly January 31, 2022.

She was preceded in death by her father Rosendo Arellano; grandparents Miguel & Eufemia Arellano and Epimenio & Benina Archuleta; aunts and uncles Anthony Archuleta, Joe Archuleta, Johnny Archuleta, Epi Archuleta, Jr., Elmer Arellano, Everto Arellano, Eloy Arellano, Suzie Neary, and Lala Kalafatis.

Berlinda is survived by her children: Johnny Roberts III and Sabrina Roberts; companion Michelle Ortiz; her parents, Dolores and Herman Ortiz; mother Martha Lucero (Eliseo); brothers Rosendo Arellano, Jr. (Michelle), Jimmy Arellano, Virgil Arellano, and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives, and friends.

Public viewing will be held on Sunday February 6th, 2022 from 1-2pm in the Evergreen Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. Rosary was recited on Sunday February 13, at Santo Niño Catholic Church in Amalia. Funeral Mass was held on February 14, 2022 at Santo Niño Catholic Church in Amalia, with burial at the Santo Niño Catholic Cemetery.

The family of Berlinda Arellano Roberts has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



Floraida "Flora" Sanchez, age 93, a resident of Cerro, passed away on February 13, 2022 surrounded by her loving family. She was preceded

in death by her husband Lucas, her son Bobby; brothers, Lee and Don Espinosa; sisters, Jessie Salazar and Maria Torres, as well as in-laws and spouses of the very large Sanchez family from the Cerro/ Questa area. She is survived by her daughter Marilyn (Paul) Fleming, daughter-in-law and caregiver Kimber Sanchez; granddaughters Erika Fleming and Rebecca (Edwin) Rodriquez; grandsons Matt (Keri) Fleming, Greg (Byron) Irving, LeEvan (Jackie), and John Sanchez who also was her caregiver; great-grandchildren Angelica, Francisco, Bandom, Jaxon Sanchez, Rocky Pedroncelli, Zoey Fleming, and Adrian Salazar; great-great-grandchildren Aubrey and Kailani Sanchez. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Anita Espinosa, her Senior Companion/niece Annabelle Torres and two very special people whom she helped raise and who have been very grateful and loyal to her, Johnny Torres and Elva Sanchez, as well as many nieces and nephews. Flora was a very active member of her community and church. She also served in the Taos County Ancianos Program as a Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion for over 20 years. Rosary was recited on Saturday February 19, 2022 and mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cerro, NM. Christian Burial followed at the Cerro Cemetery. Arrangements by Rivera Family Funeral Home.



Judith Underwood Starbuck, age 96, passed away in Tucson, AZ on February 11, after a brief illness. She was predeceased by her husband Ward Starbuck, her

sister Denise Underwood Martin, and her brother The Hon. Wynn Underwood. A longtime resident of San Cristobal, NM, she was raised in Sudbury, VT. An avid downhill skier, she was training for the 1940 Olympics when the games were canceled. She was a dancer, model, actress, teacher, ski instructor and pursued a wide range of interests, including music of the southwest. In 1961 she married Ward Starbuck in Vermont North Pomfret, VT. They moved to San Cristobal, where they lived for 20 years and are still remembered fondly. They designed and built a cabin, Judy learned Spanish, and converted to Catholicism. She organized a children's choir for the church, accompanying them and composing songs for them. Her later life was simple (she cut her own hair), athletic (she swam every chance she got), generous (she gave away much of what she owned and created), and faithful. She died at peace. She is survived by her nieces and nephews: Hillary Martin Kanfer, Jay Hart Martin, and Timothy Underwood Martin; Sky Underwood Cardile, Joel Traver Underwood, Andrea Underwood Jones, Darcy Underwood Carter, and Margot Hillary Underwood. The family is planning a memorial service later this year.

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Estás invitado a participar en el Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Sitio Reunión de la comunidad virtual 15 de marzo de 2022

La Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (EPA) llevará a cabo una reunión comunitaria virtual para proporcionar una actualización para el sitio (sitio) de Chevron Questa Mine Superfund. A medida que navegamos a través de este momento único, la salud y la seguridad de nuestro personal, contratistas y las comunidades a las que servimos es nuestra principal prioridad. Como resultado, la EPA y sus equipos de Superfund Site están llevando a cabo reuniones virtuales en lugar de eventos de reuniones públicas en persona para reflejar la orientación actual de COVID-19 de funcionarios federales, estatales, tribales y locales que desalientan las reuniones de más de diez personas a la vez.

Durante la reunión virtual, el personal de la EPA y las partes interesadas proporcionarán información y responderán preguntas sobre el estado del Sitio. La reunión virtual se llevará a cabo en línea y / o por teléfono a través de Conferencias de video y llamadas de Microsoft Teams en:

Pruebe su computadora o aplicación móvil antes de asistir a la reunión utilizando el siguiente enlace. El soporte técnico es limitado y está sujeto a retrasos significativos. Debido a la pandemia de COVID-19, la EPA organizará la reunión de actualización del sitio por teléfono a través de la conferencia de video y llamadas de Microsoft Teams.

Formato de reunión	Conferencia de video y llamada en Microsoft Teams
Reunión virtual	Los temas de discusión incluyen: La justificación legal de la EPA para avanzar con la renovación del permiso del Sistema Nacional de Eliminación de Descargas de Contaminantes (NPDES) de la Ley de Agua Limpia (CWA) y no emitir una Ley Integral de Respuesta Ambiental, Compensación y Responsabilidad, conocida como CERCLA o Enmienda del Registro de Decisión del Superfund (ROD).
Dirección web de la reunión (URL)	www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine
Fecha y hora	15 de marzo de 2022, de 6:00 pm a 7:30 pm
Audio gratuito para reuniones	Teléfono: (844) 608-7693, ID de conferencia: 598 762 202#

Hay dos formas de asistir a la reunión virtual:

1. Visite el sitio web de la EPA Chevron Questa Mine: www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine acceda a la información de la reunión virtual y al enlace web.

