

APRIL FOOLS 2022



Questa Fake News

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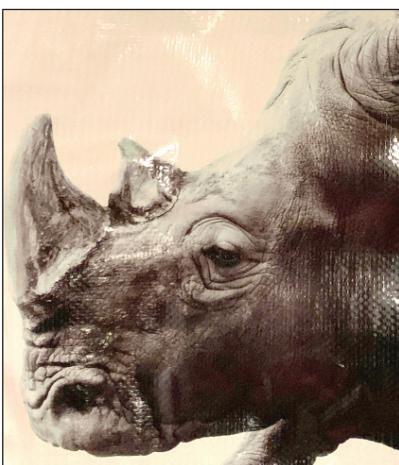
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News Flash!

A rhinoceros has been spotted in the El Rito neighborhood. Vicki Duncan, who speaks Rhinoceresse fluently, told this reporter that Fred is looking for his gorgeous wife. (See photo attached.) If you see a forlorn female rhinoceros, it's probably her!



We Come For The Water



Courtesy Photo

By RODRIGO "BUCK" MAXWELL

I'm a man whose boots are firmly planted, a well respected Mexican American Indian cowboy. And I've got a secret I've got to get off my chest. I haven't talked about this before because I'm just too embarrassed to tell it. And I know after reading this you might think different of me, that I've gone Bozo, but dang nappit, I gotta let this one out, and here it goes.

It all began in '76 while driving up a muddy road in my old '72 Ford rust bucket. I was following a dirty map scribbled in a bar on a napkin by a man named Shaggy. I met Shaggy the night before at the Watering Hole. I was sittin' alone when he approached me and said, "Mind if I join you?"

I did mind and I wanted to be alone. Next thing ya know, he pulls up a chair and puts his elbows on my table. I push my chair back and say, "Do I know you and he says, 'You do now. My name's Shaggy and I own this town.'" He was confident despite his homeless appearance and when we met he was holdin' a blind chihuahua named Winky, and he was feeding it milk from a baby bottle. Although Shaggy laughed when he talk-

ed, he seemed to be on the ball and he got my attention when he said he had land for sale, somewhere out in the wild, and this is when my story really begins.

The next day I followed that old napkin up a winding dirt road. I drove until I came upon a clearing, a nice place for a night's stay, I thought. I built a small fire, then popped open a beer and what I think was an owl flew over my head. The sun went down, and the trees turned black. Then the stars began to sing. Sweet silent music.

I was feeling pretty good until I looked over the fire and saw two big eyes looking at me. Dang, I thought, a bear! I threw a piece of wood toward the eyes and they disappeared. Bears, I thought, I've seen plenty, you don't mess with them, they don't mess with you. But something about those eyes made me uneasy. I called it a night and climbed into my gypsy lounge. That's what I call my little camper. Just big enough for a tall guy like me and my portable radio.

I hadn't slept much when I got the urge to pee. Dang, I thought, thinking about that bear.

I crawled out of the little gypsy then

heard a strange humming sound, kinda like a blow dryer and there was a bright light in the woods, maybe another camper, I thought, with its high beams on, but that humming sound was unusual.

I climbed back into the gypsy and it wasn't more than a minute when in a flash, all the lights in the camper turned on. Then all of a sudden my battery-powered radio shouted the voice of a preacher, "They're comin' out of the ground, they're coming out of the trees, there's nowhere to hide." And just then I hear the door of my truck open. "What the heck!" I yell and reach for my pistol then remembered I wasted my last round shooting at a beer can. So, I grab that radio and fly out the camper ready to swing that hollering box at anything, but there's nothing there.

Scared as scared can be, I say that's it, I'm out of here and I jump into my cab, lock the doors and turn the key, but nothing happens, not even the click of an old battery. I smell something strange like the rubber of an inner tube and then in the dark, I see it, sitting next to me, I think it's the bear, then realize it is something else

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FOR THE WATER cont'd from page 1

and I scream, then it screams, and now we're both screaming as I'm fumbling to open the door, and when I do I fly out of the cab and trip over that damn radio, and it's still yelling, "There's no place to hide, they're coming out of the trees, they're even coming out of your neighbors houses!" Quickly I get up ready to fight and that thing is standing in front of me. I say, "What's going on?" Then I see there's another one to the right and another to the left, then I see a few more behind them, but it's dark and I can't make out what they look like. Scared I say, "I don't want no trouble," and the one in the center says quietly, "We don't

want no trouble."

Then I ask, "What do you want from me?" and it softly says, "We don't want anything from you."

Then I say, "What are you doing here?" And it says, "We've come for the water, just as our ancestors did." Then it points to the sky and says, "See that group of stars forming a circle, that's where we come from, and we like the view of our home from here."

Hiding the fear that's shaking my bones I say, "Help yourself, the water belongs to everyone and fellas it's time for me to go." Then one of them weird fellas asks, "Can we have your talking box?"

"Why?" I ask, "The man in it makes us laugh!" it says.

Then it points a finger at my truck

and starts it right up, lights and all. I now realize this nightmare of a dream is really happening, so I raise both hands as a gesture of peace and slowly get in my truck. As I'm turning the truck around, I see one of them square in my headlights. Oh no, what kind of freak is this? I pull onto the road. Keep moving I say to myself and too scared to look back, keep moving, keep moving.

That night I checked into a room back at the Watering Hole and as I laid on the bed I thought about my experience. Did it really happen? Aliens, the screaming radio, Shaggy and the napkin. I couldn't sleep and then it occurred to me, them freaky things were friendly, and they only wanted water, and besides, I did like that land. In the morning I

called on Shaggy and made him an offer.

My wife and I have been livin' on that land now for 46 years. We raised a nice family and yes, it's true, my youngest daughter ran off with one of them little blue men.

When I was asked to write an April Fools story, I didn't have anything clever to say. Then I thought, what the heck, I've got this story to get off my chest. Now those of you who know me might think I've gone bozo and maybe I have, but there you have it, just as I remember it.

And by the way, I do have some strange looking grandchildren.

Aliens, check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sostsxSasUM>

April Fools News Briefs

Citing Questa's favorable environment for economic development in the dollar store sector, and taking advantage of present levels of inflation, Discount Dollar Corporation announced today that they have the most scenic property in the Village under contract for construction of their 250,000th location. A Grand Opening is scheduled for April Fools Day.

The Northern Toas Country Food Association, in partnership the New Mexico Fish, Birds and Hunting Department, has proposed a new commercial venture to raise wild sturgeon at the Rad Riviera Fish & Egg Hatchery. Recent supply chain issues have brought to light the unrealized nonexistence of high-altitude roe for artisanal caviar as a locally-produced sustainable food source.

The Mamas and Papas Organization is encouraging everyone with a backyard to raise storks, since the number of newborn babies has been declining.

Nine residents of Cerro, including the mayor and Julia Roberts, spotted an elephant walking up and down Main Street. Apparently, she forgot where she lived.

JUST IN: A Costilla man was reported to have been a victim of spontaneous combustion. Astonished onlookers were slightly singed, with no major burns reported. The Costello and Amalia Volunteer Fire Departments were called and the incident is under investigation.

HoroScoops: Get the scoop on the real meaning of your Kodiak Sign and your mantra for life.



Aries: Sign of LA's Football Team
"Work hard, play hard, become a champion."



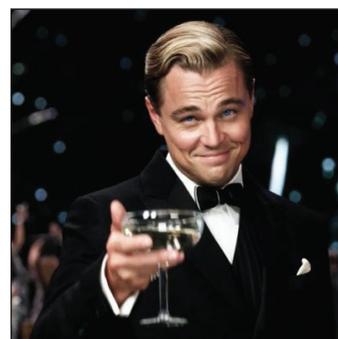
Taurus: Sign of the Ford Sedan
"You're solid as a bull (but, not as fast as a Mustang.)"



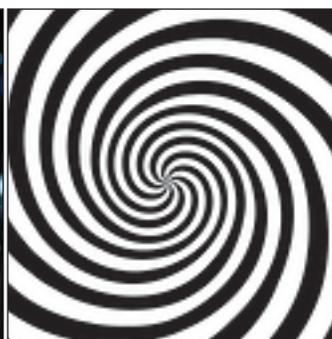
Gemini: Sign of Double Dipping
"Do it once, do it twice, that makes it doubly nice."



Cancer: Sign of Aluminum Cans
"Don't say you can't, just say you CAN! And, recycle."



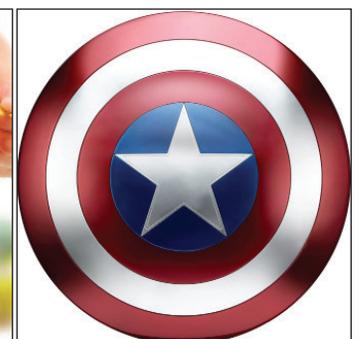
Leo: Sign of Leonardo DiCaprio
"Take the lead and act accordingly."



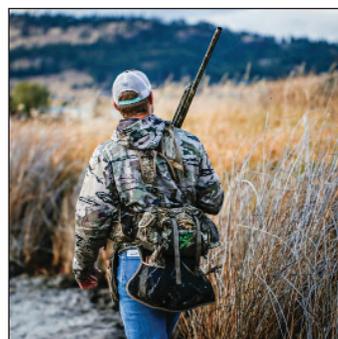
Virgo: Sign of Vertigo
"Keep life in balance, and focus."



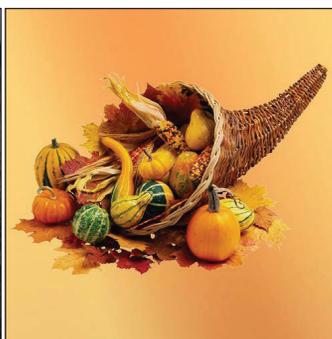
Libra: Sign of Dieters
"When life feels heavy, lighten up."



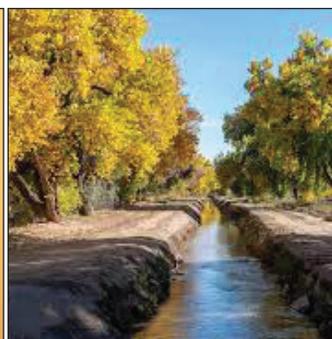
Scorpio: Sign of the Defender
"Keep your guard up so you don't get stung."



Sagittarius: Sign of the Hunter
"Set your sights, take aim, and hit the bullseye."



Capricorn: Sign of the Cornucopia
"Overflow with goodness-a-plenty."



Aquarius: Sign of Acequias
"When the water flows, life grows."



Pisces: Sign of Oceanic Life
"Be colorful and make a big splash."

For those with birthdays this year: you are special, unique, and blessed with the gift of life, so get going and always do your best. Time flies, so open your wings and soar!

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EARTH DAY!**

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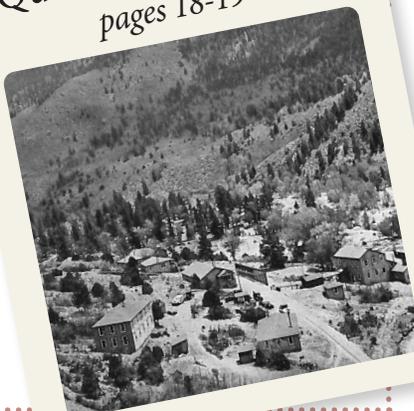
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John Ortega's Priorities as New Mayor

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

A week after former Village of Questa Councilor John Anthony Ortega beat his electoral opponent, Mark Gallegos, the Questa del Rio News met with him at Rael's Store & Coffee Shop in downtown Questa to talk about the priorities of his incoming administration.

"The election in a sense was the easy part, now the work starts," said John Ortega. "The first thing on my agenda is to get settled in... I need to appoint somebody to replace me, and of course, the Council has to approve that person." (Ortega was elected to the Village Council in 2020 to a four-year term and his replacement will serve until 2024.)

Many of Ortega's supporters expressed their concerns about the Village of Questa's lack of a police department to the point where it was arguably a top issue in the election for both candidates for Mayor. During the March 8 Council meeting, Questa voted to extend its contract with the Taos County Sheriff's Office to continue regular patrols in Questa for another year.

"...we approved another year-long contract with the Taos County Sheriff's Department. I voted to approve that contract with an option to opt out with a 90-day notice. I think we're going to need them to at least cover the police needs of the community... My plan on day one is to start the hiring process for a police chief which might mean... advertising for the position to see what kind of applicants we get... and from there we can start rebuilding the department," said Ortega on his apparent mandate from his voters. "Once we feel like we're in a spot where we have a sufficient police department, we can give [the Taos County Sheriff] our 90-day notice and let them know that we're ready to take over for ourselves."

Rebuilding Questa's police department will require a new budget from the Village of Questa. Ortega said that there are certified individuals in Questa who may be suitable for the position of Police Chief and he is confident that whomever is selected will develop a positive working relationship with our neighboring law enforcement agencies such as the County Sheriff and the Red River Marshall Office.

The Taos County Sheriff's Office



Courtesy Photo

The election in a sense was the easy part, now the work starts.

—John Ortega

told The Taos News in a recent interview that crime has been reduced since they began patrolling Questa under contract.

The Questa Del Rio News inquired into the reason why Questa's previous police officers and chief resigned their posts but Mayor Ortega, like his predecessor, was reluctant to go into detail. "That is a personal matter and I don't feel comfortable talking about it, but it was not because of funding or lack of pay."

The Mayor continued on his belief in our need for a police department. "I feel safer just knowing that [police] are there because the sight of the vehicle deters." Ortega believes that having police officers from the community who know the people here is paramount to effective policing and that collaboration between police officers, medical organizations, and non-profit organizations are also crucial to building trust within a community.

"I've been a member of the Vida del Norte Coalition for six years now. Part of the problem is that before, they weren't allowed in the schools... The new school board has been more willing to collaborate... and with that opportunity... I think they're going to do some really good things." The Vida del Norte Coalition is an organization dedicated to preventing substance abuse in northern Taos County.

"There is an alcohol problem here, and we need to end the cycle that has been

happening for years," the Mayor lamented. "Before I was with Vida del Norte I never realized how big of a problem it was... Our problem among our youth is worse than... in the rest of the state."

"As far as I can remember, there has been very little opportunity for the youth of this community and I think we need to improve on that as far as having safe, drug-free environments to hang out in." He also hopes to work with youth, particularly from Questa High School, to help with localized beautification tactics to make Questa roads and streets more aesthetically pleasing to locals and tourists alike.

The Questa Del Rio News pressed Ortega on prospects from the emerging cannabis industry moving into Questa, specifically on the idea that cannabis can keep younger people away from more dangerous substances. "I think that the state put the cart before the horse on this one," he hesitantly responded. "I don't think they should have legalized marijuana yet. I think they should have waited. I don't see it working until the federal government, if they ever decide to legalize it, does it; it's too much of a conflict."

Ortega continued that a big problem with cannabis usage is that police do not have an effective, consistent method to detect the effects in drivers.

"What if the cannabis industry collaborated with the schools to educate kids on dangers of adolescents using drugs," the Questa News asked Ortega. "If they're [the industry] going to sell it in our community, they need to educate people on the dangers of it, particularly in regards to drug use while driving and any danger that might come along with it," Ortega responded.

"One thing we have to realize," the Questa News pressed, "is that if entrepreneurs can't come into Questa to set up cannabis shops, they can still set up shops in Taos, and there are already two shops in San Luis up in Colorado. Taos and San Luis are not far from Questa; the industry will be all around us, and people will be able to get it regardless of what Questa may want or not want."

"It doesn't need to go near schools or churches or residences," Ortega responded. "If the industry wants to come here, there

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Questa Del Rio News

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The Time is Coming, or at Least That's What We Refuse to Believe

By TONER MITCHELL

Water is in the news a lot these days, if not in our streams or in the clouds. Closest to home, Chevron's applications to transfer a combined 7 acre feet of water to a pair of Questa area landowners was denied by the Office of the State Engineer. These applications, protested by no one, would have stimulated local economic activity, and comprised a small but significant increment of progress in the region's perpetual work to reduce food insecurity.

In the 2022 legislative session, considerable effort was applied to tweaking New Mexico's Cannabis Regulation Act, last year's landmark legislation legalizing the recreational use of marijuana in the state. The tweaks were intended to clarify tax language as well as the number of plants a small grower could legally produce. Then, out of the blue, Senator Cliff Pyrtle introduced an amendment to remove water protections in the original legislation, which required the upfront verification of valid water rights before a permit to grow pot commercially would be granted.

If passed, the amendment would have allowed any aspiring grower to simply claim a water right regardless of whether it was valid or not. In the worst scenario, proving and enforcing an invalid water right could require years of legal action and expense. At its simplest, though, the amendment would throw (or keep) the door open for water theft and haphazard water management, impacts that would be felt disproportionately in rural acequia communities.

The legislature debated funding acequia infrastructure and adding \$15 million to the Strategic Water Reserve, a tool that enables the compensation of a water rights holder for an alternate use—instream flow for endangered species, for example—of the right holder's water. The SWR could also fund the fallowing of farmland to help New Mexico chip away at its ballooning water debt to the State of Texas.

The water debt stems from the Rio Grande Compact, a 1939 agreement signed by Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas that apportions the Rio Grande's water between the three states. To have a debt means that a state has not honored its compact obligation to a downstream state. As of August 2021, New Mexico's debt to Texas was 96,000 acre feet. As of this January, it had risen to 125,000, a little more than Albuquerque con-

sumes in a year.

If there is indeed a unifying theme to the water issues discussed in this article, it might be the debt and the importance of erasing it. Failing to do so could cost New Mexico billions in damages and possibly water use curtailments in an era when water from the sky is also expected to decline.

Our debt to Texas is the elephant in the room, as it expresses exactly how successful New Mexico is at living within its means.

Pending further details on the story, a person on the street could speculate that the Office of the State Engineer's scrutiny on Chevron's water transfer application was simply a matter of responsible water management in the interest of debt service.

But if that were true, if paying down the wet water we've owed Texas for quite some time was informing our leadership, wouldn't legislators have been more concerned at the prospect of unaccounted-for water withdrawals (domestic, groundwater, or out-of-turn acequia withdrawals) for cannabis cultivation? It's worth noting that the cannabis amendment would have passed if a vote were actually held on it (the clock ran out on the 2022 session). Water protections would have been eliminated, and many of the same Democrats and Republicans who spend campaign seasons exalting the sanctity of rural communities would have been responsible.

If our water debt mattered so much, wouldn't legislators have jumped at the chance to direct petroleum-driven budget surpluses to strengthening the Strategic Water Reserve (alas, they did not)? Wouldn't they prioritize funding (ditto) of watershed restoration on a recurring instead of just a one-time basis, as is their habit?

In these drought-cursed times, might we all benefit from less arbitrary leadership, and more transparency when it comes to water? Even from my layperson's perspective, it seems imperative to develop a coherent vision that tracks constructively with the 50-Year Water Plan currently underway. This vision should be accountable and demonstrate an understanding that water resilience is not a box of chocolates thrown into the shopping cart only after the staples have been taken care of.

Water resilience is the meat and the bread. It goes in first.



Querestños,

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank everyone who came out and voted on March 1. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve all of you and the Village as the Mayor of Questa. I really appreciated the opportunity to get out and talk to most of you over the last couple of months. I heard your concerns and listened to all your feedback. I look forward to working with all of you and making Questa a better place for all of us and for the future.

One of my first priorities will be bringing back our own law enforcement. I believe that to be the number one need for the Village currently. Public safety, working with the youth, economic development and repair of critical infrastructure will also remain big priorities. I will work hard to serve all of you as the Mayor and keep an honest, open, and transparent Village Office.

I encourage public participation in the Village meetings and hope to see all of you at the Village Meetings which are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at the Village Council Chambers.

Again, thank you all for all your support and confidence in me to serve the

community. My door will always be open, and I will always listen to your needs and concerns. I would also like to thank all my family and friends who helped me throughout my campaign and on election day and night. I want especially to thank my fiancé Maggie for all her support and allowing me to serve. This wouldn't have been possible without all your support and help.

Thank You,
John Ortega

Dear Editorial Board:

This letter is in response to an article printed in this publication on March 9 that asserts that the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE) is standing in the way of economic development in Taos County. The article presents a skewed view of Chevron's water rights holdings and its intentions in the community. More importantly, the article fails to include the basic facts of water law and the rules and regulations, put in place to protect New Mexico's water resources and its water users, that govern water rights and transfers.

In the article, Chevron asserts that it holds 1,433 acre feet of water rights that it wishes to share with the community for the purposes of economic development in the area where Chevron's closure of the Questa Mine created challenges for local

residents. It refers to two recently denied applications that requested water rights transfers to local commercial operations representing a total of 7 acre feet (4 acre feet to the Shaw family and 3 acre feet to the Wild Earth Llama Ranch). It also mentions Chevron's intentions to donate 120 acre feet to the Village of Questa municipal water system and a \$1 lease of approximately 1,800 acre feet from Chevron to the Village. The article makes no mention of the regulated process of water rights transfers, potential impacts to the fragile hydrology of the area, or the years of close coordination between Chevron and the NMOSE regarding the water rights in question.

To put the complete facts of the situation in the simplest terms, the NMOSE's Water Rights Division denied the two applications because the particular water rights Chevron is offering are not proven and valid water rights, because they were never put to beneficial use. Beneficial use is the basis of water rights administration in New Mexico. Article XVI, Section 3 of the State Constitution dictates that "Beneficial use shall be the basis, the measure and the limit of the right to the use of water." If water rights that have never been put to beneficial use are allowed to be transferred, the new uses are new depletions on the system and, when aggregated, could jeopardize the exercise of existing water rights. The NMOSE uses advanced hydrologic models to determine water availability and potential impairment and detriment to existing rights. Chevron does have 1,263 acre feet of valid water rights that can be successfully transferred; however, the corporation is not offering those valid water rights to support local economic development. Chevron is well aware of the reality of its valid and non-valid water rights after years of close coordination with the NMOSE following the termination of the mining and milling operations and the corporation's efforts to divest its surplus water rights. It is concerning that Chevron has chosen to address this matter in the court of

public opinion rather than through official channels and in accordance with the law. That Chevron would mislead people in dire need of water into thinking that they could acquire water rights the corporation knows are not valid is disappointing.

The NMOSE commends Chevron's attempts at being a good neighbor and is not standing in the way of the corporation transferring its valid water rights. The NMOSE is proactive in encouraging water conservation throughout the state, especially as drought conditions become more severe as a result of climate change, and the agency recognizes that adding additional depletions to an already strained system is not a sustainable model. Rather than proposing to transfer water rights that do not exist an unsustainable strain on the system, Chevron could invest in the outdated and inefficient municipal water infrastructure in the Village of Questa that contributes to the Village's large water debt. Such an investment would solve the Village's water debt problem and provide the long-term benefit of efficient and sustainable water use for years to come.

