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Questa Del Rio News

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QHS Honor Society Blood Drive

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Questa Jr/Sr High School Health Room
Use Drive Code: ABQHS
See Notice on page 31



URGENTLY NEEDED: Taos County Fire Fighters And EMS Volunteers



Staff Photos

Taos County Fire Chief, Mike Cordova



Staff Photos

Taos County Fire Marshall, James Hampton



Photo by Melissa Corter

Cynthia Najim, Volunteer Firefighter and First Responder, Latir Volunteer Fire Department



Photo by Cynthia Najim

Regan Swartz - Volunteer Firefighter and First Responder, Latir Volunteer Fire Department

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

In the small towns of Taos County, communities have depended on volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel to respond to calls for service for generations. Unfortunately, that trend has become a challenge to maintain.

"We're lacking volunteers county wide, whether it's municipalities or a small county community we're just not getting the responders we need to go on calls," says Taos County Fire Chief Michael Cordova.

While there is no specific reason to pinpoint the shortage of volunteers in Taos County, the first responder personnel shortage is a problem nationwide. A 2019 estimate done by the National Fire Protection Association shows more than half of firefighters in the country are volunteers, and numbers across the board are down. Cordova recognizes volunteer fire fighting can be a dangerous job, but notes the responsibilities a volunteer can hold are vast and can vary. "Volunteering can be more than holding a hose. People could help us out on medical calls, they can do traffic

control, there's a vast array of things besides running into a fire," Cordova says.

Low volunteer numbers could pose many risks to communities, especially in Taos County, where resources are spread out between 17 Fire Departments. Cordova hopes increasing their volunteer cadre will ensure multiple calls for service can be answered when people need help the most. The county is looking for people who might be able to respond to a call during the day, but also could be available at any time. Cordova notes this could be a pivotal career step for youth in their teens and 20s who might have an interest in a firefighting and EMS career.

Taos County Fire Marshall James Hampton underscores the impact a changing society has had on their ability to count on people to respond to calls during the day. "We have an obligation to provide services to the community and right now it's very difficult to meet those obligations. People have lives, they have jobs and the days of being able to leave your job to cover a call are over," says Hampton. For this reason, he says the need for volunteers

now, more than ever, is a predominant one to ensure Taos County communities remain safe.

Cordova and Hampton say a dedication and passion to serve are essential in this role. "We need to send the urgency out to our people that we need help," Cordova says. "It is strict and we ask a lot. People will be required to train regularly. It's easy to say you'll volunteer, but hard to be dedicated and really want to do this." While recognizing the commitment can be a lot for volunteers, Cordova underscores the reasoning, "it is a hard ask, but when someone calls 9-1-1, they need our help, and we need to be there for our community." As an incentive, volunteers have the chance to earn retirement benefits after 10 years of service.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with the Taos County Fire Department? For more information contact:

*Mike Cordova, Taos County Fire Chief
Office: (575) 737-6469 Cell: (575) 779-3447
Email: mike.cordova@taoscounty.org*

"Finding committed volunteers to serve our rural communities is a big concern. I joined at age 62 to fill a void after retiring from the building trades and to give back because I've been so fortunate. While we really do need younger people who are fit and strong, healthy retirees are also welcome. I've been able to give 10 dedicated years, responding to countless emergency calls. Through this effort, I've gotten to know people I never would have met. The satisfaction gained from helping people who can't help themselves keeps us humble and vital. In rural settings like ours where medical facilities are far, volunteer firefighters and first responders truly do make the difference between living and dying. Join us!"

Regan Schwartz

Firefighter & First Responder, Latir Volunteer Fire Department

"Relief efforts for big disasters, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, are not the only emergencies that require a lot of fast-acting resources. For us it could be a motor vehicle or recreational accident, gas leak or explosion, heart attack, or overdose - at any time of the day or night. For the people involved, this is a major disaster! With volunteer numbers dwindling, who will respond? **Who will be available to help turn a tragedy into a blessing?** Many of us can say 'yes' to become a volunteer, but will you? Do it as a team - sign up with friends or cousins! **The benefits will outweigh the sacrifice.** And the skills you learn can be applied to all facets of your life. We look forward to meeting you soon."

Cynthia Najim

Firefighter & First Responder, Latir Volunteer Fire Department

Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

Got a story? Email us at news@questaedf.com

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

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

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EDITORIAL

Introducing Our New Editor: Mikayla Ortega

I was born and raised in Questa, and I will always feel fortunate to have grown up in a community where everyone knew me, and similarly I knew everyone. I attended kindergarten through 12th grade with a core group of people and I still talk to many of them to this day.

I graduated from Questa Jr/Sr High School in 2008; one of the biggest highlights from my time in Questa was representing our community as the 2007 Reina de Questa Fiestas. When I left Questa in 2008, I went to school at the University of New Mexico where I studied Strategic Communication and Journalism. I worked for six years in the non-profit sector where I was lucky enough to run the statewide Pennies for Patients program, coming back to Questa every year to host assemblies and run the program with local teachers. I then went on to work for United Blood Services where I worked with QHS teacher Maria Cintas to bring the community Blood Drive to Questa Jr/ Sr High School.

In 2015, I went on to work for KOB Eyewitness News 4 under Tom Joles and Stuart Dyson. It was one of the biggest honors of my life to sit and learn alongside idols I grew up hearing on TV, while also learning from current legends like Tessa Mentus and Danielle Todesco. In 2017, I went on to work for Denver7 News where I was nominated for four Emmy awards and won three Emmies in Breaking News, Best Evening Newscast in a Large Market, and Best Investigative Series. One of the biggest and most fulfilling parts of my time in journalism was when I garnered coverage about the community of Questa and things that matter to its residents. It's always been my goal to educate people about the place that raised me and in my twelve-year career, I felt like I achieved that goal.

In 2021, I transitioned to communications where I currently work as a Communications and Outreach Manager for the Denver Office of Emergency Management. While my job is fulfilling, I realized that I feel a gaping hole in my heart and a lapse in my passion, and I've come to recognize that I am lacking the connection to my community in Questa.

For this reason, I actively pursued the Managing Editor position with the Questa del Rio News and with a gracious heart, I can say that I am so honored to have been awarded this role, held by Lou McCall, who will be retiring this year. Of all the things I've done in my career, this will undoubtedly be one of the biggest highlights of my lifetime. I will be doing this position remotely from Denver with monthly trips back home as I've been doing since leaving Questa.

I am so excited to reconnect with my community and cover stories that matter to you. If you have a news idea or a story pitch, please reach out to me. I am so excited to hear about what matters to you! Please email me at editor@questanews.com.

Mikayla Ortega
Managing Editor

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY ISSUE. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

PENNY ABERNATHY, AR, LINDA BETZ, JAY BOUCHARD,
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WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?

By MARTA GLOVER

What are we grateful for in February? I am grateful that we are half-way through winter with longer days. Valentine's Day is a good time to show our love to our families, friends, animals, and Mother Earth. Flowers and chocolate are given and eaten with full abandonment. Loving kindness through a phone call, text or better yet, a card always brings joy to the receiver. Do you have a special someone or something you do for someone special on Valentine's Day, this year or in the past? Is there a place or a person that you would like to send your love and blessings to?

Marta:

"I would like to send love blessings to my kids and grandchildren. I appreciate how they include me in their daily lives and for all the parties and holiday gatherings. It's a comfort living close by and sharing the same community together. I am sending love to all the dogs in San Cristobal that bark at night with a prayer that you stop barking so we can all sleep peacefully in 2023 with our windows open and no ear plugs."

Suzanne:

"No Valentines locally. I get one Valentine a year from my college where my ex and I met. That was my only Valentine

even though we have been divorced 33 years. My love to my precious boy who makes my life worthwhile. I am sending my love and blessings to all the people with weather issues, losing their homes, and all kinds of disasters."

Pajarito:

"Ukraine needs our love and prayers. Valentine's Day is about the kids. I love that all the kids give and get a Valentine, I love that... so universally good. Imbolc [Groundhog Day] and Saint Brigits are on the same day, the midpoint between winter solstice and spring equinox [February 2 and 1, respectively]. Continuing to celebrate the Light and prepare for spring."

Barb:

"I don't have someone in my life I give a Valentine to. I like making Valentines with kids. It's messy but lots of fun. I send my love to my daughter and four grandchildren wherever and however they are."

Mara:

"I don't have anything big. I spread extra smiles around, sharing the love. I like to hand out chocolate. The best way to spread love is when you have that childlike joy. I spread my love to the birds outside, giving them their favorite treats and watching them soar above my home."

Pedro:

"Looking forward to spring snow for skiing. Deep, wet, heavy snow for farming, gardening and for the Earth. He loves his daughter's home-made hand written Valentine's cards saying, "Teamo" I love you. And loves the tradition with his wife watching the movie, Love Actually. There is a lot of love after that."



Dear Editor,

I am deeply interested in contributing to a resilient future for our community and our planet. Over the past couple of years, I have been working on a project I am convinced can lead us into that livable future.

The model, created and developed by Oxford economist Kate Raworth, author of *Doughnut Economics: 7 Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist*, is based on the principles of circularity and provides a framework for a new paradigm that is generous, distributive, and regenerative. The doughnut of planetary boundaries and social boundaries defines a safe and just space in which all of humanity can thrive. It challenges economic theory of infinite growth, and most importantly, it balances the needs of the individual within the boundaries of planetary health.

The systems approach to an economic model that asks the fundamental question: "Can healthy economies be designed to thrive whether or not they grow?" I am grateful for it to be published in the interest of informing people of a situation that challenges us to question our values.

I would also be happy to share what I've been studying and developing on Doughnut Economics for Taos County, to introduce the model and its framework, and invite players to explore how we can all participate! My contact information is included.

Together we can transform our world from the local level!
 Suzie Schwartz
 Norteños for Peaceful and Resilient Futures
 El Prado
 (575) 770 2629

Special Valentine's Invitation!

HEY KIDS AND FAMILIES!

You're invited to have some Valentine's Day Fun at the Questa Public Library!

We will have supplies to decorate cards and cookies. See below for dates and times:

- Friday, Feb. 10, 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 13, 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb 14, 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.

Supplies to create a special card and decorate cookies will be provided at no cost. We look forward to seeing you and having some yummy fun!

OOPS

In our January print edition in the article entitled *Moore Vs. Harper*, we mistakenly identified the North Carolina Speaker of the house as Thomas Moore. His name is Timothy Moore. Here is the corrected article:

<https://questanews.com/moore-v-harper-could-undermine-redistricting-committee/>

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! [Questanews.com](https://questanews.com)

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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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Making A Difference Is As Easy As ABCD

Asset Based Community Development Workshop Part II

By LYNN SKALL

Being engaged in your community gives you a strong sense of belonging while you make positive contributions to the place you call home. Your opinions and ideas matter, so share them! And, share your passion for Questa on Saturday, Feb. 25, 9 am to 2 pm, by participating in Part II of the Asset Based Community Development Workshop in Questa at the Living Word Ministries Fellowship Hall.

There are numerous positive benefits for getting involved in your community and February offers several opportunities for you to share your voice to help shape our area's future.

According to research at UC San Diego, when you're an active participant in your community, or you volunteer your time, the rewards and returns are many:

It's good for you. Being involved creates a healthy sense of wellbeing and belonging, reducing stress, and building self-esteem. When you feel connected

it boosts your self-confidence and life satisfaction.

It brings people together. When you volunteer you build relationships with others who share your passions and meet new people from diverse backgrounds, outside of your normal circles, who have different talents and interests, all while working together toward a common goal.

It strengthens your community. You get a chance to give back by sharing your unique skills, expertise, and experience as an investment in your community and the people who live in it.

It opens up new opportunities. Actively being engaged in your community is inspiring and can lead you down different roads to new passions you wouldn't have known existed. The experience can be life changing.

You make a difference. Every person counts! Let your voice be heard (no matter how loud or quiet); you can impact projects, decisions, and the future

of your community. Source: <https://getinvolved.ucsd.edu/service/resources/experience.html>.

The ABCD Workshop is an opportunity to have your voice heard and to make a difference in Questa's future. Sponsored by a generous grant from the LOR Foundation, the Workshop is free to attend and includes a complimentary lunch.

Facilitator Louis Jeantete, of Turquoise Door Consulting in Taos, will review the outcomes from the April 2022 Workshop, then guide the group through a series of interactive exercises to identify key areas of focus for Questa in 2023 and beyond. The objective is to complete the day with a comprehensive community calendar for the year and a short list of actionable goals for each key area with time-stamped due dates and measurable deliverables.

Everyone from the greater Questa community in northern Taos County is invited and encouraged to attend, even

if you did not participate in the first workshop. ABCD is for you if you are an engaged area resident, community leader, or a representative of a non-profit organization. There is no charge to attend, and we welcome your participation. Advance registration is required by Feb. 22 so the proper amount of food can be ordered.

For more information and to RSVP, please email Gayle Martinez at gaylelwm@msn.com.

Asset Based Community Development Workshop Part II

Saturday, Feb. 25

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Living Word Ministries Fellowship Hall

12 Llano Rd, Questa, NM 87556

No charge, everyone is invited

Includes complimentary lunch

RSVP by Feb 22: gaylelwm@msn.com

New Mexico Distillers Guild Partners With Red River Chamber For First Ever Spirits Showcase

By LINDSEY ROWE PARKER

The Spirits Showcase will take place during the annual Mardi Gras In the Mountains, Friday, Feb. 17.

The Red River Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce they are partnering with the New Mexico Distiller's Guild and the New Mexico Restaurant Association to present the first-ever Red River Spirits Showcase.

"As an advocate for our members, Red River Chamber is always looking for opportunities to highlight the best of what our members, Red River, the Enchanted Circle, and the state of New Mexico have to offer" says Naoma Staley, Red River Chamber of Commerce CEO. "During our other events (Red River Art & Wine Festival and Red River Oktoberfest) we get to show off our amazing local wineries and breweries — and now we're pleased to be partnering with the New Mexico Distiller's Guild to bring the incredible spirits made across our state directly to you!"

The Chamber and the Distiller's Guild had been kicking around ways it might be appropriate to partner. When the planning for Friday Night Drink Making Contest began, they realized that this was the chance they'd been looking for. The drink making contest has been happening for over 13 years and is a perfect opportunity to highlight member distillers, the Red River Brewing and Distilling Company, and other New Mexico craft spirits.

"We are thrilled to bring the Spirits Showcase to Red River and partner with the Chamber" says Scott Feuille, President of the New Mexico Distillers Guild. "Partnerships like these bring New Mexico craft spirits to the forefront and elevate the experience of our customers by immersing them in all that our local distilleries have to offer."

For questions regarding the Spirits Showcase, Drink Making Contest, to register to participate in the Mardi Gras In the Mountains Main Street Parade, or for more details, email the Chamber

at rrinfo@redriverchamber.org, or call the office at (575) 754-2366. You can also check out the Chamber website at redriverchamber.org.

About the New Mexico Distillery Guild

The New Mexico Distillers Guild is dedicated to promoting the common interests of the New Mexico Distilling community and the crafting of small-batch and artisanal spirits. Spearheaded by craft community members who lead with heart and grit, our mission is to raise awareness about craft distillation, promote the craft of spirit production throughout the United States, and inform the public that there is more out there than mass-produced industrial liquor. Since 2014, we've become an essential part of the New Mexico craft community. nmdistillers.org

About Red River Chamber of Commerce

The Red River Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1985 to support

and promote the business membership of Red River and the surrounding areas. In the decades since its founding, the Board, volunteers and staff of the Chamber have worked diligently to attract visitors to Red River and stimulate local economy by hosting annual festivals or sporting events. Visit redriverchamber.org



LOR Foundation “Field Work” Grant Application Opens February 1

By KASEY CORDELL AND
JAY BOUCHARD

The Mountain West is experiencing its worst drought in the past 1,200 years, while at the same time, food demand is expected to increase between 59 and 98 percent by 2050. Too often, funding for innovative techniques that might improve water usage is hard to access and slow to reach the experts on the ground. For example, federal programs that provide grants to agricultural producers commonly take one to two years before funding reaches the people in need. That's where LOR's Field Work initiative comes in.

With its Field Work initiative, the LOR Foundation is providing funding for re-

search into innovative approaches to using water in agriculture. Farmers and ranchers throughout the rural Mountain West are encouraged to apply.

As the West grapples with unprecedented drought, the pressures facing farmers and ranchers have only increased as they contemplate their water use. To help producers address these challenges, the LOR Foundation is launching Field Work, a regional water research initiative that aims to help source — and share — solutions to the West's water crisis.

While LOR typically supports projects in specific communities like Questa and Taos, the Field Work application is open to farmers and ranchers in rural areas and on tribal lands throughout New Mexico,

Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Through the initiative, rural producers are eligible for up to \$10,000 to implement innovative water projects that might address issues like water diversion, storage, delivery, application, and more. LOR's goal is to get money quickly into the hands of the people who have potential solutions and just need a little help to implement them.

“We believe that those closest to the problem often have the best ideas. Farmers and ranchers in communities like Questa have creative, outside-the-box solutions to water challenges,” says Alex Dunlop, chief business development officer for the LOR Foundation. “Our Field Work initiative is a chance to help them put ideas into practice and help us all learn from farmers and

ranchers as they are forced to work with less water in the future. We hope this will shine a light on the ideas they have to make a precious resource go further.”

Working quickly, LOR hopes this initiative reveals innovative solutions for using water efficiently to grow food in the West and sustain thriving communities. Applications for Field Work open Feb. 1. and LOR will accept proposals until Feb. 22 for projects that must be completed in 2023.

Applicants can contact the LOR Foundation at connect@lorfoundation.org with questions about Field Work and potential application proposals. For more information, visit www.lorfoundation.org/field-work/.