Haga clic en este enlace que dice ["Haga clic aquí para unirse a la reunión"](#) Cuando se inicie la página De Teams, seleccione "Use Teams" en el navegador actual o "Go to Teams App" y siga las instrucciones. Los navegadores pueden variar según la computadora. Microsoft Teams actualmente admite los siguientes navegadores: Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox y Safari. Asegúrese de que está ejecutando la última versión del navegador en su dispositivo para evitar cualquier limitación en términos de funciones. Como alternativa, puede descargar la aplicación Microsoft Teams en su equipo de escritorio o dispositivo móvil antes de la reunión.

2. Llame utilizando este número de teléfono y el ID de conferencia (solo audio):
 - Teléfono: (844) 608-7693
 - ID de conferencia: 598 762 202#

Si tiene algún problema para unirse por teléfono o en línea el día de la reunión, comuníquese con Heather Davis (713) 985-6672 para obtener asistencia inmediata. Copias de hojas informativas, boletines informativos, el registro administrativo y otra información están disponibles en línea en el Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site: [https://www.epa.gov/superfund/Chevron Questa Mine Site Documents & Data](https://www.epa.gov/superfund/Chevron_Questa_Mine_Site_Documents_&_Data) O en los siguientes repositorios de información del sitio:

Village of Questa - 2500 Antigua Carretera Estatal 3 - Apartado de correos 260 - 87556, Questa, Nuevo México - (575) 586-0694

**New Mexico Environment Department
1190 S. San Francisco Dr.- 87505, Santa Fe, Nuevo México - (505) 827-2340**

Should you have any specific needs or questions about the online virtual meeting, please contact: Janetta Coats, Senior Community Involvement Coordinator, at (214) 665-7308 or coats.janetta@epa.gov. Any request for accommodation should be made to Janetta 1 week or more in advance so that EPA will have sufficient time to process the request such as closed captioning.

Todas las consultas de los medios de comunicación deben dirigirse a la Oficina de Prensa de la Región 6 de la EPA al (214) 665-2200 o al número gratuito 1.800.533.3508.



You are invited to participate in the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site Virtual Community Meeting March 15, 2022

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a virtual community meeting to provide an update for the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site (Site). As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities we serve is our top priority. As a result, EPA and its Superfund Site teams are conducting virtual meetings in lieu of in-person public meeting events to reflect current COVID-19 guidance from federal, state, tribal, and local officials discouraging gatherings of more than ten people at a time. During the virtual meeting, EPA staff and stakeholders will provide information and answer questions about the status of the Site. The virtual meeting will be held online and/or over the phone via Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conferencing on:

Please test your computer or mobile app prior to attending the meeting using the link below. Technical support is limited and subject to significant delays. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA will host the Site Update Meeting over the phone via Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conference.

Meeting Format	Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conference
Virtual Meeting	Topics for discussion include: EPA's legal justification to move forward with renewing the Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and not issue a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act—known as CERCLA or Superfund Record Of Decision (ROD) Amendment.
Meeting Address (URL)	www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine
Date and Time	March 15, 2022, 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm
Toll-free Audio for Meeting	Phone number: (844) 608-7693, Conference ID: 598 762 202#

There are Two ways to attend the virtual meeting:

1. Visit EPA's Chevron Questa Mine website: www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine access virtual meeting information and web link.

Click on this link that says ["Click here to join the meeting"](#) When the Teams page launches, select "Use Teams" on current browser or "Go to Teams App" and follow the instructions. Browsers may vary by computer. Microsoft Teams currently supports the following browsers: Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Ensure you're running the latest browser version on your device to avoid any limitations in terms of features. Alternatively, you can download the Microsoft Teams app to your desktop computer or mobile device prior to the meeting.

2. Call in using this phone number and Conference ID (Audio only):
 - Phone number: (844) 608-7693
 - Conference ID: 598 762 202#

If you have any problems joining by phone or online on the day of the meeting, please contact Heather Davis (713) 985-6672 for immediate assistance.

Copies of fact sheets, information bulletins, the administrative record, and other information are available online at the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site: [https://www.epa.gov/superfund/Chevron Questa Mine Site Documents & Data](https://www.epa.gov/superfund/Chevron_Questa_Mine_Site_Documents_&_Data)

Or at the following Site information repositories:

**Village of Questa
2500 Old State Road 3 - P.O. Box 260 - Questa, New Mexico 87556 - (575) 586-0694
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 S. St. Francis Dr. - Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505 - (505) 827-2340**

Should you have any specific needs or questions about the online virtual meeting, please contact: Janetta Coats, Senior Community Involvement Coordinator, at (214) 665-7308 or coats.janetta@epa.gov. Any request for accommodation should be made to Janetta 1 week or more in advance so that EPA will have sufficient time to process the request such as closed captioning.

All news media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Region 6 Press Office at (214) 665-2200 or toll free 1.800.533.3508.



SPRING EQUINOX 2022
By 6TH-GRADER SIERRA O.

The Spring Equinox in 2022 occurs on Sunday, March 20. It is the first day of spring in the astronomical northern hemisphere and considered the start of spring. The March equinox in the northern hemisphere occurs when the sun crosses the equator line heading north. It is the start of spring in the northern half of the globe. The northern hemisphere begins to be tilted closer to the sun resulting in increased daylight hours and warming temperatures. It is opposite in the southern hemisphere where March equinox marks the start of autumn where it is leaning away from the sun.