Sincerely,
John T. Romero, P.E.
Director Water Resources
Allocation Program
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer

Chevron appreciates the insight on the State Engineer's position that is provided in the letter of March 17, 2022, to the *Questa Del Rio News*. The letter does not, however, recognize the unique nature of these particular water rights. These rights were previously put to full beneficial use and, consequently, adjudicated in the Red River Adjudication. In addition, the rights were subsequently limited for Chevron's use by the State Engineer until the year 2127. Chevron will be pursuing its remedies through the administrative process available under state law, wherein the State Engineer may reconsider the de-

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

- YOLI ACOSTA, LINDA BETZ, SHARON CALHOUN, CLAIRE COTÉ, PETE CRIDER, TYLER ESHLEMAN, MARK GALLEGOS, GEOFF GOINES, KRISTI GONZALES, BEN HERERRA, ROSABEL C. HERRERA, HILARY HEYL, JONATHAN HUTCHISON, BETSY IRWIN, RACHEL KUC, GILLIAN JOYCE, MICHELLE LANTERI, MARGARET LEJUSTE, DIANE LEON, LYNN LOCKWOOD, OFFICE OF BEN RAY LUJAN, RUTH MARTINEZ, RODRIGO "BUCK" MAXWELL, MARIA MIKHAILAS, ELLEN MILLER, BENITA MUÑIZ, NICK NAGAWIECKI, JOHN ORTEGA, STEVEN ORTEGA, NANCY PARKER, RED RIVER PHOTOS, KIMBERLY RITTERHOUSE, TALLIE SEGEL, KERRY SHEPHERD, NINA SILFVERBERG, JULIAN SPALDING, ROB SWAN, PEGGY TRIGG

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Questa Del Rio News

We are an editorially independent local news source published by the Questa Economic Development Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works in the public interest to advance a diversified sustainable local economy.

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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:

- Seek Truth and Report It.
- Minimize Harm.
- Act Independently.
- Be Accountable and Transparent.

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Outgoing Mayor Hopes to see Several Projects Finished

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

A week after Mayor Mark Gallegos lost his re-election bid by just 30 votes to his opponent, Councilor John Anthony Ortega, the Questa del Rio News sat with the outgoing mayor inside the El Monte Carlo Bar and Grill (owned by Mark Gallegos) to discuss his hopes for Questa's future.

"...thirty votes is a tough pill to swallow for sure, but there is humility that I have to absorb and take in," opined Gallegos. "I've been very fortunate for 18 years to serve the community—ten years of City Council and then to roll over into eight years of being Mayor—[it] gave me an opportunity to serve the community as best I could and see some projects come through and see

some projects that get to be completed in the next Mayor's tenure."

The Questa News asked Gallegos about the Mayor-elect's preparedness for the office.

"...everybody learns in different ways," said Gallegos. "Some people learn how things work by observation and some people learn by application: they have to have their hands in the mud getting dirty... I'm confident that John Ortega has the ability to carry on the duties as Mayor, it's challenging." You can't say that anyone is going to be prepared for it, because something might be thrown in that you're not prepared for. Eight years ago I wasn't prepared for the mine to close, I wasn't prepared to change the identity

of the Village of Questa and who we're gonna be for the next four years or the next 40 years. Nobody plans that, so you have to be capable of adjusting to whatever the needs are that come forth. . . Mayors have to be prepared for anything that gets thrown at them."

The Questa News then inquired about Mayor Gallegos' hopes for the start of the new mayoral administration. "There are projects in place that I think the Mayor can knock out of the park by the hard work that was done, him included, and all the Council members as a whole that have gotten those to be shovel-ready projects... projects ready to be completed this year. I believe there are probably two or three projects that can be accomplished this year



Courtesy Photo

that will definitely give the Mayor momentum and confidence to move forward."

[Full interview online at QuestaNews.com](https://www.questanews.com)

NEW MAYOR cont'd from page 1

should be an education component."

One concern that the outgoing mayor, Mark Gallegos, has is the completion of current projects that began under his administration, specifically the infrastructure improvements to Cabresto Road and Kiowa Road. "Right now we have the money for paving Cabresto Road," Ortega responded. "We're going to pave from south Kiowa north and get that done this

spring or this summer."

Outgoing Mayor Gallegos' strategy for attracting businesses to Questa seemed more geared for infrastructure improvements for the purpose of long-term growth and the new Mayor Ortega said he basically agrees with that premise.

"I certainly have a hard time seeing a new company coming into Questa with them having to drive down Cabresto Road, seeing it's a mess, and then driving down the rough Embargo Road and seeing that it's a mess. Cell phone

service here is terrible and [businesses] are going to want those basic needs," said Mayor Ortega. "People may want to move here and businesses want to be sure that their business is protected with law enforcement."

The most significant differences between Mayor Gallegos and Mayor Ortega seem to reside in where the focus of Questa's development should be: long-term economic development or short-term infrastructure improvements and beautification.

"We need to come up with a comprehensive plan for that business park, determine what we want that to be, and determine how we're going to work it," said Ortega, referring to the Questa Business Park. "And to date I haven't seen that."

Ortega hopes to see businesses currently in Questa come together in initiatives for beautification and marketing with the goal of making Questa a more desirable tourist destination as well as a safe place for locals to live and for new businesses to set up roots.

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nials to transfer these water rights to local businesses and residents. In the meantime, Chevron will continue its efforts as a good corporate citizen to promote the economic and environmental health of Questa and the surrounding communities.

Christian Isely
Chevron Public Affairs Advisor

[From the editor: Chevron shared with us an internal draft memo from the Office of State Engineer. It dates from May 2020 and reveals that at that time, the agency considered Chevron's 1,433 future use rights as valid and transferable. Please visit this link to our website to read this document: <https://questanews.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Chevron-water-rights-Draft-OSE-memo-re-approving-transfer-of-Sunshine-Valley-rights-to-Agua-Nueva-that-had-not-been-put-to-beneficial-use-01237332xB76D6.pdf>]

As northern New Mexicans know, the Village of Questa and surrounding communities have faced considerable challenges in the recent past. For example, the closure of Chevron Mining Inc.'s Questa Mine in 2014 placed a significant burden on the local economy. Despite such challenges, the Village of Questa, the Questa Economic Development Fund, and Chevron have worked together to strengthen our community and economy. Our efforts have included significant investment in the infrastructure of Questa's public lands and recreational trails. We have also developed the Questa Business Park to attract new companies, such as Taos Bakes. As a result, Questa businesses have effectively navigated the difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking to the future, our agricultural economy is primed for growth as surplus Chevron properties are currently being made available for additional development.

Despite these achievements, we now face a new potential challenge. On February 7, 2022, the Village and Chevron were notified that two critical water transfer

applications submitted with the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) had been denied. These included Application No. RG-544 into SP-1432 into RG-73035, which was submitted to OSE on January 16, 2019, and Application No. RG-544 into SP-1432 into RG-99833, which was submitted on May 7, 2021.

In short, these applications requested approval of the transfer of 7-acre feet of adjudicated water rights from Chevron's tailing site to potential businesses that wished to develop within the Questa area.

Prior to the submittal of these applications, each potential business seeking water transfers provided proposals to the Questa Land & Water (QLW) Board. The QLW Board consists of five local community members whose purpose is to oversee potential water and land sales being considered by Chevron to determine whether the transactions would have an economic benefit to the Questa area. Both applications discussed above were approved by the QLW Board prior to submittal to the OSE. The Village has no reason to believe that either application received public protest nor is the Village aware of any hy-

drological concerns associated with these water rights.

These denials cause great concern for future economic development efforts in the Questa area. In addition to the applications described above, Chevron has approximately 1,306 acre feet of additional adjudicated water rights that it is willing to transfer via sale within the Questa area for the purpose of spurring economic growth and job production. Furthermore, Chevron has generously approved not only a donation of 120-acre feet to the Village of Questa's municipal water system, but also a one-time lease of approximately 1,800 acre feet of water to effectively eliminate the Village's historic over-diversion. This donation will cure the Village's longtime water woes and pave the way for the Village to come into compliance with OSE requirements for the first time in 50 years.

As a result of the OSE's denial of the above described applications, the Village fears that future transfers and Chevron's planned donation to the Village are now

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March 8 Village of Questa Council Meeting

Acceptance and approval of the Village of Questa FY2021 audit (Resolution 2022-05), action item tabled.

Councilman John Ortega YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

Approval of State of New Mexico Department of Transportation Fund 89200 Capital Appropriation Project (Resolution 2022-06), action item approved.

Town Clerk, Ms. Renee Martinez, stated that NMDOT needs this Resolution for the current funding of \$300,000.00 that has been appropriated to Cabresto Road.

Councilman John Ortega YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

(Resolution 2022-07) - A Resolution supporting the development and construction of a skatepark in the Village of Questa, action item approved.

Ms. Martinez stated that this resolution is needed to apply for grant funding needed for the development of the skate park.

Councilman John Ortega YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

(Resolution 2022-08) - A Resolution supporting the submission of FY 2023 NMDOT Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) application, action item approved.

Town Clerk, Ms. Renee Martinez, stated this resolution will be submitted with a MAP application for paving of Upper Embargo Road.

Councilman John Ortega YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

Approval of engineering services for La Cienega School, action item approved.

Town Clerk, Ms. Renee Martinez, provided a proposal received from NV5 to engineer the project of roof and gym repair of La Cienega school.

Councilman John Ortega YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

Approval of Change Order #2 - Questa Business Park, action item tabled.

Councilman John Ortega YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo NOT PRESENT
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

Approval of Easement Agreement between the Village of Questa & North Central Regional Transit District regarding the installation of transit bus stops.

Mayor Gallegos provided background information regarding the areas of interest of the transit bus stops.

Councilman John Ortega NO
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

A motion to approve the first Easement Agreement in front of the library between the Village of Questa & North Central Regional Transit District regarding the installation of transit bus stops, motion carried.

A motion to approve that the Mayor and Administrator decide on the second location and go into an agreement once the location is determined, motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding between Taos County/Taos County Sheriff's Office and the Village of Questa for Law Enforcement Assistance.

Town Clerk, Ms. Renee Martinez, stated that the MOU was approved at the County level and the contract is for one calendar year.

A motion to approve MOU between Taos County / Taos County Sheriff's Office and the Village of Questa for

Law Enforcement Assistance, motion carried.

Councilman John Ortega YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo ABSTAIN
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

Approval of Lease agreement between Taos Bakes and the Village of Questa.

Legal counsel, Mr. Defillippo, gave background information gave a background regarding the extension of the current lease agreement held between the Village of Questa and Taos Bakes. There are two new changes to the extension agreement, those changes are as follows:

- Extend the agreement for an additional one year.
- All future extension requests must be done in writing.

For the record, Councilman Ortega asked what the current monthly rental rate is, Mayor Gallegos responded that Taos Bakes pays \$2,500 per month for rent.

Councilman John Ortega YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

A motion to Approve the Lease Agreement between the Village of Questa and Taos Bakes, motion carried.

New Business to be considered at future Council meetings:

Councilman Ortega asked if Clean Up Day has been scheduled yet.

Mayor Gallegos informed the Council that he was approached by Asst. Chief Raynelle Cordova and Fire Chief Alfredo Romero of the EMS / Fire Department about purchasing a new pumper fire truck.

Councilman Jaramillo recommended a special meeting be held to further discuss and approve the purchase of said truck.

There was discussion and it was decided that a special meeting will be scheduled to discuss details of the purchase.



From the OFFICE OF OUTGOING QUESTA MAYOR MARK GALLEGOS

Beginning this month of April through the rest of the calendar year will be one of the busiest construction seasons that the Village of Questa has seen in years. Many grants have been applied for and received; the implementation of projects will begin.

These projects have been many years in the making. There will be much activity surrounding these projects. All these projects are in different phases, some in the beginning planning phase, some in construction, and some closing out.

Here is a short list of projects.

- Complete paving of upper Cabresto Road – begins April 18
- Purchase of new fire truck
- New public works equipment
- Old Red River Road/Embargo Bridge improvements
- New grant funding for the planning, design, building of a new Fire Department
- \$1.5 million Business Park Building Expansion (Taos Bakes)
- Village Administration Building Expansion; adding office, records room, and conference room
- Library parking lot improvements
- Sewer line extensions
- New water well

I would like to ask that you continue to be active in the community by engaging in events, by participating in support groups within the Village, by communicating with your neighbors and elected officials. It is also important to support the Village officials and staff as they continue to provide and serve the community. Let's work together to create a healthy and safe community.

It has been my pleasure serving you all for the past 18 years, 10 as a Councilmember and 8 as Mayor.

Councilor Ortega Seeks To Increase Limitations On Cannabis

Full article online at QuestaNews.com/Community News

Letter From Outgoing Mayor Mark Gallegos On The Chevron vs. State Engineers And The Transferring Of Water Rights

Full article online at QuestaNews.com/Community News



Business Profile

Majestic Carpet Cleaning

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

For the past 20 years, Cerro resident Steven Ortega has operated his business, Majestic Carpet Cleaning. A lifelong resident of Cerro, he offers carpet cleaning services throughout northern Taos County as well as Colfax County. He is certified in carpet cleaning and water damage remediation, and is the owner and sole employee at Majestic Carpet Cleaning.

Ortega services residential households as well as commercial sites, but most of his clientele is residential. "A lot of it is people with second homes or rentals, people that rent [out] their homes. Some of the lodges up in Red River, I do some of their units for them as well... I've built up a pretty regular clientele," said Ortega in an interview with *Questa del Rio News* on March 14.

According to Ortega, many carpet cleaners also perform services related to water damage remediation and emergency water extraction because much of the equipment needed is similar. Over his twenty years as a business owner, Ortega has also invested in drying equipment like dehumidifiers and turbo dryers. "I would say about 99% of all the jobs I do for water damage are insurance claims," he explains.

Each cleaning job is slightly different, depending on the location, so he first measures the amount of moisture in the air and the temperature: such measurements have to be below a specific point before Ortega can use his equipment.

The *Questa Del Rio News* inquired into Majestic Carpet Cleaning's average number of clients daily, Ortega explained that that number is difficult to determine in such a rural area, especially in the winter months. Spring through fall, he's busy almost every day. The rest of the year, he can go one or two weeks without getting a single call, the slowest season being in winter, between Thanksgiving and the end of March.

Ortega told us that it's difficult for him to expand beyond the Enchanted Circle service area, because that would be far for the company's sole employee to travel, especially when gas prices are high. Sometimes he goes to Angel Fire,



Courtesy Photo

Proud Majestic Carpet owner Steven Ortega and his trusty working van.

Majestic Carpet Cleaning

Call for Appointment!

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stevenortega@yahoo.com

MajesticCarpetCleaningNM.com

but most of the time he stays in the Questa/Red River area. As his carpet cleaning machine also runs on gas, if gas prices rise to as high as seven dollars per gallon, he may have to do something to offset that rise in the cost of fuel.

He utilizes what's called a truck-mounted machine, which has to be installed in the van with a forklift, as it's very heavy. A fuel line feeds down to his fuel tank in the van, so it has its own separate motor. "It's a pretty powerful system," he says. The *Questa Del Rio News* asked if a transition to an electric vehicle might be an option for Ortega. "Probably not, at this time. The only reason is that I don't think the carpet cleaning industry or the manufacturers of carpet cleaning equipment have even thought that far!"

The machine uses steam power to clean and Ortega usually keeps the water temperature at about 210 degrees. The process works with an external water source like a hydrant or a household



Courtesy Photo

Cleaning up some beautiful carpets at Steve's business, with the magic carpet wand.

hose outlet and a hose, the water flows through two heating exchangers inside the machine, and raises the temperature of the water. Ortega pre-treats each carpet with a cleaning solution before applying the rinse and extraction process with a trigger mechanism, a "carpet wand."

The cost of a cleaning from Majestic Carpet Cleaning varies but Ortega approximated a price range of 45 to 50 cents per square foot. Stairs are priced a little differently, depending on the linear foot of the stairway. Area rugs are priced differently depending on whether they're of natural fibers or synthetic fibers. "Natural fibers are going to cost you more

than synthetic because a synthetic [rug] you can essentially wet it and it's not going to get damaged or ruined... Typically with a synthetic area rug I can usually clean it on site, but typically with a more expensive wool rug that are hand-dyed, I usually take those with me so there's a trip charge associated with that."

Ortega told us that he sometimes has help from family and volunteers, but most of the time the business is just him. Interested in getting your carpets or water damage repaired by Majestic Carpet Cleaning? Contact Steven Ortega at (575) 770-5417 or stevenortega@yahoo.com or visit <https://majesticcarpetcleaningnm.com/>

SWAN Realty **Questa Real Estate Update**

New Mexico Septic Regulations Area Big Deal!

BY ROB SWAN

New Mexico Septic regulations are a big deal and can definitely have an effect on the property you are looking at buying or selling.

If you are buying a house within a municipality that offers sewer, you do not need to concern yourself with septic regulations. If you are buying or selling outside of a municipality, as is the case in our rural communities, there are some key points you should know.

All septic systems must be inspected prior to conveyance to a new owner. New Mexico septic regulations require you to have at least 3/4 of an acre to install a conventional septic system. If you have an existing house that is on less than 3/4 of an acre and it was previously permitted and it passes a state inspection, then you are good to go: it is grandfathered in.

If the system does not pass an inspection, then you will be required to bring it up to code, which could include a simple repair or the complete abandonment of the system and the installation of a new system.

If a new system is required and you have less than 3/4 of an acre, then you are most likely looking at installing a holding tank or an advanced treatment system. Every situation is unique, and an assessment can be done by a licensed inspector to determine the best path forward.

Another thing to consider is proximity to water. A septic system leach field cannot be installed within 100 feet of a

stream or well, even if it's the neighbor's well, so planning is key.

Septic inspections usually happen once a house for sale goes under contract. If the septic system does not pass inspection, then the cost of repairs becomes a negotiable item between buyer and seller. Regardless of what is negotiated, though, the legal owner of the property at 180 days from the date of the failed inspection is responsible for repairing it.

Even if the house does not end up selling, the owner is still responsible for its repair or replacement. If they have not been completed within 180 days, the house may be red-tagged by the New Mexico Environmental Department and occupancy would be prohibited until the repairs have been made.

If you are considering selling your home and would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me, I'm always happy to help.

Rob Swan, Qualifying Broker, NMREC Lic# 19097 - (575) 770-2958 Cell - (575) 613-4243 Office, (575) 613-1805 Fax

KEY POINTS

- 1) To build a house you must have 3/4 of an acre in order to install a conventional septic system, otherwise you will need a holding tank or a split system.
- 2) You can not have a leach field within 100 feet of any water source, including your well or a neighbor's well.
- 3) If you buy a house with an existing septic system, the system must be inspected prior to transfer. This ensures the buyer that the system is up to code and functioning properly.



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Trainer, Rubin Medina, of the
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Chicago, Illinois

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ABCD WORKSHOP

Idea mapping, Breakouts,
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month follow up session.



Questa Farmers Market Growing in Every Way

2021 Recap & Goals For This Season

By GAEA MCGAHEE, QUESTA FARMERS MARKET ORGANIZER

Questa Farmers Market (QFM) will open Sunday, May 29 to begin the 2022 season. This will be our sixth official year in operation!

Questa Farmers Market projects are inspired by community input. The program as a whole has grown each season through this input and reflection. We organize around three core initiatives supporting tradition, adaptation, and resilience.

Creating a hub for regenerating the local food economy by supporting growers, craftspeople, and customers.

Caring for an inviting physical space for vendors and customers, thus supporting community connection.

Offering paid youth internships; work-based learning, mentorship and skill development focused on local farm-to-market economics.

The market, held every Sunday, from the end of May to early October, operates on a central downtown Questa site, adjacent to the Questa Visitor Center, owned by the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF). Over five years, we have established a landscape that can be navigated by a few hundred people, created gardens, vendor shelters, an horno, a dance floor, electrified the shelters and music booth, and started a mural project. These improvements were made possible through the financial support of the QEDF and the LOR Foundation and many hours (both paid and donated) by community members and volunteers.

The Economic Impact

At each market, for 19 consecutive Sundays, neighbors support each other by buying products from their local farmers, gardeners, bakers, and craftspeople. This hub is also a bright stopping place for visitors to our community. Our efforts are creating a shared source of community wealth that cannot be measured, as well as economic value that we can measure and share in this report.

We track the financial impact of the market each year. Last season (2021), on average, there were nine vendors each Sunday with an average attendance of

165 customers. Collectively, our vendors earned \$40,825 in 2021 compared to \$19,425 in 2020, a huge increase. This is money that stayed local through our community members investing in one another. When we invest locally, we benefit households in and around northern Taos County, strengthening our local roots, and building communal ties, rather than benefiting large corporations.

The 2021 total of \$40,825 breaks down into three categories:

1. \$20,475 in Raw Agricultural Products (fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat and honey),
2. \$13,362 in Produced Food (hot food, baked goods, processed farm products like pickles, preserves, and pesto)
3. \$6,988 in Art and Craft (hand-made items).

Local Partnerships in 2021

In addition to organizing the Sunday market, our program worked in partnership with the North Central Food Pantry (NCFP, ncfpquesta.com), helping coordinate the purchase and transport of local food, with NCFP funding. This partnership began in 2020 when supply lines were first disrupted by COVID-19. This investment in local growers means that together we are making our agricultural community stronger. We intend to continue this work in 2022 by coordinating the supply of food from local growers to NCFP clients. We are seeking grant funding to help purchase food from local growers and donate this produce.

Music every Sunday makes the market lively and supports local musicians. Our vendors' fees sponsor musicians, but these fees are kept to a minimum and are supplemented by grant funding and partnerships. A Questa Creative Council partnership in 2021 (questacreative.org) helped us to pay local musicians. We are grateful to this local arts and culture nonprofit.

Our paid Youth Internship Program was supported by The Red Willow Center of Taos Pueblo (facebook.com/RWCTaosPueblo) along with a portion of our vendors' fees and the tireless input of our market volunteers and coordinators. With this collective support, youth were able to be involved in growing and caring for the market gardens, starting a coffee booth, and cooking in the horno, as well as collecting food from local growers for distribution through the NCFP system.



We can keep our money and resources in our community when we choose to spend our dollars at our local markets and businesses. Supporting market vendors by shopping locally means we're doing something great in small ways.

Paid Interns and Volunteers

We believe that establishing roles and employment for youth makes the QFM program sustainable and dynamic. We prosper through intergenerational community work by sharing, learning, and building together. Our previous seasons have shown that employment for youth through QFM internships is key—we are committed to continuing these paid internships. For the upcoming season our Youth Internship program will benefit from LANL Foundation support through an Education Enrichment Grant to deepen this work over the next

two years, which will make the 2022 season an exciting one! To learn how to apply for internships, go here: questa-farmersmarket.org/blog/internship/.

The 2021 interns and our steadfast volunteers, Andy and Lorie Jaramillo, extended the garden zones at the market and tended to their thriving all season. Several community volunteers, including Shane Brown and Hae Won Kwon, cared for the gardens as well. LEAP hosted two Community Connection Days (in May and September) beautifying the market site. The collaboratively organized Vida Camp kids and staff helped launch the gardens, and do weeding and planting in May. And visiting volunteers, members of the youth choir from Broadmoor Baptist Church from Shreveport, Louisiana, were in New Mexico for a week in July. They pulled tons of weeds, added a little mud fix to the horno, and cleaned up around the market.