Agricultural Cooperative Initiative For Questa Valley

By STAFF WRITERS

Questa is an agrarian community with a cultural history of ranching and farming; there is a resurgence of interest in getting back to the land and producing fresh, organic, and sustainable food locally. An initiative is underway to create an agricultural cooperative for our area. On Thursday, Feb. 9, at 5:30 pm a presentation on co-ops will be held in person and via Zoom at the Questa Public Library followed by a community discussion and input session.

The proposed Questa Valley Preservation Agricultural Co-operative is a collaborative community co-op and business enterprise. Do you eat, grow, ranch, process, or buy food? Then you and your family can benefit from this opportunity and be a part of a thriving and sustainable food and agricultural system in the Questa area.

Dan Hobbs, the Cooperative Specialist for the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union (<https://rmfu.org/>), will be presenting

information about starting and running an agricultural co-op and sharing resources available through RMFU:

- Why start an ag coop?
- What types of coops are there?
- Who should be involved?
- How to get started and how to keep it running?
- What about a Food Hub?

The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Educational and Charitable Foundation, Inc. established the Cooperative Development Center as a program of RMFU to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance for new and existing cooperative businesses and projects.

According to their website, “Cooperatives are time-tested business models and are often the preferred structures in rural areas. For 25 years, we have helped small to mid-size resource-limited family farmers and ranchers, entrepreneurs and agencies serving rural communities begin, grow and re-tool businesses, resulting in

increased economies of scale, meaningful job creation and retention, better quality of life, and increased income opportunities for rural citizens.”

Local Lisa Fox, Questa's Agricultural Co-Op Coordinator, will share more information on how a Questa business enterprise can accomplish this and go beyond to help regenerate fallow arable lands, match new farmers to available land, create value-added agricultural products, address regenerative land management principles, provide workshops and educational opportunities, support internships for our youth, even address “succession planning” for retiring farmers.

An idea is being explored to open a physical location in the Village center in the near future as a “Food Hub” where area farmers and ranchers can sell their produce, food items, baked goods, and more. Even bigger ideas and future visions include a café, *mercado*, community garden, meat processing plant, cheese production, food storage, and so much more.

Plan to attend this presentation in person or via Zoom to learn about a potential agricultural co-op for the Questa area, to share your ideas, and provide your input. For more information email Lisa Fox at swcfox@icloud.com.

Questa Valley Agricultural Cooperative Presentation & Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 9 at 5:30pm

Questa Library at 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd,
Questa, NM 87556
Presentation by Dan Hobbs, RMFU, and Lisa
Fox, Questa Ag Co-op Coordinator.

In person and via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81183025622?pwd=cFdFS3hXb0xHWlFlal1wUkxwRmtmUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 8302 5622 **Passcode:** 899527

Call in: (346) 248-7799

More info: lynn@questaedf.com

The Green Amendment: From a *Questeño* Perspective

By MALAQUIAS RAEL, CHAIRMAN
OF THE QUESTA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FUND

As Chairman of the Questa Economic Development Fund, former Mayor of the Village of Questa, and a long-time business owner in my community, I have witnessed firsthand periods of local economic growth and decline. I have also helped to address some of the economic challenges that have confronted our community here

in rural New Mexico. From the permanent closure of the Questa Mine to the unwillingness of the Office of the State Engineer to approve the transfer of valid local water rights, to the constant outflow of many of our most talented and industrious youth, we have faced challenge after challenge to our economic future with perseverance and optimism.

It is with that same spirit and determination that I call on the attention of our state legislators and all my fellow citizens

in Taos County and the State of New Mexico. The “Green Amendment” as introduced in our state legislature as House Bill HJR4 and Senate Bill SJR6 would be immensely destructive to both our local and state economies.

While it proposes to enshrine in the New Mexico Constitution a right “to clean and healthy air, water, soil and environment,” it will, in fact, through its overbroad and undefined language enable abuse of our court system to halt any

type of economic development project, especially those involving any type of construction and that require permitting and regulation by local, county, and state government.

Have you heard the term “NIMBY”? It's an acronym for “NOT IN MY BACKYARD.” This badly written bill would enable anyone to oppose a project they disagree with on the most spurious of

AMENDMENT cont'd on page 9

Red River's 'Just Desserts' Celebrates 36th Year

By ELLEN MILLER-GOINS

For many, many years whenever February rolled around, Red River restaurateurs could count on two things: Judy Miller would call on them to find what delectable dessert (or desserts) they planned to offer to skiers and snowshoers; and John Miller would again don his Cookie Monster costume to greet eager "Just Desserts" participants.

Even after they sold Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Area to daughter Ellen and her then-husband Geoff Goins, the Millers still helped. Judy made her calls, John helped with "quality control."

This much-loved couple died in November 2022, but "Just Desserts" will go on. John's Cookie Monster costume — a bit bedraggled in recent years — has been retired in favor of a new update. Ellen and her sister Mary Miller will call on the restaurateurs, and eager guests



Courtesy Photo

The late Judy and John Miller during the annual "Just Desserts" event at Enchanted Forest.

will scout out the best desserts Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, noon to 2 p.m.

"Just Desserts" theme is simple: Enchanted Forest puts homemade desserts from Red River restaurants for enthusiastic individuals out on the trails and at the base area. In past years, popular concoctions, were Apple-Raisin Bread Pudding with Jack Daniels Sauce, Candy Mountain Fudge, Cinnamon Rolls, Bourbon Chocolate Pie, Wild Blueberry Pie, Key Lime Pie, Chocolate Chip Pecan Pie, Banana Pudding, Multi-layer Chocolate Buttercream Torte... and much more!

For many years now, Enchanted Forest has placed donation jars that let participants 'vote' with cash or coin for their favorite desserts to raise funds for the Red River Valley Education Foundation /Red River Valley Charter School. Last year's bake off raised \$206 for the Red River Valley Education Foundation.

2022 Restaurant winners:

- 1st - Sundance and John Hoag's Wild Blueberry Pie
- 2nd - Frank's Eat's & Sweets' Chantilly Cake
- 3rd - Old Tymer's Café and Carolyn's Cherry Pie

2022 Individuals/Organizations/ Non-Restaurants winners

- 1st - RR Community House and Dianne Hughes' Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream and Banana Pudding
- 2nd - Tony Howard's Chocolate Peanut Clusters
- 3rd - Best Western and Courtney Elizabeth Henderson's Blueberry Scones.

For more information, go to www.enchantedforestxc.com or call (505) 754-6112.

Questa And Red River Grow In Key Retail Categories

By PATTI SUNDAY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

The Northern region of Taos County is a bright spot for tourism based on consumer spending data. The two communities of Questa and Red River share proximity, workforce, housing, and a breathtaking, rural vibe that is very attractive to residents and tourists alike. Although the full-time populations of both villages are modest in size, key businesses are growing and setting records. A combination of locals, a stable tourism base, and many new visitors each month is good news.

Census records vary between 1,734-2,004 as to the total population of Questa. Questa Independent School District reports a significant rise in new students which would indicate that Questa's population is closer to the larger number. Red River reports 475 full time residents with about 200 more seasonal residents.

There is documented tourism synergy between the adjacent towns of Questa and Red River. The annual *Red River Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally* hosted in Red River is one of the most robust impact examples. Last year the rally hosted 24,000 guests in Red River. Questa restaurant, bar and liquor store, *El Monte Carlo* posted their best

weekend of the entire year over that holiday serving almost 3,000 customers. That equates to 500 percent more sales than *El Monte Carlo* normally has on a weekend. *El Monte Carlo* sells affordable homemade grab-n-go breakfast burritos and its liquor store also sells adult beverages and snacks to the biker guests.

The dominant retailer in 2022 again is the *Red River Brewing and Distillery*. It is a statewide leader in its category and the legitimate retail anchor of the area, meaning it is a destination that draws consumers that spill over and impact other businesses in the micro-economy. It is the #1 restaurant in the entire county based on performance.

More importantly, the *Red River Brewery and Distillery* ranks as the #1 brewery in the entire state of New Mexico. The #2 brewery is in Santa Fe and is not even a close second-posting 23 percent fewer patrons. The customer skew of Red River Brewery is solid because it actually serves the local Taos County population with consistent day trip patrons and it is the iconic "winter go-to" place for the Red River and Questa tourists.

"...and let's not forget the various contractors working nearby with Chevron — it provides both meals and lifestyle. I eat there often myself and visit with many of them," said economic

development consultant, Patti Sunday.

The other local leader is the Dollar General that has prominent yellow signage on HWY 522, the state highway that serves as the "main street" of Questa. Both General Dollar and the Family Dollar in Questa are performing well and have close annual customer counts with Dollar General leading. The ranking of zip codes that purchase from these retailers show a unique pattern of shopping and document regional shoppers as well as "driving" tourism clusters:

Dollar General's Shopping Visits for 2022 (Each number indicates where shoppers originated)

- 26,000 Questa residents
- 2,400 Cerro
- 1,300 Ranchos de Taos
- 1,200 Arroyo Hondo
- 1,000 San Cristobal
- 930 El Prado
- 885 San Luis, Colo.
- 847 Red River
- 563 Tucson, Ariz.
- 398 Town of Taos

Family Dollar, in Questa, is a firmly established business that has served the community for years. There was initially some concern that the Questa area could not support two dollar stores. Questa's newer dollar store, Dollar General,

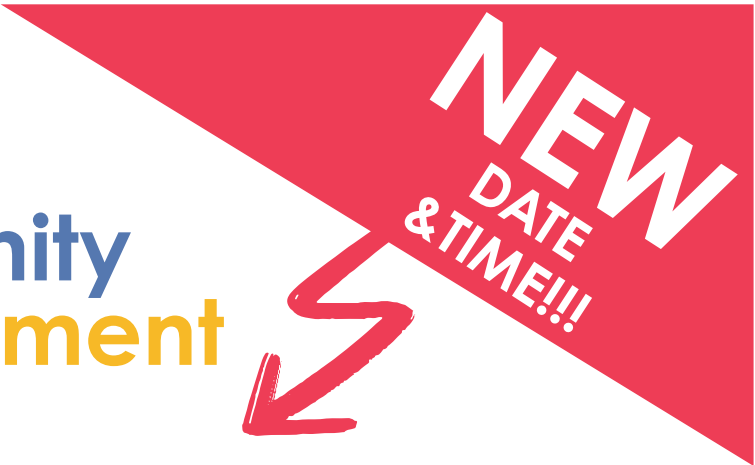
opened in the 4th quarter of 2021 and grew over 500 percent in 2022 with 75.7 percent of the Questa Dollar General shoppers returning home after the visit. This means it is a destination choice for the community. Of the 48,000 visits to the store last year, only 8,200 were occasional visitors which probably translates to tourists. The other 40,000 visitors shopped there from two times up to 30 times last year.

From an economic development perspective, this "General Store" category is an important *Capacity performance marker* for Questa in future development because it proves the potential of the area for future commercial development, explained Sunday. "Dollar stores train tourists to stop the car." This benefits small businesses nearby because it allows tourists to see what else is available. It creates synergy and changes consumer habits for errands and destinations. There is already an emerging pattern north at the Alamosa Walmart for shoppers. In 2021, approximately 400 Taos County shoppers drove to the Alamosa Walmart and in 2022 this number went to over 1,000 visits. Dollar stores fill the gap and may continue to change big consumer trips towards the North, visiting Alamosa versus heading South to Taos.

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
25TH**

at
*Living
Word
Ministries*
12 Llano Rd
Questa

A sset
B uilding
C ommunity
D evelopment

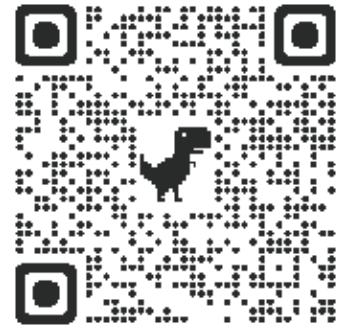


Workshop PART II

*For Questa Leaders, Non-Profit Board
Members, Volunteers, Passionate Citizens!*

**\$175
Value,
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*FREE if you
Register
ONLINE by
February 22!*



or by email Gayle Martinez at gaylelwm@msn.com

*This is a proven
"passion based"
program:
The strength of
your passion
will drive the
success
of the
community
outcomes.*

We welcome everyone's participation even if you did not attend the first workshop

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH INCLUDED

Facilitator Louis Jeantete, Turquoise Door Consulting of Taos

- Review outcomes from the April 2022 Workshop
- Participate in interactive activities to identify key community initiatives for 2023

OUTCOMES:

- Develop measurable goals and date-stamped action items for each 2023 key area
- Create a unified community calendar for 2023
- Improved community collaboration, communication, capacity building, and shared successes



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

Legislative Priorities For Community

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

With the 2023 Legislative Session upon us, the Village of Questa has outlined its legislative priorities for this session.

The village has named several key initiatives to improve the quality of life and future for the Village of Questa, some of which include infrastructure upgrades, public safety fleets, and investments into the youth facilities in the town.

Mayor John Ortega has noted that the village is requesting capital outlay funding to address needed upgrades and repairs, specifically to the sewer plan and increas-

ing the number of sewer lines in the town. Additionally, the mayor has said that the New Mexico Office of Natural Resources and Trustees (ONRT) has also provided some funding for the village to establish a new water well. While the funding is a great start, the village will need additional support from the state to complete this project.

Where road infrastructure is concerned, the mayor says a request will be made to complete the paving project of Cabresto Road, a three-phase project which has only completed the first phase to-date. Additionally, a request for funding

will be made to pave the upper and lower Embargo Roads as well as to fix Shirley Road. "These roads are in major disrepair and are currently village priorities," Mayor Ortega says.

Public Safety remains a big part of the mayor's promise to bring back a police department in Questa, a promise he's kept by hiring police chief Ronald Montez Jr. in the fall of 2022. In this same spirit, Mayor Ortega will be seeking funding to purchase 3-4 new police vehicles to equip the department with a fleet in order to respond to calls. The mayor is also seeking funding to complete a new fire department

building, a project that has been supported by congressional funding but needs state support to be completed. Additionally, the Mayor will be seeking funding to purchase a vehicle for municipal staff to conduct business in and around Questa.

In closing, Mayor Ortega says improving the quality of life for the youth in Questa is a big priority, therefore, he will be requesting for funding to create a rodeo grounds and skate park for the youth to utilize. He will also be requesting funding to repair the library, which has fallen into disrepair.

Legislation 56 Covers Much, Affecting Our Community

FROM CONSERVATION TO ENERGY, PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO TRANSPORTATION, HEALTHCARE, ELECTIONS, AND MORE.

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

New Mexico's 56th Legislature began on Jan.17 and 64 bills have been pre-filed including three amendments to the New Mexico Constitution, and two requests from the State of New Mexico to the United States Congress.

Taos County's state senator, Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales has pre-filed a bill (docket #223783.1) related to finance providing for the distribution of certain gas and oil tax revenues and federal Mineral Leasing Act payments to the state's Severance Tax Permanent Fund, a fund set up back in 1973 as a way to save and invest unused severance tax revenue to bond capital projects.

The 2022 elections saw the passage of an amendment to New Mexico's Permanent School Fund which subsequently necessitates a confirmation from the U.S. Congress altering the New Mexico Statehood & Enabling Act (1997). This is a joint resolution (docket #223468.1) in the New Mexico Senate introduced by Senator Pete

Campos (District 8).

New Mexico Senators Crystal Di-amond (District 35) and Cliff Pirtle (District 32) introduced a joint resolution (docket #223831.2) calling for an Article 5 Convention of the States by the U.S. Constitution for particular purposes involving imposing fiscal restraints on the U.S. government, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the U.S. government, and limiting the terms of office for federal officials and members of the U.S. Congress.

New Mexico Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (District 16) introduced a joint resolution (docket #223407.1) to amend the New Mexico Constitution to enshrine environmental rights for people including the right to clean and healthy air, soil, and environments, a stable climate with self-sustaining ecosystems as well as provide mandates for state, county, and municipalities to serve as trustees of their natural resources.

New Mexico Senator William Soules (District 37) introduced a joint resolution (docket #223665.1) to amend the New Mexico Constitution mandating the Legislature to create a Children's Bill of Rights for the protection of New Mexican youth which will include rights to timely medical

and dental healthcare; rights to behavioral healthcare; rights to nutritious food; rights to stable and healthy housing with electricity, plumbing, heat, and internet access; rights to transportation in order to reach educational, recreational, and vital services; rights to early education programs; rights to fully resourced community schools; rights to youth mentorship programs as well as rights to acquire all skills needed to maintain quality employment.

New Mexico Senator Steven Neville (District 2) introduced a joint resolution (docket #223332.2) amending Article 12, Section 6, of the New Mexico Constitution replacing the Public Education Commission with a State Board of Education to set policy and direct the Public Education Department providing for a transition period for the replacement. The new State Board of Education would determine public school policies and vocational education policies including financial directions, distribution of school funds, and financial accounting for school districts. The new State Board would be made up of 10 members elected to staggered terms of four years on the general election ballot. State Board members would be required to be residents of the State Board of Education

district which they are serving.

New Mexico Senator Ron Griggs (District 34) is proposing a ban on prescribed burns (docket #222935.1) from March 1 through May 31 in response to the devastating wildfires the state experienced last summer, wildfires which began from prescribed burns initiated by the United States Forest Service.

New Mexico Senator Peter Wirth (District 25) is proposing the Regional Water System Resiliency Act to create regional utility authorities for more localized management of water systems across the state.

New Mexico Senator Soules (District 37) is proposing an amendment to the Public Utility Act (docket #223768.2) mandating that all newly constructed infrastructure facilities for energy generation generate clean energy; clean energy as defined by the bill as energy generated from solar heat, solar light, wind, geothermal reservoirs, biomass, and/or hydro-power.