Photo by John Walsh



QISD SPORTS SCHEDULES

	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
B A S E B A L L	3/7/2022	Manual	Double header	Away 3:00pm / 5:00pm
	3/10/2022	Clayton	Double header	Home 3:00pm / 5:00pm
	3/18/2022	Logan	Double header	Away 3:00pm / 5:00pm
	3/22/2022	Clayton	Double header	Away 3:00pm / 5:00pm
	3/26/2022	Jal	Double header	Away (Estancia) 1:00pm/3:00pm
	3/31/2022	Laguna-Acoma	One game	Home 3:00pm / 5:00pm
	4/4/2022	Logan	One game	Home 3:00pm
	4/12/2022	McCurdy	Double header	Away 4:00pm/6:00pm
	4/14/2022	Mora	Double header	Away 4:00pm/6:00pm
	4/16/2022	Magdalena	Double header	Home 1:00pm/3:00pm
	4/19/2022	Peñasco	Double header	Away 4:00pm/6:00pm
	4/22/2022	McCurdy	Double header	Home 3:00pm / 5:00pm
	4/26/2022	Mora	Double header	Home 4:00pm/6:00pm
	4/30/2022	Peñasco	Double header	Home 3:00pm / 5:00pm
5/1/2022	1st round state			
T R A C K	3/19/2022	Dulce Invitational	Dulce	
	3/25/2022	Wildcat Invitational	Questa	
	4/9/2022	Peñasco Invitational	Peñasco	
	4/23/2022	NRG	Espanola HS	
	4/25/2022	Ram Relays	Cimarron	
	4/29/2022	District Meet	Peñasco	
5/1/2022	Week of State			

QISD School Board Reports, 2/8/22

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Maintenance: "Everything's lined out, different schools, different contractors. If you guys have any specific issues or concerns just let me know." — Facilities Supervisor Robert Martinez

Transportation: School bus inspections will take place March 21. The QISD is required to schedule at least two outside contracted bus inspections per year, one in the spring and one in the fall. — Superintendent Maldonado

Technology: We're still working with re-configuring phones... about 90% up and running. We still have a few phones in classrooms that are not connecting—they're able to call [in network but not call out of network] so we're trying to figure that out with Granite. — Superintendent Maldonado

Also working to place more controls on student accounts in Microsoft Teams and working on transitioning digital resources for classrooms from Microsoft to Google. Board Secretary Michael Cordova asked how long this process [transitioning to Google] might take. "If we had an IT person to work on it, it would probably take us about a month to get that completed. With the route we're going—with myself and Ms. MacDonald ... probably it will take us a good three or four months," replied Superintendent Maldonado. Maldonado suggests finishing the current school year with Microsoft Teams. Principal Kimber MacDonald agreed. — Superintendent Maldonado

"At the 7th through 12th grade levels, I do see a need for a virtual platform: so much of their information including textbooks come from online. The issue with Microsoft Teams is it's so systemic to our entire structure, our

website, that's our domain, so all of our e-mails are tied to that website." — Principal Kimber MacDonald

Board President Jason Rael inquired to Principal MacDonald about the possibility of using Canvas LMS (digital learning management system). "It is, in my opinion, a very unfriendly platform for students, it's just awkward. I definitely would not have elementary kids on Canvas because it's not very intuitive." — Principal Kimber MacDonald

Athletics: The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated schedule changes regarding school athletics.

Cafeteria: QISD recently received a complaint from the New Mexico Public Education Department about "exposed utensils." Superintendent Maldonado explained that utensils from here on out will be "dispensed by a dispenser so they are not out in the open." There are two conferences coming up this year, "...one by NM PED's Student Success & Wellness Bureau on April 19-20 and the other by the NM School Nutrition Association on June 7-8... We're planning on sending two staff to represent the district: Nutrition Director Corine Lovato and Head Cook Sharon Quintana." — Superintendent Maldonado

SPED: No updates from Principal MacDonald regarding special education.

The school board's live stream on YouTube experienced some significant maintenance issues, even going down for some time.

You can view future live streams of the QISD board meetings at the following web address: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuLsXpB9jyf-DrIW0iuGakdw>.

QHS VARSITY BASKETBALL SHINE IN DISTRICT!

These Questa High athletes were selected as outstanding players among their peers in district 5 of the 2A classification. Girls are coached by Dale Cisneros and boys are coached by Miguel Romero Jr.

BOYS VARSITY
1st team
Tate Danis
Honorable Mention
Matt Rael
Antonio Romero

GIRLS VARSITY
1st team
Leah Martinez
Annaliese Rivera
Honorable Mention
Aliyah Santistevan
Araceli Gonzales

A FREE Community Development Training Event



Courtesy Photo

Changemaker Ruben Medina, of Aurora Colorado, will facilitate the Asset-Based Community Development Training in Questa, April 8 and 9.

By STAFF WRITERS

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) has been proven to be a “passion-based” program that convenes community leaders and volunteers with the goal to develop a visionary road map around what they are passionate about specifically towards their community. The strength of their passions will drive the success of the outcomes. The workshop trains members of the community in a one-day workshop how to collaborate, improve communication, and combine their efforts toward common community goals.

Activities will consist of presentations, breakout sessions, group sharing, and networking will take place during the day to develop short-term and long-term community road maps as the takeaway.

In addition a follow-up session will be held with the same speaker and attendees three to six months after this

workshop, to report on successes, challenges, opportunities, and any new ideas.

The ABCD workshop event hopes to provide a forum, all in one place at one time, for everyone to learn the same community model that will be used to guide community development efforts.

If you have a vision for Questa or perhaps a passion for a business or even an idea of starting your own non-profit we hope you attend this event. All ideas for the Questa area are encouraged to be shared here. Perhaps you are already involved in something that you believe better Questa. We can all benefit by attending this Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Training!

ABCD Facilitator, Ruben Medina, of Aurora, Colorado, is a faculty member of the ABCD Institute of DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. He has led many workshops and trainings across the US as well as in Nairobi, Kenya where he helped community members launch an NGO and then a foundation.

At the age of 20, Ruben started the Huerfano Ambulance Service in his hometown of Walsenburg, Colorado. He became a fireman and joined search and rescue teams. He started teaching first aid to school children and taught youth from grades K-12. He also helped establish the QRT (Quick Response Teams) for surrounding towns. He rallied community support to help get the first recreation center built in North Aurora, a 7-year, \$20 million venture.

Ruben has worked to connect law enforcement with community initiatives, especially the Immigrant and refugee communities, creating a community mural. He helped start the non-profit Colorado Change Agents and sits on numerous boards. He helped start the Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center, helping cooperatives and employee-owned businesses grow. Ruben is currently an Aurora, Colorado City Councilman for Ward 3.

