

Questa Del Rio News

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

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
Sunday
March 12!

Agua es Vida, And Norteños Are Willing To Fight For It



Photo courtesy New Mexico Acequia Association

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

New Mexico has the longest continuously traceable history of human water-use in the United States. The acequia system goes back to 800 A.D. where Ancestral Pueblos utilized water from ditches which fed off major rivers and tributaries. This system contributed to growing a rich agricultural environment for Native Americans living in these pueblos.

Spanish settlers made their way to New Mexico in the 1540s and brought with them their own knowledge of irrigation practices from Spain, which were very similar to those found in the Ancestral Pueblos in the area. New Mexico and Spain have similar arid environments, therefore it was absolutely necessary to maintain irrigation ditches to feed their land in their home country.

While the Native American peoples can be credited for creating the irrigation system locally, the Spanish settlers can be credited for bringing written documents forming the governance of water law, which was used in Spain. The water law put into place by the Spainards was influential in establishing the water law and governance over the acequias, which is still in place to this day.

Louise Gallegos is the treasurer of the Questa Citizens Ditch Association and her family has participated in the maintenance of the local acequias for as long as she can remember. "My dad was very involved, very involved in this work. He was a *mayordomo* (ditch manager and caretaker) and a commissioner. He and other commissioners were instrumental in acquiring new equipment to ensure the upkeep of the local acequias,

and he was very committed to this work." She recalls how her dad would take her brothers *para sacar a la acequia* (to clean the ditches) and says it is very hard work, but very satisfying.

This is why she felt it was important to voice her concerns about a bill in the legislature that could impact the local acequia systems in Questa and the rest of New Mexico. House Bill 346 proposed amendments to the forfeiture of water rights and leased water, which would make it easier for water rights to be taken away from *parciantes* (water rights owner), if the state considered them dormant or deemed they were not being utilized. Water rights are protected and cannot be taken away without due process; however, this bill would remove due process

Questa Del Rio News

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EDITORIAL

The Sacred Pause In Northern New Mexico

Every spring, people in small northern New Mexico communities enter into a time of sacred peace known as Lent. The lenten season starts with Ash Wednesday when people flock to mass to get the mark of an ash cross on their forehead. A priest will recite, as he blesses the people, "you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Over the next 40 days, people choose to give up something for Lent to show their commitment to their relationship with God. Some people have questions and doubts about how Catholics practice Lent. The best way to explain why we sacrifice things we love and why we don't eat meat on Fridays for 40 days is because we are taught that love means sacrifice. If you're willing to sacrifice things you love, you are growing in your relationship with God.

Entering this sacred season as a community creates strong bonds to one another, knowing we're sacrificing together. While this community connection is meaningful, there is something deeper, something that unites us not only to one another, but to our ancestors, our grandmas and grandpas, *tias* and *tios* who used to sit in the same pews, attend the same services, and practice the same discipline *en el nombre de la fe*. It's more than just entering the religious season of Lent, but it's experiencing the cultural connection to the one thing *they* instilled in us, and that was our Catholic faith.

On Good Friday at the end of our forty-day Lenten season, *Costillans* and *Questeños* join together for a 20-mile pilgrimage from Costilla to Questa. People meet at the Sangrado Corazon Catholic Chapel in Costilla in the very early hours when it's still dark. The *caminantes* are led by the *guia* (cross) and each member of the pilgrimage carries the *guia* for a duration of the walk.

The pilgrimage starts with morning prayer, then *caminantes* walk silently in prayer and reflection. After some time, group prayer begins, then traditional New Mexican church songs are sung in unison. The *guia* never touches the ground and similarly, *caminantes* are never allowed to walk ahead of the cross. Throughout the walk, a peace surrounds the walkers which surpasses all understanding as bonds with the comunidad en Cristo are strengthened.

Caminantes stop at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe church in Cerro to recite the stations of the cross, then make one final stop at the morada to pray. The *caminantes* arrive at St. Anthony's Parish in Questa around noon on Good Friday and the community is there to extend an *encuentro* for the *caminantes*, whom they have prayed for the past 10 hours as they made their journey. The joy and the peace and connection felt to family, both living and those who have passed, our community, as well as the connection to God and the Holy Spirit is unparalleled to any peace ever experienced.