Senator Soules is also proposing an ambitious new infrastructure project in the form of a high-speed railroad from the state's southern border to its northern border; no details on the exact path

LEGISLATION 56 cont'd on page 26

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS:

Representative

Kristina Ortez

House District: 42

Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4344

Email: kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov

Website: <https://www.ortez4nm.com/>



Senator

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

Senate District: 6

Capitol Phone: (505) 986-4362

Email: roberto.gonzales@nmlegis.gov

Website: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/members/Legislator?SponCode=SGONZ>





By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

On Jan. 10, Finance Director Karen Quintana Shannon was appointed Village Administrator by Mayor John Ortega, and her appointment was approved unanimously by the Village Council. The Village Administrator position has been vacant since fall last year when Dominique Martinez, the previous administrator, left suddenly. Shannon previously worked as finance director for the Village for 8.5 years.

"I am very proud to have appointed Karen to the Administrator position, she is well qualified and deserving of the position" said Mayor John Ortega. "Promoting from within is always a good practice."

Regarding Village water rates, Village of Questa Attorney Chris DeFillipo stated that his office has an ordinance ready to present to Council. The public hearing on water rates has been pushed to February 28. Councilor Louise Gallegos suggested discounted rates for specific non-profit organizations located within the Village as a reward for the work they do for the Questa community.

Mayor Ortega suggested setting the first Council meeting in February (2/14) to discuss a new Planning & Zoning Board, which is in development. Village Attorney DeFillipo has stated that his office has an ordinance ready for that as well.

Sharon Nicholson of the Questa Public Library joined the meeting via Zoom and announced publicly that the library's Friends of the Library non-profit received a \$56,000 grant from the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division to revitalize their backyard area for outdoor activities. Nicholson also expressed that an ideal funding number from the NM Legislature would be \$50 million, that would make



Photo by Valerie Vigil

Village of Questa Finance Director Karen Quintana Shannon was appointed to the position of Village Administrator Tuesday, Jan. 10.

the Questa Public Library completely self-sustaining for the year.

Mayor Ortega shared that the Village's police department has hired one more officer who reportedly began on Jan. 17. "We have more candidates that we hope to be hiring soon. We are also in the process

of getting police vehicles."

A phone conversation with Questa Police Chief Ronald Montez revealed where the Questa Police Department is purchasing much of its equipment. "There isn't one retailer that supplies everything," said Chief Montez. "We have to get different sources, often the manufacturers themselves, for some equipment. For cars, which [are the only used items] the Village is looking to get, we are going through State Police. . . . We have to use several vendors to try and piece all this together."

Questa del Rio News asked if there is competition between different municipalities for equipment as there is for officers. "For everyday equipment and uniforms, we use Galls as they have a store in Albuquerque," Chief Montez responded. "As far as competition, all law enforcement agencies in the country use the same companies, so there can be competition at times." A recording of the Jan. 10 Village Council meeting is available at the following web address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4fwJx63Qk>.

Exciting Grant Updates From The Village Of Questa

By VALERIE VIGIL,
QUESTA VILLAGE CLERK

The new year has begun, and the Village of Questa has some exciting news about grants we have been awarded. Mayor Ortega and the Village staff have been working diligently to secure funding through grants to not only improve its different departments but also the community of Questa as a whole.

We are honored to announce the Friends of the Questa Public Library has been awarded \$56,000. The funding will be used to create beautiful landscaping behind the Questa Library, which will include benches, flowers, walkways, and a much-needed trail to Questa High School, so students can safely walk to the library and the Municipal Park. They come after school for study groups or a little reading time, and also enjoy being outside at the park. We are excited to see the result of this project and we hope that the entire community will enjoy it when it is completed. The Questa Public Library also received \$175,000 from Congressional Direct Spending to be used for major repairs to the library and its new

parking lot.

Questa Fire Captain Michael Cordova applied for a grants, and we are pleased to report he was awarded \$300,000 for a new water tender for the Questa Fire Department as well as \$15,000 for fire retention. The water tender is used for both wildland and structural fires in areas where water hydrants are unavailable. Questa has wonderful volunteer firefighters, and we are very thankful to have them in the community. They work hard to ensure safety and security when the need arises.

The VOQ was awarded \$20,000 from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for grant writing. The Village also received a \$112,454 Quality-of-Life Grant, for a new playground structure for the Municipal Park, which will be fully equipped with new equipment, accessories, and lots of fun add-ons.

The Village of Questa is looking forward to making the most in service in the new year and all the opportunities presented.

TAOS COUNTY GRT REDUCED FOR 2023

Taos County is the only county in New Mexico to see a decrease in Gross Receipts Taxes (GRT). New rates effective as of January 1, 2023.

TAOS COUNTY AREA	NEW GRT RATE JAN-JUNE 2023	OLD GRT RATE JULY-DEC 2022
Questa	7.9375%	8.4375%
Questa Airport	6.875%	7.375%
Red River	8.800%	9.300%
Unincorporated County	6.875%	7.375%

<https://www.tax.newmexico.gov/governments/gross-receipts-location-code-and-tax-rate-map/>

AMENDMENT cont'd from page 5

grounds. You want to building a solar farm on your land but some folks think it will reduce habitat for the local fauna? Good luck. You want to buy land and build a ranch but a neighbor is concerned about your cattle methane emissions? Good luck.

These aren't insignificant questions. We at the Questa Economic Development Fund have been working many years on local projects that are now in jeopardy. These include completion of a recreational trail linking Questa to Red River, river and trout habitat restoration, expansion of the Questa Business Park, promotion of local agriculture, and the

exploration of clean hydrogen production using local water resources and solar power. This all may sound ironic. It is. The Green Amendment would actually inhibit the transition of New Mexico to a new energy economy based on lower carbon emissions.

Environmentally, the Green Amendment runs contrary to energy diversification. Economically, it will destroy communities like Questa, a Village that is only now starting to make progress with increased job creation and tax revenue based on a post-mining economy and sound local environmental stewardship.

For the sake of Questa and communities throughout New Mexico, please voice your opposition to the "Green Amendment."

BODY MIND SPIRIT



By **BARBARA TRACY**

Being In Awe

An article in the New York Times speaks of the health benefits of AWE. The focus is on psychologist Dr. Dacher Keltner and his discoveries of how AWE can help our state of health and well-being. Dr. Keltner says that when we experience AWE it is calming to our nervous system and triggers the release of oxytocin which is the “love” hormone. He also discovered that AWE activates the nerves in the spinal cord that regulate heart rate, improves digestion, and helps

us breathe deeper. Further studies show that AWE helps to quiet our inner critic leaving us with a more peaceful mind.

Awe is a feeling of profound respect or wonder, a reverence that can even feel sacred. This may sound as though one has to have an epiphany to feel such a thing as reverence or sacredness. On the contrary, AWE is a state of being that is present in the here and now and when we are in the here and now, there is indeed wonder and reverence and surely a sacredness to the presence of life itself. For all life is now.

Experiencing AWE is not a difficult task, it is simply to be present where you are at any moment. Even the simplest of experiences can bring about a feeling of AWE such as the beauty that abounds around us, a quiet walk in nature, a wedding ceremony, watching inspiring movies, doing kindness for another, or a simple discovery of something new. I once attended a “drumming” with

about 40 or so other people. We each chose a drum from a great variety that were available and found a spot on the floor to sit in a circle. The drumming began slowly as each of us joined in. The drumming became faster and faster over time until the sound was like one vibrating drum.

Some of us were experiencing such a deep resonance to what was happening that tears were streaming down our faces. It was so AWE-some. And as intensely AWE-some as this felt, I have also experienced AWE in simpler things such as holding a newborn baby, the surprising wisdom of animals, an unexpected visit from a long-ago friend... I'm always in AWE of the view as we rise over the hill coming from Santa Fe and see the canyon carved by the Rio Grande.

I remember as a very small girl being in downtown Kansas City, Missouri and looking in all the windows of the many department stores that we passed by.

This was during Christmas time and the stores were decorated with colored lights and beautiful ornaments. However, one window was different from the rest. This window was blue. And when I stood on my tip toes and looked through the window, I saw a miniature village with tiny lights like stars with snow and tiny people in sleighs or on skates moving through the scene. There were miniature animals and a myriad of activity. It took my breath away. I was mesmerized, it was as though another world existed that I had never seen. Now many, many years later, I still remember that window and what I felt. It was AWE.

Have you ever taken the leap to do something you thought you couldn't do and find to your surprise that you can do it? There is a wonderful feeling of AWE. Enjoy each moment as it comes. Slow down, breathe and be present in that moment where all potential and life abound – the place of AWE.

SENIOR MENU: FEBRUARY 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
JAN 30	JAN 31	1 Beef Ravioli w/Marinaria Sauce, California Vegetables, Spinach Salad, Garlic Bread, Strawberries in pudding	2 Grilled Chicken Breast over Garlic Noodles, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Biscuit w/Butter, Banana	3 Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Mushroom Gravy, Spinach & Onions, Roll w/Butter, Pears
6 BBQ Pork Patty, Baked Beans, Spinach, Cucumber & Tomato Salad, Cornbread, Roll w/Butter, Grapes	7 Pork Chop, Rice Pilaf, California Vegetables, Roll w/Butter, Peaches in Cottage Cheese	8 Red Beef Enchiladas, Black Beans, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Tortilla, Orange	9 Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Lettuce/Tomato, Coleslaw, Celery & Carrot Sticks, Potato Chips, Fresh Pear	10 Chicken Fajita, Onions & Peppers, Refried Beans, Squash and Corn, Apple Turnover
13 Ham and Cheese Sandwich, Lettuce & Tomato, Tater Tots, Green Beans, Pineapple	14 Roast Turkey w/Gravy, Bread Stuffing, Asparagus, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Roll w/Butter, Tapioca Pudding	15 Pork Carne Adovada Burrito, Lettuce & Tomato, Refried Beans, Chuckwagon Veggies, Peaches	16 Chicken Alfredo, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Garlic Bread, Apricots	17 BBQ Beef Brisket, Pork & Beans, Carrots, Coleslaw, Cornbread w/Butter, Oatmeal Cookie
20 Beef Tips over Noodles, Vegetable Medley, Roll w/Butter, Vanilla Ice Cream	21 Pork Posole w/Red Chile, Calabacitas, Tortilla, Cherry Cobbler	22 Ash Wednesday — Fish Sandwich w/Tarter Sauce, Cucumber & Tomato Salad, Mixed Vegetables, Hushpuppy, Apple	23 Baked Cheese Ziti w/Meaty Marinara Sauce, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Bananas w/Pudding	24 Egg Salad Croissant Sandwich, Three Bean Salad, Pickle, Strawberry Shortcake
27 Chicken Tempura w/Orange Sauce, Rice, Asian Vegetables, Fortune Cookie, Mandarin Oranges	28 Tuna Casserole, Peas and Carrots, Spinach Salad, Crackers, Tropical Fruit	MAR 1	MAR 2	MAR 3

Taos County Senior Program 575-737-8927 • PLEASE NOTE THAT MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

This Senior Lunch menu applies to all Senior Centers in Taos County. Meals are cooked fresh at each location.

Lunch costs \$1.50 to anyone over age 60. Those under 60 pay \$7.50. Lunch hours are 11 am to 1 pm. Grab and Go Lunches are available 11 am to noon. Meals-on-Wheels are provided at the same price to frail, homebound, or at-risk elderly.

To qualify, an in-home assessment at the request of the client's physician is conducted by project staff, stating that this person is not able to travel to the Senior Center.

For our readership area, Senior Lunches and Meals on Wheels are served at Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd., Questa, NM 87556 (575) 586-0508 and at 583 State Road 196, Amalia, NM 87512, (575) 586-0071.

Free Senior Exercise classes at the Questa Center are Thursdays 10 – 11 am. Free transportation is provided to registered Seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Registering for events or meals (must be over 60) takes only a few minutes. Arrive early to sign up.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! Questanews.com



LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

You Cannot Change The Inevitable

The only thing you can do is examine your attitude. Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react to it. Undoubtedly, you've heard that before, but here are studies that verify the role your attitude plays on your life.

In a report on senior citizens, researchers rated 1,000 Dutch men and women aged 65 to 85 with respect to their degree

of optimism, health, and longevity. Over the next 10 years, participants classified as being very optimistic had 55 percent fewer deaths from all causes and 23 percent fewer heart-related deaths than highly pessimistic individuals.

Harvard researchers found cardioprotective effects when they followed 1,306 men who had been rated for optimism and pessimism in 1986. During the next 10 years, men reporting high levels of optimism had almost half the risk of suffering any coronary complications compared to peers classified as being very pessimistic.

According to a University of Texas study of 2,478 senior citizens, researchers confirmed that increasing depression ratings were associated with a significantly higher incidence of stroke. Researchers found that optimists who viewed aging as a positive experience lived about 7.5 years longer than participants with a much

darker perspective.

Researchers say that aging is mainly psychological, not biological. Thousands of reports demonstrate how positive attitudes help patients rid themselves of all sorts of diseases, including cancer.

What is your first reaction to a crisis? Let's say you get diagnosed with a serious illness. First your heart skips a beat and then thunders like a jackhammer. Maybe you break out in a cold sweat. Then when reality sets in, do you retreat? Do you roll up in a fetal position, pull the covers over your head and hope your problems disappear?

Lots of us actually die because of our expectations. We're conditioned to believe the average lifespan is around 80 years, so we wind down and die right on schedule. We usually get what we expect, not what we want. I avoided that expectation because I didn't believe it would happen

to me, so I'm still here at 86 and painting, painting, painting every day. I believe in the title of this column: LIVE LOVE LAUGH and I also take preventative measures to keep me in good shape. It's a well-known fact that people will do everything in their power searching for cures but will ignore prevention.

The messages you receive, the messages that reach your cells are the key. You are the gatekeeper. To thrive, you need to actively seek a joyful, loving and fulfilling life that stimulates growth. Read *Biology of Belief* by Dr. Bruce Lipton to learn more about his approach to the connection between mind and matter.

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.

No se puede cambiar lo inevitable

Lo único que puedes hacer es examinar tu actitud. La vida es 10% lo que te sucede y 90% cómo reaccionas ante ello. Sin duda alguna, esto lo has escuchado antes, pero hay estudios que verifican el papel que desempeña la actitud en la vida.

En un informe sobre personas de la tercera edad, los investigadores calificaron a 1000 hombres y mujeres de Holanda que tenían en ese momento entre 65 y 85 años con respecto a su grado de optimismo, salud y longevidad. Durante los diez años que siguieron, los participantes clasificados como muy optimistas tuvieron un 55 % menos de muertes por todas las causas y un 23 % menos de muertes relacionadas con el corazón que quienes fueron calificadas como muy pesimistas.

Los investigadores de Harvard encontraron efectos cardioprotectores cuando dieron seguimiento a 1306 hombres que habían sido clasificados según sus niveles de optimismo y pesimismo en 1986. Durante los diez años que siguieron, los hombres que contaban con niveles altos de optimismo tenían casi la mitad del riesgo de sufrir complicaciones coronarias en comparación con los que habían sido clasificados en el mismo estudio como muy pesimistas.

Según un estudio de la Universidad de Texas enfocado en 2478 personas de la tercera edad, los investigadores confirmaron que el aumento de los grados de depresión se asociaba con una incidencia

significativamente mayor de accidentes cerebrovasculares. Los investigadores descubrieron que los optimistas que consideraban el envejecimiento como una experiencia positiva vivieron alrededor de 7,5 años más que los participantes con una perspectiva mucho más oscura sobre el mismo tema.

Los investigadores dicen que el envejecimiento es principalmente psicológico, no biológico. Miles de informes demuestran cómo las actitudes positivas ayudan a los pacientes a librarse de todo tipo de enfermedades, incluido el cáncer.

¿Cuál es tu primera reacción ante una crisis? Digamos que te diagnostican una enfermedad grave. Primero tu corazón da un vuelco y luego empieza a tronar como un martillo neumático. Tal vez empieces a sudar frío. Más tarde, cuando la realidad se asienta, ¿te inhibes? ¿Te pones en posición fetal, te tapas la cabeza con las cobijas y esperas a que tus problemas desaparezcan?

Muchos de nosotros en realidad morimos a causa de nuestras expectativas. Estamos condicionados a creer que el promedio de vida es de aproximadamente ochenta años, por lo que empezamos a apagarlos y nos morimos precisamente en ese tiempo. Por lo general, obtenemos lo que esperamos, no lo que queremos. Evité esa expectativa porque no creí que me pasaría a mí, entonces sigo aquí a los 86 años y pintando, pintando, pintando todos los días. Creo en el título de esta columna: VIVE AMA RÍE y también tomo medidas preventivas para mantenerme en buena forma. Es un hecho bien conocido que las personas hacen todo lo que está a su alcance cuando se trata de buscar una curación, pero que ignoran las medidas

de prevención.

Los mensajes que recibes, los mensajes que llegan a tus células son la clave. Eres el guardián de la puerta. Para prosperar, debes tratar activamente de llevar una vida alegre, plena de amor y de satisfacciones, que estimule tu crecimiento. Lee *The Biology of Belief* del Dr. Bruce Lipton para obtener más información sobre sus

ideas sobre la conexión entre la mente y la materia.

Ellen Wood de Questa es una autora galardonada y una artista que usa el nombre de Maruška. El sitio web de sus libros y pinturas es www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com/ellen-wood. Para ponerse en contacto con Ellen escriba a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

Traducido de Teresa Dovalpage

JR (Malaquias) says:

“Q: Is your car as wobbly as a cow on ice skates?”



A: Bring it to us and we'll fix it. (But we can't fix the cow.)