The vegetable and flower gardens provide spaces of experiential education and beauty, ensuring that the market-

From Muralist Rae Lewis

I'm excited to work alongside Questa community members, and Questa Farmers Market staff and interns to create a pollinator mural at the market site.

I plan to design a mural that involves community input through successive workshops. The mural plan will be fluid enough to accommodate community painters and can adjust to on-site input. Each workshop will focus on a particular stage of the mural painting process. This pollinator-themed mural considers the ecology of Monarch butterflies and milkweed in their relationship, which can be observed here each year. My hope is that through creating and interacting with the mural, our human community will be more tuned in to these beings and their invaluable life cycles.

Once completed, this mural can continue to come alive through posed photographs, when a person stands against it in several spots. For example, a person might strike a pose near the painted wings or appear to hide in the shelter of a leaf.

I look forward to creating this mural in my community with painters of all ages and skills.

place supports vendors and customers, as well as pollinators and traveling butterflies.

Mural

Last season, local muralist Rae Lewis, began a mural project on one side of the on-site shipping container, which had been donated by the Questa Credit Union.

The mural engaged the community in a design that allowed all abilities and ages to paint together. The pattern, an abstract quilted landscape of mountains around Questa, was drawn ahead of the painting days and then filled in by painters. The design was inspired by the land, the practice of quilting in our community, and a 1930s photograph of Questa quilters found by Estevan Rael-Galvez in his grandparents' home next door to the market site. Like a quilt, individual efforts combined to make a beautiful whole.

Rae will continue her design efforts on the reverse side of the container with a pollinator-themed mural. In connection to this mural, an adjacent pollinator garden will be created by our youth



Photo by Gaea McGahee

Youth interns planting corn that grows to great heights every market season, before our very eyes!

interns along with a QFM staff member, whose role will be to support youth in caring for and developing our market gardens. We will again engage community painters of all ages and skills.

Farmers Market Designation & Food Benefit Programs

QFM is focused on building a local market that serves at the appropriate scale, welcoming backyard gardeners and professional growers, people with family orchards, and young, ambitious farmers. We work creatively to accommodate the maximum number and variety of vendors. We can arrange for group tables where multiple small producers' goods are sold and can arrange pickup at the farms or yards of anyone needing help with transportation.

To be eligible as a farmers market, at least 50% of our vendors need to sell raw farm goods/unprocessed local foods such as fruits, vegetables, honey, eggs, meat. Local means mainly New Mexico grown within 80 miles of the market.

You can find details about becoming a vendor on our website, questafarmersmarket.org/for-vendors/. The remaining percent of our vendors need to be selling local prepared foods (SNAP/EBT eligible) and value-added farm goods, while a very small percent may sell local handmade items like salve, soap, and bouquets. Adhering to these guidelines makes our market eligible to participate in key Food Benefit Programs.

The Food Benefit Programs our market participates in include: SNAP/EBT and Double Up Food Bucks, as well as WIC and Senior Nutrition Farm Program Checks.

Apply for SNAP (also called EBT, food stamps) at www.hsd.state.nm.us/lookingforassistance/supplemental_nutrition_assistance_program_snap/ or call (800) 432-6217. If you have SNAP,

you will receive Double-Up-Food-Bucks automatically at the market. When you come to the market and take out an amount from your SNAP/EBT card, for example, \$20—you'll get another \$20 to spend on local fruits and vegetables. This is how you double your money. This is a food benefit program that Questa Farmers Market, and many other markets and grocery stores participate in: <https://www.doubleupnm.org/how-it-works/>

Want to receive Senior Nutrition Program Checks to use at your local market? Call (505) 242-6777. Women, Infant, Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (WIC FMNP) clients, would you like money to spend at your local farmers market? To learn how to participate, go to nmwic.org or call (866) 867-3124.

QFM Merchandise

Local freelance graphic designer Emily Wilde created our logo and we put it on shirts, aprons, and stickers! You can support the QFM Merchandising Program by purchasing our QFM merchandise at the market. If you want gear sooner, email growersmakers@gmail.com, or call or text (575) 224-2102 about these items. We print our shirts and aprons on organic cotton to support healthier environments for farmers farther afield.

New Collaboration for 2022, Questa Art Market

In 2021, a Saturday Crafts & Collectibles Market was launched at the market site. For 2022, it will be held on Sunday, alongside the farmers market, and it will have a new name! More vendors than last year will be able to participate by sharing the same market day. Art Market vendors are not in the agricultural (local food) category, but are entrepreneurs who are also key to revitalizing our local economic base, so it IS

a separate market. This separation allows the QFM to remain eligible for enrollment in state and federal food benefit programs. The Questa Arts Market is for artists, makers, and even folks selling interesting collectibles or oddities. To become a vendor this coming season, contact Lynn Skall at (575) 586-2149.

Contact:

Market Organizer Gaea McGahee, (575) 224-2102; growersmakers@gmail.com or go to QuestaFarmersMarket.org; facebook.com/Questafarmersmarket; instagram.com/questafarmersmarket

We are a program of Localogy, www.localogy.org, a nonprofit 501(c)(3); effectively an operational community foundation for our area. Our market seeks to regenerate agriculture in northern Taos County by supporting small land- and home-based businesses, and fostering skills and opportunities for a new generation.

Our program has channeled financial support from the Questa Economic Development Foundation (QEDF), the LOR Foundation, Chevron, the Questa Creative Council, Red Willow Center, the LANL Foundation, and the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association. We have received other support from community organizations; the Questa Credit Union and the Vida del Norte Coalition, LEAP (Land, Experience, and Art of Place), Questa Stories, Rewire Yourself with New Opportunities (RYNO), and Taos Initiative for Life Together (TiLT), as well as the many hours donated each year by community members and volunteers to help accomplish the larger goals of our program and keep the market site beautiful and welcoming.

Become Vendor:

Website: questafarmersmarket.org/for-vendors/

Apply for SNAP (EBT) Assistance

Website: www.hsd.state.nm.us/lookingforassistance/supplemental_nutrition_assistance_program_snap/

QFM Merchandise

Email: growersmakers@gmail.com or call/text (575) 224-2102

Market Organizer:

Gaea McGahee
(575) 224-2102;
Email: growersmakers@gmail.com
Website: QuestaFarmersMarket.org

Stay tuned:

facebook.com/Questafarmersmarket
instagram.com/questafarmersmarket

Celebrating Earth Day & Community Connection Days



Photo by Maria Gonzalez

Sunshine Wood (and her family, from southern Colorado) planting the Crabapple tree they sponsored for her late daughter, Heather Marie Fenstermacher-Taylor, with other Community Connection Day volunteers offering assistance.



Photo by Claire Coté

SUCCESS Youth Program participants busy at work picking up trash and removing overgrown weeds at Questa Park on our May 2021 Community Connection Day.



Photo by Claire Coté

Egypt carrying a Maple tree to its new home in the park, with Lupe at left, ready to help.

By CLAIRE COTÉ

On Saturday, April 30, 10 am - 2 pm, come to Questa Park to plant trees, beautify our park, and share your vision for its future—All area youth are invited, and adults too! Let's come together in solidarity with thousands of other communities around the world to celebrate Earth Day this month and kick off our 2022 Community Connection Day series. (Note: Earth Day is on Friday, April 22, but this is the date of the Questa Junior-Senior High School Prom. To enable as many youth as possible to participate we have moved this event to April 30.)

The day will include planting drought-tolerant trees, repairing the irrigation system, removing invasive plant species, trash pickup, and a brainstorming session for park planning and improvements. A hearty lunch for volunteers will be provided midday. Progress on the site is our goal, but more important is having fun, strengthening friendships, and amplifying youth and community voices to shape the future of our park (and beyond).

Bring a water bottle, hat and sun protection, and if you have them, work gloves, yard cleaning tools and a shovel; we'll have extra gloves (donated previously by Questa Lumber and Hardware) and tools

on hand as well.

The trees we'll plant on April 30 will be part of the Questa Park Memorial Grove, a community-sponsored effort through the Vida del Norte Coalition. Our goal is to plant seven more trees.

You can make a tax-deductible donation to sponsor a tree in honor of a loved one and come help to plant it at the park for \$140 each. Contributions of any amount are appreciated; donations of less than \$140 will provide much needed overall support for the tree planting project, including irrigation system repair and maintenance. Donate securely by credit card online: <https://vidadelnorte.com/parktrees/>.

[com/parktrees/](https://vidadelnorte.com/parktrees/). If you donate by check, please make it payable to Vida Del Norte with "Tree Project" in the memo. Checks can be dropped off at Questa Credit Union for Vida del Norte or mailed to: Vida del Norte, Maria Gonzalez, PO Box 1015, Questa NM, 87556. For more info about the tree fundraiser, call Maria (575) 779-2260.

The first Earth Day was celebrated 52 years ago on April 22, 1970. This holiday was created by US Senator Gaylord Nelson, to mark the importance of keeping our planet healthy and clean, and for people to renew their commitment to making positive changes in their communities.

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April 30 Questa Park Tree Planting & Beautification Everyone welcome! Free

WHAT: Tree Planting, Park Beautification & Volunteer Lunch

WHERE: Questa Municipal Park, behind the Questa Library and Youth Center

WHEN: Saturday April 30, 10 am - 2 am

Event Info: www.LEAPsite.org Claire Coté, emailforleap@gmail.com, (575) 224-9066.

Tree Sponsorship Info: <https://vidadelnorte.com/parktrees/> Maria Gonzalez or call (575) 779-2260.

What are Community Connection Days?

These are monthly collaborative, intergenerational days of community give-back and celebration, taking place in and around Questa. They give us the opportunity to connect with friends and make new ones, to care for and improve our public spaces, and envision together what we want for our community. The concept was born out of the youth-centered beautification day a year ago at Questa Park; six monthly Community Connection Days followed in 2021. This consistent coming together, with community members showing up for one another and our shared public spaces, is part of ongoing collaborative community-wide creative placemaking efforts.

The April Community Connection Day at the Park is made possible by these collaborators: LEAP, Vida del Norte Coalition, Localogy, Village of Questa, Questa Economic Development Fund, Questa Farmers Market, North Central Food Pantry, Taos Bakes, and many community volunteers. Funding is provided by Chevron Grants for Good as well as individual tree sponsors and donors. Thanks to all of you!

Next month, join in the May Community Connection Day in downtown Questa preparing the Questa Farmers Market and Visitor Center for opening on Memorial Day weekend.

Virsylvania Farm and Market is Open!

By TYLER ESHLEMAN

Virsylvania Farm is a regenerative farm focused on providing local food to the Questa area. Between our animals and fields, we offer local dairy shares, a CSA (community supported agriculture) program, and yarn and fiber—all while trying to promote healthy land management practices and sharing spaces with other producers.

After running a pay-what-you-can farmstand since 2019, this winter we officially reopened as Virsylvania Farm and Market, and are now offering a year-round market with fresh produce and veggies, eggs, fruit, dairy, beef and goat meats, herbal products, flowers, honey, and so many other local products from our farm and others in Taos County.

In addition to the market, coffee/tea/espresso/food will be provided by The Dancing Goat, a new food truck at the farm featuring local food.

We are looking forward to hosting a variety of workshops and community events, including a yard sale on April 15 and 16. (Let us know if you would like to set up and sell, and see our notice in the classified ads and Community Calendar.)

Come by to check out what local



Courtesy Photos

Onion field sprouting.



Courtesy Photos

Amelia Eshleman of Virsylvania Farm, with a full throttle of baby goats!

producers are growing and how you can support healthy, organic, and regenerative (and tasty!) food in our region!



Courtesy Photos

Kids and kids playing at the farm!

MARKET HOURS:

Weds.-Thurs.-Friday, 11 am to 5 pm

Saturday, 11 am to 3 pm.

Virsylvania Farm & Market, 3204 Hwy 522, Questa, NM; head north from Questa, turn left after mile marker 27, past Jaracito Rd. in El Rito.
(575) 586-5635, www.virsylviafarm.com, and on Facebook.

100% Daytime Solar From Kit Carson Coop

By LUIS A. REYES, JR.
CEO, KIT CARSON ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

Today, KCEC owns and operates 18 solar arrays throughout our service territory, totaling 18.6 MW. Did you know KCEC will exceed its 100% daytime solar goal by 2022? KCEC has two solar and battery storage projects under construction near the Taos Municipal Landfill and the Angel Fire Water Treatment Plant. These projects will provide an additional 22.5 MWs of solar energy and 16.25 MWs of battery storage to KCEC's renewable portfolio.

KCEC's Taos Mesa Array is approximately 80% complete and will be operational in May or June. The Taos Mesa solar project will have 15 MWs of solar energy and 12.5 MWs of battery storage, with ten 1.25 MW Tesla batteries, installed at the Taos Mesa array on March 23, 2022. The project spans roughly 170 acres and has 43,680 solar panels. The Taos Mesa project will power approximately 7,500

homes, not including battery storage.

In Angel Fire, the crews completed earthwork and move forward with underground wiring and pile driving beams for the solar tracking system. The Angel Fire project will have 7.5 MW of solar energy with 3.75 MW of battery storage. The project spans roughly 70 acres and contains 17,108 solar panels. The Angel Fire project will power approximately 3,750 homes, not including battery storage.

Once the Taos and Angel Fire projects are finished, KCEC will have 41 MW of solar and 16.25 MW of battery storage. The batteries will contain two hours of holding capacity totaling 32.5MWh. KCEC integrating additional solar and battery storage will continue to build a resilient and reliable network. These projects will provide significant renewable energy to our communities and provide rate stabilization for our members.

During the past two years of COVID and related hardships, KCEC has continued maintaining reliable and affordable electricity. I'm happy to announce that

when gasoline, propane, natural gas, diesel, and other utilities continue to rise, KCEC electric bills will decrease this summer.

KCEC has been installing solar arrays since 2009. We are working with partners and communities in servour service territory to provide a renewable future. Please see our ad on page 19 with

our community and power break down showing our timeline to 100% Daytime solar production. Thank you for helping us reach our goal as we continue to move forward to a green future. Stay tuned as we continue to provide our members with updated information on EV charging stations, solar projects, and monthly electric bill decreases.



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- Harry Winston

Continuing to offer our full line of services. Dry cleaning, wash and fold, linen service, alterations, and a small array of household items for sale in our retail shop.

Outdoor Learning Strengthens Community Connections

By TALLIE SEGEL

There is widespread support in New Mexico for getting kids outside to learn. This is evidenced by the bipartisan 2022 Legislative Session passing what will create an outdoor learning program at the New Mexico Public Education Department (Senate Bill 32, incorporated into House Bill 2).

Outdoor and environmental education programs, curricula, camps, and opportunities are more dispersed for teachers and students in rural areas, and the providers available face unique challenges in reaching and serving rural youth and schools.

In response, Environmental Education of New Mexico and the Conservation Science Center at New Mexico Highlands University will be hosting the free Fostering Connections to Grow Outdoor Learning Symposium. Focused on northern New Mexico and rural



Courtesy Photo

Kids benefit from increased opportunities for outside learning.

communities, it will take place by Zoom on **Monday, April 18, from 9 am to 1 pm**. The half-day symposium includes a panel discussion about knowledge equity in outdoor learning, emphasizing attention to local knowledge and perspectives that participants bring and offer as learners, educators, and community members. Following the panel, participants will take part in a series of networking activities and opportunities

to build relationships to help maximize limited resources and expand capacity to serve rural youth, families, teachers, and program providers with relevant and meaningful outdoor and environmental learning opportunities in and out of school.

Just in time for Earth Day, these organizations will help make connections among diverse individuals interested in increasing opportunities for outdoor learning. This includes teachers, youth, families, outdoor and environmental educators, youth camp coordinators, public lands staff, and agriculture program providers.

Join us to hear inspiring speakers, participate in interactive workshops, and take the opportunity to build relationships that help increase outdoor and environmental learning in rural northern New Mexico.

This symposium is grounded in northern New Mexico, but rural com-

FREE Fostering Connections to Grow Outdoor Learning Symposium

ZOOM

Monday, April 18, from 9 am to 1 pm.

CONTACT

Tallie Segel,
tallie@eenm.org,
(505) 358-9570.

munities across the state face similar challenges. Thus, all are welcome to work toward a model for expanding and resourcing our student communities.

Everyone is welcome and can register at no cost. Go online to eenm.org/symposium. This program was made possible by the generous support of the Los Alamos National Labs (LANL) Foundation Education Enrichment Grant. For more information, contact Tallie Segel, tallie@eenm.org, (505) 358-9570.

Announcing QUILT: Questa Initiative for Life Together!

By TODD WYNWARD
AND DANIEL HERRERA

Want to build a new world together out of the old? Join us! We're starting by transforming the Herrera Trailer Park near the center of Questa into a vibrant village that supports sober and healthy lifeways, place-based living, local food networks, affordable housing, community projects, multicultural celebrations, job training, and economic opportunity.

TIILT, the Taos Initiative for Life Together, is using its resources to start QUILT—the Questa Initiative for Life Together. Both share the same mission: to be an incubator for personal change and systemic change at the localized, regional level. To get this going, we'll eventually need board members, fiscal advisers, core donors, business partners, fans, and organizational allies. But right now, we're seeking volunteers for a hands-on work party!

We envision four projects:

1. Comprehensive site cleanup: We will provide a big dumpster on site, a backhoe, a chainsaw, and about a half dozen assorted rakes and shovels. Volunteers are encouraged to bring trash bags, tarps, and any tools they are proficient with, from spades to limb loppers to chainsaws. Work will consist of unskilled labor, such as removing brush—to skilled labor, like using a chainsaw to

prune a forest walkway.

2. Conscious deconstruction of a hand-hewn timber & adobe ruin, beam by beam: A skeleton of a building still stands; we want to catalog it as we deconstruct it, so we might rebuild it anew. We will provide pallets for storing removed beams and adobes, guidance on photo documentation, and markers to name and number the components for easier reconstruction. Volunteers are encouraged to bring: hammers, wire cutters, crowbars, nail pullers, sawzalls, and sledgehammers. Skilled and unskilled labor welcome!

3. Begin to construct a 60' long privacy wall made of repurposed plastic. We will have dug a trench, we will provide an architectural design, and we will provide professional supervision. The Repurposed Plastic Project will provide eight 8' x 50" x 16" modular wall sections of metal fencing filled with compressed waste plastic, and the hardware to install, attach, and stabilize them.

Work Weekend at the Herrera Trailer Park

Apr 29 – May 2, 2022

(3-1/2 work days over a long weekend)

9 am to 5 pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; 9 am to noon on Monday May 2.



Courtesy Photo

Randy Martinez and Daniel Herrera, in background, and Todd Wynward, standing in front of our inventory of modular walls, in front of one of the outdated mobile homes that we plan on upgrading

Together, in a very short time, with volunteers we hope to assemble a ready-to-stucco 60-foot long privacy wall, creating a safe patio space for residents to gather and children to play. We will have some of these tools, but volunteers are encouraged to bring hog ring pliers, wire cutters, and regular pliers.

4. Construct Raised Garden Beds: We will plan to provide wood and hardware to make up to three 5' x 8' raised beds. We also plan to provide topsoil and sheep

manure. These may be done using hugelkultur principles, adding logs and leaves and sticks underneath topsoil and amendments to increase soil health and aeration. Volunteers are encouraged to bring power tools and hand tools to cut and construct garden beds, such as saws, drills, and measuring tape; as well as shovels and screws.

QUILT cont'd on page 34

Auntie Nannie's Seed Exchange Turns 10!

By GILLIAN JOYCE

Ten years ago, our founder Nan Fisher started the Taos Seed Exchange. Many of our readers know Nan, and even more have benefitted from her work in our local farming and gardening community. Nan owns Nannie's Plants, a small nursery that specializes in vegetable, herb, and flower starts for the Taos community, mostly through community-supported-agriculture (CSA) shares. She is also a writer on all things gardening, and you'll see her words in gardening publications throughout the country.

Many Taos County residents have benefitted from Nan's expertise through the Taos Farm and Garden Facebook page, of which she is the adoptive mother for the past decade. If you are not familiar with the page, it is among the most valuable community resources for growers looking for place-specific information on anything from planting dates, pest control, local learning opportunities, goats for sale, hay for sale, labor, acequia cleaning announcements, frost warnings, and moral support—and anything else a home grower or farmer might be looking for. If you have ever asked a question in the group, there is a decent chance you got an answer from Nan, informed by her degree in horticultural

and roughly 40 years growing, most of those in Taos County. Today the page has multiple administrators to support its 3,500 members.

When Nan started the Taos Seed Exchange, she was working on growing as much of the food she ate as she could, but realized she needed to diversify her seed collection. That, and she was tired of eating the same red romaine lettuce she'd been growing forever. But when she went seed shopping and realized how expensive it was to purchase the variety she was looking for, especially when she didn't need to grow the 20 tomato plants of the same variety and 500 heads of lettuce you can get from a single packet of seed!

Not long afterward, Nan learned about seed exchanges in other parts of the country and realized this was a solution that would solve her problem and serve the whole community. She created a system she thought would work for Taos, developed relationships with small seed companies throughout the country that specialize in heirloom and open-pollinated seed, and ran with it. Over the years she held various seed exchange events and developed a system of seed exchange stations throughout the county.

In 2021, she passed the seed ex-



Courtesy Photos

Nan Fisher, founder of Aunt Nannie's Seed Exchange.

change on to Alianza Agri-Cultura, though she stays involved to help us learn the ropes. In gratitude to Nan's years of stewarding the exchange, we renamed the Taos Seed Exchange "Auntie Nannie's Seed Exchange." Last year we expanded the number of stations and the areas of the county served by the seed exchange, and we launched our seed grant program which provides seed to schools, community gardens, and other not-for-profit efforts to increase

community knowledge, capacity, and access to home-grown and community-grown food.

We are excited to be stewarding Auntie Nannie's Seed Exchange into the future and look forward to expanding programming, expanding the communities served, expanding our partners, and expanding opportunities for residents of Taos County to access seed, grow their own food, and save seed for future years and generations.

Seed Exchange Station How-To

Seed Exchange stations are equipped with envelopes, pens, and a donation jar, as well as plenty of seed!

Bring your extra seeds to donate, whether it's seed you overbought, or seed you've grown out and saved. If you are not bringing seed in a seed packet, please label it with as much information as you can: provide species and variety, and any other info you might have, such as if you've brought in seed you got from your grandma that she used to grow, if you've found the variety to be particularly hearty in our climate, or anything else. Seed stories of all sorts deserve to be told!

Take new seeds with you! Use the envelopes and pens to carry and label your newfound seed treasures. Keep in mind the stations are a community resource and we want to spread the seed wealth,

so take only the seeds you need for this season and leave some for your neighbors. For example, if you don't need to grow 20 of a particular tomato variety, use the envelopes to take just the few you need and leave the original envelope in the seed station.

Leave a small cash donation if you don't have any seed to swap! All donations go to keeping the seed exchange program alive. If you don't have seed or cash to spare, consider giving back in different ways, whether it's taking a second to straighten up the seed station, telling others about it, or growing out some seed to share next year and sharing your produce.