Mikayla Ortega and Gabrielle Rael

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR MARCH ISSUE. HAPPY ST. PADDY'S DAY!

LINDA BETZ, ALICE C., LINDA CALHOUN, PETER CRIDER,
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GABRIELLE RAE, OLIVIA RAE



Dear Editor,

The article, *A Place of Miracles, Part 1, The Restoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe*, was excellent. For supporting our Film Collection of the San Luis Valley, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you and other members of Questa Del Rio News. I am looking forward to seeing Parts 2-5 in upcoming editions.

Sincerely Rick Vigil
Down to earth Media,
Antonito, CO
downtoearthmedia.org

Dear *Questa Del Rio News*,

After experiencing what could have been a disaster, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the many people in Questa, who came to my rescue when my hot water heater went out during severe winter weather. A big "thank-you" to "Ricky from Pendleton Propane, who diagnosed the problem and directed the right people to replace the unit in a timely manner. Thanks to Andy Martinez who helped remove the tank panel. I am truly grateful to Antonio from the Questa Village Offices for speedily turning off the main water line to the house when the tank and water lines "exploded," flooding the yard and rooms in my house.

Next, after the relevant call for more volunteers for firefighters and EMT, highlighted in February's *Questa del Rio News*, it was a crew of these wonderful Samaritans, who arrived quickly and checked for any gas leaks from the unit. They calmed my fears about the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning from the gas line. I can't stress enough how important they are to the life of our community. They are true heroes. Kudos for your expertise in closely and caringly, checking out the possible dangers!

And certainly, a great big "Thank-You" to Bobby Cisneros, his son Josh, and grandson Martín who went over and above, replacing the tank, and components in frigid and icy conditions over two days. Thank you for never giving up!

Not to be left out, "Thank you, Lou McCall," for your relentless energy providing an open forum in the *Questa del Rio News*, keeping us in touch with neighbors spread out over a large area. Your efforts have been so important, making us residents feel that we are "sisters and brothers of the Greater Family." May you enjoy your new endeavors, and remember how important you have been to us in Questa! We have been so blessed to have such a caring community of hard-working and loving souls, exemplifying the best of humanity!

Betty Richter
Questa, NM

Thank you, Betty, for acknowledging these true heroes in our community. It is indeed a great privilege to call Questa home, truly a blessing for all of us. And thank you, Betty. You have been a tireless advocate here in the community. And thank you for your support of Questa Del Rio News (and for me, personally)!

Ms. Lou McCall
Editor-in-Chief
Questa Del Rio News,

Mea culpa.

First I would like to express my deepest regret for how the Agricultural Co-op Discovery Meeting turned out on Feb. 9. Instead of jumping in right away and outlining my proposal, I spent too much time trying to explain "why we need this project." I am sorry for my misuse of valuable time and any misunderstandings.

I also want to thank the community members for attending the meeting to express their interest! It's clear the community has a strong desire and the motivation to come together to support sustainable agriculture in our area.

The community could form a consumer cooperative, like the Taos Food Co-op. So we could have accessibility and availability of fresh local foods and have the purchasing power, with for example, United Foods distributors. The co-op members would decide what products to carry. People could also buy in bulk at wholesale prices. Consumer co-op members would volunteer to manage the retail operation. All members would have one vote.

With the artistic flair of our community, the building could enhance the look and feel of "downtown" Questa. I am excited to see how the community grows in its agricultural endeavors.

In Active Faith,
Lisa Fox



Saint Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and Bishop in Ireland. Much of what is known about Saint Patrick comes from the Declaration, which was allegedly written by

Patrick himself. It is believed that he was born in Roman Britain in the fourth century, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. According to the Declaration, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he found God. The Declaration says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest.

According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. The Declaration says that he spent many years evangelising in the northern half of Ireland and converted thousands.

Patrick's efforts were eventually turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland, despite the fact that snakes were not known to inhabit the region.

Tradition holds that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland's foremost saint.

-Wikipedia

Be Wary Of Scammers This Tax Season

By STAFF WRITER

QUESTA, N.M. - It's tax season and that means scammers are working overtime to con you and your loved ones out of tax return money.

beWellnm, New Mexico's health insurance exchange program has received reports of scammers impersonating its representatives, calling New Mexicans and trying to obtain private and secure information.