ABCD Community Development Training

Dates: April 8: 6:30 pm - Meet & Greet

April 9: 9 am – 4 pm, lunch included

Location: Living Word Ministries,

12 Llano Rd. in Questa

Cost: Free



By FOOD EDITOR ELIZABETH BRUNAZZI

Mushroom Zoom!

Mushrooms have been gathered, cultivated, and prized for their nutritional and medicinal qualities for millennia over the entire planet. Neither “animal nor vegetable,” they are a useful source of texture and flavor in a range of dishes, and available in many different varieties.

It is always best to buy them in bulk, not packaged. My go-to available mushrooms are Portobellos, as they marry well with both meat and vegetables. If only packaged mushrooms are available, I recommend buying only whole mushrooms, not pre-sliced.

Mushroom Risotto

2 T olive oil
2 T butter or plant butter
1 onion, chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1 ¼ C sliced or roughly chopped mushrooms, caps and trimmed stems
1 ½ C Risotto or any good Arborio rice
4 ½ C vegetable or chicken broth
1 T chopped cilantro

Heat olive oil and butter in a large saucepan. Sauté onion until transparent. Add pepper and mushrooms and cook for 2 minutes. Add rice and stir for 1-2 minutes. Add 1½ cups broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, stirring constantly until liquid is absorbed. Add remaining broth a cup at a time, cooking and stirring until liquid is absorbed each time. Remove from heat and stir in parsley. Can be served as a main course with a salad or as a side dish with a wide variety of entrées.

Mushroom Soup

¼ C minced onions
6 T butter or plant butter
3 T flour
6 C boiling chicken stock, low-fat, low sodium
2 parsley sprigs
1 bay leaf
½ tsp thyme
Salt and pepper to taste
¾ - 1 lb chopped mushrooms, trimmed stems included
1 t lemon juice
2 egg yolks
½ C cream or organic half-and-half

Cook the onions slowly in half the butter (3 T) for 8 minutes, until they are tender without browning. Remove from heat. Beat in the boiling chicken stock and blend thoroughly with the flour. Season to taste. Stir in the mushrooms, and simmer partially covered for 20 minutes or a bit more. Strain, pressing out mushroom juices. Return the preparation to the pan.

Melt 2 T of butter in a separate saucepan. When it is foaming, toss in the mushroom mixture, salt, and lemon juice. Cover and cook slowly for 5 minutes. Pour this mixture into the strained soup base. Simmer for 10

minutes. Cool and reheat before proceeding.

Beat egg yolks and cream into a separate mixing bowl, then beat in the hot soup mixture by spoonfuls until 1 cup has been added. Gradually stir in the remainder. Check and correct seasoning. Return soup to the pan and stir over moderate heat for a minute or two to poach the egg yolks, but do not allow it to reach the simmering point. Remove from heat, and stir in the remaining 1 T of butter or plant substitute. Pour into your favorite tureen and decorate with optional mushrooms and herbs.

Inspired by and adapted from: Julia Child's Mastering the Art of French Cooking, 1967.

Mushroom Rosemary Meatloaf

¾ lb ground turkey (not solely breast)
¾ lb ground lean pork
1 T butter or plant butter
½ C finely chopped onions
¼ lb mushrooms, thinly sliced or chopped, caps and stems, about 2 C
¼ C heavy cream or organic half-and-half
1 large egg, beaten
½ C fine, fresh bread crumbs
2 T finely chopped parsley
1 t finely chopped fresh rosemary, dried if fresh not available
Salt and freshly ground pepper
1 sprig fresh rosemary, or sprinkling of dried

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Use a small loaf pan, 4 ½ x 8 ½ inches. Put meats in a mixing bowl.

Melt butter in a small skillet, add onions. Cook, stirring until wilted. Add mushrooms, cook until wilted. Continue cooking until the mushrooms give up liquid, then until all liquid evaporates. Cool and add to the meats.

Add cream, egg, bread crumbs, parsley, rosemary, and salt and pepper, to taste. Pack mixture into the loaf pan and smooth it over with a fork, patting it gently toward the corners of the pan. Press rosemary sprig or sprinkles of dried rosemary down the center.

Place meatloaf in the oven and bake 40 - 45 minutes. Optional: Serve with your favorite tomato sauce or Dijon mustard. I like it without any other sauces.

Recipe inspired by and adapted from Pierre Franey's More Sixty-Minute Gourmet, 1981.

This recipe can be adapted to make an excellent Mushroom Turkey Burger. Leave out the pork and replace with double the amount of ground turkey. If the mixture seems too wet, add bread crumbs for a firmer texture. Test for seasoning, to taste. A splash of Worcestershire sauce may be added. Make into patties and grill in a lightly oiled hot iron skillet until browned. Drain on paper towels. Serve with Dijon mustard and/or light mayonnaise on your favorite buns.





THE MIDNIGHT SKY

Maybe I'm in a cranky mood, but I'm upset about the critical and popular response to this movie—both critics and audiences got this movie wrong. Even though it ranked just above *Hillbilly Elegy* and *Mulan* as the worst of the 41 Oscar-nominated films, it really is an excellent film. I recommend it to anyone who appreciates subtle and elegant filmmaking. I think this is one of the best movies of the year.

About one-third of the film takes place above the Arctic Circle and

involves a scientist and mute child. Another third occurs in outer space and revolves around a small team of explorers. The remaining parts of the film are the scientist's flashbacks to the start of his career. The flashbacks are critical to understanding the story, not just the character. These three separate stories all come together in the final moments of the film in a terrific conclusion that I wasn't prepared for.

Oscar-winner George Clooney not only directs *The Midnight Sky*, he also portrays the main character, Augustine Lofthouse, an aging and ill scientist, in the year 2049. But he's not the only thing "terminally ill." As the movie opens, we learn that Earth itself has suffered something (it's never fully explained) which is destroying the planet and all life on it. Lofthouse is working in an observatory above the Arctic Circle and we watch as everyone, except him, is leaving the remote outpost to return to family for the final days of life on Earth. Lofthouse stays because he doesn't have any family to return to.