Seed station locations:

In Questa, you can find seed stations at the Questa Public Library and at Rael's Store and Coffee Shop.

You will also find seed stations at Re-Threads in Taos, both Habitat for Humanity Re-Stores in Taos and El Prado, the Talpa Community Center, the Spot in Peñasco, the Rio Fernando Park in Taos, the Carson Café and Grocery Store, and at the Red Willow Center at Taos Pueblo (for tribal members only at this time).

Seed grants:

We are excited to announce our first seed grants of the 2022 season: Taos Pueblo Day School and Vadito Head Start.

Taos Pueblo Day School

The Day School will be growing seeds under their Native Language and Culture program, which works with kids from kindergarten through 8th grade, and works with maintaining native language development, as well as teaching students land and water stewardship, ecology, and crop production. The food grown with this

seed grant will go home with students, be used to make a lunch at the school, and share crops with senior citizens in the community.

Vadito Head Start

Vadito Head Start will introduce their young students to the magic of growing with their seed grant. While these kiddos are young, their teachers believe early exposure to growing food will leave a lasting impression. Teachers will work with students to start seeds and starts will be sent home with students to plant with their families.

Do you have a community project that would benefit from a seed grant?

Auntie Nannie's 2022 Seed Grant Program is open for proposals from non-profits, community centers, senior centers, schools, faith communities, and other

community efforts to increase community knowledge, capacity, and access to homegrown and community-grown food in Taos County.

Grantees will be provided with an assortment of open-pollinated vegetable, flower, and herb seed appropriate for our climate, and requests for particular crops will be accommodated when possible.

Apply any time at the link below, just make sure to let us know what season you need seed for.

<https://www.alianzaagricultura.org/seedgrantprogram>

We would like to give a shout-out to all the amazing seed companies supporting our 2022 season! Please consider supporting these great seed companies.



GROW. ENJOY. SHARE.



The Clothing Industry And Environmental Sustainability

By JONATHAN HUTCHISON

This is the first of three articles about the fashion industry and its role in a sustainable future. Here, we examine fashion's role in our economy and its social and environmental impact. The second installment explores alternatives to unbridled consumption of fashion and the third profiles innovators in the emerging field of "up-cycling."

Why should we care about fashion? It is the fourth largest sector of the global economy, producing 2% of the world's GDP. According to trade publication, Fashion Innovation, the industry employs 3.4 million people. By 2025, it will generate \$2.25 trillion in annual revenue. Fashion dominates e-commerce. The average American family spends \$1,700 annually on fashion, in a \$12 billion market.

However, fashion's impact far exceeds its sheer financial power. The fashion industry shares the fundamental objective of all consumer capitalism; limitless growth of production and sales by the cultivation and expansion of new markets. While the

global population has doubled since 1970, the fashion industry has exceeded that rate of growth several times over during the same period.

This was achieved through mass production of increasingly less expensive clothing, using the cheapest materials and production methods. As a result, our clothing is less durable and must be more rapidly replaced by further purchases. Hand-in-hand with this planned obsolescence is a marketing strategy that drives consumer demand with a never-ending, ever-accelerating succession of new products.

Decades ago, fashion served those who could afford to buy designer clothing. Four times a year, the great design houses released new lines of high quality, durable outfits. Today, fashion is a mass market industry, making clothes accessible to all economic classes. Now, instead of four times a year, some brands introduce new products several times a week, banking on the public's insatiable need for novelty and playing upon our long association of fashion with emotional well-being and

social status.

At great societal cost, 90% of these items are produced under unsafe conditions by low wage workers in developing countries, many of which allow child and forced labor. All of this makes today's fashion affordable to more people, guaranteeing exponential growth in sales.

What once took months to design, manufacture, and distribute now takes mere days. The speed of product turnaround, the displacement of yesterday's styles with today's latest trends, and the rapid deterioration and disposal of cheaply made garments has led to the term, "fast fashion." Like fast food, it is widely available, affordable, produced with cheap ingredients, and not particularly good for us or the planet.

Not long ago, clothing was handed down, even across generations. The poor quality of today's mass fashion results in clothing that wears out before it can be handed down, driving more sales. The industry conjures a relentless succession of increasingly short-lived styles that rapidly lose social currency. Today's fast fashion

will be worn only fifteen times, on average, before it is abandoned. One survey found that trendy younger consumers consider an article of clothing to be "old" after one or two wearings.

Mass marketing strategies routinely lead to overproduction, such that roughly two-thirds of all clothing and related fabrics go unsold, never reaching the consumer. These are incinerated or sent to the landfill. The average American discards 80 pounds of clothing each year, the fastest-growing component of the household waste stream. Only a small fraction of discarded clothing is donated, recycled, consigned to thrift shops, or repurposed. The world produces an estimated 92 million tons of textile waste each year, the equivalent of a truckload of clothing or materials being burned or dumped every second of every day. Over 60% of clothes made each year end up in landfills, almost 20% of the world's total consumer waste.

Other environmental impacts of "fast fashion" are equally troubling. To make

CLOTHING IND. cont'd on page 27

When Wind Blows, Embers Can Follow!

By LYNN LOCKWOOD, CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

Warmer weather is coming and now is the time to prepare your home for a possible ember storm. The 2022 Wildfire Preparedness is year-round campaign that provides monthly wildfire preparedness tasks that follow the changing seasons.

Climate change and increasing drought are making wildfire seasons year-round, and we are at most risk when winds are at their worst. In

New Mexico, this is most common in the spring when red flag conditions are common.

Research shows that most homes lost to wildfire are ignited by flying embers. Embers are burning pieces of pinecones, pine needles, leaves, tree bark, twigs, and other flammable items that are carried by wind. Hot embers can travel up to five miles in strong winds, putting your home and property at risk.

Taking steps now to harden your home and create defensible space is the

best way to reduce the threat of embers and wildfire to you, your family, and your community. Begin by focusing on areas around the outside of your house and the exteriors of barns, sheds, and other structures where hot embers could land and spark a fire.

Areas to concentrate on include:

Roof

- Replace wood shingles with fire-resistant materials
- Clean rain gutters and roof of leaf and pine needle debris regularly
- Remove overhanging branches

Vents and Eaves

- Close eaves and vents with 1/8" metal screens to keep embers out of attic
- Use baffled attic vents

Deck/Balconies

- Enclose undersides of decks, balconies, and foundations with flame resistant sheeting
- Use fire-resistant decking and outdoor furniture
- Keep decks clear of combustible items such as leaves and pine needles

Windows

- Install double-pane windows with tempered glass for windows and skylights

to prevent breakage from radiant heat

- Seal gaps in windows and doors, including the garage

Exterior Walls

- Build or remodel with fire-resistant materials
- Remove plants that climb up house and under eaves
- Use fire-resistant landscaping

Find more tips on protecting your home from a wildfire ember attack, there are helpful resources such as the Ready, Set, Go! Program (video), Living with Fire: A Guide for the Homeowner, New Mexico, and Firewise USA®.

The Carson National Forest is working with the New Mexico Forestry Division, the Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests, Forest Stewards Guild, Fire Adapted NM, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office to continue our wildfire preparedness calendar in 2022 and share the message across multiple platforms, including social media, webinars, and community events. Bookmark the wildfire preparedness webpage to follow the campaign throughout the year.

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April is Acequia Clean Up Month

CABRESTO LAKE IRRIGATION COMMUNITY DITCH ASSOCIATION:

DATE: Sat, April 2nd

LOCATION: Meet at St. Anthony's Parish Hall parking lot

DATE: Sat, April 9th

LOCATION: Meet at St. Anthony's Parish Hall parking lot

QUESTA CITIZENS DITCH ASSOCIATION:

NEEDED: Mayor Domo for North Ditch

DATE: Sat, April 9th

LOCATION: North Ditch Cleaning

DATE: Sat, April 23rd

LOCATION: South & Molina Ditch Cleaning

DATE: Sat, April 30th

LOCATION: Middle Ditch Cleaning

LLANO COMMUNITY DITCH ASSOCIATION:

DATE: Sat, April 30, 8:00 AM Ditch Clean up

LOCATION: meet at North End Phillips 66 Gas Station

Annual Meeting for Llano Ditch Association

DATE: Sat, April 23, 9:00 AM

LOCATION: VFW Hall

**“Protect your water!
If you’re not using it, don’t
lose it! Bank your water!”**

~ Louise Gallegos, Questa Citizen’s Ditch Association



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

Art: Roger Harrington, "Early Morning on Llano Acequia (detail)" pastel 12" x 12"



BIRD IS THE WORD

By BRYCE FLANIGAN

The Sandhill Crane Migration

By BRYCE FLANAGAN

On March 11, I took a trip to Monte Vista, Colorado to see the annual Sandhill Crane migration—they are making their way northward to Canada and Alaska for their breeding season. The air was alive with their songs, calls lifted up from a group of hundreds of cranes as they fed off refuge-provided grain, shuffled about finding a good resting place, and performed their spectacular mating dances.

For this dramatic display, the male spreads his 6-foot wingspan and leaps up into the air over and over, bellowing out his k-a-r-r-o-o call. The highlight for me came when a flock of cranes took off and began circling the grazing field, suddenly joined by another flock, then another, and within seconds a swirling cloud of cranes had covered the sky and

filled the air with calls before they all came back down to land—a spectacular performance.

Sandhill cranes mate between the ages of 2 and 8 and will stay with their mate for life, about 30 years. Their dancing isn't reserved exclusively for mating, as both sexes will hop and flap about while echoing one another's calls, even outside mating season. Scientists don't have an exact explanation for this, with some proposing it likely helps strengthen the pair's bond. They certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves out on the field, socializing and dancing with one another as the last rays of sunlight gleamed off their red-tipped heads.

When they reach their destination by late April, the parents-to-be will find a nice marshy area and create a mound of plant material for a nest, where the female will lay two eggs. Both parents share in incubating the eggs for about a month until they hatch, and the young are ready to leave the nest one day after hatching. The chick will stay with its parents for 10 months and accompany them on the next migration, at which point they are ready to be independent.

These graceful avians were once on the cusp of endangerment from habitat loss and hunting, but have made an incredible comeback and maintained a steady population for years, although this can only be sustained by continued protection of their wetland habitat and field grazing areas. States have also



Photo by Diego

Sandhill Cranes on their annual migration in Monte Vista, Colorado.

been taking recent action to mitigate light pollution at night, a major cause of disorientation and crashes, with Texas cities adopting a "lights out" campaign during the migratory months, and Nebraska installing UV lights (invisible to human eyes) over power lines to deter cranes from flying into them. Up here in the mountains, these birds get a reprieve from the heavy lights of cities, but it's always helpful to turn off unnecessary outdoor lights, especially floodlights, during migration season.

By early April, most cranes will be well on their way north, but you can still

catch some stragglers grazing and resting in the fields along Highway 159. If you missed the Monte Vista Crane Festival this year, I encourage you to mark your calendar for next year. The sight of hundreds of cranes together dancing and flying about is a breathtaking experience. You can also find them during winter months at Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge, near Socorro, NM, where a Festival of the Cranes is held the week before Thanksgiving. These beautiful, complex creatures inspire people across the continent and deserve to be seen, appreciated, and protected.



Cutthroat Stocking Returns

By TONER MITCHELL

After a corona virus-induced hiatus, the cherished Rio Grande cutthroat trout stocking event will return to the Questa area this April. That's the great news. The bad news is that a specific date for the event is pending final determination from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as the agency responsible for activities at the Wild Rivers area of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

Let's keep our eyes peeled for a final date determination and be prepared to spread the word so that all Questeños

will be able to participate, by taking the baby cutthroats down to the river, creating a cutthroat-related business promotion, or both. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (DGF) and BLM are confident that April will be the month; if past years are any indication, the stocking will take place on a Friday.

In case you're unfamiliar with the stocking celebration, it amounts to DGF bringing trucks full of baby Rio Grande cutthroat trout to a trailhead location on the rim of the Rio Grande gorge. Members of the public, which in past years have included schoolkids, parents, fisherpeople, and hikers from the Questa area or as far away as Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Las Cruces, are given a sturdy plastic bag full of water and baby trout, which they then hike down to the Rio for release. Many of these babies grow up to be spectacular adult cutthroats.

According to DGF, this may be the year when fingerlings can also be stocked at Eagle Rock Lake so that more folks can participate; as we all know,



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Fingerling Rio Grande Cutthroat trout to be released at annual stocking event at the Wild Rivers area of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

not everyone can do the gorge hike on a moment's notice.

We hope to see you out there when a date is announced. As recently as 150 years ago, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout was the only trout swimming in the

entire Rio Grande watershed. The fish is an integral component of our natural heritage, which events like this promise to strengthen and rebuild. Please keep an eye on the *Questa Del Rio News* Facebook page for the upcoming date!

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	TAOS HIGH SCHOOL	50
2010	CHEVRON	1050
	TAOS ECO PARK	60
	RCCLA AMALIA	1250
	TAOS CHARTER COMMUNITY	100
	BLUE SKY ENERGY	1250
2011	EAGLE NEST ELEMENTARY	100
	TRES PIEDRAS	2000
2012	PICURIS PUEBLO	1000
	EAGLE NEST	1040
2015	NORTHERN NM COLLEGE	1500
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2017	TAOS WATER TREATMENT	3000
	TOWN OF TAOS	1000
2022	ANGEL FIRE	7500
	TAOS MESA	15000
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Questa and the Questa Mine: Part 2

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 the earliest discovery of molybdenum right up to the present with the goal to review, freshen up the facts, and celebrate the story of our place. 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.

From Part 1, we left off...

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.

Part II

The first claims for mining molybdenum were staked in the Questa area around 1914, at the start of WWI. The Western Molybdenum Company of La Jara, Colorado, was organized but did little to develop the claims. In November 1918, the R and S (Rapp and Savery) Molybdenum Company, of Denver, was formed and mine development work was done throughout the winter of 1918-19; small-scale production began in the spring. Abandoned gold mine tunnels probably gave them starting points in the endeavor. In 1920 the merger of the Electric Furnace Reduction Company and the Western Mining Company formed the MCA (Molybdenum Corporation of America), which acquired R and S. In 1922, the property consisted of about 350 acres.

Operations were continued on a small scale until the market vanished in the general depression of 1921, however, a small amount of work to mine high-grade veins was continued and in 1923 a 50-ton-per-day mill and camp were built. This new mill was one of the first flotation mills in North America. The camp included an office, company store, warehouse, mill, assay lab, cookhouse, bunkhouse, 14 workers' cottages, and a one-room schoolhouse. Previously, miners laboriously loaded ore onto horse-drawn wagons which were lugged uphill several miles to the June Bug Mill, once a gold ore processing facility. Not only was the ore transport slow, the gold mill did not really process the molybdenum well.

Broken ore was loaded into ore cars which were then hauled to the mine portals by mule. There the ore was hand-cobbed and screened to powder, to produce a feed of over 4.0 % molybdenum disulfide (MoS₂). Milling was a tedious process. Water was channeled two-thirds of a mile from the Red River to supply water and power to that first Questa mill. (Electricity did not come to the site until 1935.) The molybdenite was then separated from the other minerals by the new flotation process. The concentrate was de-watered, dried, bagged, and shipped to the company's Pennsylvania roaster, where it was further processed for steel industry use.



Courtesy Photo: from a circa 1982 brochure

The cylinder of rock is a drill core specimen: the dark streaks are thin veins of Molybdenum. More and thicker veins can be seen on the typical ore fragment pictured below, from the southwest zone underlying Goat Hill, where the average ore grade is 0.3% MoS₂. This is considerably higher grade than the ore mined by open pit.

One can palpably feel the “romance of mining” in the language to describe mining in Questa in the owners’ 1926 MCA brochure. The introduction reads:

“Every great accomplishment in invention and in industry has been accompanied by adventure; every forward step has been fraught with romance... There is adventure and there is romance in molybdenum. It begins in the high mountains and the deep valleys where the molybdenum is wrested from the earth’s depths, it continues in the tremendously interesting work of floating the little particles of molybdenum up and out of the crushed mass of its mother ore on the backs of little bubbles of air, as well as in the combining of electrically produced heat and carefully balanced chemical reactions to produce the molybdenum products useful to the steel-maker... This is truly part of the great American adventure, its goal increasing output for each unit of human effort, constantly increasing efficiency and prosperity.”

The Questa Mine was unique among the major molybdenum mines of the world because it has produced high-grade molybdenum from fissure veins, in contrast to production from low-grade disseminated deposits at other mines.

In the 1930s, molybdenum’s usage grew beyond its early application for strengthening armor plate and automotive steels into uses for stainless steels, cast irons, and cast steels. With the advent of war in the 1940s and subsequent tungsten shortages, the increased need for high-speed tool steels and ship plate swelled its markets.

*To be continued next month...
(see resources in our online version)*

What is Molybdenum used for?

Although (reportedly) molybdenum was deliberately alloyed with steel in one 14th-century Japanese sword (mfd. ca. 1330), that art was never employed widely and was later lost. In the west, in 1754, Bengt Andersson Qvist examined a sample of molybdenite and determined that it did not contain lead and thus was not galena. By 1778 Swedish chemist Carl Wilhelm Scheele stated firmly that molybdena was (indeed) neither galena nor graphite but was an ore of a distinct new element, named molybdenum, for the mineral in which it resided, and from which it might be isolated. Peter Jacob Hjelm successfully isolated molybdenum using carbon and linseed oil in 1781.

For the next century,

Through the simple acts of driving a car, cooking with cast iron, or digging in our garden with gardening tools, we are reaping the benefits of molybdenum’s steel-hardening characteristics.

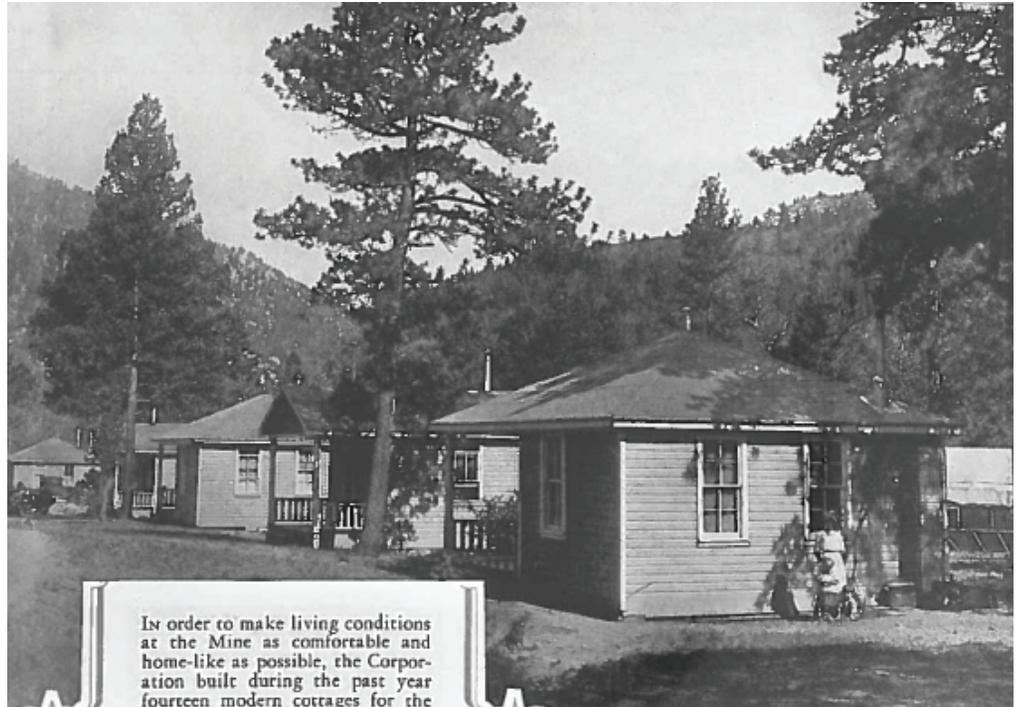
molybdenum had no industrial use. It was relatively scarce, the pure metal was difficult to extract, and the necessary techniques of metallurgy were immature. Early molybdenum steel alloys showed great promise of increased hardness, but efforts to manufacture the alloys on a large scale were hampered with inconsistent results, a tendency toward brittleness, and recrystallization. In 1906, William D. Coolidge filed a patent for rendering molybdenum ductile, leading to applications as a heating element for high-temperature furnaces and as a support for tungsten-filament light bulbs. In 1913, Frank E. Elmore developed a froth flotation process to recover molybdenite from ores; flotation remains the primary isolation process. (from Wikipedia)

Snapshots from the 1926 mining camp...

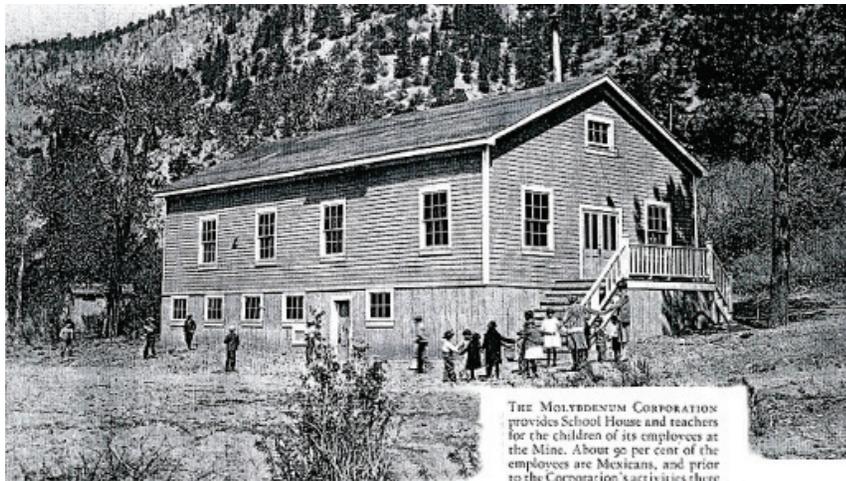
from the MCA brochure proudly showing off the Questa Mine



General view of Questa Mine camp townsite showing concentrating mill, storage bins, lab, office, general store, and superintendent and foreman cottages. Miners cottages are in the pine grove in left center of picture.

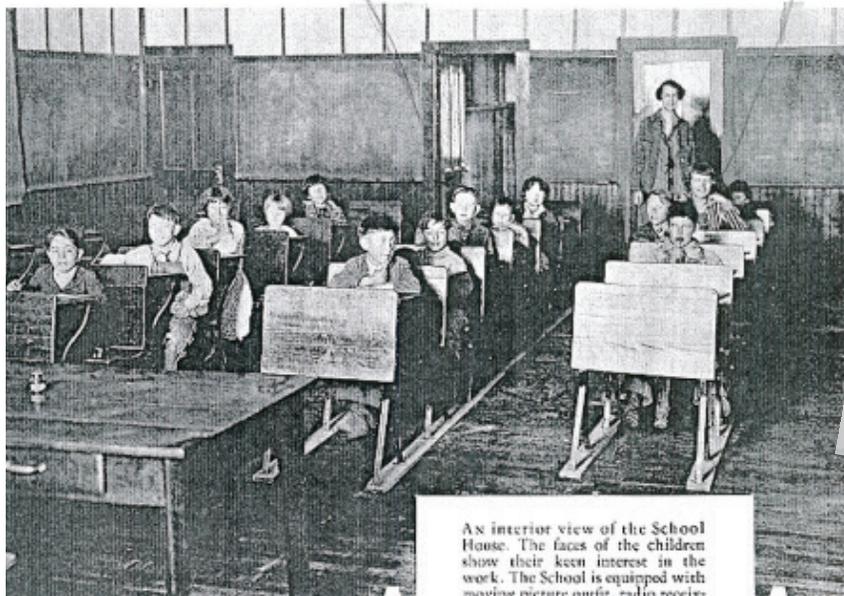


In order to make living conditions at the Mine as comfortable and home-like as possible, the Corporation built during the past year fourteen modern cottages for the use of the married employees. These cottages, several of which are shown in the picture, are attractive in appearance and equipped with modern conveniences.