Cow art by Maruška aka Ellen Wood

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

Questa Headstart; An Essential Resource

By STAFF WRITERS

Questa Headstart is an essential resource for early childhood education. Their dedicated team has created a fun, safe and productive learning environment for children ages 3– 5. Director Rosie Sanchez has been with Headstart since 1993. She came initially as a parent of a child at Headstart and her love of the place continued to grow and develop. Rosie received her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 2004.

Vanessa Wilson is a teacher's aide whom Rosie calls her right-hand. Vanessa started at Enos Garcia YDI (Youth Development Inc., Headstart's parent company) and, after one year, transferred to Questa Headstart where she has been for four years. Vanessa is finishing up her Associates in Early Childhood Education at UNM-Taos. Her daughter Nevaeh, comes with her and attends Questa Headstart. (Nevaeh is Heaven spelled backwards!)

Joelle Pacheco, of Amalia, has been the Headstart cook for three years. When she is not in the kitchen she helps out a lot in the classroom. The three dedicated staff members love their jobs



Headstart Courtesy Photo

Questa Headstart Staff at Christmas 2022; from left to right is Headstart cook Joelle Pacheco, Director Rosie Sanchez, Chris Williams and Sharon Borges masquerading as Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Vanessa Wilson, and "Grandma Gloria," Gloria Martinez from the Foster Grandparent Program.

and keep the place running smoothly. It is a great program, and truly gives the students a head start — they love coming to school and benefit from the social environment of the classroom. Rosie, Vanessa and Joelle make sure to make learning experiences enjoyable for everyone.

Walk into the classroom and you will immediately see it is just brimming with the energy and activity of 20 happy children. Twenty is their absolute maximum number for students and they are not



Photo by Dylan R. N. Crabb

Questa Headstart Director, Rosie Sanchez, in classroom with 3 to 5 year-olds.

accepting any new ones at this time.

The room is divided into sections, each with a name (science room, reading room, etc.) and the students are directed to one group or split up into several groups to different sections, a very systematic approach. From there the kids largely have free reign in what activities they would like to engage in. If conflict arises between children, Rosie makes sure to communicate clearly with those involved, having them face each other and acknowledge each other's concerns.

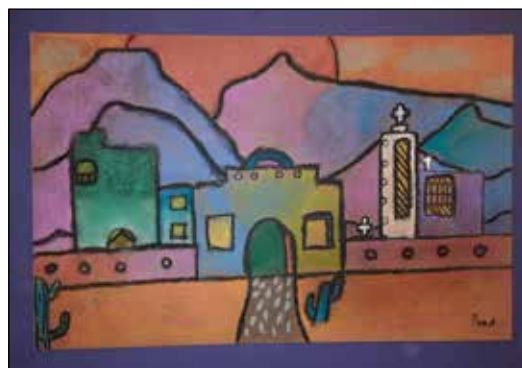
Rosie is passionate about making sure the kids have the reading skills they need to continue advancing through school. "Our job is to make sure the kids know every letter of the alphabet and all the sounds to improve their reading skills," Rosie explained.

Headstart is in session beginning at 7:30 am, breakfast is served at 8:30 am, lunch is at 11:30 am. The children get snacks at 1:30 pm, before going home at 2 pm. Questa Headstart is located at 148 Embargo Road and can be reached at (575) 586-0585.

Red River Art Students Receive Honors



J.T. Radcliff's digital poster.



8th grader, Ben Allen won 2nd place for his chalk pastel creation.



Gideon Hampton's digital poster.

By LORIE HAWKES,
RED RIVER VALLEY
CHARTER SCHOOL

Several students at RRVCS received statewide recognition during the 2022 fall semester. Third through eighth grade art students, under the direction of Lorie Hawkes, were encouraged to participate in The Hispanic Heritage Youth Art Contest. The annual contest is sponsored by Sandia National Laboratories, Kirt-

land Air Force Base, NNSA Sandia Site Office, and NNSA ABQ Complex.

The contest encourages students to learn more about the art and culture of Hispanic regions and write a paragraph relating their art to the theme. This year's theme was "Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation." The elementary students created colorful Mexican folk art, and the 7th and 8th grade class drew chalk pastel adobe villages, representing the togetherness of a community. RRVCS

8th grader, Ben Allen, was awarded 2nd place in the middle school category for his colorful masterpiece!

In November, RRVCS students participated in another statewide contest sponsored by The United Way of Central New Mexico. This contest asks students to inspire their peers with a poster showing the importance of regular school attendance. Two of our 6th graders, Gideon Hampton and J.T. Radcliff received honorable mention for

their digital posters relating to the theme of "The Tassel is Worth the Hassle."

In addition to the statewide honors, 25 of our students were selected to display their art work along with students of Alta Vista Elementary and home schooled students, at the Questa Library. This lovely local display was on display until the end of January.

We congratulate all these students on their accomplishments and artistic endeavors. Keep the creativity flowing!



Grizzly Bears

By LIAM KNUTSON – 8 YEARS OLD,

First of all, grizzly bears have bounced back from near extinction. By 1975, the Grizzly population had fallen below 140, now 41 years later that number has increased to about 700.

Second of all, grizzly bears still face many challenges in the wild. The loss of important food sources is one. There are fewer trout and elk. The good news is that grizzly bears are adaptable.

Last, but not least, conservationists say that grizzly bears will need to be protected to prevent over hunting. States will need to come up with a good conservation plan. In conclusion, grizzly bears will need a lot of help to prevent extinction.



A grizzly bear sow and her cubs make their way through the spring snow in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. © Chase Dekker | Dreamstime.com

What Valentine's Day Means To Me

By AR, 6TH GRADER AT ALTA VISTA ELEMENTARY/ INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

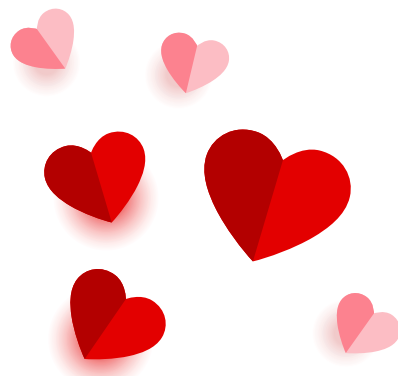
Valentine's day is when you love someone, for example, your mom and dad, your grandparents, your siblings, or your boyfriend.

It also means to me when you like someone and on Valentine's, you tell them that you like them. You can also give them chocolate or gifts like teddy bears.

What does Valentine's Day mean to you?



Drawing by Lyanna, Alta Vista 6th grader



Expressions Of Love: Valentine's Exhibit

By PEGGY TRIGG

The Questa Public Library is sharing a little bit of love with our community for the month of February. Come see our exhibit entitled "Expressions of Love" which will focus on handmade Valentines from locals in our community. The premise is simple, "Share the Love."

The main display wall will be filled with expressive Valentines that each focus on a poem of love. These poems

can be written about the love of anything. This includes poetry about relationships, or perhaps a place, or an object or even an event or activity. The poems will be a mixture of newly composed poetry or historical favorites. Also on display will be our favorite books on expressions of love. Come stop by for this fun, public display.

Didn't get your Valentine in for the exhibit but still want to participate? We would love to display your Valentine, just bring it to the library and we'll hang it for you! The only stipulation is the poem must be library appropriate! Authors of historical works must be acknowledged

See you at the library and HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

QISD Board Sets Date for Public Forum on School Week

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Questa Independent School District Board deliberated over potential benefits of altering the district's standard school week to either a 5-day week or a 4-day week with one hybrid day. The Board decided on a date for a public forum so the Questa public can be a part of the discussion.

The idea is a response to the learning loss experienced at the height of the 2020 COVID pandemic as Principal Elaine Romero discussed with Questa del Rio News last December. An administrative concern with extending the school week is increased budget cost.

Diane Leon of the QISD Calendar Committee spoke at the board meeting saying "there are concerns about learning loss from COVID so our committee is exploring whether or not a 5-day week would help."

Mrs. Leon explained two primary reasons for the change:

(1) address learning loss particularly at the elementary level;

(2) assist families with child care on Fridays.

Mrs. Leon also mentioned that if the district returned to a 5-day week, it would not be able to return to a 4-day week again because the New Mexico Public Education Department no longer allows it. A compromise option would be to open up one day specifically for struggling students or advanced students who may need or want extra time in school but will not need the entirety of the school facilities to be open, this option would also take some of the increased operational costs away from the district.

See the Questa del Rio News Facebook page for updates on this story.

A partial recording of the January 18 QISD Board meeting is available to the public at the following web address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2MDBLblmMs&t=1820s>.

QUESTA WILDCAT'S SPORTS SCHEDULE

Basketball: High/Middle School							
	Junior Varsity Women	Junior Varsity Men	Varsity Women	Varsity Men			
Feb-2	3:30 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7:30 PM	HOME	QUESTA HIGH	Peñasco High
Feb-4	2 PM	3:30 PM	5 PM	6:30 PM	HOME	QUESTA HIGH	Escalante MS/HS
Feb-9		4 PM	5:30 PM	7 PM	AWAY	Peñasco High	QUESTA HIGH
Feb-11	2 PM	3:30	5 PM	6:30 PM	HOME	QUESTA HIGH	Mesa Vista High
Feb-13		4 PM	5:30 PM	7 PM	HOME	QUESTA HIGH	McCurdy Charter
Feb-15	4 PM	4 PM	5:30 PM	7 PM	AWAY	Mora Hlgh	QUESTA HIGH

Questa Jr/Sr High School Honor Society will be hosting a blood drive!

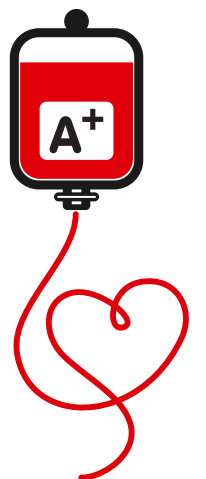
Where: Questa Jr/Sr High School Health Room

When: Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023

Time: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Drive Code: ABQHS

Blood donors are welcome to walk in, or they can set up an appointment at vitalant.org or by calling (877) 258-4825





BIRD IS THE WORD

By BRYCE FLANAGAN

Turkey Vultures: Environmentally Essential

You've seen them circling around in the skies or picking apart a carcass on your commute — black wings that block out all light, with a tiny red speck indicating a bald, wrinkled head. They're more like background noise in a genus of animals that includes such bombastic characters as peacocks, flamingos, western tanager, woodpeckers, and other colorful winged beauties. No, nobody is lining up with their camera to take a picture of a turkey vulture neck-deep in the innards of

roadkill to bring back home and show off to the family: "Look how it devours that whole intestine in one gulp, honey!" But don't let their appearance or unsavory gleaning habits take away from the vital role they play in preventing diseases in livestock and other animals.

Turkey Vultures (much like myself) prefer to sleep in and take flight later in the day around the early afternoon. They hop and jump in a gangly, uncoordinated manner before finally taking to the skies and soaring with all the majesty of an eagle... but none of the beauty. You'll rarely see a vulture of any kind flap its wings, they're masters of gliding unimpeded, and this helps them perform their iconic behavior of circling about in the sky. They can maintain a high altitude for six hours without flapping their wings.

These birds are not, contrary to Looney Tunes cartoons, hovering and waiting for an animal to die, they're finding one that's already dead. Nor are they just using their eyes, as these vultures have an incredible sense of smell virtually unmatched in the avian sphere. When they do land, their razor-sharp hook-shaped beak tears through

hide and skin to the insides of their prey. A group of vultures can make quick work of even large carcasses, expediting the decay process so that small insects can begin their part of the cycle until only bone and some ligaments are left behind.

The key to vultures being able to eat rotting flesh without contracting innumerable diseases lies in their gut microbes. Whereas human digestive systems contain hundreds of different types of tiny microbial allies, the Turkey Vulture gets by with just 75, but these are 75 of the meanest, toughest microbes you'd ever have the displeasure of meeting. Together with stomach acids that could burn your skin, the vulture digestive system acts as the ultimate waste disposal for harmful diseases that could otherwise decimate entire ecosystems if left unchecked.

Now for the fun part. Believe it or not, vultures pride themselves on keeping up appearances and being well-groomed. Basking for hours on end in the sun allows the blood and gore accumulated on their heads to shrivel, dry, and fall off leaving their scalps looking pristine and I assume in vulture eyes, attractive. Vultures preen

their feathers to remove debris and remnants of their previous meals just like any other bird, but how do they keep their feet and talons so clean? Through the miracle of urohidrosis! You may know that rather than having two separate exits for solid and liquid waste, birds have a combination of the two, called a cloaca. Vultures have adapted in such a way that they can spew this mixture directly onto their feet. This serves two purposes: the bacterium in their waste helps kill off any bacteria lingering around their feet and, as it dries, it is a cooling mechanism in hot weather.

Vultures thankfully are of little concern in terms of conservation, their populations are not threatened. But I would hate to live in a world with only carrion-eating birds flying through the sky. Part of the reason vultures' numbers are so strong is the easy accessibility of food for them. For non-carrion eating birds, natural food sources are becoming more and more scarce, just one reason for the decline of many bird species across the world. Consider lending a helping hand to birds who eat seed and suet by putting out feeders in your back yards, especially in the winter months.



By TONER MITCHELL

THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT LEGACY FUND: CONSERVATION FUNDING FOR RURAL NEW MEXICO

In this year's 60-day legislative session our elected representatives will discuss bills dealing with education, housing, energy, climate, equity, and other important issues. As always, 2023's session will feature plenty of debate on how New Mexico will spend money. Due to a budget surplus from significant oil and gas revenue, we are fortunate there is money to be spent.

New Mexico also has significant needs in the area of conservation, where investment in natural resources promises substantial benefits in the resiliency of rivers and streams and forests. Rural communities depend on these resources for agriculture, fish and game harvest, and tourism. Many of our natural resources are showing signs of wear and tear, either through deferred maintenance or due to drought conditions that have persisted for many years.

To address the conservation need,

legislators will debate the creation of the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, which was envisioned to provide recurring state funding for existing stewardship programs. These programs range across several state agencies, including the New Mexico Environment Department; Agriculture Department; Game and Fish; Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department; and the Economic Development Department's Outdoor Recreation Division. In addition to funding projects directly, the Legacy Fund would leverage significant federal monies, most of which require non-federal matching funds to qualify for funding.

Federal leveraging, of course, increases the scale and impact of natural resource projects, which has been particularly relevant to Questa's efforts to diversify its economy. The restoration of the Red River behind Eagle Rock Lake and upstream of the hatchery entailed an initial contribution by the Questa Economic Development Fund, which New Mexico Game and Fish quadrupled through federal leveraging to afford a much larger project. Importantly, through a lack of non-federal leveraging over the years, New Mexico has left lots of federal dollars on the table.

Legislators will be discussing two funding models for the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund. They can create a large expendable fund to be distributed across the agencies, or they can employ a

trust fund model in which a large corpus will yield interest to spend on projects. Legislators must also debate the size of the Legacy Fund. The larger it is, the more important work can be done through higher direct spending or higher interest yields. In an ideal world, the size of the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund will be in the hundreds of millions.

The fund as envisioned would enable tribal communities, acequias, soil and water districts, NGOs, and community groups to apply for funds to implement projects enhancing water and land resources. The River Stewardship Program, which funded the subsequent stream restoration below Eagle Rock as well as habitat improvements up in Red River,

would be just one of the programs that would receive Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund monies. The Outdoor Recreation Division, another proposed Legacy Fund recipient, has supported Localogy and Vida del Norte Coalition summer youth camp in Questa through its Outdoor Equity program. Programs such as these would not only be sustained through the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, they could possibly be expanded.

As a past and, hopefully, future beneficiary of the state's investment in natural resources, Questa has much to gain if funding legislation is passed. Contact your legislators and express your support for significant and recurring conservation funding.



Courtesy Photo

Learning About The Importance And Impacts Of Outdoor Recreation

NM RECREATION UPLIFT INPUT SESSIONS

By STAFF WRITERS

Public Land Solutions (PLS) is working with the State of New Mexico to conduct stakeholder meetings throughout the state to learn more about the importance and impacts of outdoor recreation — how, when, and where people are recreating. PLS will be hosting an in-person forum for the Questa area at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 7, at Rael's Market and Coffee Shop. Join your neighbors at the meeting to share your outdoor recreation experiences and aspirations while enjoying free pizza.

In 2019 Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed New Mexico's Outdoor Recreation Division into law, creating the Economic Development Department Outdoor Recreation Division. This established a commitment to focus on growing outdoor recreation opportunities, jobs, accessibility, and education to enhance the economy of the state.

The NM Outdoor Recreation website explains, "We have an ambitious vision



Courtesy Photo

Mountain Skills Rock Climbing Adventures guiding climbers up Questa's Roadside Distraction.

for outdoor recreation in New Mexico. Our goal is nothing short of transforming the state's economic, social, and

environmental future by championing sustainable outdoor recreation and increasing access to it for all New Mex-

icans, especially those who have been excluded from the traditional outdoor recreation and environmental movements." <https://www.nmoutside.com/>.

Public Land Solutions, a non-profit outdoor recreation consulting firm, will collect public input, which will be synthesized into a proposal to the state with recommendations on how to enhance and develop current and new outdoor recreation to help grow and diversify local economies.

Please plan to attend, no RSVP necessary. For more information, please contact Lynn@questaedf.com or leave a message at (575) 586-2149. For more information on the PLS NM project, visit www.publiclandsolutions.org/new-mexicouplift.

NM Recreation Input Session

Tuesday, Feb. 7 p.m. at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited

Rael's Store & Coffee Shop

2430 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556

Free Pizza for all attendees

Info: lynn@questaedf.com

Wildfire Preparedness Is Year-Round: Resolve To Be Ready

By LADOSHIE HOLMAN

The *Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round* campaign continues in 2023 with monthly wildfire preparedness messages from the Forest Stewards Guild, the Fire Adapted New Mexico learning network (FACNM) and partners at national forests, agencies and non-governmental organizations. While winter may provide a break from wildfire activity, wildfires are possible during any time of year. As we begin this year, the message for January is Resolve to be Ready.