It turns out, though, that he isn't

alone: a mute little girl is apparently left behind and, although he radios for someone to return to pick her up, he ends up becoming responsible for Iris. He tries to relate to a young child in ways that he has never experienced before. Some of the best parts of the story are in his strange relationship with a child who (except for four significant words) never utters a sound over many days.

That story, by itself, is intriguing enough in its possibilities. But it turns out there is more going on. Lofthouse discovers that there is a forgotten space mission, with living humans on it, that is slowly making its way back to Earth, unaware of the disaster awaiting them. He decides that he must alert them so they can make plans to avoid landing on Earth. However, the communications equipment at his outpost is not adequate to reach the spaceship, so he and the mute child must travel through Arctic storms several days to reach a stronger antenna. This journey—some of it filmed in real Iceland blizzards—provides the setting for some very tense and hazard-

ous moments. (This part of the film has been compared to *The Revenant*).

After the spaceship is identified, as *Aether*, the story transports us to the crew and their life on a years-long mission to travel to, explore, and document whether a specific moon of Jupiter, K23, could support human life, and then return to Earth. The crew consists of three men and two women, one of whom, Sully (Lily James), becomes pregnant.

The space scenes were filmed in a studio in England and relied on much of the technology that won the Oscar for the movie *Gravity*. Critics have noted, rightly, that this part of the film can tend to plod along with characters not fully developed. But the visual effects are stunning at times and one scene, in particular, where a crew member is in fatal distress, is simply brilliant.

Although some critics disagree with me, I think the ending made sense and I loved the way that all the pieces combined to give a final sense of hope to an otherwise dismal future. (4 Stars).

For more reviews, visit [Michaels-MovieMoments.com](https://www.Michaels-MovieMoments.com)



WORKING SMARTER, NOT HARDER

"Karoshi" is a Japanese term that means "death by overwork." And their culture is not alone in pushing its employees too hard in the workplace.

Now a shrinking workforce is forcing the country to take a closer look at how its culture does business, so the creation of new "workstyle reform" initia-

tives have begun.

One solution tested is to reduce the work week from five days to four, opening up more opportunities for those who cannot work full-time.

During their 2019 Summer Work-Life Choice Challenge, Microsoft Japan gave all 2,300 of its employees Fridays off without a decrease in pay. "Work a short time, rest well, and learn a lot," Microsoft Japan CEO Takuya Hirano told his employees. "I want us to think about how we can achieve the same results with 20% less working time."

The actual results surprised everyone. Productivity skyrocketed by 40%. Employees were happier and meetings were more efficient. The cost of doing business fell as well. Electricity bills

dropped by 23% and workers printed 60% fewer pages—92% of Microsoft Japan's employees said they preferred the shorter work week. They felt less stressed and were also less compelled to check social media, allowing them to be more focused on their jobs.

A four-day work week is being implemented in parts of Europe and New Zealand as well. The idea is catching on across the globe as countries come to terms with the actual costs of stress on health, work-life balance, and employee satisfaction.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also propelled the issues of worker health and workplace flexibility into the spotlight as never before, leaving companies scrambling for safer, healthier ways to do

business effectively and sustainably in a brave new world.

With today's challenges, a shorter work week looks like just what the doctor ordered.

This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live. "Building community through creativity."

[SecoLive.org](https://www.secolive.org)

Audio Story

https://mcusercontent.com/6dd23531465f1c13f80eb7d84/files/bb9f35ba-4804-cf9b-167e-f191fb704f50/GN_7.47_WorkSmarterNotHarder.mp3

Full Transcript PDF:

https://mcusercontent.com/6dd23531465f1c13f80eb7d84/files/175957fe-c110-62e0-8501-cdb4c8547511/GN_7.47_WorkSmarterNotHarder.pdf

THE QUESTA GAZETTE?

Has anyone heard of it? We ran across clippings in historical society files of this local newspaper, based in Questa! This issue is from 1913. We would love to know more about it, so please let us know if you have any info. Contact Martha at questadelrionews@gmail.com.

Courtesy photo



ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
MARCH 2022

MINDFULNESS

Thich Nhat Hanh, who recently passed, was the master of mindfulness. If you do not already know, I leave it to you to discover who this Vietnamese Buddhist monk was. Every Soul Thought quote for March's column, after each sign, is from him. With his Sun and Venus in Libra and Moon in Sagittarius, he was a man to guide us through these tumultuous times. He clearly put his Libran personality to good use in service to his Higher Self. Libra rules balance, paying attention to all sides of any story, and providing truth and justice for all. Libra also rules books and writing, and he published over 130 books, including *You Are Here*, *No Mud No Lotus*, *The Art of Living*, and *The Miracle of Mindfulness*.

In one book he mentions how he wants to be remembered. "I have a disciple in Vietnam who wants to build a stupa for my ashes when I die. He and others want to put a plaque with the words, "Here lies my beloved teacher." I told them not to waste the temple land. . . I suggested that, if they still insist on building a stupa, they have the plaque say, "I am not in here." But in case people don't get it, they could add a second plaque, "I am not out there either." If still people don't understand, then on the third and last plaque, say, "I may be found in your way of breathing and walking."

Everyone: The balance of the equinoxes is ruled by Libra.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: Someone may be working incognito, probably in your favor.
Direction: Simply say thank you.
Soul Thought: "You are not an observer, you are a participant."

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♀ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: It could be a time of absolution and hallelujah!
Direction: Smile.
Soul Thought: "Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy."

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – JULY 20

Dynamic: Relationships may be a bit rocky.
Direction: Use those rocks to brace against as you climb the mountain.
Soul Thought: "Compassion is a verb."

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ JULY 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: With little in the way of challenges you are free to investigate
Direction: Investigate this holy lama.
Soul Thought: "We are here to awaken from our illusion of separateness."

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: Literally, a time of going from the darkness to the light.
Direction: Enjoy one more minute of light.
Soul Thought: "You must love in such a way that the person you love feels free."

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: You are about the changing times.
Direction: Decide how you can contribute.
Soul Thought: "The best way to take care of the future is to take care of the present moment."

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: The challenge is still there.
Direction: It's between finances and abundance.
Soul Thought: "Smile, breathe, and go slowly."