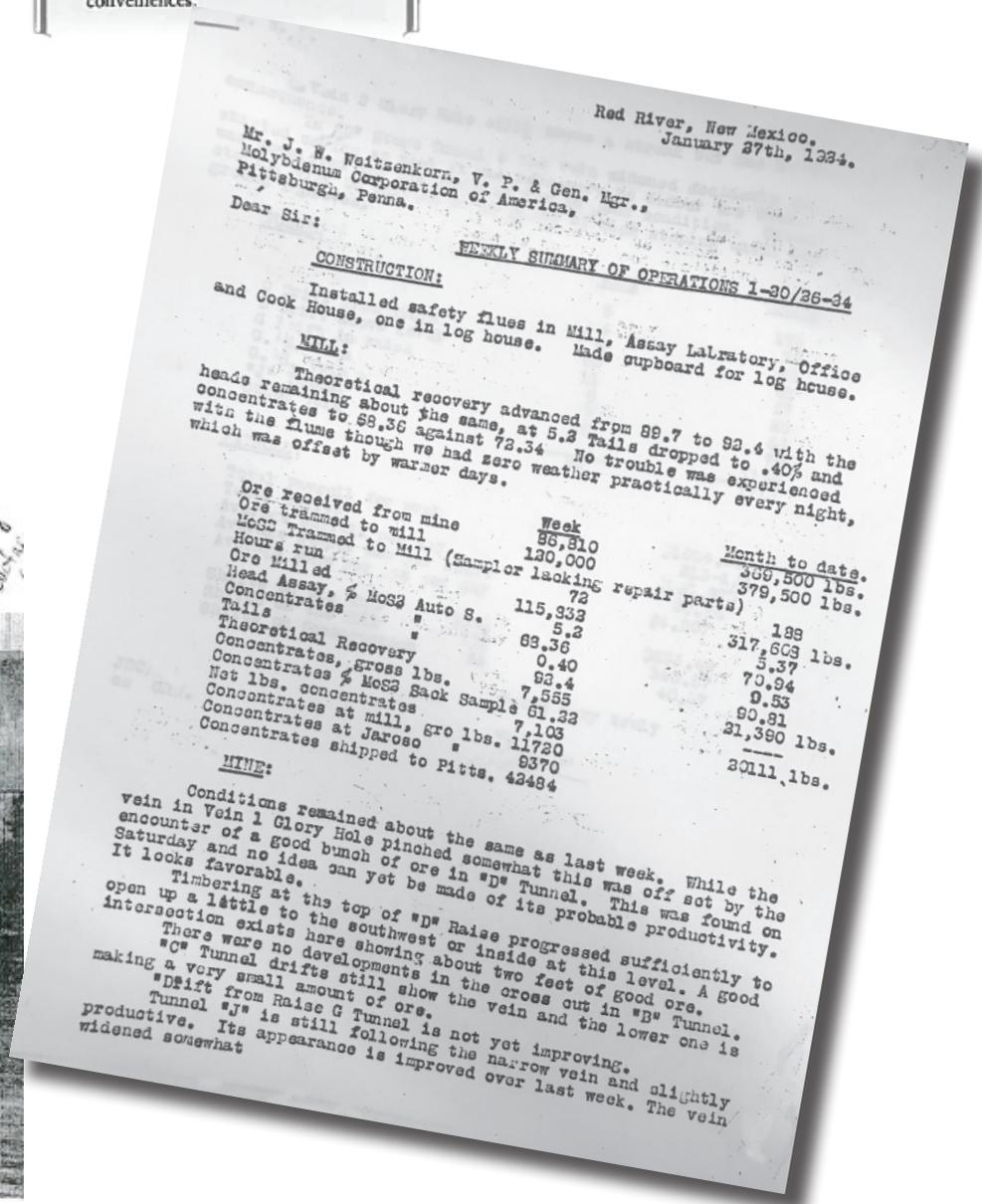
THE MOLYBDENUM CORPORATION provides School House and teachers for the children of its employees at the Mine. About 90 per cent of the employees are Mexicans, and prior to the Corporation's activities there had been no School in the district. Special attention is given to the very important work of Americanization. A recent picture of the School house is here shown.

The MCA provides a schoolhouse and teachers for the children of its employees at the mine. About 90% of the employees from Mexico, and prior to the corporation's activities there had been no school in the district. Special attention is given to the very important work of Americanization.



An interior view of the School House. The faces of the children show their keen interest in the work. The School is equipped with moving picture outfit, radio receiving set and piano player. Several times a month the Corporation acts as host to people living within a thirty to forty mile radius, giving dances, picture shows and concerts by volunteer orchestra.

Callouts on this classroom photo may identify some of your great-grandparents?



Found in the Red River Historical Society archives, this January 1924 weekly summary document on mine operations was sent to the MCA home office in Pittsburgh.

Following The Manito Trail at The Millicent Rogers Museum

By MICHELLE LANTERI

Through July 31, 2022, the Millicent Rogers Museum presents *Following the Manito Trail*, a cultural heritage exhibition that shares the largely untold histories of nine Manito (Hispanic New Mexican) families from Taos County, with public audiences. The project is a collaboration between the museum and several Manito/a scholars—Dr. Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez (Arizona State University), Levi Romero (UNM), Dr. Trisha Martinez (UNM-Taos), Dr. Patricia Perea (UNM), and Jesús Villa (Arizona State University)—who are documenting these families' oral histories through recorded interviews. Both the scholars' work and the exhibition frame these family stories within the broader context of Manito/a migration patterns and the Manito agrarian, artistic, cultural, and religious practices in the American West.

These migrations represent Manito family values in surviving, even if it meant leaving the homes they cherished. Their contributions significantly impacted the American West through Manitos' labor in sheepherding, coal mining, railroad construction, and the sugar beet fields. Wherever they went, Manito families never forgot their roots in New Mexico, and they shaped their new homes to preserve and adapt their cultural traditions. For some families, the following generations stayed in their diaspora homes, and others returned to New Mexico. Through their descendants, Manito families carry on the legacy of shaping the northern New Mexico cultural landscape through professions in medicine, the humanities, the arts, linguistics, and agriculture.

The exhibition's Humanities Discussion Panel series offers audiences several opportunities to join the conversation through direct dialogue with the *Following the Manito Trail* scholars and the project's cultural community network.

Opening weekend events on March 26 included a Humanities Discussion Panel, sponsored by the New Mexico Humanities Council (NMHC).

This exhibition will travel beyond Millicent Rogers Museum to two more locations in northern New Mexico (Santa Fe County and Rio Arriba County). The exhibition is supported by the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area and the New Mexico Humanities Council.

Located at 1504 Millicent Rogers Road in Taos, New Mexico, the Millicent Rogers Museum celebrates and shares the arts and



Margaret Perea, with her grandson Robert, at her home in Cheyenne, WY. The family has roots in Costilla, NM. Courtesy of the Perea family.

Following the Manito Trail is a cultural heritage exhibition that shares the largely untold histories of nine Manito (Hispanic New Mexican) families from Taos County. These families carried their culture with them through migrations to other states for seasonal and permanent work during the 19th and 20th centuries. Through sounds and sights, this exhibition highlights Manito family histories; the significance of storytelling, farming, agricultural, poetic, religious, and culinary practices to Manito families; and the Hispanic art forms of santos and colchas.

cultures of the Southwest. It serves as a memorial to Millicent Rogers (1902-1953), a Standard Oil heiress whose inspiration, patronage, and collections form the core of the museum's holdings. Museum hours are 10 am to 5 pm, seven days a week. General admission is \$12, with free admission daily for veterans, members, and children age 12 and under. Taos County residents receive free entry to the museum every Sunday. For more information, contact Curator of Collections & Exhibitions, Millicent Rogers Museum, (575) 758-2462 x208, michelle@millicentrogers.org

Humanities Discussion Panel Series

sponsored by the New Mexico Humanities Council

- **Sunday, April 24, 2022**, Cultural Fibers: Preservation & Heritage in Northern New Mexican Weaving, 1:00-3:00pm
Feat. Juanita Lavadie & Emma Arguello; moderated by Dr. Patricia Perea
- **Sunday, June 12, 2022**, Building Community: Wisdom of Place, Educational Attainment & Paying it Forward, 1:00-3:00pm
Feat. Dr. Bonavita Quinto Mac Callum & Dr. David Fermín

Argüello; moderated by Dr. Trisha Martinez

- **Sunday, July 17, 2022**, *Following the Manito Trail: Platica, Poesía, y Cuentos - An Evening of Stories, Poetry, and Conversation*, 1:00-3:00pm
Feat. Olivia Romo Gomez & Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez; moderated by Levi Romero

Creative Arts, Music & Storytelling Presentations sponsored by the New Mexico Humanities Speakers Bureau

Made possible by the New Mexico Humanities Council which is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the following three events are open to the public and included with museum admission.

- **Saturday, April 9, 2022**, Paulette Atencio, Traditional Stories from Northern New Mexico, 1:00-3:00pm
- **Sunday, May 8, 2022**, Music for Mother's Day, Dr. Cipriano Vigil, Ritual and Traditional Folk Music and Song of Northern New Mexico, 1:00pm-2:00pm

PROJECT TEAM:

Dr. Michelle Lanteri

Exhibition Director, *Following the Manito Trail* project; Curator of Collections &

Exhibitions, Millicent Rogers Museum

Karen Chertok

Community & K-12 Programs Director, *Following the Manito Trail* exhibition; Director of Education, Millicent Rogers Museum

Levi Romero

Co-Director, *Following the Manito Trail* project; Associate Professor, Chicana and Chicano Studies, University of New Mexico

Dr. Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez

Co-Director, *Following the Manito Trail* project; Associate Professor, English; Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Arizona State University

Dr. Patricia Perea

Research Scholar, *Following the Manito Trail* project; Director, Manitos Community Memory Project; Instructor, Chicana and Chicano Studies, University of New Mexico

Dr. Trisha Venisa-Alicia Martinez

Research Scholar, *Following the Manito Trail* project; Migrations Manager, Manitos Community Memory Project; Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of New Mexico-Taos and Southwest Hispanic Research Institute

Jesús Villa

Graduate Research Scholar, *Following the Manito Trail* project; Ph.D. Student, School of Transborder Studies, Arizona State University

Lily Padilla

Media Arts Intern, *Following the Manito Trail & Manitos Community Memory Project*; Media Arts graduate student, New Mexico Highlands University

Natasha Vasquez

Media Arts Intern, *Following the Manito Trail & Manitos Community Memory Project*; graduate of the BFA Media Arts program (Multimedia & Interactivity), New Mexico Highlands University

Trevonte "Tre" McClain

Graduate Intern, *Following the Manito Trail* project; Master of Science student, Graphic Information Technology (Internet and Web Development), Arizona State University

Vanessa Reynaga

Graduate Intern, *Following the Manito Trail* project; Master of Science Student, Graphic Information Technology (Video and Educational Technology), Arizona State University

Deep History: Resurrection into New Life

By MARTHA SHEPP

There are many ancient stories from ancient cultures that echo down the ages, right into our currently practiced rituals and religion. The legacy around the spring equinox and Eastertide is the tradition told of a son, born from a solar deity (all-encompassing, all-knowing, all-loving), who sacrifices himself for the good of humanity. Jesus was one of these solar gods, that is to say, sons of deity.

Maybe the oldest tradition that history records for us dates back to Egyptian times, with Osiris; and in Assyrian times, with Tammuz, who like Orpheus was resurrected from darkness into light.

All these solar deities—and there were many—set the tradition for contemporary concepts of Easter or resurrection.

In Norse tradition, the Christ-like figure was Odin's son Balder, who was killed by a Judas-like figure called Loki, then sent out on a funerary boat, fulfilling the promise of future resurrection. This theme of resurrection played all through the Greek mysteries, too. Many of them were from the time of the Druids and all the way through to the Mesopotamian mysteries. Even the dates of these figures were the same as those so familiar to Christians in the story of Jesus of Nazareth: the solar god was born near the winter solstice and resurrected

at the time of the spring equinox.

These ancient avatars actually existed, including Jesus. They came to earth in order to teach humanity, in whatever land they were born, the Way that leads into the Light, which is through identification with the soul, or the highest and best aspects of being a loving and compassionate human being.

Many specific instances of Christian doctrine are found in ancient mystery schools, in particular the Gnostic mysteries, whose central figure was "the Christos." This fact doesn't make Christianity any less true—it's just the next iteration of the Great Story, the Great Mythology: The Good News.

On behalf of the whole world, think mythically in approaching this ancient theme, for it is the principle of death and renewal that manifest in the natural world with its natural cycles—for all people everywhere of every nationality and religious belief—but also in our own inner reality, having to do with our presence in the form world through birth, rebirth, resurrection, and on into the soul realm, the very realm of these solar deities of the Christ, Balder, Osiris, and Tammuz. They personify the soul and model for us the highest path a human can take while on earth.

Praise the Lord, Christ is risen—He is risen indeed!

O B I T U A R I E S



ABEL VIRGILIO GOMEZ

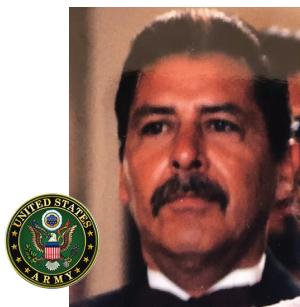
A person who we have all come to love and cherish for many years; Abel Virgilio Gomez, a caring man with a heart of gold who was always helping his family and friends, passed away on March 9, 2022. He was born to Eva and Estevan Gomez in Cerro, NM on July 27, 1941.

He was preceded in death by his parents Eva & Estevan Gomez, his sons Abel Jr. & Greg Gomez, and grandson Leo Ortiz.

Abel is survived by his wife, Joan Gomez; his daughters Cindy and Naomi Gomez; grandchildren Vanessa Ortiz, Gerald Gomez, Letisha Gomez, Alyssa Gomez, Jaelyn Gallegos and Danielle Gallegos; great-grandchildren Aundrea Ortiz and Leo Ortiz Jr., and many other relatives & friends.

Funeral services were held Wednes-

day, March 16 at Living Word Ministries in Questa, and burial followed at the Protestant Cemetery in Cerro. The Gomez Family invited their friends and family to join them for a meal at the VFW in Questa immediately following the burial. The family of Abel Virgilio Gomez has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



MARTEN "MARTY" PACHECO

Marten "Marty" Pacheco, 69, a resident of Pueblo, CO, passed away on March 14, 2022.

Marten was born on March 24, 1952 to Macario Pacheco and Sandra Livingston. The family moved to California and then Sandra moved her children to Colorado. Marty spent a lot of his time in Costilla as an adult. His passion for

fishing and hunting is what he lived for. Marty had many hats that he wore from serving in the US Army, as an HVAC tech, maintenance mechanic, and later in life, a CNA. He was a caring person and would help anyone in need. Marty cherished his family.

He was predeceased by his father, Macario Pacheco and his eldest brother Mickey Pacheco.

Marty is survived by Sandra Livingston (mother), and siblings Manuel Pacheco, Anthony (Maria) Pacheco, Veronica (Albert) Phelan, Raymond (Laura) Pacheco, Margaret Pacheco (Mike Ryder), Teresa (David) Saavedra, Michael (Joelle) Pacheco, Joseph Pacheco, Danny Pacheco and Gerard (Lorraine) Pacheco.

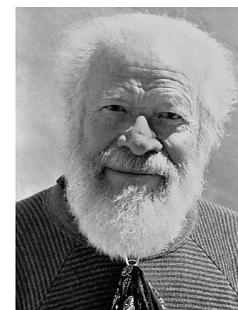
Marty had seven children: Gloria (Jesse) Pacheco Ocana, Vivian (Tony) Sanders, J.J. Pacheco, Joshua Pacheco, Sandra Pacheco, Jackie Pacheco, and Cristina; and numerous grandchildren.

Marty's quote: "Don't ever be discouraged" and "Laughter is the best medicine!"

Service arrangements are pending and will be announced as soon as they become available. The family of Marten "Marty" Pacheco has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

Annual Herman Rednick Memorial

By MARIA MIKHAILAS



Every year an anniversary memorial for Herman Rednick is held to mark the date of his passing. Herman was a great artist and spiritual teacher with many students. This year it will be held on Sunday, April 17, at 11 am, by Zoom and in person, at the Earth Journey Meditation Temple at 28 Quintana Road, in El Rito. Afterward, around 1 pm, join us for lunch at the Herman Rednick Center, 40 Lorien Road. Bring your own food, to keep us all safe.

Herman was born in 1902 in Philadelphia and after art studies and service in World War II, went on spiritual searches in India, Greece, and Egypt. He arrived after service in WWII in Taos, and became a spiritual guide to many. Herman suggested the property on which the Lama Foundation was built and some of his first students were its founders. In the early 1970s, after the disbanding of the Lorien Commune in El Rito, he began to guide students on a meditation path with love as its focus, and service to the world.

Before Herman died in 1985, he pre-

MEMORIAL cont'd on page 36

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BODY MIND SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

Collective Consciousness

We live in a field of energy that is all around us and within us—everything is energy. That field of energy contains television transmissions, radio transmissions, and cell phone transmissions as well as our own transmissions of thoughts and attitudes. Albert Einstein said, “The field (invisible energy) is the sole governing agency of the particle” (the material realm). This field permeates all beings, affecting our attitudes, feelings, and behaviors as well as our

health. It is in this field and what we contribute to it that we change our life experience.

The world around us reflects majority thinking and attitude as well as apathy, that has been uploaded into the field. The current consciousness reveals the manifestation of war-mongering, extinction of animals and sea life, deforestation, destruction of ecosystems, loss of growable soil, control of natural resources and the breakdown of social structures; violence, substance abuse, mental illness and myriad health problems.

Some feel that nothing will happen with just one voice, but this is not true. One voice adding sincere positive and loving thoughts and attitudes to the collective consciousness can indeed make a difference. Look at the power the voice of the media has on the world: A collection of thoughts and attitudes brought about by the harping of the media that are voicing their preferred rendition of the story they are focused on. We can be the antidote to the egoic noises around

us by our intention to be aware of what we are adding to the environment of the collective consciousness.

The change in what we upload to the collective consciousness begins with our own day-to-day lives. How are we responding to our environment? The environment we live in: what we read, listen to, watch on television, relationships, and what we choose to focus our mind on is the ground floor of what we are broadcasting to the field of energy, the collective consciousness.

Being present in the moment and not projecting into the future or dwelling in the past will also help create a more mindful environment. When we are present in the moment, we can listen to our own voice. That voice will speak the uniqueness of our own expression, untainted by the input of media and unconscious programming from daily encounters.

Now, mankind is demonstrating the voice of a collective consciousness that is not in integrity with peace and goodwill,

the voice of the spirit that is our true nature. What is being demonstrated is a system of collected beliefs, some of which have no basis in truth. A belief is something that is not necessarily proven, but something we allow to direct our lives, even though there is no direct experience of its validity. This is not to say that a belief cannot exist, but it would be of great benefit if discernment was used to check in as to what we are using to respond to life through our thoughts, attitudes, and focus.

The EOS Institute states “The collective consciousness permeates all beings affecting our attitudes, feelings, and behaviors. We are all part of the whole, just like cells within the body. They function separately, but also work together as the basis of life itself.”

Just as collective consciousness can impact us, we can influence the collective consciousness for the better. I’m sure most of us have heard “the change begins with you.” Let’s do it!

What is the Allure of Taos County?

By JULIAN SPALDING

When I look back at the places I’ve lived over the past 70 years—California, Oregon, and New Mexico—each place has had its own underlying tone, revealing itself to me in the form of a lesson, a way of being in the world, that I needed very much to learn.

As Sharon Blackie writes in her Facebook group *The Mythic Imagination*, “There are various instruments that play their part in fashioning the song of each place: geology, flora, fauna, weather, the skyscape, topography, folkloric and mythical beings and motifs, stories told by its human inhabitants... some bright and upbeat; others discordant, heavy—but they lodge right in the heart of you anyway.”

I’m still learning the song of Taos County. Perhaps it’s the fabled “Taos Hum,” but the allure is much deeper.

In Sharon Blackie’s book, *The Enchanted Life*, she writes, “We think that we imagine the land, but perhaps the land imagines us, and in its imaginings, it shapes us. The exterior landscape



Courtesy Photo

interacts with our interior landscape, and in the resulting entanglements, we become something more than we otherwise could ever hope to be.”

Something about her statement rings true for me: the Taos area drew me and my husband to this land, not to impose my interior landscape upon it, but rather to interact with my interior landscape, and in that process, we both

have changed.

My husband told me recently of a conversation he had with a Taos Pueblo friend who was hiking in the Weimer foothills, east of Taos. He was approached by a sheriff who asked what he was doing there. It occurred to the Native man that someone had been alarmed at his presence and reported him. He commented, “They moved here and they don’t know where they are.”

Where they are, where I am, is on ancient Pueblo Indian land. I am a visitor. Not all immigrants to this land understand where they are. I try to listen to the tones of this place, to be impacted by its mystery, by the mountain, by the land, by the gorge that splits the valley in half.

Long-time Hispanic residents speak of *querencia*, the love of the land that nurtures and changes us so that we become more than we were when we arrived. Some newcomers make no attempt to adapt to this place, but rather try to make it into something they are familiar with. While I also bring my expectations and privileges to my life here,

I also wish to allow the land to change me by “lodging in my heart.”

Those who made the Taos area their home decades ago also feel the pull of the land which has shaped them according to the hum of the mountain, the pulse of the Rio Grande, the clarity of the sky, the rich cultural heritage of the indigenous past and the colonial and Hispanic presence superimposed over its ancient being.

What is the allure of Taos? May the song of this place work its magic to impact every newcomer like myself to learn to love this land and allow its nature to change us. I am humbled and honored to begin to know where I am, living in this magnificent valley.

Julian Spalding is a 45+ year resident of New Mexico and a three-year resident of Taos. He lived in Taos County in the early 1970s and returned in 2018. He is the former publisher of *Albuquerque Arts magazine* and is retired from a career in publishing, writing, and advertising. Julian’s work has previously been published in the *Questa Del Rio News*.

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I can't pronounce it but I sure can remember it.



**LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

On Easter Sunday we usually greet someone by saying: Happy Easter! And the person usually responds: Happy Easter! Well, when I was a kid, on Easter Sunday my Czechoslovakian parents would say, Kristus vstal z mŕtvych (Christ has risen) and the other Slovak person would respond: Kristus skutočne vstal z mŕtvych (Christ has truly risen). These greetings were always said in booming voices, with each syllable an explosion crushing the air. And they

sounded excited—like they were the apostles telling everyone the good news that Jesus had not only risen from the dead, he had TRULY risen.

Every year we always celebrated two Christmases and two Easters. That's because Byzantine Slovaks adhere to the Julian calendar, while western Christians observe Holy Days according to the Gregorian calendar. This year Byzantine/Orthodox Easter is April 24 and we in the west celebrate Easter on April 17.

My mother's Easter baking was beyond marvelous! (Well, maybe Frank's cream puffs might beat hers out for the best in the world.) But I'm sure nobody baked a better Easter paska than my mom. It's a special bread with braids and a little bird on top made of yeasted dough. She always made me a small version of paska to eat all by



Caption for photo:

Ellen Wood a.k.a. Maruška and her mother holding paskas in 1987.

myself. (Visit <https://www.thespruceeats.com/ukrainian-easter-bread-recipe-paska-1137468> for a Ukrainian paska recipe.)

On Easter Eve, Mom would also bake the ham, color the eggs, and cook the entire dinner for the following day. In the evening she'd put everything into a big basket, we'd all pile into the car,

and drive to the church where we'd put the basket inside the church basement. Then everyone would walk around the outside perimeter of the church three times, go inside the church for a special service, and afterwards, follow the priest down into the basement where he would bless all the baskets. When we got back home, Mom would let me sneak a piece of paska before going to bed. The next morning I'd wake up to voices booming, Kristus vstal z mŕtvych! and Kristus skutočne vstal z mŕtvych! I'm darn sure God heard it.

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

No puedo pronunciarlo, pero lo recuerdo muy bien.

VIVE AMA RÍE
POR ELLEN WOOD

El Domingo de Pascua generalmente saludamos a los demás diciéndoles: ¡Feliz Pascua Florida! Y la otra persona por lo regular responde: ¡Feliz Pascua Florida! Bueno, cuando era pequeña, el Domingo de Pascua mis padres checoslovacos decían Kristus vstal z mŕtvych (Cristo ha resucitado) y la otra persona eslovaca respondía Kristus skutočne vstal z mŕtvych (Cristo ha resucitado de verdad). Estos saludos siempre se decían con voces retumbantes y cada sílaba era como una explosión que resonaba en el aire. Y sonaban emocionados—como si ellos mismos fueran los apóstoles dando a todos la buena nueva de que Jesús no solo había resucitado de entre los muertos, sino que VERDADERAMENTE había resucitado.

Todos los años siempre celebrábamos dos Navidades y dos Pascuas Floridas. La razón es que los eslovacos bizantinos se rigen por el calendario juliano y los cristianos occidentales observan las fiestas sagradas según el calendario gregoriano. Este año, la Pascua Florida bizantina/ortodoxa es el 24 de abril y en occidente celebramos la Pascua Florida el 17 de abril.

¡Mi madre era una magífica pastelera! (Bueno, tal vez las bolitas de crema de Frank superen a las de ella y sean las mejores del mundo). Pero estoy segura de que nadie horneaba una paska de Pascua Florida mejor que mi madre. La paska es

un pan especial trenzado y con un pajarito encima hecho de masa con levadura. Siempre me hacía una versión pequeña para que me la comiese yo sola. (Consulte la página ____ para ver una receta de paska ucraniana).

En la víspera de la Pascua Florida, mamá también horneaba el jamón, coloreaba los huevos y cocinaba la cena completa para el día siguiente. Por la noche, ponía todo en una canasta grande, todos nos apilábamos en el automóvil y conducíamos hasta la iglesia donde poníamos la canasta en el sótano de la iglesia. Luego, todos caminaban alrededor del perímetro exterior de la iglesia tres veces, entraban a la iglesia para un servicio especial y seguían al sacerdote hasta el sótano donde él bendecía todas las canastas. Cuando regresábamos a casa, mamá me dejaba agarrar un trozo de paska antes de acostarme y a la mañana siguiente me despertaba con las voces atronadoras Kristus vstal z mŕtvych y Kristus skutočne vstal z mŕtvych. Estoy absolutamente segura de que Dios las escuchaba.

Leyenda de la foto: Ellen Wood, también conocida como Maruška, y su madre sosteniendo paskas en 1987.

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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Recalling Our “Just Desserts”

By ELLEN MILLER
AND GEOFF GOINS

I remember going to a cross country ski convention one year and people were talking about gourmet ski events at their resorts. They all had their own food service, though, so I was trying to think of a way to adapt that event to Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area (EFXCS). Hot food? Nope. Too much work and too unsafe. So, I came up with the idea of letting local restaurants “show off.”

After the first year, we remember it as starting in 1987, one restaurant owner grumbled when I went to pick up desserts, but then a bunch of Just Desserts participants went to his place because of his amazing desserts. I still have fond memories of some desserts, like Brett Lewis’ 18-layer chocolate cinnamon torte and Ilse Woerndle’s apple strudel. Early on, we also had individuals who wanted to contribute, because it’s fun, so we have seen some amazing desserts over the years from them, too.

My mom would start calling or dropping by around February to see who wanted to participate and our longtime ski patrol/ski instructor, Bob Blair of Arroyo Hondo, developed a system for delivering desserts that is so perfect-



Photo by Ellen Miller

Enjoying sweet local fare on the slopes!

ly organized.

EFXCS has hosted many events over the years. Some—like the laser tag biathlon—didn’t work as well as we had hoped. Some—like races—have a typically modest turnout; but the only event to compete with Just Desserts for turnout is the Christmas night Luminaria Tour!

—Ellen Miller

Shortly after Ellen and I purchased Enchanted Forest from John and Judy Miller, we were at the New Mexico State Fair and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) barn with baby farm animals—you know, ducks and goats and pigs, etc. At the end of the barn is a big slot board where you vote for your favorite baby animals. The proceeds benefit the FFA.

Fast forward to that winter and Just Desserts, and I remembered that voting board at the FFA barn. Why couldn’t we have jars where participants could vote for their favorite dessert and the proceeds could go to our local Red River charter school? We bought some quart jars and cut slots in the lids and labeled them with the desserts presented that day. It was a smash. People were coming in to get more change just to vote more! I think we raised something like \$350 that first year. —Geoff Goins

Red River Miner Says Farewell

WHEN IT’S TIME, IT’S TIME...

Shepherd Studio, doing business in Red River, New Mexico since 1989, regrets to announce that we are ceasing publication of the *Red River Miner*, the town’s weekly newspaper for the past 29 years. The last print edition of the *Red River Miner* was on Thursday, March 17, 2022.

We will continue publishing the Summer/Fall and Winter editions of the popular Red River magazines, as well as possibly doing some event-related booklets. We will also maintain a social media presence for the *Miner* to continue putting out news items of interest there. There are other projects under consideration, too.

The *Miner* has had an online presence since 2001 and will retain its website with occasional articles or items of interest and access to the archives for our past subscribers, but there will be no new online version of the news-

paper itself, which has always been a free download. Please do not subscribe now unless you’re only interested in the archives and videos available there.

As co-founders of the *Miner*, which debuted on May 20, 1993, we wish to thank all those businesses and individuals who have supported our publication these many years with their advertising, encouragement, and friendship, as well as our many subscribers and readers throughout the country and beyond.

A special “thank you” is also in order to the long list of contributing writers whose words of wisdom and humor have enriched our pages for the past 29 years, delighting thousands of readers, many of whom have expressed appreciation for their informative and entertaining columns.

The decision to discontinue the *Miner* has not been a hasty one. While the pandemic-related rise of printing costs is the driving force behind stop-

ping publication, it is only one factor in the decision-making process.

We had hoped to go 30 years, but

after 29 years of deadlines to meet, 52 weeks a year, it’s time to look at the road not taken.



Photo by Ellen Miller

Cover page of the first Issue published back in 1993.

Thank you all, it’s been a good long run!

—Fritz Davis, Editor and Kerry Shepherd, Publisher

Hops For Happiness Supports Education

BY SHARON CALHOUN

Here at Red River Brewing Company & Distillery (RRBC) we believe our community is what makes this town special. We are thankful to those who love and support our passion for great craft beer and spirits. That's why we give back to Red River and the surrounding area.

Our Hops for Happiness Program is an opportunity for organizations to raise funds and for RRBC to help our community thrive. We're proud to have partnered with Red River Valley Charter School during the month of February to raise more than \$1,500 to purchase materials and supplies for their new classrooms. We think our kids deserve that!



Photo by Red River Photos

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent		Location	Time
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			

QUESTA HIGH SCHOOL

TRACK SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
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	

CLOTHING IND. cont'd from page 14

more clothing in less time, for less money, the fashion industry requires cheaper, more versatile fabrics, derived from petrochemicals. Synthetic fabrics are 50% less expensive than cotton, not counting the environmental costs of oil extraction and refining. Synthetic fabrics use 15% of all plastic produced, worldwide. Over 8,000 chemicals are required for today's textiles, accounting for 20% of all global wastewater, the second highest total for all industries. Fashion accounts for 10% of all global carbon emissions, with an estimated 50% increase by 2030. According to Levi Strauss & Co., the production of a single pair of jeans emits as much carbon as driving a car for 80 miles.

The environmental footprint of fast fashion is not limited to chemical and atmospheric pollution. That same pair of jeans requires 2,000 gallons of water to produce. Every year, clothing manufactur-

ers use 24.5 trillion gallons of fresh water, enough to sustain 5 million people.

Synthetic fabrics like polyester are made from the same non-biodegradable PET compounds used in plastic bottles. Simply wearing and laundering clothing made from these materials sheds microfibers, tiny particles of plastic so small that they pass through the filters of wastewater treatment systems. Borne on the winds, they are widely dispersed, even to the top of Mt. Everest. They contaminate our food chain and have been detected in human placentas. The "Fossil Fashion Report" estimates that 1/2 million tons of microfibers find their way into our oceans every year, 35% of which originate in the textile and clothing industries. This is the equivalent of more than 50 billion plastic bottles.

There is another way in which PET fabrics harm the environment. Plastic bottles are part of a closed-loop recycling system, as they can be recycled many times. When PET is used for polyester, it removes significant amounts of PET from

this closed loop system and adds it to the waste stream, since 87% of PET fiber in clothing will never be recycled but will be incinerated or landfilled instead. This means that more petroleum must be extracted and refined to meet the increased demand, with all the related emissions, representing an increased burden on the ecosystem.

All told, the fashion sector is second only to the oil industry as a major polluter of the planet. Fast fashion contributes massively to the degradation of our air, water and soil, depleting resources and expanding landfills. In our next installment, we'll look at how elements in the fashion industry are trying to reduce its environmental footprint and reform its business model, to create a more sustainable, socially responsible presence where economic growth is not the sole value. We'll explore how consumers are responding to the pressures of fast fashion with alternative approaches to the purchase and disposal of clothing, some of which are available

here in our local area.

The author is indebted to these web publications for much of the information presented in this article:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_fashion#:~:text=Sustainable%20fashion%20\(also%20known%20as,ad-dressing%20fashion%20textiles%20or%20products](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainable_fashion#:~:text=Sustainable%20fashion%20(also%20known%20as,ad-dressing%20fashion%20textiles%20or%20products)

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/fashion-clothing/what-fast-fashion-why-it-problem>

<https://healthyhumanlife.com/blogs/news/what-is-fast-fashion>

[https://fashinnovation.nyc/fashion-industry-statistics/#:~:text=Fashion%20Industry%20Statistics%3A%20General%20Data,Gross%20Domestic%20Product%20\(GDP\)](https://fashinnovation.nyc/fashion-industry-statistics/#:~:text=Fashion%20Industry%20Statistics%3A%20General%20Data,Gross%20Domestic%20Product%20(GDP))

<https://capitalcounselor.com/fashion-industry-statistics/>

<https://changingmarkets.org/portfolio/fossil-fashion/>



ENCHANTED EATS

BY ELIZABETH BRUNAZZI, FOOD EDITOR

The Season of Rebirth

Among my best childhood memories from this time of year are the baskets my parents created for me and my two sisters: green shredded paper for nests, fuzzy yellow marshmallow chicks and chocolate rabbits; and the small chocolate eggs wrapped in multi-colored foil. And then there were the egg hunts organized by our community, with prizes for the gold and silver eggs; and real eggs, boiled, dyed, and painted with love for us. What impresses me most with time and memory is how much these events were about sharing this season with children—always the promise of rebirth for us as a human community.

The season of rebirth as it is celebrated around the world, with its various observances and symbols, date far back in history to the pagan, Judaic, Judeo-Christian, and Christian eras. These observances celebrate rebirth following both seasonal and historical periods of deprivation and suffering. In French, the English word for “Easter” and “Passover” is the same: Les Pâques.

With these recipes for four cakes (and maybe some eggs you decorate?) I invite you to be inspired by your own heritage and individual imagination, during this season of rebirth.

Ricotta Cheesecake

4 C part-skim ricotta cheese
4 medium eggs
1 C buttermilk
1/2 C raw cane sugar or honey
2 t pure vanilla extract, preferably Madagascar
Juice and grated rind of 1 lime or 1/2 lemon
1/4 t salt

Combine all ingredients in a blender, or just beat gently to incorporate everything until all is pureed very smooth and fluffy. Pour into lightly buttered pan (springform or a Pyrex glass pie plate). Place in a pan or cookie sheet filled with water. Bake 45 minutes at 375°. Cool, refrigerate, top, garnish, and decorate with a choice of whipped cream or yoghurt, fresh herbs, sliced almonds, and berries.

*Adapted from Molly Katzen's
The Moosewood Cookbook, 1977.*

Citrus Cheesecake from Florida

Filling:

10 oranges, tangerines, or tangelos (or combination) hollowed out. Reserve segments
3 8-oz. packages light cream cheese, preferably organic, at room temperature
1 C organic raw cane sugar
3 eggs
1/2 C plus 2 T of half-and-half
1 t vanilla extract, Madagascar
1/2 t grated lemon zest
1/2 t grated orange and/or tangelo zest
1/2 C segmented orange, tangerine or tangelo sections as reserved: chopped, and for slices and curls to decorate

Topping:

1/4 C chopped macadamia nuts
1 T organic raw cane sugar

Blend cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating gently. Gently fold in the 1/2 C reserved orange fruit segments. Place the hollowed-out citrus segments in a baking dish (glass Pyrex dish or individual baking dishes). Fill hollowed-out segments with the cheesecake batter. Blend nuts and sugar for the topping and sprinkle over each. Bake at 320° for 15 minutes. Cover loosely and bake an additional 20-25 minutes or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool. Cover and refrigerate until cold. Place each cake on a serving dish and garnish with remaining citrus segments and fresh mint leaves. This is very pretty, makes a lovely holiday offering to guests, and delights children as well.

Canadian Maple Syrup Cheesecake

Crust:

1/4 C melted butter or plant substitute
2 T maple syrup
1-1/4 C graham cracker crumbs

Combine crust ingredients and press into a 9-inch springform pan, if you have one. Otherwise, use a Pyrex baking or pie dish. Preheat oven to 350°. Bake 5 minutes and cool.

Filling:

3/4 lb organic, light cream cheese
3 eggs
3/4 C maple syrup
2 T flour

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Gradually add maple syrup, blend in eggs and flour, and spoon into pan or dish. Place the pan or dish on a cookie sheet and bake for 35 minutes, or until the center is barely firm. Cool for 20 minutes, cover and chill until ready to serve. To taste, drizzle with maple syrup and pecan halves, or top with fresh raspberries, then drizzle with about 3 T of maple syrup. This is one of my favorite cheesecakes and best desserts ever.

Adapted from Janet Hawkins' recipe, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Kosher Orange-Almond Cake

6 large eggs, whites separated
1 C sugar, divided
1-1/2 t orange zest
1/4 C fresh orange juice
1/2 t Kosher salt
1/2 t Kosher-for-Passover almond extract
7 oz (2 C) almond flour

Kosher-for-Passover cooking spray
1/2 C slivered almonds
1 T Kosher-for-Passover powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350°.

Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form, 3-5 minutes. In a separate bowl, beat egg yolks, gradually adding 1/2 C sugar until pale and creamy. Add zest, juice, salt and extract, and beat until blended. Fold in almond flour. Spoon mixture into a 9-inch pan (springform or a Pyrex glass pie plate) coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle almonds around the outside edge. Bake at 350° until cake springs back when lightly touched in the middle, 35-40 minutes. Remove from oven, run knife around the edge of the pan, and cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove from pan, carefully using a thin metal spatula if needed. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Adapted from a recipe on the Cookinglight.com, 2022.



Photo by Elizabeth Brunazzi

This basket displays eggs I lovingly collected from Provence, France. The two large eggs are a German craft item—filled with confections, and prized as gifts for children at Easter time. The small egg nestled between them is a hand-painted Ukrainian Easter egg, given to me as a gift when I lived in the East Village, New York City, across the street from the Ukrainian church, which also happened to be next door to the home of famed jazz musician Thelonius Monk!

Celebrate What Easter IS, Not What it Is Not!

By PASTOR KRISTI GONZALES

Easter is a favorite family holiday for many! Unless you are living in a cave, by now you've seen the store aisles filled with yellow and pink bunny-shaped marshmallows. You've probably seen posters about egg hunts and maybe received an invitation to a BBQ promising the best potato salad and colored boiled eggs.

But what does potato salad and colored eggs have to do with the resurrection of Jesus? Nothing. But it's simple fun that brings people together. And when people are together, it's an opportunity to share the good news! Jesus wants all to know the truth about His love and how else will people know unless other believers tell them? And when will believers have the

opportunity to tell others if we are not meeting people where they are?

Jesus, being God himself, left Heaven and came to this Earth and walked among his Father's creation to redeem us from sin and offer us eternal life with Him. Jesus was crucified by men who didn't understand His purpose and who didn't believe he was who he said he was. This being the case, he still offered his life as a sacrifice for all. He was hung on a cross, after being whipped, flogged, beaten, and tormented; an innocent man paying the ultimate criminal's death.

The sky was darkened and before he took his last breath, he cried loudly. "It is finished!" The greatest news ever is that he came back to life three days later, just

as he said he would. The tomb is empty and the grave has been beat. Jesus is Alive and that's a real reason to celebrate! Jesus ascended into heaven and He will return. We should be joyous and look forward to His return with eagerness every day of the week 24/7/365; not only during holidays. Maybe that's a little challenging, but maybe it's worth a shot.

Here's a challenge for those who believe in Jesus' resurrection. Instead of being isolated and condemning others for dressing like bunnies and bragging on their best Easter recipe, why not look at people through the lens and love of Jesus? Instead of preaching about what the gospel isn't and how bunnies have nothing to do with Jesus, how about we share the good news

and fulfill Jesus' commission to us while we can? Matthew 28:19 (NIV) "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

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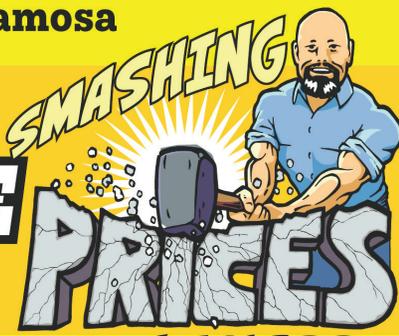
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Construction Begins April 4 on Bridge Rehabilitation Project on U.S. 64 East of Cimarron

Construction begins Monday, April 4, 2022 on a 7-month project to rehabilitate a bridge on U.S. 64 from Milepost 318.797 to Milepost 318.903 east of Cimarron in Colfax County.

The project, which is designed to improve safety, includes:

- Removing and replacing the bridge deck
- Replacing bridge bearings
- Construction of sleeper footings, approach slabs and partial removal of wing walls
- Removing and replacing guardrail
- Bridge deck overlay
- Modifying abutment back walls
- Roadway resurfacing

The project will be built in three phases. During Phase 1, which begins April 4 and is expected to last through late spring to early summer, crews will rehabilitate the west side of the bridge and the westbound lane of US 64. **During this work, only one lane of traffic, eastbound and westbound, will be allowed at a time:**

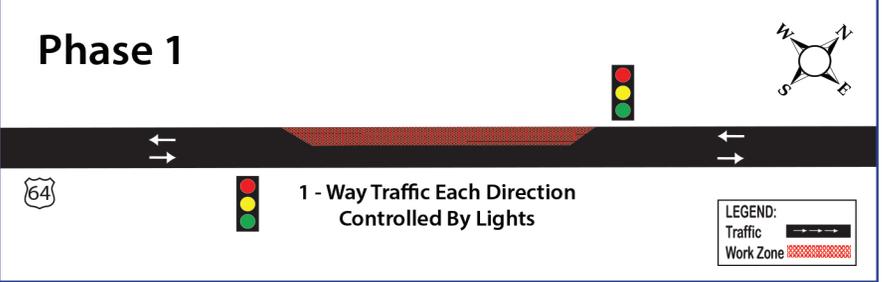
While setting up the barricades and traffic control, a flagger will be on hand to direct traffic in one direction as a time.

Once barricades are set up and the construction work zone is established, traffic will be controlled with a portable traffic signal that will be in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Again, only one direction of traffic will be allowed at a time.

After crews complete work on the west side of the bridge and roadway, they will switch to rehabilitating the east side of the bridge and roadway.

Regular work hours will be **Monday to Friday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.**, although crews may work longer hours or on weekends if needed.

Phase 1



1 - Way Traffic Each Direction Controlled By Lights

LEGEND:
Traffic [solid black bar]
Work Zone [dashed red bar]

Motorists traveling on this Section of U.S. 64 should use extra caution, expect delays and allow extra time to reach their destinations.

For more information, contact:

Travis Martinez, PIO, NM District 4
505-617-5900 • travis.martinez@state.nm.us

Patti Watson, CWA Strategic Communications
505-269-9691 • 1-800-687-3417 • 505-245-3134
pattiw@cwastrategic.com

Get updated traffic information at



CN 4101550

Possibilities from Afar at Questa Public Library

By PEGGY TRIGG

The newly renovated Questa Public Library is proud to display some of New Mexico's favorite artists in a Spring show entitled Possibilities from Afar! Join us to look at the artworks that capture unique feelings and emotions, and join the opening reception on April 2 from 1 – 4 pm. The show will be up through the end of June.

This show will feature works by professional artists from Taos to Santa Fe and as far south as Albuquerque. Their work ranges from complete abstraction to realistic representation and presents a variety of media.

The 2-D artists are: Ricky Pass, Abby Salsbury, Alice Webb, Merrimon Kennedy, Risa Taylor, and Paul Murray. The show will also feature 3-D work by artists: Taos ceramic artist Sarah New-



Courtesy Photo

An abstract painting called *Desert Spring*, by Abby Salsbury.

berry and book artist Gail Murray.

While you're at the library, make sure to check out the textile display by local quilters and other fiber artists.

Be Part of the Questa Library's Permanent Collection!