Despite recent snow in many parts of the state, New Mexico is still expected to have a dry La Niña winter. Stay active this winter to reduce wildfire risk in an incremental way. There are many resources available to learn about Living with Wildfire and Ready, Set, Go! principles to help protect your family and home. Consider sharing what you learn with neighbors to enhance the effectiveness of your own planning and action.

PREPARE FOR WILDFIRES

Resolve to be ready!

- Sign up for county-level or local emergency alerts and warnings. Download the FEMA app or check with your city or county government to see if they have an alert and notification system in place.
- Bookmark NM Fire Info and InciWeb for up-to-date wildfire information.
- Make an emergency plan: Choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes and establish an out-of-town contact.
- Take a current photo of you and your pet(s) together in case you get separated during a disaster.
- Get to know your neighbors and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- Take a class in CPR and first aid.
- Keep and update emergency supplies, including cash.
- Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
- Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like wildfire and floods. Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
- Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund. Financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit.

The Carson National Forest and the Fire Adapted New Mexico learning network are working with the Santa Fe, and Cibola national forests, Forest Stewards Guild, New Mexico Forestry Division, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Land Management New Mexico to continue in 2023 a wildfire preparedness calendar 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.

Solid Waste Recycling On Shaky Ground

By JENNIFER PARIS

For over a year, Taos County Solid Waste has been told that the recycling part of their operation would be split into a separate Recycling Department with its own Recycling Coordinator, budget, and a few dedicated employees. On January 18, the county administration reversed that decision, telling Solid Waste Management that there would be no further investment of money or personnel to support the recycling effort.

It's unclear what this will mean for those county residents who use the transfer stations to recycle cardboard, metal, electronics, and batteries. It's very clear what it means for the Town of Taos—no recycling at all. Despite promises to the contrary, Town Council at this point will not move forward with turning over the Bertha Street Facility to Solid Waste and will not give them the needed additional personnel to operate it.

Getting to know Taos County Solid Waste hasn't been high on my personal list of priorities, but the more I read about environmental crises, plastic in the bloodstream of infants, methane gas' contribution to pollution, and more, I wanted to know how the waste in our area is being handled, what we citizens in Taos County could do to help, and how Solid Waste

could help us start to recycle or repurpose what they cannot take.

I met with Edward Martinez, Director of Solid Waste, and Lorenzo Gutierrez, Code Compliance Officer and Recycling Official. I found these men who love to hike, fish, and hunt to be so genuinely concerned about Taos County and so committed to recycling that they have spent many extra hours, much physical labor and psychological exertion outside their duties to keep up with the increasing demands of recycling, despite being short-staffed during most of the COVID epidemic. They are anticipating that finally in February, they will be once again fully staffed.

Edward and Lorenzo explained in detail, how Solid Waste supports itself

and has had a surplus for several years.

Recycled products are a huge component of the Green Economy. Taos County's fees are \$120 per year per household, less than half of the next least expensive county in New Mexico (North Central Solid Waste fees are \$268 per year). It makes sense to sell the cardboard and metal to bring income to the county and to the Recycling Program's budget. They shared how willing they are to work with the community and with projects such as TiLT's Repurposing Plastic Project in Taos and Questa to recycle plastic. Any potential project of turning food scraps to compost would save the county money and could bring additional income. Methane pollution would be reduced by not putting food scraps into the landfill. Each load in the

landfill costs the county money, paid to the Town of Taos who operates it. Each cell in the landfill costs \$2.5M to build. Seven total are planned to accept the 84 tons of garbage we generate every single day.

I was stunned by their openness to explain the whole operation and by Edward's injunction, "WE NEED SUPPORT! We think we have pushed the recycling program up a steep hill and we're almost at the top! But without the Taos County [administration's] support, we will slide back down to the bottom."

Edward and Lorenzo know they can run a recycling program that profits the county. They want to work with private, non-profit, educational, and governmental

RECYCLING cont'd on pg 26

DO YOU CARE ABOUT RECYCLING IN TAOS COUNTY? CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS:

TAOS COUNTY OFFICIALS

Brent Jaramillo

County Manager
(575) 737-6304

brent.jaramillo@taoscounty.org

F.R. Robert Romero

Commissioner District I
Landfill Board
(575) 779-0765

frbob.romero@taoscounty.org

Miguel Romero, Jr.

Commissioner District 2 (represents Questa)
Phone: (575) 779-4203

Miguel.romero@taoscounty.org

Darlene Vigil

Commissioner District 3
(575) 779-2094

Darlene.vigil@taoscounty.org

Letters can be addressed to
105 Albright Street, Taos, NM 87571

TOWN OF TAOS OFFICIALS

Mayor Pascualito Maestas

(575) 751-2002

pmaestas@taosgov.com

Andrew Gonzales

Taos Town Manager
(575) 751-2002

agonzales@taosgov.com

Letters can be addressed to
400 Camino de la Placita, Taos, NM 87571

Self-Fed Forests: Without Chemicals, Antibiotics, and Fossil Fuels

By JULIAN LAROZA

In this time of crisis, I am calling for all hands on deck to look at the way our ancestors lived to restore balance and harmony around the world. Technology may exist that can reverse the damage humans have caused, however, I put my faith in nature itself and its ability to always return to balance. I believe it would happen by itself if all destructive systems ceased; and it could be done much faster if we also worked with nature to repair the ecosphere. Permaculture is a lifestyle, even a philosophy of such a way to live. It is the way our ancestors lived.

One benefit of permaculture is that no waste is created. Natural systems are self-fed and self-perpetuating. Permaculture includes regenerative agriculture, a way of growing food that enhances the soil and provides habitat for animals. Permaculture is also about decentralizing people and including ourselves as part of the great web of life, with consideration for future

generations. This can be done on a local level, beginning with education in schools, perfection of farming techniques, and preservation of our acequias.

No waste is caused, and all of nature's gifts — which we call resources — are used as much as possible. A field with swales or channels to hold and spread the rain and mountain water that blesses it will never need chemical fertilizers to maximize yields. No pesticides are needed in this system, as insects are also a blessing. They are a food source for larger creatures, all of which are essential for life in any given ecosystem, essential pieces of the complex puzzle we call the biosphere.

Some of the food we grow will be shared with birds, bees, badgers, and bears. The winged ones help with pollination, the furry ones give nutrients back to the soil and help the mycelium grow. One way bears do this is by scratching trees, opening little dwelling areas in which spores can cultivate. Dr. Paul Stamets discovered that mushrooms are critical to

the survival of bees. They help them detox from the ever more pervasive amount of pesticides and herbicides in the environment. We plant the trees and shrubs, the bees pollinate them — 70 percent of our food relies on this. The bears receive nourishment from them and continue to help the bees survive. All predators are essential for the ecosystem because they control the number of those that feed on grasses, allowing a balanced amount of vegetation to reside on a forest floor. Bears, jaguars, and wolves must all be reintroduced to their original habitats and allowed to live in peace.

Rather than caging animals, why not let them roam freely, at least in the expanse of land you care for? Why not grow enough food to save wild animals from starvation? And why would we till a field every year, destroying microorganisms in the soil when we could plant perennials and trees that will feed our grandchildren long after we are gone?

Large trees are needed to provide

shade for the lower canopy of fruit producing trees and shrubs. Our wise nursery trees provide support for all the little plant people in the forest, greatly raising the chances of survival for any seedling underneath it. The branches they shed feed mycelium and continue building the soil. Trees love it when chickens scratch and aerate the soil around their roots. When we expand and cultivate such a wonderful space of love as a food forest, many wild animals will visit and bless the area with their presence. The more harmonious, and abundant it becomes, the more rain, and the more animals, will come, adding to the vitality of the area. A forest has enough biodiversity and quality of soil to never need any water other than what falls from the sky. This is a self-perpetuating, self-fed, mutually beneficial system.

I am asking others to commit to planting 100 trees a year. Feel free to reach out if you would like to work together. My email address is sanacionmundo@pm.me

The Archbishop, The Plutonium Pit, And New Mexico's Future

By SUZIE SCHWARTZ

On Dec. 19, 2020, Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe held a blessing ceremony and unveiling of a sign of peace at the Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe in Santa Fe, which declares, *La poseer las armas nucleares es immoral*. "The possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral." He called for difficult conversations to be held and continues to speak about the need for global nuclear disarmament. Pope Francis declared in 2019, "The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possession of atomic weapons is immoral. We will be judged on this."

Here in Northern New Mexico, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has plans to expand its missions to include industrial-scale plutonium pit production and other plutonium missions with a multi-billion dollar price tag. Plutonium pits are a key component in triggering the nuclear explosion of thermonuclear weapons. A "pit" is required for each nuclear warhead to detonate its payload "effectively."

Here are a few of many facts about the United States nuclear weapons enterprise:

The Obama, Trump, and now Biden administrations have all mandated the "modernization" of the entire US nuclear weapons arsenal based in part on assertions that the "pits" are getting too old.

Research shows that plutonium pits have reliable lifetimes of at least 80 years, maybe more- The oldest pit in the arsenal is forty-three years old. The US has tens of thousands of usable pits in storage at the Pantex plant in Texas, and thousands of usable warheads, enough to destroy all life on earth hundreds of times over; therefore it is not clear why rebuilding pits is actually necessary.

LANL is tasked with building one

War Reserve plutonium pit in 2023, at least 10 in 2024, and 20 in 2025, with full-blown production commencing in 2026 of at least 30 pits per year for at LANL with surge capacity of up to 80 pits per year.

According to a December 2021 report written by Los Alamos Study Group (LASG) a US Congressional Budget Office (CBO) 2017 report estimated the modernization's 30-year US nuclear weapon costs, including environmental costs, would expand to US \$1.92 trillion.

LANL needs workers to build new infrastructure, manufacture the pits, related plutonium handling tasks and cleanup the new radioactive and hazardous waste. Plans are in place for Northern New Mexico youth to play a key role in building the infrastructure LANL needs to get to pit production. According to a 2020 LANL press release, the New Mexico Building and Construction Trades Council, and LANL have partnered with the Taos and Questa Municipal School Districts to create building trades courses for high school students. These courses are designed to funnel students directly to LANL to work full-time as paid apprentices, after which they will be employed as well-paid journeyman workers at LANL.

Taking this to mind, here are questions to be thought about, researched, and discussed per Archbishop Wester's urging:

- Are nuclear weapons immoral?
- Does the US need almost 4,000 nuclear weapons?
- Is this multi-billion dollar "modernization" necessary for our national security and safety?
- What do today's youth know about nuclear war?
- As students enter this vocational training, are they being told that they are being prepared for jobs that

support, house, make, and maintain nuclear weapons?

- What are the types of jobs that students will be trained for that involve cleaning up radioactive and hazardous waste generated by plutonium pit production and associated plutonium activities? The Cold War-era pit production facility at Rocky Flats, Colo. was permanently closed in 1992 and continues to be a Superfund site due to plutonium contamination.
- Are people aware of the enormous amounts of electricity and New Mexico's dwindling water resources that LANL needs for its expanding plutonium missions?

We can also ask ourselves:

- Do nuclear weapons jobs contribute to the greater good of the community and a resilient future?
- Can we consider different measure where the skills and gifts of devotion

we bring to our communities through vocations and actions nurture, regenerate, and sustain all of life?

- What kinds of educational programs could be fostered in the 21st Century as we are increasingly experiencing the vulnerabilities of today's economic paradigm?
- Can we shift at the local level from today's extractive economy where prosperity is measured by Gross Domestic Product, growth, and mass consumerism and create a new paradigm that is distributive, regenerative, and resilient, and where all can thrive within the means of our life-giving planet?

How we answer these questions could determine the future of today's youth and coming generations in Northern New Mexico.

For more info: contact Suzie Schwartz
Norteños for Peaceful and Resilient Futures
(575) 770-2629; eototos@gmail.com

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Electrification Can Help Meet Climate Goals

By MARTIN HEINRICH

In December I spoke at the first-ever White House Electrification Summit, where leading policymakers and officials from the Biden Administration explored how electrification can help the U.S. meet its climate and equity goals, while lowering costs, creating great careers in the building trades, and helping families live in cleaner, healthier, and more comfortable homes.

It was only a year ago that I formed the Electrification Caucus in Congress to advance policies that will accelerate widespread electrification. Today's summit at the White House is truly a testa-

ment to how far we have already moved the needle on placing electrification at the forefront of our climate agenda.

New Mexicans stand to benefit more than almost anyone else from the benefits of electric technologies—from heat pumps for home heating and cooling to induction stovetops and electric clothes dryers. The Inflation Reduction Act, the landmark climate law that we passed earlier this year, is delivering \$87 million to the State of New Mexico and Tribes in the state to implement consumer home energy rebate programs, enabling families to make their homes more energy efficient, upgrade electric appliances, and cut energy costs.



Courtesy Photo

United States Senator from NM, Martin Heinrich

Read more about the steps that we are taking in Congress to electrify America's future in a column published this week in *The Hill*. I hope you will join in the growing movement to achieve an optimistic and attainable vision for widespread electrification.

Sincerely,
MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator

VIDEO: U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich addresses the first-ever White House Electrification Summit, December 14, 2022.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-at3GSBu2Y>

Advancing Policies In Congress To Accelerate Electrification

By U.S. SENATORS MARTIN HEINRICH AND TINA SMITH AND U.S. REPS. KATHY CASTOR AND PAUL TONKO, REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE HILL

One year ago, the four of us came together and founded the first-ever Electrification Caucus with members from across the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Together, we have worked to advance policies in Congress to accelerate widespread electrification, which will cut costs for Americans, improve public health, create jobs, and tackle the climate crisis. Our Caucus has grown to more than 50 members of Congress who are working to put the “electrify everything” formula into action by passing laws to build a clean, efficient, and electric future.

Electric technologies—including electric vehicles, energy efficient home appliances like heat pumps for home heating and cooling, and induction stovetops—have already leapfrogged their fossil fuel-powered alternatives in terms of safety, efficiency, and performance. The rapid improvements to these technologies make electrification one of our surest strategies to help families and businesses substantially lower their monthly energy bills.

Using cleanly generated electricity to power our transportation and household needs, is essential to eliminating the carbon pollution that is driving global

warming. Additionally, electrifying our lives and our economy will also create good-paying manufacturing and installation jobs in local communities everywhere and improve the air we breathe in our homes and workplaces.

The health benefits from cleaner outdoor and indoor air will also be substantial. The American Lung Association has found transitioning to zero-emission transportation and cleaner electricity will prevent nearly 3 million asthma attacks and more than 110,000 premature deaths each year. Replacing our gas stoves and furnaces will also eliminate a major source of indoor air pollution, including volatile organic compounds and carcinogens like benzene. It can also reduce risks and hazards from gas leaks, which can cause dangerous house fires and explosions.

Over the last year, Electrification Caucus members helped secure major victories for energy efficiency and electrification. In the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed in 2021, we invested \$7.5 billion towards constructing a convenient, reliable, and affordable electric vehicle charging network across the entire nation. In the Inflation Reduction Act, the landmark climate bill that President Biden signed into law in August 2022, we passed historic new investments and tax credits for clean electrification of homes, buildings, transportation, and industry.

That includes \$4.5 billion for point-

of-sale rebates to help for families who purchase and install individual electric household appliances like heat pumps and induction stoves, and another \$4.5 billion for whole-house energy efficiency retrofits. There are also billions of dollars in new and expanded tax credits that will help Americans install clean energy and efficiency upgrades in their homes and purchase both new and used electric vehicles.

We also passed major incentives to supercharge our domestic manufacturing base for clean and electric technologies—from heat pumps and wind turbines to batteries, solar components, and electric vehicles. And we made new federal investments to help heavy industries, agricultural producers, small business owners, affordable housing agencies, Tribal governments, and disadvantaged communities electrify their operations and build new electrification projects.

The federal government has both the resources and the responsibility to set a leading example in the transition toward clean and electric technologies. That's why we delivered \$250 million in the Inflation Reduction Act to upgrade federal buildings to high-performance green buildings that will meet our climate goals and provide a return to taxpayers. We also provided \$3 billion to help the U.S. Postal Service convert its delivery vehicle fleet into electric vehicles and cut airborne pollution in every community.

We are also proud to have a strong partner in the White House to implement all these new investments. This year, the Biden administration included efficient electrification in existing programs like the Weatherization Assistance Program to help lower energy costs for American families, rolled out \$1 billion in grants to electrify school buses and clean up the air our kids breathe, and is already working with states and Tribes to start build out on our nationwide EV charging network. President Biden also hosted the first-ever White House Electrification Summit.

Over this past year, Congress passed the most significant climate policies in history. The Electrification Caucus is proud to lead the charge on actions that will spur the widespread deployment of highly efficient, fully electric, and pollution-free technologies. We have an optimistic and attainable vision to help Americans live prosperous and healthy lives, now and in the future.

Martin Heinrich, Tina Smith, Paul Tonko and Kathy Castor are founders and co-chairs of the Electrification Caucus.

This article was reprinted with permission from *The Hill*: It has been an electrifying year: Advancing policies in Congress to accelerate electrification <https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3773856-it-has-been-an-electrifying-year-advancing-policies-in-congress-to-accelerate-electrification/>

After Almost A Decade Courts Should Approve Consent Decree In Water Lawsuit

Proposed Consent Decree in Texas v. New Mexico Water Lawsuit

By KAY MATTHEWS,
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION
FROM LA JICARITA,
JANUARY 13, 2023

In 2013 the State of Texas filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Court alleging that New Mexico violated its obligations to the Rio Grande Compact by permitting groundwater pumping and other diversions in New Mexico below Elephant Butte Reservoir that depleted water intended for use in Texas. After a year of negotiations, with the U.S. as an intervenor in the case (Elephant Butte Reservoir is a federal reclamation project), the proposed settlement agreement between the parties to the Compact — Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas — was just released to the public. The Special Master in the case, Judge Michael Melloy, ordered that the proposed Consent Decree be made public while waiting approval by the Supreme Court.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE JOINT MOTION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, STATE OF NEW MEXICO, AND STATE OF COLORADO TO ENTER CONSENT DECREE SUPPORTING THE RIO GRANDE COMPACT November 14, 2022.