Residents who received coverage from beWellnm will need a 1095-A form for tax filing purposes. Scammers are using this form to try and con people into giving them personal and confidential information. In response, the organization has set up a dedicated call center to answer questions and verify customer concerns or inquiries at 1-833-862-3935 (TTY: 711).

It's important to Norteños to be wary of anyone calling to obtain personal and confidential information over the phone. Most local, state, and federal agencies will never call you to ask for your credit card information, bank information, or social security number. If you're concerned, hang up and call beWellnm directly to verify the call. (833) 862-3935, BeWellnm.com

Questa Recruiting Residents To Join The Planning And Zoning Board

The Village of Questa is looking for residents to join the Planning and Zoning Board. If you're interested in advising local officials on land-use matters involving planning and zoning, submit a letter of interest to the Village of Questa at 2500 Old State Rd 3, Questa, NM 87556.

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

OUR JOURNALISTIC ETHICS POLICY

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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Juan And Ayla Cisneros On Life, Business, And Home

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Growing up in the small communities in Northern Taos County, the one thing parents want for their children is to grow up and make something of their lives. All too often, kids graduate from Questa High School then leave to attend college and make a life for themselves – away from Questa.

That was true for Questa High School graduate Ayla Cisneros. Ayla graduated high school in 2006 and soon-after left for Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico. As for Juan, his path was different, working in various mining jobs across the country. Juan says although he would leave Questa for long periods of time, he always kept Questa

as his home-base.

Ayla met Juan in 2007 and she decided to move back to Questa in 2008 when she was expecting her first-born son. Ayla finished her bachelor's degree at UNM-Taos in 2010 and she and Juan got married later that year. They are the proud parents of four: Juan, 14, Alya, 12, Aylee, 8 and James, 6. They have planted their roots firmly in Questa and decided to make a life for their family in the same place where they grew up.

Juan's successful career in mining allowed Ayla to be a stay-at-home mom when their children were small. Juan says there was one set-back, "I would leave for a shift, then I'd return and they were walking. It was really hard on me."

It wasn't until Ayla's interest in purchasing a side-by-side that would change their whole lives. Juan said, "She wanted a side-by-side or an ATV and we realized, no-one sold them locally. There are places that rent them, but we wanted to buy one. That's when we said why don't we sell them?"

Ayla and Juan opened their first business, Rio Grande Motorsports in 2016. "I am the type that I don't like taking a lot of risk, I don't like putting myself out there for anything, and Juan, he is a



Courtesy Photo

Juan and Ayla Cisneros, along with their four children. Juan and Ayla are expecting baby #5. They are the owners of Cisneros Fuel & Grocery in Cerro, Station 522 in Questa and Rio Grande Motorsports in Taos

little bit more willing to try things," Ayla says of their decision to become business owners.

Soon after, in the same year, they had the opportunity to purchase a gas station in Cerro from Juan's aunt and uncle. It is now known as Cisneros Fuel & Grocery. "That endeavor was even more terrifying because I had just had our 4th baby, James, and two weeks later we were taking over the gas station," Ayla recalls of this rapid expansion in their busi-

ness portfolio.

The station has been a crucial asset for locals to continue to purchase fuel as they head north or for residents who live in Cerro. Since then, Ayla and Juan have purchased a third business in the heart of Questa, now known as Station 522 & Cisneros Fuel.

When asked about what advice they would give to kids who might want to stay in Questa, or for people who might want to return, Juan says, "It feels like in our culture, we have always just wanted our kids to graduate, leave Questa, and make a life for themselves. But kids shouldn't feel like they have to leave and that there is no opportunity in Questa. There are enormous amounts of opportunities, we just need to work to identify them," Juan says. In addition to Ayla and Juan working together to manage their three business, Juan also serves as a member of the Questa Independent School Board.

With the closure of the Chevron Mine, Juan notes it has been evident that Questa is resilient and says it's going to take a little bit of effort from everyone to keep the town moving forward, creating opportunities and ensuring the sustainability of the town.