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: Do you plan to duke it out with everyone?
Direction: Or can you come together as a mindful group?
Soul Thought: "When you begin to see that your enemy is suffering, that is the beginning of insight."

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♁ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: No challenges and a strong sense of the natural Earth.
Direction: Should you choose to feel it.
Soul Thought: "For things to reveal themselves to us, we need to be ready to abandon our views about them."

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: That persistent problem is still there.
Direction: The lesson is as well.
Soul Thought: "When another person makes you suffer, it is because he suffers deeply within himself and his suffering is spilling over. He does not need punishment; he needs help."

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

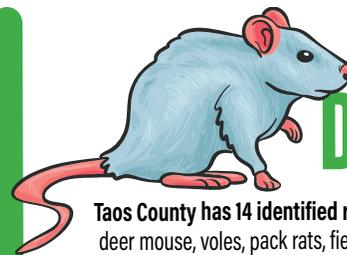
Dynamic: A lovely month for an easy stroll.
Direction: Unless you make a mountain out of a molehill.
Soul Thought: "Mindfulness... is the miracle which can call back in a flash our dispersed mind and restore it to wholeness so that we can live each minute of life."

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: It's a gentle month, even for business.
Direction: The potential volcano can be worked with.
Soul Thought: "Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet."

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.



DID YOU KNOW?

Taos County has 14 identified rodent species. The most common are the house mouse, deer mouse, voles, pack rats, field mice, pocket gophers and beavers. They are generally nocturnal omnivores who come and go into our dwellings. The droppings and urine of mice are responsible for many diseases (i.e., typhus, hanta virus) and allergens and the fleas and ticks they carry are responsible for others (i.e. pox, plague). Deer mice and most responsible for hanta viruses. Deer mice and brown with white undersides. Most other mice are gray.

(575) 770-3297

2456 HW 522, Questa, NM 87556



We are the Party, Alcohol Isn't!

FACE IT

OUR NORMAL ISN'T
NORMAL WHEN IT COMES
TO ALCOHOL

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LET US FUEL YOUR NEXT WINTER ADVENTURE

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR • MARCH 2022

ALL MONTH

Red River Ski Area is open through March 20, www.redriverskiarea.com.

Inner Reflections Art Show at Questa Public Library through March 31. See our review on page 12.

MAR 1: TUES 7 am – 7 pm ELECTION DAY! If you live in the village of Questa. At the village Council Chambers.

MAR 3 - 5: THUR-SAT 12- 5 pm Used Book Sale: Spring Cleaning! Thursday through Saturday. BYOB (bring your own bag) for big bargains on Saturday! At Questa Public Library. (575) 586-2023. See our ad on page 23 for particulars!

MAR 6: SUN noon – 4:00 pm Drop-In Knife Sharpening Bring your knives and scissors to Jeff at Yoga Sala. \$2/inch, volume discount. In connection with Questa Farmers Market.

MAR 7: MON 6:00 pm Monthly Questa Economic Development Fund board meeting on Zoom; contact Lynn Skall for access code at lynn@QuestaEDF.com.

MAR 8: TUES 6:00 pm Questa Independent Schools in-person board meeting. Live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuLsXpB9iyfDrlW0iuG> (575) 586-0421.

MAR 8: TUES 6:00 pm Village of Questa Town Council meeting online; get Zoom link by calling (575) 586-0694.

MAR 10: THUR 6:30 pm Questa Fire Department meeting/training. Please come! Call (575) 586-0250.

MAR 11: FRI 9:00 am – noon Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. (575) 586-1807 or (505) 238-1145; www.questafoodpantry.org

MAR 11: FRI 1:00 – 3:00 pm FUN FRIDAYS at Questa Public Library, Free. (575) 586-2023.

MAR 15: TUES 10:30 – 11:45 am Bookmobile at Roots & Wings Community School in Lama. For information call (575) 376-2474 or laura.gonzales@state.nm.us

MAR 15: TUES 1:15 – 2:15 pm Bookmobile at Questa Post Office; (575) 376-2474 or laura.gonzales@state.nm.us

MAR 15: TUES 6:00 – 7:30 pm Chevron Questa Mine Community Meeting, *Details on right and page 25.*

MAR 17: THUR 2:00 – 3:00 pm Questa One-on-One Business Counseling Zoom Drop-in Hour by the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos with Anwar Kaelin. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219> Join by phone: +1 346 248 7799. For appointments call (575) 737-6219.

MAR 18: FRI 1:00 – 3:00 pm Fun Fridays! at Questa Public Library. Free. (575) 586-2023.

MAR 18: FRI 3:00 pm Cerro VFW Post #9516, monthly meeting, weather permitting. 108 NM Highway 378 in Cerro. (575) 586-1112; litameadphoto@gmail.com.

MAR 19: SAT 10:00 am Writers Group, free, online only, register at Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

MAR 20: SUN noon – 4:00 pm Drop-In Knife Sharpening Bring your knives and scissors to Jeff at Yoga Sala. \$2/inch, volume discount. In connection with Questa Farmers Market.

MAR 21: MON 3:30 – 5:00 pm Questa Public Library Book Club. The topic is music! Come join the fun! Call the library for details at (575) 586-2023.

MAR 22: TUE 6:00 pm Village of Questa Town Council meeting online; get Zoom link by calling (575) 586-0694.

MAR 22: TUE 6:00 pm Questa Independent Schools in-person board meeting. Live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuLsXpB9iyfDrlW0iuG> (575) 586-0421.

MAR 23: THUR 6:00 pm Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network Zoom Meeting featuring HelpNM: How to be a paid intern or get a free intern. See ad on page 23 for details.

MAR 24: THUR 6:30 pm Questa Fire Department meeting/training. Please come! Call (575) 586-0250.

MAR 25: FRI 9:00 am – noon Food for all at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-1807 or (505) 238-1145; [questafoodpantry.org](http://www.questafoodpantry.org)

MAR 25: FRI 1:00 – 3:00 pm STEAM fun with TWIRL on Fun Fridays! at Questa Public Library. Free. (575) 586-2023.