The Decree is 77 pages long, but in about 10 pages (29-38), it essentially “specifies procedures to ensure the proper apportionment of Rio Grande water between Texas and New Mexico below Elephant Butte Reservoir and quantifies New Mexico’s obligation to deliver water to Texas.” What is called the Effective El Paso Index establishes the annual amount of water that New Mexico must deliver. The Decree stipulates that the annual release from Caballo Dam will be used to determine New Mexico’s obligation to deliver water to Texas at the El Paso Gage (USGS 08364000), a stream gage very near the New Mexico-Texas state line, instead of where it’s currently measured upstream at Elephant Butte Reservoir. The Decree

mandates that measures must be taken if New Mexico fails to deliver the Index’s obligated amount of water (or if the amount of water at Caballo falls below a certain amount).

Michael Hamman, New Mexico’s newly appointed State Engineer, submitted a letter of support of the Consent Decree that he believes ensures New Mexico’s Compact apportionment of water but that also offers possible procedures that can be implemented if the state is required to reduce depletions from aquifers connected to the Lower Rio Grande. These may include:

- acquisition of water rights and their permanent retirement (this was implemented on the Pecos River to meet its decree requirements with Texas);
- employ temporary fallowing of land to reduce groundwater withdrawals;
- implement conservation measures with both municipalities and users in the Lower Rio Grande;
- import water to the Lower Rio Grande; and
- as last resort, implement priority administration as specified in the Active Water Resource Management (AWRM). (This is a ruling that will allow an appointed water master to implement an administrative priority cut-off date.)

Because of the drought and climate crisis we’re currently navigating, some of these procedures are already being deployed along the entire Rio Grande to meet delivery requirements and will no doubt be deployed to meet the terms of this Decree at some point in the future.

The many other pages of the Consent Decree are devoted to providing background to the case and then arguing that it doesn’t “Affect the United States Substantive Rights,” as the U.S. has nothing to do with the apportionment of water below Elephant Butte Reservoir, doesn’t own an apportionment of water, and that the decree won’t create any new legal obligations for the U.S. As mentioned above, the U.S. became an intervenor in the lawsuit because, as its request for intervention claims, “groundwater diversions in the Lower Rio Grande intercept Rio Grande Project [Elephant Butte Irrigation District] water, reduce Project efficiency, violate provisions of Reclamation law, and violate the Compact.”

This, of course, brings to mind that

the Lower Rio Grande Adjudication, which La Jicarita has covered extensively since 2009, remains extant. This is a case in which the State of New Mexico and the U.S. Government have to determine the amount of water rights the feds own in the Rio Grande Project, or Elephant Butte Irrigation District. The fundamental issue of first priority rights was at stake in this very contentious adjudication, but the claimants have been stymied throughout the entire process. This is the last paragraph of the 2013 La Jicarita article, credited to the attorney for one of the claimants:

“If the pre-1906 Claimants are correct, that their appropriation of all the flood waters of the Rio Grande has a priority date of 1893, then all persons claiming later rights are affected by this adjudication, including water rights claimants with later priority dates throughout the entire stretch of the Rio Grande. This Court probably cannot meet its obligation to adjudicate all the

rights of the claimants without considering all priority claims on the river.”

I went to the Lower Rio Grande Adjudication OSE website to see that the latest files were dated December 13, 2022. Hopefully, the involvement of the U.S. in the Rio Grande Compact Consent Decree won’t delay the process as it has the Lower Rio Grande Adjudication. This is the last paragraph of the Decree:

“Because this litigation has persisted for nearly a decade, negotiations lasted over one year, and all interested parties participated in good faith, the Consent Decree is presumptively valid and the United States cannot meet its heavy burden in opposing the Decree. Therefore, this Court should approve the Consent Decree on the basis of its procedural fairness.”

<https://lajicarita.wordpress.com/2023/01/13/proposed-consent-decree-in-texas-v-new-mexico-water-lawsuit/>



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Charles Kennedy, Elizabethtown Serial Killer: What Do We Really Know?

By EDWARD H. CAMP

Clay Allison was a fiery man, a man of justice. When he heard who the judge would be, a magistrate known far and wide for his corruption, Allison knew that justice would not be served, he knew a killer would walk free. And not just any killer, but a monster who had murdered his own child to cover up his other killings; a monster named Charles Kennedy. Allison and his brother John began gathering a mob to ride on the jail and see that the monster got what he deserved...

It all began a couple of months earlier when a badly beaten Ute woman fell through the doors of an Elizabethtown saloon where Clay Allison and his friend Davy Crockett (nephew of the Alamo defender) had been drinking. The woman told the gathered patrons a harrowing story; her husband, a white man, was a killer. He had murdered numerous travelers at a guest house he ran at the base of Palo Flechado Pass, on the road to Taos. Once lured in, he would murder them in the most cowardly of ways – in their sleep or while they ran away, unarmed and begging for their lives — just to relieve them of their property. She hated him but she was terrified, her fear was reinforced by daily beatings.

Earlier in the day, a lone traveler (an Easterner, many believe) stopped at Kennedy's house for a meal. Commenting on the race of Kennedy's wife and son, the man casually asked if there were many Indians in these parts. Kennedy's 9-year-old son responded, saying "Can't you smell the one papa put under the floor?" Enraged, Kennedy killed the man and then turned on his own son, bashing the child's head in with a fireplace poker. He then beat his wife bloody, locked her in the house and proceeded to get blindingly drunk outside. After he finally passed out, she escaped and walked barefoot to Elizabethtown in a storm.

Allison, Crockett and a posse of other E-town men set off at once for the cabin, where they found the drunken Kennedy still passed out. They bound him and searched the place, finding the bodies and bones of his many victims. They took Kennedy back to Elizabethtown and handed him over to the law.

But while the shocked community awaited the trial, news came that a corrupt judge would be working the case, a man opened to bribery. Allison knew Kenne-



Courtesy Photo

Clay Allison

dy would have no problem affording the bribe and sprang into action. He and his brother John gathered a lynch mob and took Kennedy from the jail at gunpoint. Before they strung him up, Kennedy is said to have confessed to killing 21 men. Rather than find a tree for hanging, Allison drug the gasping and struggling killer behind his horse, not just until dead, but until Kennedy's head was ripped from his corpse. Allison then took the severed head to Cimarron and put it on a stake in front of the St. James Hotel so that everyone would know what fate befalls a mass murderer when Clay Allison is around. It would be one of many violent exploits in the life of the so-called "gentleman gunfighter."

At least, that's how the story's told. Or one version of it, anyway. There are almost as many versions as there are storytellers. But what really happened and who was this killer?

What do we know?

The first public record that can be definitively linked to Kennedy is his marriage to Gregoria Cortes on February 28, 1867. Performed at Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Catholic Church in Taos, it lists "Charles Canady," as the son of William and Fanny and a native of Tennessee. Gregoria Cortes is described as the only daughter of widower José Cortes of Cordillera de Ranchos and his late wife Antonia Lucero.

Kennedy next appears in an article from the July 4, 1868 issue of the "Santa Fe Weekly Gazette." The article describes the correspondent's trip through the region to see the mining camps, where along the

way he stops at a stage coach station run out of Charles Kennedy's home. Coincidentally, or perhaps not, one of the writer's traveling companions who had gone ahead of the others was found murdered some two miles up the trail from Kennedy's home. The writer, however, was quick to blame the incident on Jicarilla Apache men.

Kennedy is recorded on the 1870 census as a resident of the newly formed Colfax County. It lists the 31-year-old Kennedy as a carpenter, his wife, 17-years old, as an illiterate housekeeper, and the presence of a 1-year-old son, Samuel.

Finally, there's the article on his demise. The October 13, 1870 issue of the "Santa Fe New Mexican" tells the tale:

Charles Kennedy... was arrested last month and taken to Elizabethtown for examination on a charge of murder. The trial came off... when Jose Cortez (Kennedy's father-in-law) testified as follow [sic]: That he was at Kennedy's house on Christmas of last year... A stranger came to the house afoot and stopped for the night; he was an American and had large red whiskers; witness and stranger had gone to bed and witness was asleep when a pistol shot awakened him; there was no light in the room but Kennedy soon after lit a candle, and witness saw the stranger lying dead on the bed with a bullet hole through the head... after refusing to help Kennedy bury the dead man, witness ran away to Taos...

It goes on to tell of how bones found in Kennedy's garden were examined by doctors who could not say definitively whether they were human. During the hearing, a Taos Pueblo man testified that there was a body buried in one of the rooms of Kennedy's house and a party went to recover it. A justice of the peace determined the victim was the man José Cortes saw Kennedy murder. Kennedy was bound over for trial and held in a guarded log cabin as Sheriff Houx prepared a more secure jail to keep him through the winter.

Records show that juries were hard to assemble in the early years of Colfax County. Mobs, it seems, were a different story. On Oct. 6, 1870, a mob arrived where Kennedy was held, intent on seeing justice served. They decide to hold an impromptu trial on the spot with Kennedy allowed to pick the jury. The jury couldn't agree and it was decided to leave him in the hands of the law to face a regular trial.

At 11pm the next night, another mob

of around 25 masked and armed men overwhelmed the guards and took Kennedy from the prison. When his body was discovered the next day, the medical examiner determined he had died by hanging. He was buried alone with a wooden marker branding him a killer. (The marker was looted sometime after 2017.)

What happened to his family?

Gregoria disappears into history. It's likely she remarried, though records have proved elusive. The fate of Kennedy's son is equally mysterious. If Kennedy had killed the infant, as some versions claim, it would have made it into the news, since that sort of gruesome story is exactly what sold (and sells) papers. It's possible that if Gregoria remarried that Samuel was given a new name. Considering what Kennedy had done though, it's also possible the child may have been left with an orphanage.

What was Clay Allison's involvement?

Unknown. Though a fight he had with a group of Apache in Kansas in 1868 had made the local papers, Clay Allison's fame really came during the Colfax County Wars later in the 1870s. While it's possible he helped lynch Kennedy, he would have been masked and anonymous like the rest of the mob. He certainly didn't drag Kennedy though the streets of Elizabethtown or put his decapitated head on a pole, since that too would have sold papers from coast to coast. Plus, no serious biographer of Allison believes he was involved. Most believe he was just trying to settle down and start a new life after the horrors of the Civil War. Allison's involvement was likely an embellishment by later storytellers, something to give the story more flavor.

How many did Charles Kennedy actually kill?

It can't be said with any certainty, but many criminologists estimate between 5-15 during his time at Palo Flechado based on his M.O. and length of residency. They believe Kennedy killed for profit primarily and coldly, without remorse. Court records are gone, but local lore says Kennedy was involved in multiple lawsuits with people he'd cheated when his father-in-law finally turned him in for murder. As no record of him before 1867 has been located, it's possible Charles Kennedy was an assumed name and that he had been killing under a different name before. All we can say for certain is that a brutal man met a brutal end all those years ago.

Documentary Following The Restoration Of Our Lady Of Guadalupe Church In San Luis Valley

By KEITH VALDEZ, M. L. S

The picturesque San Luis Valley is located in the heart of Southern Colorado. Its residents are descendants of the Spanish conquistadors whose families have lived here for hundreds of years. Our community's rich cultural traditions have been passed on from generation to generation.

A Place of Miracles: The Restoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of a five-part documentary series highlighting the History, Culture and Spirituality of Nuevomexicano Communities in Southern Colorado-Northern New Mexico. This set includes a DVD and DVD Ebook Photograph Collection

Our Lady of Guadalupe in Antonito, Colo., is the oldest Catholic Church in Conejos County, Colorado. The church was added to the National and State Register of Historic Places on Dec. 17, 2018 and continues to be a cultural center to promote faith and educate its communities on the culture of the Hispano settlers of Southern Colorado-Northern New Mexico.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church is part of the oldest Catholic parish in the San Luis Valley. The present church dates to 1927/48. The original structure was an adobe church built in 1863 that partially burned down on Feb. 17, 1926, and was rebuilt and added onto in 1927, using some of the original facades that survived the fire.

In 1948, it underwent further renovations and reconstruction of a new front and bell towers. The church serves a heavily Hispano or Nuevo Mexicano parish that had long-standing ties to the Spanish settlement of the San Luis Valley beginning in the late 1840s-early



Courtesy Photo

Filmmaker, Rick Vigil, discussing the work of the film crew on the *Stories to Tell* documentary series.

1850s. The Hispano people brought with them traditions that had developed over two centuries of Spanish and Mexican control of the Southwest. These Spanish-speaking settlers primarily resided in New Mexico and the southern part of Colorado. Hispanos identify strongly with their Spanish heritage and varying levels of Native American ancestry.

Almost 90 years to the day of the first fire, Our of Lady Guadalupe Church experienced an electrical fire on the eve of Ash Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2016. Most of the church survived, but much of the art and building were heavily damaged by smoke. The 2016 fire caused an estimated \$500,000 loss. The result was needed preservation and restoration on the damaged art and statues. Two pieces that received significant restoration were

the painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located above the altar, and the statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, located outside in an enclave. The painting had been discolored from the smoke damage and was very brittle due to its age. The statue was also significantly damaged and faded from enduring the elements for almost 100 years.

In both restoration processes, the conservators from Colorado Art Restoration Services retained most of the original materials and paint. The goal was to restore them as close to the originals as possible, and the conservators also took steps to ensure the permanence of each of the art pieces. A time capsule from 1947 was also found under the Immaculate Heart of Mary statue when it was removed for repair. Inside was a tin box

about the size of a pack of cigarettes which had letters, medals, and stamps of St. Cajetan celebrating the anniversary of his death in 1547, and a list of names of parishioners that donated toward a church project.

After the fire in 2016, a crown of smoke appeared over the head of the Our Lady of Guadalupe painting, and parishioners labeled it a miracle. Michael Bettman, Proprietor and Conservator at Colorado Art Restoration Services, said, "There are two parts to the crown appearing. The first part is the scientific reasoning of what caused the crown to appear. On the other side, when you look at the spiritual portion of it, all of the things that had to have happened for this to come all together on that day is no question; you can call it a miracle."

A *Place of Miracles* documents this restoration, it is part three of a five-part documentary series featuring the language, faith, traditions, and culture of its Nuevo Mexicano communities in Southern Colorado. To see the film trailer visit: <http://downtoearthmedia.org> DVD Total Running Time 24:1

Rick Vigil, of Antonito, Colo., is the proprietor and film producer of Down To Earth Media, LLC. In the past 20 years he has produced a collection of documentaries on the culture, tradition, and spirituality of the Spanish speaking communities within the counties of Conejos and Costilla in the San Luis Valley. When you purchase these films you are saying "Yes!" to Oral History. Please encourage others to do the same. Order your DVDs at <http://downtoearthmedia.org/order.html> Down To Earth Media, LLC, Contact Rick Vigil at (303) 842-9579 / dtem@comcast.net

"Our Elders are open books and when they die so do their stories."



The Happiness Museum

Is being happy an art? or a science? In Copenhagen, Denmark, The Happi-

ness Research Institute is dedicated to finding out.

In 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, they opened The Happiness Museum. Its mission is to explore why some people and societies are happier than others.

There are eight rooms in the museum, including a Happiness Lab which studies such things as the anatomy of a smile and the physical aspects of joy.

A map room displays the global geography of happiness—highlighting the

happiest nations — Denmark, Finland and Paraguay top the list.

There are also artifacts of happiness from around the world which include, among other things, a badminton racket and an inhaler—proving just how different our happiness definitions can be.

There's a history room showing how the concept of happiness has evolved over thousands of years including an exploration into the future of happiness.

Interactive exhibits and questionnaires encourage visitors to delve deeper to un-

derstand their own levels and origins.

The premise of the museum is that people tend to look for happiness in all the wrong places.

So, tell me, what does happiness mean to you?

Audio Story

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Over The Moon With *Questeño* Jared Martinez And NASA's Artemis Mission, Part 2



Image 1: Copyright NASA. Editor: Kathryn Hambleton

By EDWARD H. CAMP

In the January issue, we talked with Jared Martinez about his experiences growing up in Questa, his education and career. This month, we'll be talking about the work he's been doing with NASA and the project he's been working on for over a decade now — the Artemis Program.

Originally begun by the Bush administration in 2005 with the name "Constellation," the intention was to once again land humans on the moon. This has not been done since the Apollo Program's last mission, Apollo 17, blasted off the lunar surface in December 1972. Since then, the project has undergone numerous changes, morphing from Constellation into Artemis. (In Greek mythology, Artemis was the twin sister of Apollo. Considered the Goddess of the Hunt, she was also associated with the moon.) The Artemis mission picked up new objectives along the way. Now, the mission is not only to return to the moon, but to establish a permanent presence there and use the moon as a launching pad for the ultimate goal of the Artemis Program: Mars.

"The NASA director came out... and said that basically by the end of the decade we're going to be traveling to Mars or living on the moon," says Jared. "Or both."

An ambitious project to be sure, and some might question its usefulness. Jared says though, that space, especially the moon, is at the center of a new geopolitical contest. "There's a new space race going on, particularly with China."

And unlike the Space Race with the Soviet Union during the Cold War years, this one isn't just for prestige and knowledge, but for real world economic gains and military security.