Are you a local artist who would like your artwork to hang in the library as part of their new permanent collection? Now's your chance. The library is looking for quality, medium-sized, framed artwork. The artwork size can range between 16" x 20" up to 30" x 30". The Library Advisory Board will be looking at all submissions in May. If you are interested in submitting a piece, please take a good photo of your artwork and send it to library@villageofquesta.org or pegtrigg@gmail.com. Please include your name, contact information, artwork title, medium, and size. The Library Advisory has limited space, so get your submission in soon!



Lucky Leprechauns and Easter Egg Hunts!

By RACHEL KUC

On Saint Patrick's Day, the Vida Del Norte Coalition partnered with the Questa Public Library to host the Lucky Leprechaun Treasure Hunt. It snowed the night before, but Lucky the Leprechaun still left a trail of clues both outside and inside the library that led kids to a box of treasures heaping with fun small gifts for all ages—

sketch books, paints, stickers, items for the home, toys, and Saint Patrick's Day-themed gifts.

It was nice to have our library as a hub for this activity, because the kids played in the children's section of the library after the hunt. It's a great place for young children to interact in engaging and creative play and also get to spend some time with a wonderful selection of children's books.

Did you know that the library hosts other activities, too? The Dropped Stitch club, computer classes, kids' activities, including crafts, and also visiting facilitators such as Twirl and other groups. (See Twirl outreach project story) The Vida Del Norte Coalition valued the experience of partnering with the library because one of our goals is to foster community partnerships that help to strengthen prevention efforts of substance misuse among our youth. Library Director Sharon Nicholson and her assistants, Kate Mann and Valerie Vigil, were extremely helpful and welcom-

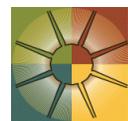
ing in organizing the Treasure Hunt.

Mark your calendars for an Easter Egg Hunt outside on Saturday, April 16 at 1:00pm. Partnering with the library to host community activities like the Saint Patrick's Day Treasure Hunt and the Easter Egg Hunt help to strengthen the role of the library as a social hub as well as a learning center.

Vida Del Norte anticipates lots of fun at the Easter Egg Hunt and looks forward to more great partnerships in the future with the library, along with other community organizations.

Vida Del Norte would also like to thank local businesses Frank's Eats and Sweets and Party On Rentals for their generous donations which helped to purchase the items in the Lucky Leprechaun Treasure Chest.

You can find out more about activities happening at the Library and with Vida Del Norte or donate to help support the efforts of these organizations by visit-



QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Presenting the Create-A-Space Project

By NINA SILFVERBERG, TWIRL
CHIEF AMBASSADOR OF PLAY
AND CREATIVITY

Join us April 1 and April 8 from 1 to 3 pm at the Questa Public Library as we continue to create space for this event!

In these uncertain times, creating a space where we feel good, whatever that means for us, is a resilient tool to nurture. Everyone needs a space they can call their own, filled with what makes them feel safe, happy, content, and cozy. If we can identify what we need in that space to make us feel those things, we might be able to create that very space in our lives.

Twirl, A Play and Discovery Space is launching a multi-modality outreach program in spring of 2022 with children

and families in Taos County to design and engineer small-scale models depicting this "space of one's own." Create-A-Space. The program will take about six hours to complete, from imagining to creating.

The Create-A-Space project will guide children through a process of thinking about what they would like in their space: what might it sound, feel, and look like? We will get them to think about what they need in their space to feel safe.

The end project of creating a small-scale model or diorama box which employs STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) modalities. The model will not only tap into the social emotional learning of creating a space of one's own, but will also involve design principles, iteration thinking, technology with moving parts and lights, engineering principles to work through the structure artistically and creatively. For older students there will be mathematical considerations with to-scale modeling.

This project is STEAM and Social Emotional Learning all wrapped up in a box!

Last month, the Questa del Rio News printed an article about the upcoming landscaping at the Questa Public Library but neglected to print the actual landscape design that accompanied the article.

See it online at questanews.com



Photo by Janie Corrine

Rachel Kuc helping with the Lucky Leprechaun Treasure Hunt on Saint Patrick's Day, held at the Questa Public Library.

ing their webpages at questalibrary.org and vidadelnorte.com. You can find out specific details about the Easter Egg Hunt and the other activities that happen at the library by visiting their webpage. And also keep an eye on the *Questa Del Rio News* Community Calendar, page 38.

Artist Highlight

Elizabeth (Betsy) Irwin

I create spiritually-inspired gourd vessels, jewelry, rattles, sculptures, and other artful objects. My major influence is the iconography of native peoples, particularly from southeastern North America. HC 81 Box 6028, micco27@icloud.com, <https://northernnewmexicoartists.com/elizabeth-betsy-irwin/>, (575) 586-2273.



Courtesy Photo



Art for All! Free Weaving Workshop April 3 and 10

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 Virsylvania Farm animals and their owners, Tyler and Amelia. Come to one or both classes; we will meet at the Youth Center. Contact Martha Shepp at sheppmartha@gmail.com to hold your space or for more info. Space will be limited to 10.



Photo by Martha Shepp

Longtime weaving enthusiast Nick Nagawiecki wants to share the basics of weaving with you.



QUESTA STUDIO ART TOUR

Coming this Summer
August 13 – 14

CALL FOR ARTISTS!

Get your application at Rael's Market, ArtQuesta, Questa Post Office, or northernnewmexicoartists.com



QUESTA 5% LODGING TAX PROPOSAL PRESENTATION & PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

QBEN MEETING WEDNESDAY APRIL 13 - 6:00 PM IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

In person at Rael's Market, 2430 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556 and via Zoom, see link below.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

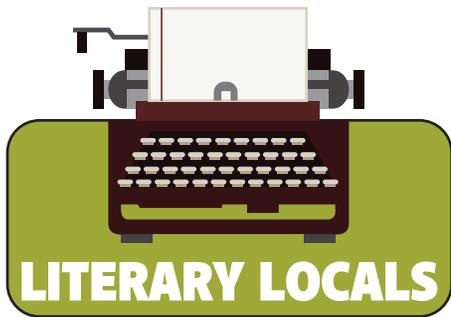
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87849364259?pwd=Mms0TjBBR1dJR2FyUVlCem44RVVZQT09>

CALL IN: (346) 248 7799

MEETING ID: 878 4936 4259

PASSCODE: 282982

For more information, contact Lynn@questaedf.com



Rosabel Cordova Herrera: A Poet of Passion

By HILARY HEYL

Rosabel Cordova Herrera, described as “happy, religious, funny, and strict as a parent” by her daughter Ruth Martinez, wrote poems throughout her life ranging in topic from the power of God to bargain days in Questa. All contained her signature passion for living, with reflections “born from my heart.”

Born April 21, 1916 as Rosabel Juana Payne and known by Rosa to all, she lived almost all her life in Questa, NM, except for approximately 15 years in Grand Junction, CO, where her husband had family and her arthritis fared much better. After the 8th grade, Rosa’s formal education ended and she took care of her ailing adoptive mother. She became an avid reader. Rosa’s middle child of five, Ruth, described her as “making rhyme in conversation... it was her entertainment.” Her spontaneous spoken poetry was frequently accompanied by singing and humming, and seemingly nurtured by her “love of fresh air” that was born through childhood walks on the ditch fields between her adoptive and biological families. She remained very close to members of the two families throughout her life, and nurtured her close family of five children of her own, for whom she delighted in baking daily.

She was married to Liberato (Libby) Lafayette Herrera, owner of the Herrera Sawmill in Questa, where she helped determine costs for milling the timbers that arrived. In Grand Junction, she worked at the state hospital with physically challenged people, learned sign language, and served as a foster grandmother. Rosa spent her last four years in nursing homes in Espanola and Taos, where she taught English to Spanish-speaking staff. She continued to write poetry, including both religious ones and on everyday topics such as breadmaking, until she died, on February 26, 2001.

Both Rosa’s love and loss of family upon moving to Colorado in the early 1970s shines in this poem:

A Tribute to Questa

When I left my motherland
And abandoned my friends,
My children, whom I loved so
much,
With pain and sadness.
I brought memories with me
Inside my heart.
They can’t be erased,
Or measured or numbered.
My sorrows and sadness,
If I were to weigh them,
They would be heavier
Than the sands of the ocean.

Time passed,
And I forgot how to cry.
I forgot my lamentations,
Only in my heart I still feel
All those I loved so much.
When will I stop loving them?

Ah, those who I loved
When I was near them
And had the affection
Of their sweet company,
Though I didn’t realize
How much I adored them.

Until a sad day
When I got away from them.
My soul was sad.
I left my family
Early in the morning
My soul was in tears.

That’s what Fate wanted.
That was to be our luck.
We went out on our way
From the shadow of death
And got to the two rivers
Because that was our destiny.

When God freed Israel
From the land of sorrows
He sent his servant Moses
For us as well.
It was Moses that God sent
To the land of enchantment

An eagle with powerful wings
That flies fast
And flies over the sierras
With great love.
Our Lord brought us
To die in this land.

Like a beautiful morning
That announces dawn
That’s how our life changed.
With all our actions
We should be thankful
To whom cares about us.

Where the rivers get together,
A great peace we enjoy here.
When worries come
We should pray
to the God of your parents
He is always going to help.

If you can listen to us
This is the advice that we give
you:
Praise the Lord
And love each other as
brethren
And you will receive from God
Endless blessings.

Tributo a Questa

Cuando mi tierra dejé,
Y abandoné a mis amigos.
Mis hijos que tanto amé,
Con tristeza y dolor.
Recuerdos traje conmigo,
Dentro de mi corazón.
Que no se pueden borrar,
Ni medir, ni enumerar.
Las penas mi pensar,
Y pesarlas pudiera.
Pesarían aun más,
Que las arenas del mar.

Con el transcurso del tiempo,
Lla se me olvidó llorar.
La se acabó mi lament,
Solo en mi corazón siento.
Las prendas que tanto amé,
¿Cuándo dejaré de amar?

Aquellos quien tanto amé,
Cuando de ellos vivía.
De sus cariños gocé,
De su dulce compañía,
Aunque nunca realicé,
Lo mucho que los quería.

Hasta que un triste día,
De ellos me separé.
Con el alma tristecida,
A mi familia dejé.
Temprano por la mañana,
Y mi alma se desasía.

Así lo quiso el destino,
Así sería nuestra suerte,
Salimos a nuestro camino.
De las sombras de la muerte,
Llegamos a los dos ríos,
Por que así fue nuestro sino.

Cuando Dios sacó a Israel,
De la tierra del quebranto.
Mando a su siervo Moisés.
Por nosotros también fue,
Un Moisés que Dios mandó,
A la tierra del Encanto.

Aguila de grandes alas,
Cuyo volar es veloz.
Y vuela sobre las sierras,
Con su cariñoso amor.
Nos trajo así nuestro Dios,
A morir en esta tierra.

Como una linda mañana,
Que anuncia el amanecer.
Así cambió nuestra vida,
Todos nuestros procedes,
A quien de nosotros cuida,
Debemos agradecer.

Donde se juntan los ríos,
Mucha paz aquí gozamos.
Cuando lleguen los afanes,
A que hacer quien los males.
Oren al Dios de sus padres,
El siempre lo va a ayudar.

Si nos pueden escuchar,
Estos consejos les damos.
Al Señor han de ensalzar,
Y que se amen como
hermanos.
Y de Dios reciban,
Bendiciones sin sesar.

Rosa’s love of everyday life was depicted in this humorous poem about attending a sale in Questa:

Bargain Days

You won’t believe this, prices
were down
I bought two for the price
of one.

Why should I bother with
such a big crowd
They were turning things
over for crying out loud.
So the sale went on as it
always does

People were stepping on
each other’s toes

Imagine a sale on our path
right there in the street
Made some people laugh,
some people weep

This is not funny it’s a plain
fact

You either have money or
you can’t buy this or that.

Días de rebajas

No me vas a creer, los precios
cayeron tan bajo
Que compré dos por el precio
de un solo tajo.

¿Para qué molestarme yendo
con tanta gente?
Revolvían todo y ponían súper
mal ambiente.

La venta siguió como siempre
andaba.

La gente se apurruñaba y
hasta pisotones se daba
Imaginate que vendían cosas
en plena calle
Había gente que se reía, otras
lloraban al desmaye.

Esto no es gracioso, es un
hecho sencillo.

O tienes dinero o no te
compras ni un pestillo.

The Birth of Good News Good Planet

By MANDY STAPLEFORD

Way back in 2015, I was hanging out with a few of the new owners of KNCE, 93.5 FM, True Taos Radio. I shared with them my distress with the seemingly endless barrage of negative news in the media. I asked them if they could just read a good news story in the morning, because I knew the stories were out there. Co-owner Rita O'Donnell replied, "Why don't you do it?"

Ha! What? Um, ok?... And thus, Good News for a Good Planet was born (we later shortened the name to Good News Good Planet for social media). KNCE co-owner Max Moulton told me what microphone to buy and showed me how use Garage Band editing software. I began researching, writing, and recording the stories. KNCE began broadcasting them in April of 2015. My little 2-minute audio spots of good news were a welcome respite right off the bat. I supplied two stories weekly and took a few months off the project in the summers,

when re-runs were played.

After that first year, I welcomed the help of writer and teacher Gina Gargone. A year later, I hired Rachel Cohen, who brought the technical and organization savvy I needed. I also get incredible writing assistance from Kim Gordon and Marko Schmitt. Cass Orr is managing my social media. And, I now record at Max Moulton's Taos studio. Today, Good News Good Planet is quite the group effort!

Over the years I've been rewarded with so many encounters of people telling me how much they like the program. I've experienced people singing the jingle to me in the grocery store, or hugging me upon learning that I'm that Mandy. Once, at a coffee shop, a woman came up to me in soft tears and shared how that morning's story had lifted her out of a moment of despair.

I am so grateful for those heartfelt affirmations. In 2021, I received even more affirmation when the incredible community non-profit, Arroyo Seco Live

funded GNGP. I'm delighted to report that they just funded it again for 2022! Via KNCE, I am humbled to share that we have received a coveted New Mexico Broadcasters Association award for Best Specialty Program in 2021.

I've always enjoyed making Good News Good Planet. It's a feel-good project for me to constantly find stories about the best of humankind. There are plenty of good people, organizations, and corporations doing good things around the world. Our mainstream media just doesn't report it. Me, I collect those stories and share them because I know just how powerful they can be.

The tagline of Good News Good Planet is "Change your focus, change your world." And I absolutely know that to be true.

You can explore more of this inspiring goodness at goodnewsgoodplanet.com,

<https://www.patreon.com/GoodNewsGoodPlanet>, <https://www.facebook.com/GoodNewsGoodPlanet> and <https://www.instagram.com/goodnewsgoodplanet/>



Photo by Howie Roemer

Mandy Stapleford, creator of Good News Good Planet stands in front of her ceramic artwork at Ennui Gallery in Taos, NM. She holds an award from the NM Broadcasters Assoc. for Best Specialty Program ini 2021.

LETTERS cont'd from page 4

in jeopardy.

As Mayor of the Village of Questa, I urge Governor Lujan Grisham and State Engineer Hamman to further review the applications at issue. After such review, I am confident they will agree that it is not only in the best interest of my community and surrounding areas to approve these applications, but also in accordance with New Mexico legal authority. The approval of these applications by OSE will set a strong precedent that water transfers within New Mexico should remain local and benefit those communities – like Questa – that are most at need.

Mark Gallegos

Outgoing Mayor of the Village of Questa and Taos County Commissioner.

The Milagro Beanfield Mural (*Questa Del Rio News Arts & Culture*, March 2022) actually traces back to my first meeting Joe Cisneros at Questa Ancianos in 2016. Jody insisted then that John Nichols had based his Joe Mondragon character and workshop in Milagro Beanfield War on Jody and his workshop. I read and watched what John Nichols had to say about Joe Mondragon's origins, and Jody was indeed telling the truth. I decided then to help Jody share his Milagro Beanfield War story, figuring this

additional feather in Questa's cap could help attract more tourism here. The David Vedoe mural I commissioned on Andy Martinez's shop wall above NM 522, south of downtown Questa memorializes Jody while getting word out on one of his many, many stories.

Though I spoke with editors at both Taos News Tempo and Questa Del Rio News, Jody's inspiration of Milagro Beanfield War's Joe Mondragon character didn't appear in either outlet. This is very frustrating for me since it is the story I want out. Beyond not mentioning Jody, Tempo said that the mural was an homage to John Nichols. John can be forgiven for thinking Jody's mural was about him, and will surely support getting Jody's story out

when he reflects on how much Milagro meant to Jody. Any difference of opinion about whether Questa will benefit or not from getting out Jody's Milagro Beanfield War story will resolve itself when the story gets out and people see how the public responds to knowing this interesting fact about Questa.

—Mark White

Thank you, Mark, We apologize for leaving Joe Cisneros out of the conversation. It is our understanding that there has never been any question about whether Joe Cisneros helped inspire Nichols' Joe Mondragon character. John Nichols has respect for and good memories for Jody.

Help your teens plan safe rides for prom.
Driving intoxicated is never ok. Their lives matter to us all.

One in five Taos County seniors report drinking and driving in the past 30 days.
 Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey, 2019 - www.vidadelnorte.com/underagedrinking for info

Thank You
Village of Questa Residents

Muchisimas Gracias!! Thank you, Village of Questa voters, for the trust and confidence that you have once again placed in me by electing me to another four years to serve as your Councilor. I am humbled and grateful for your support. May God bless you and God bless America. Please pray for the people of Ukraine and the conversion of Russia.

Louise Gallegos

Paid for by Louise Gallegos

Questa Proposing 5% Lodging Tax

By LYNN SKALL
DIRECTOR, QUESTA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FUND

April is tax month, and during April a new lodging tax is being proposed for the Village of Questa. Questa has explored an occupancy tax on previous occasions, and as tourism and travel see a resurgence following two years of pandemic lock-down, the time is ideal for revisiting the implementation of a lodging tax to improve awareness about all Questa has to offer.

An occupancy tax would be assessed on all licensed lodging rentals within town limits: hotels, motels, RV parks, vacation rentals (AirBnB, VRBO, etc.), cabins, and furnished rooms rented to guests for less than 30 consecutive days.

The occupancy tax is a pass-through-tax: it is paid by the lodging guests - charged on their invoice as a separate line item like the gross receipts tax - it's collected by the lodging property, and remitted to the Village by the 25th of each month with a simple one-page form.

The Village would collect, administer, and manage the tax receipts, keeping the funds in a separately designated account. They would conduct random audits, and file quarterly reports to the State.

The funds collected can be used for the following purposes:

- A set percentage must be spent on advertising, publicizing, and promoting Questa tourist-related attractions, facilities, and events. A five-member Advisory Board would be appointed by the Mayor to make recommendations on how those funds would be used.
- The remainder of the collections can be used for administering the program;
- construction, operation, and maintenance of tourist-related facilities and attractions, i.e., Visitor's Center, rodeo grounds;
- transportation systems;
- police, fire protection, and sanitation services for tourist-related facilities, attractions, and events.

Currently, Questa is the only munic-

ipality along the Enchanted Circle that does not impose a lodging tax. Per state statute, the tax cannot exceed 5% of the gross taxable rent.

How much tax does this represent to the Village of Questa? From May 2020 to April 2021 GRT collections for "Accommodations & Food Services" (reported together) totaled \$1,006,442. Assuming half of these revenues are from lodging related rentals, or \$503,221, a 5% lodging tax would generate \$25,161. (If only 40% of the revenue were lodging related, the tax collected would be \$20,129.)

To establish collections, the Village Council will draft an ordinance and pass a resolution, however, they will not do this without public education sessions and the opportunity for constituents to share their feedback.

On Wednesday, April 13 at 6pm a lodging tax presentation will be made at the Questa Business Entrepreneurial Networking meeting, to be held in person at Rael's Market in Questa, and virtu-

ally via Zoom.

The Village Council will also hold a public comment hearing, contact the Village office for dates and times, (575) 586-0694.

QUESTA 5% LODGING TAX PROPOSAL PRESENTATION & PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

When: Wednesday, April 13 - 6:00 pm
Location: Rael's Market, 2430 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556 and via Zoom

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

Call in: (346) 248 7799

Meeting ID: 878 4936 4259

Passcode: 282982

For more information about the lodging tax proposal, contact Lynn Skall, Director, Questa Economic Development Fund at lynn@questaedf.com or (575) 586-2149.

QUILT cont'd from page 12

As hosts, each of the four days we will:

- Offer a simple breakfast of cereal, yogurt, fruit, coffee & tea around 8:30 am
- Start our shared workday together around 9 am

Have a brief devotional time

Sunday morning

- Offer simple lunches around noon
- End the workday around 5 pm
- Expect that dinner, lodging, and any evening activities will be decided by each volunteer, not us. Evenings could include possible informal campfires, music, etc.

What to bring:

- It's spring in Questa, which means everyone should be prepared for all kinds of weather.
- Please bring rain jackets, warm hats, sun hats, work gloves, sun protection, warm layers, sunscreen, water bottles, warm socks, good outdoor shoes which will surely get muddy, and an extra pair of indoor shoes.
- Lastly, bring emergency contact info and any medications needed.

In the next few years, as we transform this trailer park into QUILT, The Questa Initiative for Life Together, we hope to make it home to a village that

combines sober living, small business incubation, food production, affordable housing, and supportive community.

We're looking for like-minded allies in Taos County who want to live into and learn about the Watershed Way. It's a home-grown covenanted social and spiritual movement that is an earth-honoring, diversity-dignifying, capacity-building, despair-crushing way of life. Whatever religious or cultural identity you may come from, we diverse members of the Watershed Way seek to live well together in place, in reverence and humility, in right relationship with seasons, self, other, nature, and Spirit. Our motto is "do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

We are actively seeking funds and volunteers for projects and work weeks in June and August. We're dying for donors and crying out for contributors. Your donations of finances, materials, and pro-bono expertise will give us the support we need to turn this vision into a reality!

To collaborate or support, contact either of us:

Daniel Herrera dansautohondo@gmail.com; (575) 224-7386
or Todd Wynward at toddwynward@gmail.com; (575) 770-8681

EPA Meeting Updates Citizens on the Superfund Site at Questa Mine

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a virtual community meeting on March 15 to inform the public on the progress of its continued mission to clean up the site of the Chevron Questa Mine. In a slide show, EPA Region 6 representative Nichole Foster presented the specific areas marked for clean-up:

1. Mill Area
2. Mine Site Area
3. Tailing Facility Area
4. Red River, Riparian, South Tailing Facility Area
5. Eagle Rock Lake

Ms. Foster included her contact information if anyone would like more information about the ongoing project: foster.nichole@epa.gov; (214) 665-7248.



Full presentation online at QuestaNews.com

Cerro Vista Farm

Vegetable and Flower Seedlings
Grown in Cerro



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

Plants for Sale

May 18, May 25

June 1, June 8, June 15

198 Lower Buena Vista Road, Cerro

Wednesdays - 3 pm to 6 pm

TWIRL @ QUESTA LIBRARY



CREATE-A-SPACE

DESIGN AND CREATE A MINI SPACE OF YOUR VERY OWN AND EXPLORE THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR SPACES AND OUR FEELINGS.
JOIN TWIRL AS YOU BRING YOUR SPACE TO LIFE
OVER THE COURSE OF 3 SESSIONS:

**Fridays March 25th,
April 1st and April 8th
1-3pm**

Geared towards elementary aged children and their families.
Parents and kids learn together as they play, create & explore!