MAR 26: SAT 10:00 am Tai Chi with Reto, in-person only, Yoga Sala. <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>. SHOULD THIS BE IN THE CALENDAR INSTEAD OF WEEKLY EVENTS?

MAR 28: MON 6:00 pm Vida Del Norte Coalition monthly meeting at the Vida office, 62 Highway 38. (575) 779-2260; maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com.

MAR 28: MON 7:00 pm Kickboxing with Reto, in-person only, ONLY meeting MARCH 28, Yoga Sala, register at <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>.

MAR 30: WED 7:00 pm Kickboxing with Reto in-person only, Yoga Sala, register at <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

APRIL 1: FRI 10 am - 2 pm Community Career and College Readiness Fair at Taos Academy Charter School. Free to attend, free to present. For more information contact smartinez@taosacademy.org or (575) 571-3109.

MONDAYS

4:30 pm Free Community Yoga, Gentle Practice with Rae, in-person only, every Monday except March 21, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

TUESDAYS

9:00 am Seated Moving Meditation with Ola, in-person only, Yoga Sala. <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>. First two weeks only; no class on March 15, 22, 29.

10:00 – 11:00 am Chair Yoga, DVD-guided class at Red River Community House, appropriate for all ages and ability levels; please verify at <https://www.redrivercommunityhouse.org/calendar>; (575) 754-2349.

5:30 pm Yoga, power flow, with Gaea, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

WEDNESDAYS

10:00 – 11:00 am Ladies Coffee Join us for coffee and conversation at Red River Community House; please verify at <https://www.redrivercommunityhouse.org/calendar>; (575) 754-2349.

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Repurposing Plastic Project: Come smash plastic and make wire walls! Meet the team, work your body, lift your spirit, and help the planet! at the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Market on Hwy 522. Call (575) 770-8681 or 224-7386 for more information.

5:30 pm Gentle Yoga, deep stretch, with Gaea, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

7:00 – 8:00 pm Bible Studies Series, Freedom Center Church 2558 Hwy 522, Questa. Facilitated by Pastor Johnny. All are welcome to join on Zoom or in person. For link contact Pastor Kristi (575) 770-1714.

THURSDAYS

5:00 – 6:30 pm Free beginner computer classes at Questa Public Library, March 3, 10, 17. You can still join! Call (575) 586-2023.

6:00 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.

FRIDAYS

9:00 am Seated Moving Meditation with Ola, in-person only, Yoga Sala. <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>. First two weeks only; NO CLASS on March 18 and 25.

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Repurposing Plastic Project: Come smash plastic and make wire walls! Meet the team, work your body, lift your spirit, and help the planet! at the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Market on Hwy 522. Call (575) 770-8681 or 224-7386 for more information.

3:00 pm Kids Ballet (ages 3-8), with Miss Tuesday, NO CLASS March 4, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

5:00 pm Qigong with Julian, in-person only, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

6:00 pm New Thirst Group: a Christian Approach to Recovery at Living Word Ministries, 14 Llano Rd., Questa. (575) 613-8010

6:00 – 8:00 pm Live Music most weeks with Chris Arellano and family and friends, 101 Bar & Grill (formerly The Crazy Beaver), 101 County Rd 13.2, Garcia, CO 81152, (719) 672-9022. Please call to confirm.

6:00 – 8:30 pm BINGO! at Red River Community House, \$20 cash only for a 10-game packet. No BINGO on the 25th. No entry after 6:30 pm; please verify at <https://www.redrivercommunityhouse.org/calendar>; (575) 754-2349.

SATURDAYS

7:00 pm Torchlight Parade, every Saturday at dusk on the face of the ski mountain in Red River.

SUNDAYS

9:00 – 10:00 am Bible Study with John Hughes at Red River Community House; please verify at <https://www.redrivercommunityhouse.org/calendar>; (575) 754-2349.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR? FREE LISTINGS!

Please send us your event and include the date, time, place, and contact information (575) 586-2149 or news@questaedf.com

Visit our online calendar at <https://questanews.com/events/>

You are invited to participate in the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site Virtual Community Meeting

March 15, 2022 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a virtual community meeting to provide an update for the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site (Site). As we navigate our way through this unique time, the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities we serve is our top priority. As a result, EPA and its Superfund Site teams are conducting virtual meetings in lieu of in-person public meeting events to reflect current COVID-19 guidance from federal, state, tribal, and local officials discouraging gatherings of more than ten people at a time. During the virtual meeting, EPA staff and stakeholders will provide information and answer questions about the status of the Site. The virtual meeting will be held online and/or over the phone via Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conferencing on: *Please test your computer or mobile app prior to attending the meeting using the link below. Technical support is limited and subject to significant delays. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA will host the Site Update Meeting over the phone via Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conference.*

Meeting Format: Microsoft Teams Video and Call Conference

Virtual Meeting: Topics for discussion include: EPA's legal justification to move forward with renewing the Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and not issue a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act—known as CERCLA or Superfund Record Of Decision (ROD) Amendment.

Meeting Web Address (URL): www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine

Date and Time

March 15, 2022, 6pm until 7:30 pm

Toll-free Audio for Meeting

Phone number: (844) 608-7693, Conference ID: 598 762 202#

There are Two ways to attend the virtual meeting:

1. Visit EPA's Chevron Questa Mine website: www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine access virtual meeting information and web link. Click on this link that says "Click here to join the meeting." When the Teams page launches, select "Use Teams" on current browser or "Go to Teams App" and follow the instructions. Browsers may vary by computer. Microsoft Teams currently supports the following browsers: Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. Ensure you're running the latest browser version on your device to avoid any limitations in terms of features. Alternatively, you can download the Microsoft Teams app to your desktop computer or mobile device prior to the meeting. 2. Call in using this phone number and Conference ID (Audio only): Phone number: (844) 608-7693 Conference ID: 598 762 202# If you have any problems joining by phone or online

Continued on the following page.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

The Questa Del Rio News is still looking for that special someone to be our Community Calendar Coordinator. Part-time, possibly 10-15 hours per month. This position requires some technical skills, familiarity with software, etc. Pay depends on experience. Call us or email us! (575) 586-2149 or news@questaedf.com.