First, the moon is loaded with mineable resources, including silicon, titanium and rare earth elements. Currently, China controls the bulk of the rare earth market, so moon mining could free the world of dependence on their authoritarian regime and deprive it of much needed funds. The moon is also rich in a type of helium called helium-3. With earth's supply of helium running out, the moon could prove vital in providing helium for industrial and medical use in the future. Scientists



Photo by Isaac Watson, copyright NASA.

Snoopy, one of NASA's longest serving astronauts, smiling after his return from the Artemis 1 mission. He was used as a zero gravity indicator, letting mission control know weightlessness had been reached as he floated about the crew module.

also believe that helium-3 could be used in making the next generation of rocket fuel for use by lunar-based craft.

And it's not just the moon that might be mined, but asteroids as well. Nearby asteroids contain vast amounts of iron, copper, gold and numerous other mineral resources, quantities vast enough to

completely transform the global economy. Wealth could potentially be created on a vast scale, so it's little wonder that NASA is partnering with private industry on the Artemis Program, with companies planning their own missions to follow in

OVER THE MOON cont'd ----->



MICHAEL'S MOVIE MOMENTS



February Movie Review: Attica

I have never understood why we Americans, in the “land of the free,” have the highest proportion of our population behind bars of any country in the world. And the rest of the top 10 are all developing nations — none of the other “developed countries” come anywhere close to our rate of incarceration. I’ve heard some apologists say it is because we are such a manifestly diverse country that violence and conflict is a necessary result, and so a strong prison system is required to maintain “law and order.” There is a problem with that argument: Based on a robust measure of ethnic and racial diversity, the top 10 countries in diversity across the globe are all

located in Africa — and none of them have anywhere near the incarceration rate that we do.

So, diversity can’t possibly be the explanation, at least not by itself. But there is another factor in play in American society, related to diversity. While Americans profess to believe in the value of cultural diversity, it isn’t clear that they profoundly believe it, deep in their hearts. Why, for example, do Black Americans make up only 13 percent of the US population, but are incarcerated at triple that rate? Poverty has something to do with it — but even when you control for socioeconomic status, whites get less severe criminal penalties for the exact same crimes, and it largely doesn’t matter what part of the country you are in. We’ll get back to this.

The Attica prison riot occurred in September of 1971, and it still ranks as the deadliest prison riot in US history with 29 prisoners and 10 hostages killed. Before Attica there were only a few, mostly minor, incidents. But after Attica, there were riots resulting in maybe one or two inmates and/or guards killed in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Georgia, Ohio, California, Mississippi, Delaware, South Carolina, and Colorado. But none of them were on the scale of Attica with

the single exception of the 1980 Santa Fe, New Mexico riot in 1980. During that exceedingly violent incident, 33 inmates were killed. Significantly, all deaths were caused by other inmates. A dozen officers were taken hostage and while some were injured or raped, none of them were killed. Attica stands unique in American history as the prison riot where the most people died.

With all this information, you should now watch this amazing documentary. The film itself is standard documentary fare. It is largely the work of Stanley Nelson, an experienced Black American producing television and movie documentary films. What he has accomplished with Attica is probably the final and most definitive statement of what happened there. Yes, it is a talking-heads documentary. Nelson located and interviewed more than a dozen inmates, officers, medics, and members of the “observers committee”. They tell their stories with honesty and emotion — you can tell that this was not an experience they will “ever, ever... Forget.” Nelson also gathered remarkable archival video and photographs. The footage, especially in the last half hour will shock you and if you are averse to vivid violence or full-frontal male nudity, then you

might want to shield your eyes for the final 20 minutes.

I’ll leave you with just a single fact: only one guard/hostage/officer was killed by an inmate at Attica and he died from injuries three days after a beating he suffered in a fight with inmates, just before the riot began. The circumstances surrounding that fight aren’t really clear, but it was his death that changed everything, resulting in law enforcement, not the inmates, killing more than 33 inmates and 10 more of their own in a brutal assault that, if you watch the film, you will remember for a long time.

So, back to the original question - why are so many Americans, and especially Black Americans, imprisoned? Fundamentally, the film teaches us that the US prison system is a way that the white power structure maintains fear and loathing in a Black community that whites fundamentally want to exclude from the American dream. That might be a tough conclusion, but how else can anyone account for the facts surrounding black imprisonment, and the resulting Attica? (4*) Stream on Hulu or Disney+ and rent it from multiple platforms, NetflixDVD, or wherever you get your discs. For more, visit Michaels-MovieMoments.com

OVER THE MOON cont’d from <-----

Artemis’ wake.

There’s also the security aspect. China is planning its own moon missions and many pundits and foreign policy wonks expect the Chinese Communist Party to conduct espionage, if not outright militarize the moon, if possible, a place some military experts have referred to as “the ultimate high ground.” In fact, NASA director Bill Nelson told Politico in a January interview that he believes “It is not beyond the realm of possibility that they [China] say, ‘Keep out, we’re here, this is our territory,’ pointing to their continued aggression in the South China Sea as exemplary of their behavior around disputed regions. By establishing a permanent presence before the Chinese can, the U.S. and our European allies, who are contributing to the development and expense of Artemis, hope to thwart any potentially hostile actions by the CCP.

And if that wasn’t enough, Hilton has also recently engaged in partnership talks with NASA on potential space tourism opportunities. Yes, it may be possible some day to take a vacation to the moon. A hefty price no doubt but an experience and view that is sure to be out

of this world.

As for Mars, the goals aren’t as dire, or profitable. The eventual manned missions to Mars, which have yet to be firmly planned, are much more about exploration and discovery. Whenever they happen, the plan is to launch them from the moon, vastly decreasing the needed fuel (since the moon has effectively no atmosphere and less than 1/5 of the earth’s gravity, spacecraft can launch more easily).

There’s still a lot of work to be done though, since a round trip to Mars will take about three years! Astronauts will have to bring food and water to last the whole trip, since Mars has none. It’s still unclear if food could successfully be grown on the Martian surface given the soil chemistry, the lack of native water resources and the need to shield plants from solar rays, since Mars has little atmosphere and no magnetic field to protect it, or the astronauts, from lethal doses of radiation.

All of those challenges are still a long way off. For now, NASA is focusing on establishing the technology and infrastructure needed to get to the moon and stay there. The first test mission, Artemis 1, was launched November 16, 2022. NASA



Questa Del Rio News Staff Photo

Jared Martinez, Questa High graduate and current Houston resident, is a certified principal engineer and leads his Lockheed Martin team on the NASA Orion spacecraft crew module.

got to see how its new rocket, named SLS (Space Launch System), performed as well as testing the Orion crew module that Jared and his team at Lockheed-Martin developed. Together, along with the currently in work lunar lander, space habitat, lunar habitat, and more, will make up the Artemis mission(s) at its technological peak.

Equipped with advanced mannequins, called manikins, the module flew past the

moon before returning to Earth 25 days and 1.4 million miles later, with data on the module’s performance and how a real crew would have held up. The mission was a resounding success and now NASA is looking forward to the Artemis 2 mission in 2024, with new missions launching every two years from there. Artemis 2 will be the first manned mission, with astronauts testing the system as the manikins did.

Artemis 3 in 2026 will see the first landing on the moon since Apollo and will include the first woman and the first person of color to walk on the lunar surface. From there, NASA’s plans become less firm, but missions are supposed to go at least through Artemis 8. By then, NASA plans to have permanent inhabited installations and commercial activity in some form on the moon.

But remember, when you’re glued to your TV one day in 2026, watching humanity take its next step towards a cosmic destiny, it was Jared Martinez of Questa and his dedicated team that made sure human beings had a safe way to get there.

See NASA’s website at <https://www.nasa.gov/artemisprogram> for more about the technology and people behind man’s new quest(a) for the moon.

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AND RIEDE WYATT.

The State Of Local News: Part 3

A PATH FORWARD: HOW TO FILL THE GAPS IN LOCAL NEWS

By PENNY ABERNATHY |
BUSINESSOFNEWS

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Rethinking Journalistic and Business Practices

Much thought has been given over the past decade to rethinking the practice of journalism to address the critical gaps in the flow of news and information that have emerged.

Technology is providing opportunities to deliver journalism to previously isolated communities in a variety of ways; engage and measure the behaviors of current and new customers; capture sporting and business statistics and then produce basic news stories; scan massive troves of documents; and assemble the data so investigative reporters can see the big picture more clearly.

Simultaneously nonprofit groups, universities, and traditional media are stepping up to provide journalism coverage in areas that have none.

The Institute for Nonprofit News has a goal of supporting a network of 20,000 nonprofit journalists by 2030 who would provide “a new backbone of civic coverage,” according to Sue Cross, CEO and President.

Report for America has already placed several hundred reporters in newsrooms in all 50 states since 2017 and plans to continue expanding.

Legacy news organizations, such as the Charleston Post & Courier, are working with reporters at much smaller newspapers and sites in South Carolina to produce award-winning investigative pieces.

And an increasing number of univer-

sities, such as the University of Kansas and West Virginia University, are developing programs that provide current and future journalists with the knowledge and experience to either create their own local news outlet or purchase an existing one.

New for-profit, nonprofit and hybrid business models are also taking hold. Industry organizations, nonprofit groups and universities, such as the Medill Local News Initiative at Northwestern University (which produced the “State of Local News” 2022 report) are tracking and analyzing those models and providing real-time insights that guide decision-making at these news organizations. An increasing number of recently established, independent local and statewide sites in large cities have annual budgets of \$1 million or more, while sites in mid-sized markets have budgets of a half-million dollars or more.

All this promises to bring more news to traditionally underserved communities – especially those in larger markets. However, many rural communities and suburban neighborhoods still lack the technological, financial and journalistic resources to take advantage of recent innovations and establish either a for-profit or nonprofit news organization.

“Most of the thought so far has gone into asking, ‘How do we replace the reporters we’ve lost?’” said media scholar Picard. “But even if we find the resources to add back all the journalists we’ve lost recently, we won’t have enough journalists to cover the government meetings and events in the thousands of small, incorporated communities in this country. How do we create a journalism model that supports communities that are not large enough to financially support a local news operation?”

While policy and philanthropy can

address some of the issues, both Picard and Al Cross, director of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, suggest that much more needs to be done to address the information and technological deficit facing rural communities, many of which lack high-speed digital infrastructure.

The journalism solutions need to be cost-effective and “easily implemented tomorrow” by owners of legacy and start-up news organizations, Picard said. One potential solution involves reviving a journalistic practice that dates back two centuries.

“Until recently,” he said, “community newspapers relied not only on ‘professional journalists,’ who covered the important government meetings, but also a network of ‘correspondents’ who submitted weekly columns about neighborhood news and events – church suppers and the like – and were paid by the word.

“We need to bring back those community correspondents and train them to be the eyes and ears of the professional journalists who can’t be there,” he said.

“The only way we are going to know what is going on in these communities – what is important to people living there – is to have someone in the community.” As both Picard and Cross suggest, technology only takes the industry so far. Rethinking journalism today is not only about creating new products, but also about revisiting past practices that connected us to one another.

“The best local news organizations introduce us to people we don’t know, who share our concerns and aspirations,” said Cross. “It connects people in a community to one another and to the outside world.”

Reviving local news is not about reviving print newspapers. Rather it is about reviving the historic function of strong local journalism. At its best, as Cross suggests, local journalism in the 21st century will help us come together to solve our problems and achieve our dreams.

To read this article in its entirety, visit <https://questanews.com/> or visit: <https://localnewsinitiative.northwestern.edu/posts/2022/08/30/filling-gaps-in-local-news/index.html>

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LEGISLATION 56 cont'd from page 8

of the proposed railroad. The project is proposed in two bills: one to appropriate funding for construction in the form of \$1 billion for Fiscal Years 2024 through 2028 with any unspent funds at the end of FY2028 reverting back to the general fund (docket #223764.1); the other to appropriate funding for study in the form of \$500,000 for FY2024 to study the feasibility of such an infrastructure project (docket #223765.1).

Another bill from Senator Soules (docket #223767.1) would include photovoltaic systems for purposes of solar energy generation in the basic infrastruc-

ture for our public schools requiring all public school buildings in the future to be outfitted with such systems.

A bill from New Mexico Senator Martin Hickey (District 20) would amend the Section 24-5-3 NM SA 1978, adding exemptions for immunizations for children, giving parents/guardians rights to exempt their children from mandatory school immunizations with a note from a licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner stating that receiving said immunization would endanger the life of said child (docket #223279.1). Parents/guardians would also be able to receive immunization exemptions with written affirmations from recognized religious denominations under this

proposed law.

A bill from New Mexico Senator Gregory Baca (District 29) would amend the state's Public Health Emergency Response Act as well as create a new section of the state's Public Health Act implementing automatic termination of a public health emergency order or a public health order that closes public places or limits public gatherings after forty-five days of being issued (docket #223633.1).

New Mexico Senators Bill O'Neill (District 13) and Siah Correa Hemphill (District 28) along with New Mexico Representative Dayan Hochman-Vigil (District 15) have proposed opening up the state's primary elections to voters not registered with a specific political party

(docket #223512.2).

One can find a list of all the pre-filed bills at the following web address: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>.

The New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) projects in their Policy & Performance Analysis recurring revenues for the state's general fund of \$11.994 billion for FY2024. The LFC's spending plan for FY2024 includes \$328 million for average pay raises of 5 percent for state and education employees, \$80 million to backfill federal Medicaid spending, \$109 million to expand pre-kindergarten as well as \$263 million recurring and \$261 million for non-recurring increase for public schools; reserves would be 30 percent of planned spending.

RECYCLING cont'd from page 16

efforts, and they will continue to do so as long as they can. There is grant money out there, but they are not getting administration support to apply for it.

Lorenzo writes, "Since May 2022, we have recycled over a quarter of a million pounds of paper products and tons of metal goods not to mention the hundreds of cubic yards of organic materials, all diverted from the landfill. To accom-

plish this Mr. Daniel Young, myself and members of the Solid Waste team have taken on the responsibilities of two or three additional employees each. We have never complained or walked away from the additional workload because we believe that the service we provide is needed and essential to the environment and the quality of life we have come to expect in Taos County."

The reality is that the few guys who have been working so hard with the promise of increased budget and person-

nel for recycling now feel underappreciated, not adequately compensated for this increased work, and they cannot physically keep this up with the current staff level, even as much as their passion to recycle drives them to try. They are buoyed by others on their team who pitch in to process recycling, some of the county commissioners and administration who are supportive, six feral cats who work with them, and citizens' concern and enthusiasm for this important task that affects us all. Still, the decision

to not support recycling was made.

Darlene Vigil (Commissioner District 3) and Jason Silva (Deputy County Manager) have asked that the decision be reconsidered. To be able to continue, Edward and Lorenzo ask for our help in letting Town Council, County Commissioners and their Administration know the importance of keeping and increasing recycling. Commissioners, Councillors and/or administration can be reached by mail, email, or phone. See contact info on page 16.

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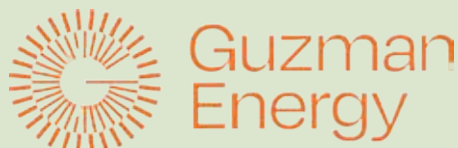
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- This partnership is expected to save KCEC \$150- \$170 Million dollars over the lifetime of the contract.
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– Luis A. Reyes, Jr., CEO of KCEC

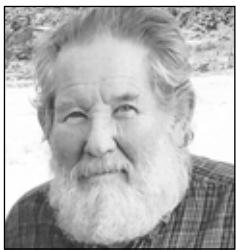
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James Armstrong

James (Jim) Benton Armstrong, 81, of San Cristobal passed away on Dec. 17, 2022. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Jim was a hardworking outdoorsman who was always quick to teach and give advice to those willing to learn. Although he was a man of few words, every word mattered. He was an avid reader and enjoyed outdoor adventures with his wife, especially fishing and hunting. Jim worked for many years in resource management for the United States Forest Service. He served as an E4 in the US Army as a frontline medic during the Vietnam War.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Dollie Armstrong and brother, Tommy Bailey Armstrong. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Maria Crestina Armstrong, his sons, Mario Trujillo (Tracy), Matthew Armstrong (Cynthia), and his seven grandchildren, Avery, Isaac, and Austin Armstrong, Ashley Keith and Courtney Trujillo, and Trevor and Morgan Smith, his brother, Joe Roy Armstrong (Doris) as well as many other relatives and friends. Memorial service will be held at a later date.



Antonio R. Cintas, Jr.

Antonio R. Cintas, Jr. a lifelong resident of Questa, N.M., passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 7, 2023.

Antonio was born on May 28, 1979 to Antonio Cintas, Sr. and Rose Cintas. He graduated from Questa High School in May of 1997. Antonio loved football and played as a young child all through high school, with his dad Antonio Cintas, Sr. as his coach. He had a very big heart and helped those he could. Antonio was a very skilled and a hard worker.

Antonio is preceded in death by his father Antonio Cintas, Sr.; paternal grandparents Jose and Rose Cintas; his maternal grandparents Albert and Josephine Ortega.

He is survived by his daughters Alyssa, Angelica, Amarissa, and Avianna Cintas; his mother Rose Cintas; brother Joseph Cintas (Maria), sister Annette Cintas; and the mother of his daughters, Amanda Cordova; nephews Juan, Joe Cintas, Jr. (Sabrina) and Roman Moralez; nieces Jessica Moralez and Ashley and Santanna Cintas; his buddy and uncle Felix Cintas and many other aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives and friends. Antonio will be truly missed and never forgotten. He will forever be in our hearts.

Public viewing was held on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 from 3 to 4 pm in the Evergreen Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. Rosary was recited on Saturday January 28, 2023 at 9 am, followed by the Funeral Mass at 10 am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cerro. Interment followed at Cerro Cemetery.