For more information call 575.586.2023

youth heartline
CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAMS



**Questa Studio Art Tour
August 13-14, 2022**



**Over 45
Local
Artists**

*Find your
Favorite
Questa Area
Artwork!*

northernnewmexicoartists.com

Tour Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4



YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE

Abundant Living Women's Conference

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
APRIL 29-30

EVENING SESSIONS @ 6:30 PM
SATURDAY WORKSHOPS & MORE 1:00 - 4:00 PM
TEA PARTY 4:30 - 6:00 PM

For more info call (575) 613-8010

Register at <https://lwm.breezechms.com/form/adbf25>.



HOSTED BY LIVING WORD MINISTRIES
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Dune might very well be the next Star Wars!

The parallels are striking. It's about humans at some distant future and on planets not our own. And yet, the themes revolve around the same problems—political consolidation, personal freedom, religion, and ultimately, the meaning of life. Where the *Star Wars* trilogy of trilogies treated all that with a certain lightheartedness, *Dune* gets right to the

point, and doesn't let up in the intensity. Director and screenplay co-writer Denis Villeneuve said that he wanted to create an "adult *Star Wars*" and he has succeeded admirably.

This magnum opus is an epic story encompassing most of the big themes that science fiction might cover. And yet, this film is not nearly as confusing as something like last year's *Tenet*. The story carries you all the way through its two-and-a-half hours. And the characters are compelling, if not always original. There's an emperor, of course, who seems to rule the universe. But there are so many interesting cultures inhabiting that universe. Seemingly, they are all derivatives of different earthly traditions.

The main characters, Paul Atrides (Timothée Chalamet) and his mother Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson) seem to come from a Greek tradition. Another influence populates the imagery with references to bulls and seems to extend a Minoan influence. Yet another culture is derived from Japanese Samurai traditions. There is an obese person who mirrors an image from Marlon Brando in *Apocalypse Now*, or could easily be a

counterpart to *Star Wars*' Jabba the Hutt. The references abound, and yet, they don't overwhelm; they seem to make what might otherwise be a rather complex plot a little more grounded.

The film received ten Oscar nominations (behind only *The Power of the Dog*, with 12). But what makes *Dune* unique is that it received nominations in all below-the-line (i.e. technical) categories, except Original Song (which in my opinion is a nonsense category anyway). So, what the Academy is saying is that this movie excels in every single technical aspect that makes for a good film.

The technical team is fully seasoned and more than competent. Hans Zimmer, composer, spent a week in the Utah desert trying to determine what the desert sounds like and then came back and created brand new instruments to match the movie's imagery. The audio team put together sounds from the various cultures referenced and then managed ways to electronically modify them.

The design team not only located places in Jordan, Abu Dhabi, and Norway to reflect the different planetary settings, but also populated each set with intrigu-

ing details. The Make-up, Hairstyling and Costume teams came up with designs that fit with each of the cultures they were trying to portray and then super-modernized the effect. Among many things, the Visual Effects team spent a year perfecting the computer graphic imagery (CGI) to create the iconic sandworms, including getting sand to move in waves as if it were water. Many of the team members also worked on Villeneuve's earlier science fiction movies, *Arrival*, and *Blade Runner 2049*, and many of them consider the earlier films as just practice sessions for *Dune*.

The result of their work is this year's sight and sound spectacle. If you can't watch it in an IMAX theater, then watch it on the largest screen possible and crank up the volume on the speakers to the loudest setting you and your neighbors can stand. This is a movie to immerse yourself in.

However you cut it, this is a "don't miss" film, if you haven't already seen this movie. I don't think you will regret the experience. (5 stars!)

For more, see [MichaelsMovie.com](https://michaelsmovie.com)



Dudes and Dogs

Modern times bring their fair share of stress, anxiety, and melancholy. While depression affects both men and women, men are four times more likely to take their own lives because of it.

While struggling with his own

depression, UK resident and father Rob Osman found solace in a daily activity that has led to a growing movement to help men open up and heal with each other. Rob discovered that walking his dog was an easy entry point to talking with other men who tend to be resistant to seeking mental health treatment.

This led to his project "Dudes and Dogs," a men's mental health group dedicated to showing men everywhere that it's not just okay to talk; it is vitally important. Participants don't have to own a dog, as at least one man in the group will have one. There's no pressure to talk: they just have to show up and enjoy some healthy exercise. "Walking a

dog is a conversation waiting to happen," says Osman. "When people are around the dog, they drop their defenses."

Studies have shown that hanging out with animals has a positive impact on people with anxiety and PTSD. Animal interaction can also boost one's mood and reduce blood pressure. Of course, anyone who's ever loved a pet knows this firsthand.

The "Dudes and Dogs" program has grown in popularity in the UK and in the US, forming powerful friendships along the way. People can book a free dog walk on the group's Facebook or website calendar. Potential participants can even test out a virtual walk to see if

it's for them. There are also specific dog walking groups just for "Military Dudes." This program's mission to normalize the conversations of mental health issues, specifically for men is working, and what better way than to invite man's best friend to help out?

This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live. "Building community through creativity. [SecoLive.org](https://secolive.org)

Audio Story

https://mcusercontent.com/6dd23531465f1c13f80eb7d84/files/66a18aee-19c3-2ce9-4666-717684f12863/GN_7.17_DudesAndDogs_KR51.mp3

MEMORIAL cont'd from page 23

dicted that another teacher would come in seven years. In the seventh year, Lama Karma Dorje of Santa Fe came to the community in El Rito and helped build a stupa honoring Herman. The Kagyu Mila Guru Stupa.

Lama Dorje encouraged the group to hold a memorial each year to honor Herman. Until recently, Lama would attend each year, but age and health concerns now prevent his traveling here to the gathering.

Herman advised many of us to also

study Alice A. Bailey's books and a faithful (and international) group continues to meet and study this "ageless wisdom," based upon The Tibetan's work, that complements the Kagyu Buddhist path. The group is led by Francis Donald at info@earthjourney.org; all are welcome (Zoom).

For more information on the memorial or to attend, contact Gabrielle Herbertson at info@earthjourney.org. Learn more about Herman Rednick and the Earth Journey Spiritual Retreat Center and Kagyu Mila Guru Stupa at www.earthjourney.org.

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
MARCH 2022

A NEW CYCLE

"We have learned so much... there still remains much to learn. We are not going in circles, we are going upwards. The path is a spiral." —Herman Hesse, Siddhartha

In mid-March we began a new cycle when we entered Aries at the spring equinox. As we grow our selves, so we also attempt to grow humanity. The progression around the zodiac explains the growth.

Aries – Here I AM! Bursting onto the earthly plane, still with the remembrance of where we came from.

Taurus – I can touch, eat, throw things! Learning the right use of personal resources.

Gemini – there are two of us in the room; I must learn to communicate and share my toys!

Cancer – I recognize that I am part of a whole family in which negotiation and respect must be learned; the Family of Man.

Leo – playing, showing off and falling in love for the first time; ultimately, unconditional love.

Virgo – the first recognition that this "other" part of me is Divine and the urgent need to nurture it.

Libra – the recognition that an Other is as important as I am; the Sacred Marriage with the Highest Partner.

Scorpio – I get tested as to my commitment to that Other and to the Journey.

Sagittarius – I and my partner are One and now it is about learning focus, direction, and discipline; the Path has so many distractions.

Capricorn – The ambition to climb to the peak of the mountain, fall at the feet of the Master.

Aquarius – after seeing the big picture, receiving enlightenment I need to share it with others, with All.

Pisces – when I realize this one lifetime is such a tiny drop in the bucket, it's time to recapitulate, go deep inside, into the Mystery, to prepare for the next cycle. We can do better, always.

Everyone: Not a single retrograde in the sky.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: This is a good time to start something.

Direction: Later in the month you will have the right energy to keep it going.

Soul Thought: What is the Fire of Mind?

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: You enter your strongest time of the year.

Direction: Ponder upon which muscles to flex.

Soul Thought: Metaphorically speaking.

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: A good month for giving.

Direction: Charity, assistance, gifts, whatever rocks your boat.

Soul Thought: Bless us, one and all.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: As others shift from the time of deep introspection, you remain.

Direction: Nourish your compassion.

Soul Thought: Not the same thing as sensitivity.

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: A new project could begin rolling right along.

Direction: With the right touch, maintenance could be minimal.

Soul Thought: What follows a good start?

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: During a time when options are few, your reflections can change everything.

Direction: Light up the world!

Soul Thought: From the inside out.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: Yours is the dilemma of balance between the two worlds.

Direction: Be sure to look in both directions.

Soul Thought: "Not in this world less, but in both worlds more."
—Helena Blavatsky

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: For a few days the first of the month you can offset ALL of your karma.

Direction: Service to humanity is always a surefire way.

Soul Thought: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." —Mahatma Gandhi

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♂ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: A lot of hard work now brings things together.

Direction: Pat yourself on the back.

Soul Thought: From the Sacred Marriage to the Testing Ground.

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You and another can work out things you've been working on for many lifetimes.

Direction: Be patient.

Soul Thought: What does hard work mean?

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: This is about negotiating.

Direction: Always keeping in mind the big picture... for both of you.

Soul Thought: From the void to expansion.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: If the job/business is a burden, try floating it a while.

Direction: Determine those many meanings.

Soul Thought: "We observe how burdens braved by humankind are also the moments that make humans kind."
—Amanda Gorman

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



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!
- Sometimes you get free pizza

Interested? Want to find out more?

Email: b.muniz3@gmail.com or

Call: (720) 662-9652

Questa Del Rio News



TAOS SKI VALLEY, NM

LET US FUEL YOUR NEXT WINTER ADVENTURE



NATURAL & ORGANIC GROCERIES
PREPARED FOODS
BEER, WINE, & SPIRITS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • APRIL 2022

APRIL 1: FRI 10:00 am – 2:00 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.

APRIL 1: FRI 1:00 – 3:00 pm
FUN FRIDAYS at the Questa Public Library! Twirl Create-A-Space for kids ages 5-12, free. (575) 586-2023. (See story page 28)

 **APRIL 1: FRI 11:00 pm**
Come see the World's Champion Talking Dog. His vocabulary is HUGE and includes, yip, yap, arf, bow wow, woof, and ggrrrrrhh. New La Cienega Auditorium, \$10 per adult, \$15 per child.

APRIL 2: SAT 1:00 – 4:00 pm
"Possibilities from Afar!" art exhibit opening reception at Questa Public Library, (575) 586-2023. (See story page 30)

APRIL 3: SUN 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Learn Basic Weaving in this Art for All workshop, sponsored by the QCC. (See story page 29)

APRIL 3: 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.

APRIL 8: FRI 1:00 – 3:00 pm
FUN FRIDAYS at the Questa Public Library! Twirl Create-A-Space for kids ages 5-12, free. (See story page 28) (575) 586-2023.

APRIL 8: 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

APRIL 8 – 9: FRI SAT
ABCD Community Development Training, April 8: 6:30 pm. April 9: 9 am – 4 pm, lunch included, at Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Rd. in Questa. Free, but space is limited so please register at bmuniz3@gmail.com or (720) 662-9652.

APRIL 10: SUN
11 am – 3:00 pm
Ed Sandoval reception and print signing, fundraiser for St. Anthony's at Rael's Coffee Shop. Refreshments will be served. (575) 613-5490 or (575) 779-9249.

APRIL 10: SUN 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Learn Basic Weaving in this Art for All workshop, sponsored by the QCC. (See story p. 29)

APRIL 12: TUES 6:00 pm
Questa Independent Schools in-person board meeting. Live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuLsXpB9iyfDrIWOiuG> (575) 586-0421.

APRIL 12: TUES 6:00 pm
Town Council Meeting in person at the Village Council Chambers and on line, for link and more information call (575) 586-0694.

APRIL 13: WEDS 5:30 pm
Live Cello Music with Restorative Yoga, with Mark Dudrow and Gaea, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

APRIL 13: WEDS 6:00 pm
Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network Meeting, lynn@questaedf.com.

APRIL 15-16: FRI SAT
8:00 am – 2:00 pm
MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE IN EL RITO!
At Virsylvia Farm & Market, Espresso/tea/food from The Dancing Goat Food Truck! 3204 Hwy 522, Questa NM, (When traveling north, turn left after mile marker 27, Past Jarocito Road) Would you like to set up and sell? Contact (575) 586-5635 or virsylviafarm@gmail.com. www.virsylviafarm.com

APRIL 19: TUES 10:45 – 12:00 noon
Bookmobile at Roots & Wings Community School in Lama. For information call (575) 376-2474 or laura.gonzales@state.nm.us

9:30-10:30 am
Bookmobile at Questa Post Office; (575) 376-2474 or laura.gonzales@state.nm.us

APRIL 15: FRI
Good Friday, and Questa Public Library will be closed.

APRIL 16: SAT 1:00-2:00 pm
Easter Egg Hunt at the library. Thousands of eggs will be hidden. Prizes, food, fun for everyone! Hop on over! Watch the electronic sign at the light for more details. (575) 586-2023.

APRIL 16: SAT 10:00 am
Writers Group, free, online only, register at Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

APRIL 16: SAT 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Blue Cloud Sound Journey, healing 2-hour Savasana with live music, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

APRIL 17: 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.

APRIL 18: MON 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Outdoor Learning Symposium on Zoom. Registration is free and currently open at eenm.org/symposium. (See story page 12)

APRIL 18: MON 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Questa Library Book Club. Join the conversation. Call the library at (575) 586-2023 for the topic of the month. Read on!

APRIL 20: WED 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Wildcat Kitties Club at the Questa Public Library, for our younger population, ages 0-3. Stories, songs, and play every Wednesday starting on April 20. The fourth Wednesday of the month will feature our friends from Taos First Steps. (575) 586-2023.

APRIL 21: THURS 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Questa One-on-One Business Counseling 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.

APRIL 21: THUR 3:00 pm
Cerro VFW Post #9516, monthly meeting, elections will be held. 108 NM Highway 378 in Cerro. (575) 586-1112; litameadphoto@gmail.com.

APRIL 22: FRI
QHS Prom

APRIL 23: SAT 9:30 AM – NOON
Free Car Wash! Freedom Center Church, donations appreciated for local kids and teens to attend summer camp. (575) 770-1714, kristi@freedomquesta.com, FreedomQuesta.com <https://www.facebook.com/freedomquesta>

APRIL 22: 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

APRIL 25: MON 6:00 pm
Vida Del Norte Coalition monthly meeting at Vida office, 62 Highway 38. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82819602608> (575) 779-2260; maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com.

APRIL 25: MON 6:00 pm
Monthly Questa Economic Development Fund board meeting on Zoom; contact Lynn Skall access code at lynn@QuestaEDF.com.

APRIL 26: TUES 6:00 pm
Town Council Meeting in person at the Village Council Chambers and on line, for link and more information call (575) 586-0694.

6:00 pm
Questa Independent Schools in-person board meeting. Live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuLsXpB9iyfDrIWOiuG> (575) 586-0421.

APRIL 29: FRI 1:00 – 3:00 pm
It is always a Fun Friday when Twirl comes to the Questa Library. Ages 5-12 welcome. (575) 586-2023.

APRIL 29: FRI – MAY 2
Work Weekend at the Herrera Trailer Park (3-1/2 work days over a long weekend), 9 am to 5 pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; 9 am to noon on Monday. (See story on page 12)

APRIL 29: FRI – APRIL 30
Abundant Living Women's Conference: You are God's Masterpiece. Evening sessions at 6:30 pm, Saturday workshops 1 – 4 pm, Fashion Show and Tea Party 4:30 – 6:00 pm. Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Rd, Questa, (575) 613-8010.

APRIL 30: SAT 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Tree Planting, Park Beautification & Volunteer Lunch, Questa Municipal Park. Everyone welcome! Free, <https://leapsite.org/> emailforleap@gmail.com, (575) 224-9066.

MONDAYS

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

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

TUESDAYS

9:00 am
Seated Moving Meditation with Ola, in-person only, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>. NO CLASS on April 26.

10:00 – 11:00 am
Chair Yoga Join us for a DVD-guided gentle exercise 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

9:00 am
Gentle Morning Yoga, with Gaea, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

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 Supermarket 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 pm
Kickboxing with Reto, in-person only, Yoga Sala, register at <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.

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/>

THURSDAYS

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

Computer Classes at the Questa Public Library, with Valerie. Call for current information and times. (575) 586-2023.

2:30 – 5:00 pm
Dropped Stitch Club at the Questa Public Library. We knit. We crochet. We Laugh. We teach. We learn. Bring your latest project. If it has a fiber, it counts! All skill levels are welcome. For more information, call the library at (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/>. NO CLASS on April 29.

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, 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.

SATURDAYS

10:00 am
Tai Chi with Reto, in-person only, Yoga Sala. <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

 **FOR SALE: 2025 Lexus Hybrid.** Less than 300,000 miles. All that's missing is YOU in the driver's seat, the steering wheel, tires, engine, brackets. \$25,000. CONTACT: BestAdAgency@gmail.com

 **FOR SALE:** Large cardboard box of Kleenex tissues, only slightly used. Visit Main Street Tissues and Ice Cream Shoppe.

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.

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 Benita Mun at (720) 662-9652 or email her at: bmuniz3@gmail.com. "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill

NOTICES

 **Rad Riviera Lonely Hearts Club is closing after 54 years.** "No one is lonely anymore. We matched everybody up with a partner and everyone's happy," said Elias O'Connor, former chairman of the Club.

Not Forgotten Outreach will be hiring for VetCorps Spring/Summer Crews! This is your opportunity to learn about farming, while receiving compensation and other skills. Applications will be announced soon. notforgottenoutreach.org/vetcorps

Continued on the following page.

List it in the Classifieds!

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued on the previous page.

HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM GRANTS New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture funding opportunity for Fiscal Year 2023. Healthy Soil Program grant applications are open until Thursday May 12, 2022 at 5:00 pm MST. www.nmda.nmsu.edu/nmda-homepage/division/apr/healthy-soil-program/

Free Car Wash! Freedom Center Church, Saturday April 23, 9:30 am - noon. Donations appreciated: we are raising funds for local kids and teens to attend summer camp. (575) 770-1714, kristi@freedomquesta.com, <https://www.facebook.com/freedomquesta>

ABCD Community Development Training,

Free community development workshop, everyone welcome! Sponsored by the LOR Foundation, space is limited, pre-registration required. See ad on page 9 for all details.

FREE - hp 952 ink cartridges. 952 magenta (never used), 952 yellow and 952 Cyan (each used for one printing). My new printer takes a different cartridge. Call Ellen at (575) 770-3064.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE IN EL RITO! Fri & Sat, April 15-16, From 8 am – 2 pm. At Virsylvia Farm & Market with espresso/tea/food from The Dancing Goat Food Truck! 3204 Hwy 522, Questa NM, (When traveling north, turn left after mile marker 27, Past Jarocito Road) Would you like to set up and

sell? Contact (575) 586-5635 or virsvyviafarm@gmail.com. www.virsvyviafarm.com

Questa Studio Art Tour Call for Artists! Coming this Summer, August 13-14, Get your application at Rael's Market & Coffee House, ArtQuesta, or Questa Post Office northernnewmexicoartists.com

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 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, April 21 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.

Abundant Living Women's Conference You are God's Masterpiece. April 29-30, Evening Sessions at 6:30 pm, Saturday Workshops and More 1-4 pm, Tea Party 4:30-6 pm. Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Rd, Questa, (575) 613-8010

PERSONALS

 **WANTED: A husband with big brown eyes, a sweet disposition and plenty of money.** Must love animals (I have 17 dogs and 21 indoor cats.) Preferably over 90 years old and ready to make me his sole heir. A little bit looney is okay. CONTACT: HumbleMe@gmail.com.

APRIL QUOTE FROM LISA FOX Nobody actually ever wins a war. Even having a war is a defeat for all of us. —Jeremy Corbyn

LOST AND FOUND

 **Found an elephant wandering** on Main Street in Cerro. Call 555-1234.

Contact us for Classified Ad rates! (575) 586-2258 or Dina@questaedf.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470
Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 7 am in Spanish, 11 am in English

MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:
Costilla - Sagrado Corazon - Sunday 9 am
Cerro - Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe - 2nd & 4th Saturdays 4 pm
Amalia - Santo Niño - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

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

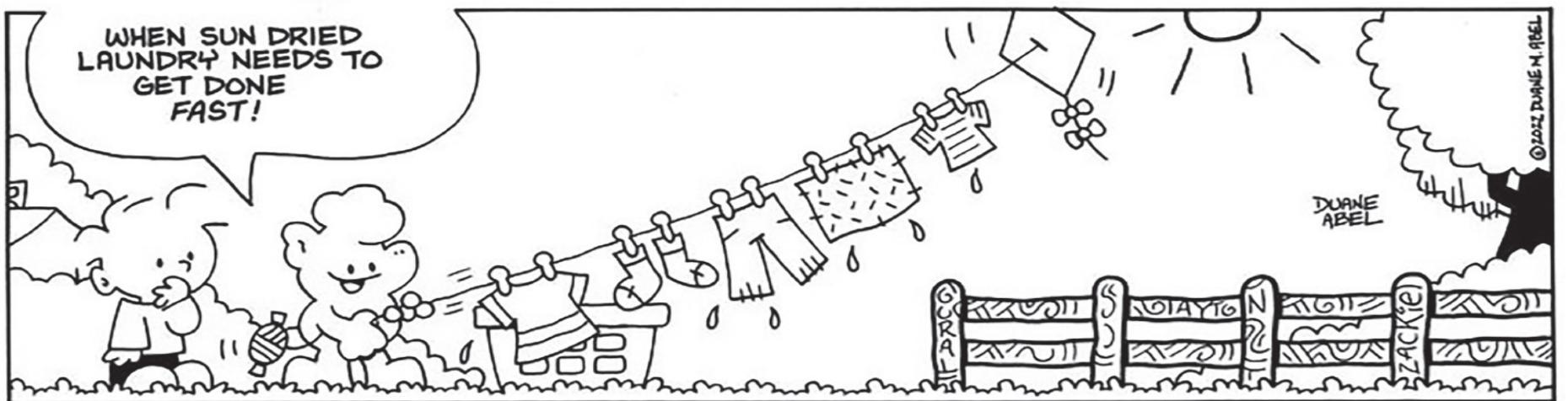


AA MEETINGS

SELF-HONESTY

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

The deception of others is nearly always rooted in the deception of ourselves. . . When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.
—AS BILL SEES IT, p. 17



zed by duane m. abel

www.corkeycomics.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Jay's UNIQUE Thrift Shop
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 Questa Dental Center
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 575-586-0259

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 575-586-0419/0418

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 \$120 Family Plan (4)

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L&E Self Storage

(575) 586-0568 (505) 328-4052
 32 Sagebrush Rd. (next to Questa High School)

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 June through October

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 For Sale in May and June

Wednesday Afternoons 3 pm to 6 pm