WANTED

Semi-retired couple with dog and cat looking for nice, quiet rental in the Questa area. Excellent references! Call or text (575) 640-8789.

Housing wanted: Looking for a cabin or RV to rent month to month, off grid ok, 4x4 ok. I have well-trained dogs and children, 18 and 13. Single mother with employment at Wild Rivers Recreation area. Contact Wendy iamwendygreen@protonmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have skills, talents, or time and willingness to serve? Please get in touch if you

would like to volunteer with our *Questa Del Rio News*. Training will be provided. Call her at (720) 662-9652 or email Benita at: b.muniz3@gmail.com. "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill

NOTICES

FREE COVID AT-HOME TESTS
Every home in the US is eligible to order four at-home COVID-19 tests. Sign up at <https://www.covidtests.gov>.

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, go to <https://www.ncfpquesta.com/> or mail to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com. If you would like to volunteer, please call Jeannie (numbers above).

Questa One-on-One Business Counseling Zoom Drop-in Hour by the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos with Anwar Kaelin. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL, no appointment needed, on the third Thursday of every month, March 17 from 2 – 3 pm. Business owners, independent contractors, entrepreneurs in Questa can drop in for one-on-one business consulting and training in planning, accessing capital, marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, international trade, and more. <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219>
Join by phone: +1 346 248 7799. For appointments call (575) 737-6219.

Community Development Workshop, free, Friday and Saturday, April 8 & 9. See story on page 19 for details. Do you have a vision or a good idea for the Questa area? Perhaps you are already involved in something that you believe betters Questa. If so, you need to be a part of this!

MARCH QUOTE FROM LISA FOX
I know not with what weapons WWII will be fought, but WW IV will be fought with sticks and stones. — Albert Einstein

Continued from the previous page.

on the day of the meeting, please contact Heather Davis (713) 985-6672 for immediate assistance. Copies of fact sheets, information bulletins, the administrative record, and other information are available online at the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site: [https://www.epa.gov/superfund/ChevronQuesta Mine Site Documents & Data](https://www.epa.gov/superfund/ChevronQuestaMineSiteDocuments&Data)

Or at the following Site information repositories: **Village of Questa**, 2500 Old State Road 3, P.O. Box 260, Questa, New Mexico 87556, (575) 586-0694 and **New Mexico Environment Department**, 1190 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, (505) 827-2340. Should you have any specific needs or questions about the online virtual meeting, please contact: Janetta Coats,

Senior Community Involvement Coordinator, at (214) 665-7308 or coats.janetta@epa.gov. Any request for accommodation should be made to Janetta 1 week or more in advance so that EPA will have sufficient time to process the request such as closed captioning. All news media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Region 6 Press Office at (214) 665-2200 or toll free 1.800.533.3508.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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

FREEDOM CENTER CHURCH
(previously Harvest Questa)
Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales
2558 Hwy 522, Questa
Sunday Service 11 am – 12:30 pm
(575) 770-1714
Visit us online: freedomquesta.com

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
Friday, 1 pm,, Chenrezig
www.earthjourney.org
(575) 586-1454, Hilece

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



AA MEETINGS

LOCAL AA MEETINGS
Sundays 10-11 am
Open Meeting
Questa Youth Center

WEEDING THE GARDEN
The essence of all growth is a willingness to make a change for the better and then an unremitting willingness to shoulder whatever responsibility this entails.

—AS BILL SEES IT, p. 72



zed by duane m. abel

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY



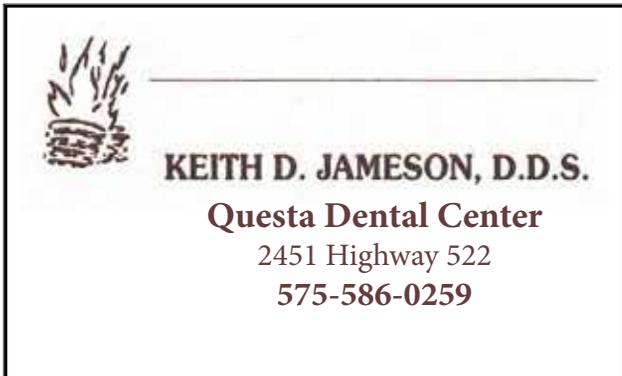
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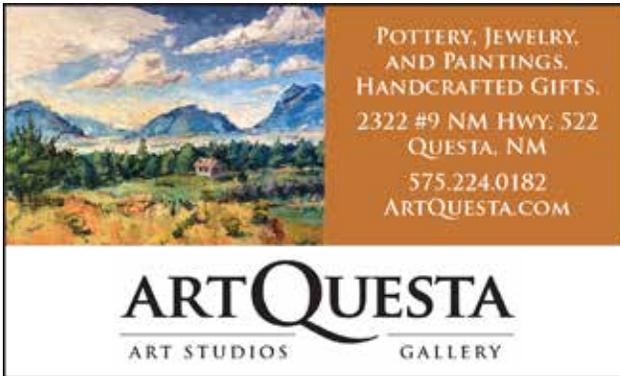
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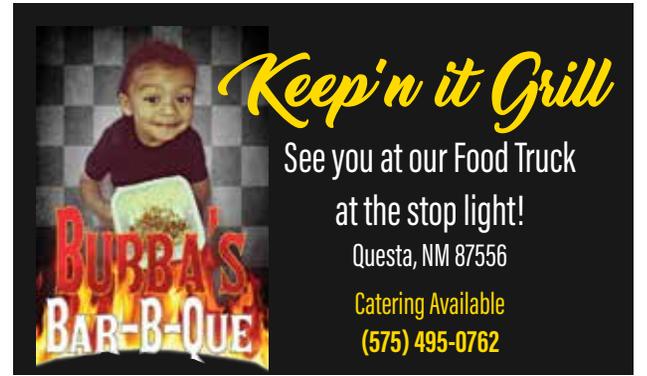
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