The family of Antonio R. Cintas, Jr entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



Clay Flint Gartin

Clay Flint Gartin age 53, a resident of Jaroso, Colo., and Cerro, N.M., passed away unexpectedly on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2022.

He was preceded in death by his father James Gartin; siblings Audie Lorne Gartin and Tillman Gartin; and grandparents Red and Lavina Robinson and William and Jesse Gartin.

Clay was very independent since the time he was born. He loved life so much, was a good man and loved the Lord. Clay enjoyed spending time outdoors, was a motorcycle lover and was an amazing heavy equipment operator. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. Clay and his mother Barbra enjoyed and loved to care for rescue animals.

He is survived by his mother Barbra Jean Gartin; siblings Melody Williams (David), Wayne Gartin, Michelle Gartin, Linda Hernandez, and Chane Gartin (Tammy); special aunt Alice Daniels, and many loving nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives, and friends.

Burial took place in Jaroso, Colo. on Friday Jan. 13, 2023 at 1 pm. The family of Clay Flint Gartin entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



Isabelle Rendon

Isabelle T Rendon, 89 of Arroyo Hondo passed away on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2022.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Carlo, her son, Antonio, grandsons Carlos and Salvador, sisters Lucilla and Beatrice, and brothers Eloy, Carlos and Ruben. She is survived by her son, Charlie, granddaughters Elizabeth, Fabiola (Casey), Elena (Julian), Heather (Veltran), her great grandchildren Dylan, Adele, Myla, Juliana, Marissa, Adam, Mateo, her brother-in-law, Robert, and many other relatives and friends.

Rosary was recited on Friday, Dec.30, 2022 at 6 pm at Rivera Chapel. Funeral was held Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 at Good News at 10 am in Ranchitos with interment following at Upper Arroyo Hondo Cemetery.



Marvin James Vigil

Marvin James Vigil, age 61, a resident of Costilla, passed away unexpectedly Jan. 10, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents Gilbert and Yvonne Vigil; brother Ronald Vigil; paternal grandparents Euastacio and Ellena Vigil; plus many aunts and uncles.

Marvin proudly served his country in the United States Marines, later he was employed by and retired from the U. S. Postal Service. Marvin enjoyed spending time outdoors hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his wife Debra Vigil; sons Matthew Vigil and Virgel Vigil; grandson Matthew Vigil, Jr.; siblings Eugene Vigil, Patsy Trujillo (Richard) and Ruth Boyd (David); plus many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Services will be held at a later date.

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AQUARIUS

“Big Dreams come from the Collective Unconscious.” Carl Jung

During this shortest month of the year several planets will be in the sign of Aquarius, including the Sun and Saturn who will be conjunct for a couple of days in the middle of the month. Even as the Sun shifts into the sign of Pisces on the 18th, Saturn, Vulcan and Mercury will continue in Aquarius through the 28th.

Many think that Aquarius is a water sign since the Water Bearer is its archetype. But in fact, Aquarius is an air sign and as such represents the mental realms, thought processes and high ideals, the expansion of thought. It rules breezes and light zephyrs, the uplifting type of air which holds balloons aloft and lightens the mood. It also rules waves of things, whether water, air, or sonar.

The Water Bearer is pouring forth not water, but knowledge for spiritually thirsty people. This Age of Aquarius is indeed a time of expansion of the human mind and the human need for a spiritual identity higher than most have so far attained or even known possible. This is the Age when cooperation within groups, friendships and all of humanity is expected to reach a higher level, to expand into the recognition that indeed we are all a part of the human species, and we are all heading in the same direction. Aquarius rules the steps we take to attain our greatest hopes and wishes including the climb up Jacob's ladder.

When we shift into esoteric astrology, Jupiter, with its hearty benevolence and jolly good will, becomes the ruling planet of Aquarius. While Jupiter is currently in the sign of Aries, its connection to Aquarius brings it front and center as well, while Aries is the sign of beginning something new. Since Aquarius rules friendships, this might be a time when new friends show up or old friends are raised to a higher level within your esteem. Beginning something new with a higher awareness is perfect and appropriate.

Everyone: Enjoy this expansive energy of the Age of Aquarius.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: This could be a month of high awareness.

Direction: Pay attention!

Soul Thought: “Awareness and presence always happen in the now. If you are trying to make something happen, then you are creating resistance to what is. It is the removing of all resistance that allows evolutionary energy to unfold.” Eckhart Tolle

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: You might feel particularly gabby this month.

Direction: Treat your tender throat well.

Soul Thought: Is there a quiver in your voice?

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: It's the end and the beginning.

Direction: Hang onto that secret until after the 21st.

Soul Thought: How to create history.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: You are the calm one in the storm.

Direction: Use that for others.

Soul Thought: Or be the storm?

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: If it feels you are going backwards, it's all an illusion.

Direction: Look for a better perspective.

Soul Thought: What does Reversing the Wheel mean?

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: Sometimes it's hard to know what is.

Direction: Ask the questions.

Soul Thought: “There is no matter; the mind is the matrix of all matter.” Max Plank

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♃ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: Your greatest desires can be real.

Direction: Believe it.

Soul Thought: “There's nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so.” William Shakespeare

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: Arguments abound.

Direction: Use your senses wisely.

Soul Thought: “Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder.” Rumi

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♄ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: You're kind of out there on your own.

Direction: Do it anyway.

Soul Thought: Lots of good work gets done that way.

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: A bumpy start to the month turns into a good journey.

Direction: See the big picture.

Soul Thought: Eyes wide open.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: Your planet is the Lord of the Age of Aquarius.

Direction: Get a sense of that nobility.

Soul Thought: It is a part of you.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: You're at the end of a cycle...

Direction: Make the most of where you are.

Soul Thought: ... in more ways than one.

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.



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Community Service at it's Best!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • FEBRUARY 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO EVERYONE BORN
IN FEBRUARY!

ALL MONTH

Valentines' Art Exhibit featuring local's heart felt, handmade valentines, each with a poem of love; Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd., Mon - Sat, noon to 5pm. Sponsored by the Questa Creative Council. (575) 586-2023.

FEBRUARY 1: WED 6 PM
Questa Independent School Board meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month, in person at the QSID Administrative Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. # A, Questa; live streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu>.

FEBRUARY 3: FRI 5:30 PM
Preview Party: 21st Annual Miniatures Show & Sale at the Millicent Rogers Museum, Artist awards and refreshments. On public display from Feb 4 - Mar 5. 1504 Millicent Rogers Rd, El Prado. Open from 10-5, 6 days a week (Closed Wed). FREE admission for Taos County residents on Sunday. Visit millicentrogers.org for tickets and info.

FEBRUARY 4: SAT 11:30 AM - 1 PM
Women's Self-defense workshop at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org.

FEBRUARY 5: SUN 1:30-3:30 PM
Dance like Nobody's looking, women's dance, at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org, donations welcomed.

5-7 PM
Healing Circle and Reiki Share free, at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org.

FEBRUARY 7: TUE 5:30PM
NM Recreation Input Session at Rael's Store & Coffee Shop, 2430 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556. Everyone is invited. Free Pizza for all attendees. For info contact: lynn@questaedf.com. *See story on page 15*

FEBRUARY 9: THUR 5:30 PM
Agricultural Co-Op Discovery Meeting at Questa Public Library, *See story on page 5*

FEBRUARY 10: FRI 10 AM-NOON
NEW WINTER HOURS! Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. Food distribution is every second and fourth Friday of each month. (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194; www.questafoodpantry.org.

3:30-4 PM
Kids Music Class, special monthly event at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website for more information: yogasalaquesta.org

FEBRUARY 10, 11, 13: FRI, SAT, MON 1-3 PM
Questa Public Library Maker-Space Open! Come to the library to make Valentines from 1-3 pm. Everything provided to create special cards. Have some YUM FUN decorating heart-shaped cookies! 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. in Questa. (575) 586-2023.

FEBRUARY 11: SAT 12 - 1:30 PM
Wellness Series: Fermentation workshop, at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org.

FEBRUARY 14: TUES 6 PM
Village of Questa Town Council Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in person at Village Council Chambers, 2500 Old State Rd 3, Questa. For agenda go to <https://questa-nm.com/> or call (575) 586-0694.

FEBRUARY 15: WED 6 PM
Questa Independent School District Board meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month, in person at the QSID Administrative Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. # A, Questa, and live streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu>.

FEBRUARY 16: THURS 12-1 PM
Salvation Army Food Assistance distribution at the Cerro Community Center every other month on the 3rd Thursday, for people already enrolled. Applications are available during distributions. For more information contact Korey and Lita Mead (575) 586-2352.

12-4 PM
In-person, one-on-one, business advising, in Questa at the Visitor Center (#1 Hwy 38), with Anwar Kaelin, Director of the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos. Make an appointment by visiting: <https://calendly.com/sbdctaos>

4 PM
Cerro VFW Post #9516, monthly meeting at 108 NM Highway 378 in Cerro. [litameadphoto@gmail.com](mailto:litateadphoto@gmail.com). Call (575) 586-1112 to confirm meeting.

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

FEBRUARY 21: TUE 9:30-10:30 AM
Bookmobile at Questa Post Office, 43 NM-38, Questa; (575) 376-2474; laura.gonzales@state.nm.us.

10M-NOON
Northern NM Cyber Security Council Meeting. This is the first meeting, sponsored by Kit Carson Electric to create a cyber security community of individuals and businesses to share ideas and problem-solving solutions that rural institutions face. At the KCEC Boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Rd, Taos, NM 87571; for more information and to RSVP email David Trujillo, dtrujillo@kitcarson.com. (575) 758-2258.

10:45 AM-NOON
Bookmobile at Roots & Wings Community School, 35 La Lama Rd, Questa; (575) 376-2474; laura.gonzales@state.nm.us.

11:00 AM-4:00 PM
Blood Drive hosted by the Questa Jr/Sr High School Honor Society At QHS, 57 Sage Brush Rd, in the Jr/Sr High School Health Room Drive Code: ABQHS; walk in, or set up an appointment at vitalant.org or call (877) 258-4825

FEBRUARY 24: FRI 10 AM-NOON
NEW WINTER HOURS! Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. Food distribution is every second and fourth Friday of each month. (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194; www.questafoodpantry.org.

1-3 PM
Fun Friday with TWIRL at the Questa Public Library. Bring the whole family. We will create a Scribble Bot using DC motors and upcycled materials to build a contraption that can draw a masterpiece for you! call (575) 586-2023.

FEBRUARY 25: SAT 9 AM - 2 PM
Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Workshop at Living Word Ministries Fellowship Hall, 12 Llano Rd, Questa, NM 87556. Everyone is invited, free workshop includes lunch. RSVP by Feb 22 to gaylelwm@msn.com. *See story on page 4*

FEBRUARY 27: MON 6 PM
Questa Economic Development Fund Board Meeting, in person at the Questa Visitor Center and via Zoom, contact lynn@questaedf.com.

FEBRUARY 28: TUE 6 PM
Village of Questa Town Council Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in person at Village Council Chambers, 2500 Old State Rd 3, Questa. For agenda go to <https://questa-nm.com/> or call (575) 586-0694.

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

Please see our Church Directory on Page 31, always call to confirm service times.

MONDAYS

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org

10 AM
Kundalini yoga with Julian

5 PM
Free Community Gentle Yoga with Jiwanshakti in person only

7 PM
Kickboxing with Reto, in person only

TUESDAYS

Free Transportation for Qualified Seniors Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Info: (575) 586-0508.

5:30-7:30 PM
Kundalini Yoga, Meditation & Gong at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Join Jiwanshakti in person only. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org

WEDNESDAYS

10-11 AM
Free Senior Exercise Classes, at the Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Info: (575) 586-0508

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org

9 AM
Gentle morning yoga, Gaea, in person and online

7 PM
Kickboxing, Reto, in person only

12:30 PM-1:30 PM
Repurposing Plastic Project: Please note the new time! We now start at 12:30. 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 (575) 224-7386. Also meets Fridays.

1:30-2:30 PM
Wildcat Kitty Club at the Questa Public Library; for ages 0-3. (Older siblings and guests are welcome.) Stories, songs, and play. The fourth Wednesday of each month will feature our friends from Taos First Steps. 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. in Questa. (575) 586-2023.

3-5 PM
Senior Technology classes at the Questa Public Library (6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. in Questa), held this month on February 1, 8 & 15. No class on February 22. Bring your devices and technology problems! There are no stupid questions. . . only opportunities to learn more about your technology! Call (575) 586-2023.

6:30-8 PM
Bible Study Freedom Center Church 2558 Hwy 522, Questa. Facilitated by Pastor Johnny. All are welcome to join on Zoom or in person. Times can vary. See freedomquesta.com for series info. For a Zoom link, contact Pastor Kristi (575) 770-1714.

THURSDAYS

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org.

5:30 PM
Power Hour Yoga with Gaea, in person and online (no class Feb 23)

Free Transportation for Qualified Seniors Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Info: (575) 586-0508.

2:30-4:30 PM
Dropped Stitch at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. in Questa. 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. Info: (575) 586-2023.

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

FRIDAYS

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org.

10 AM
Free community Qigong with Julian

4 PM
Free Kids Ballet with Miss Tuesday, in person only, free

9 AM-3 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. Info: (575) 770-8681 or (575) 224-7386. Also meets Wednesdays.

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

SATURDAY

10 AM
Free Community Tai Chi at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa, with instructor Reto, in person only. Check website to verify times and offerings, at yogasalaquesta.org.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR?

Visit our online calendar at <https://questanews.com/events/>, email events@questanews.com, call (575) 586-2149. Check online calendar for updates and new events: questanews.com/events

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Certified Police Officers for Questa Police Department. The job description and employment application are uploaded to the website: questa-nm.com. Under the government tab there is a job positions tab. Questions: Valerie Vigil Clerk/HR (575) 586-0694 or vvigil@villageofquesta.org

Questa Visitor Center "Ambassador" to work part-time 2 or 3 days a week, 10am-3pm, late May through early October. Welcome guests, answer questions about the area, provide recommendations about where to eat, stay, play, etc. Light daily cleaning. \$14/hour as an independent contractor; someone outgoing & familiar with the area preferred. Send email of interest to lynn@questaedf.com.

NOTICES

First Presbyterian Church, who runs the Taos County Emergency shelter needs your help! Here is our list of things needed: · Coffee · Ramen noodles · Tea (English Breakfast or Chamomile) · Towels and washcloths (no wipes or towelettes) · Sugar · Coffee Creamer · Paper Towels · Toilet Paper · Dish Soap · Hand Soap · Hand and Toe Warmers: **Items NOT Needed** because we have so many! Granola Bars, socks, and clothing of any kind. Please drop off the items at Dream Tree (behind Albertson's) 9 am - 4pm Mon - Fri, or contact Mat Whitener to arrange pick-up. Mat@dreamtreeproject.org. Thank you!

Free Senior Exercise Classes, Thursdays, 10-11 am, Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call (575) 586-0508 for more information.

Questa Independent School District Board Public Forum on the length of the school week; meeting in the Alta Vista Intermediate School Gymnasium, Hwy 522 #4 Wildcat Rd, (575) 586-0032. Time and date has yet to be determined, check with QISD at (575) 586-0421 or QuestaNews Facebook page.

Free Transportation for Qualified Seniors Every Tuesday and Thursday. Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call (575) 586-0508 for more information.

FREE COVID PCR TESTS AND VACCINES at the Questa Health Center. For drive-up tests, please call from parking lot and staff will come to you. Please do not enter the building! Vaccines are available by appointment only, including vaccines for children 6 months to 4 years old. 2573 NM-522, Questa, NM. For an appointment, call Amy at (575) 586-0315.

North Central New Mexico Food Pantry: Second and Fourth Fridays, NEW WINTER HOURS! 10 am - noon: 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. If you need an emergency food box or other information, please call: Jeannie Masters (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194, or Nancy Parker (575) 586-2096 or (505) 699-7563. To make a donation, go to 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 In-Person Business Counseling with Anwar Kaelin, Director of the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL offered on the third Thursday of every month, 1-4pm, at the Questa Visitor Center. Also offered via Zoom on the same day 2-3pm: <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219> Join by phone: (346) 248-7799 with ID (575) 737-6219. For an appointment, or more information, contact Anwar at anwar@unm.edu.

THANK YOU everyone who helps us distribute our newspapers! Thank you especially to Chuck Kroon, Linda Betz, and Yoli Acosta who help us every month and to Riede Wyatt of Ranchos de Taos who is helping us distribute in Taos and to Jennifer Paris for once again bringing *Questa Del Rio News* to our sister city, Jaroso, CO. We are always looking for volunteers to help. If you would like to join our team, please contact Chuck Kroon, distribution manager at chkroon@gmail.com or (575) 586-2360.

FOR SALE

2008 Steinway Model S Grand Piano looking for a loving home. I am downsizing and looking to give away my late husband's piano to a new owner, or if you have someone in mind that wants it. Here are the details: Make: 2008 Steinway Model S Grand Piano | Ebony Model S Finish ; Mahogany Crown Jewel Collection Serial No ; 581465 Year: 2008 Size: 5'1(155 cm) Style: Steinway Baby Grand Piano Model: S Number of Pedals: 3 Brand: Steinway & Sons Condition: In Mint Condition Awaiting your Response. kattybrooks222@gmail.com

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Amalia - Santo Niño - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

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(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, Questa
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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
Kagyü Mila Guru Stupa, North Star Rd., Questa
(575) 586-1454, Hilece

THEOSOPHY
Sunday 10 am Alice Bailey Theosophy Study Group
Kagyü Mila Guru Stupa, North Star Rd., Questa
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(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, Red River
Saturday 6 pm (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470

LIST IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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AA MEETINGS

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

"THE ROOT OF OUR TROUBLES"

Selfishness — self-centeredness!
That, we think, is the root of our troubles.

—ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 62



zed by duane m. abel

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