Viola "Vi" Garcia

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

When it comes to a notable Questa local, Viola Garcia is high on the list. Viola, who goes by Vi, was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Vi married Lino Garcia of Questa in 1956 and they went on to live in Santa Fe until 1995, when they returned to Questa to settle down. Vi notes her love of fishing and the outdoors were big reasons she was excited to move north and establish a life in her husband's hometown. Lino passed away in February of 2021 and Viola continues to live in the home they built near Lagunita with one of her daughters.

One of Vi's most notable qualities is her deep-seated passion for giving.

When she settled in Questa, Vi was involved in coordinating the local supplemental food program for residents in and around the Questa area. In her giving nature, when people were unable to pick up their food, she would go out of her way to make local deliveries to people's homes.

Vi is a devout Catholic and a member of St. Anthony's Parish in Questa. She served as a Eucharistic minister, where she would visit up to seven homes of people who were home-bound on any given Sunday to serve as a minister.

When the current priest was assigned to the parish, Viola got involved in coordinating trips to homes for the priest in and around the Questa area. "When you have a close relationship with God, it just helps you have a good relationship with your family, friends and even people you don't know because you have peace in your heart," she says as she sighs with contentment in her voice.

It's no surprise that Vi had a big role in rebuilding the church after it collapsed in 2008. She worked with Deacon Marcos for five years on staining the glass for the windows of the newly rebuilt church. This project was a passionate one for Vi and she is so honored to be surrounded by the windows every



Courtesy Photo

Viola Garcia

Sunday when she attends the early mass.

In addition to her service with the church, Vi has been a faithful member of the Friendship Circle where she served for over 10 years cooking, cleaning, setting up receptions, doing dishes, you name it. She says she was always ready to serve when called and was ready to take on any task, big or small with a joyful heart. With time, Vi has slowed down

some and things that used to be easy are not so any more. She is not able to serve for receptions anymore, but that doesn't stop her from supporting the Friendship Circle. "I'll cook a turkey or bake some sweets, just anything they need and any way I can help them is what I do now," she says.

Although Vi has slowed down and isn't able to do all the things she once did, she still gives. "I have a list of about 10 or 12 people in Questa, older people or people that are my friends who are now homebound. I go down the list regularly and I make tortillas, cookies, pies, whatever I am able to take to their homes to show them they're loved," Viola says. She credits her family and her upbringing for teaching her the meaning of giving with a gracious heart.

When asked what advice she would give to younger people, Vi says, "it worries me that a lot of our young people don't give. I think in today's society, it is easy to get caught in your own world and forget that you can make a big difference by making a simple offer to help someone pick up their prescriptions or get them something at the store. Things like that go a long way and it's just important to help others, because the need is so great," she says.



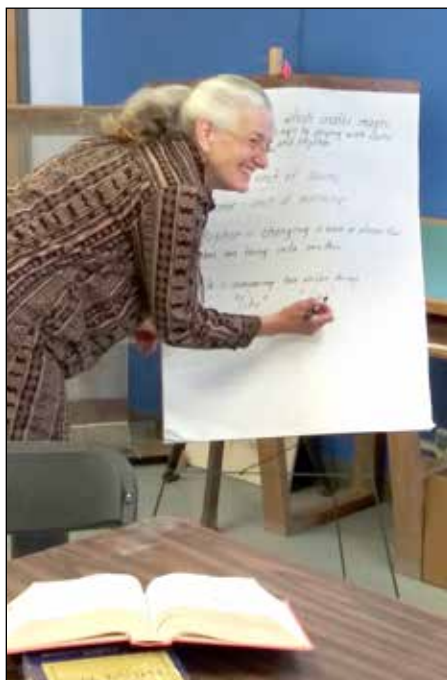
New Community Opportunities

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The mission of the Questa Creative Council (QCC) is to strengthen community through arts, culture, history, and education. The council is excited to announce exciting opportunities to engage the community through their work.

The Pandemic Poetry Project has restarted in hopes of bringing the community together again through QCC's first project based in literary art forms. After a strong and positive start last year, Betsy Irwin, QCC Member, professional artist and writer has created a way for community members young and old to express themselves through the written and recited word.

In the wake of so many changes and



Courtesy Photo by Alberta Bouyer

Betsy Irwin discusses poetry fundamentals during the QCC's 2022 Art for All Workshops

grievances, the Pandemic Poetry Project allows people to find an outlet by means of artistic word-weaving. "We want to illuminate how poetry flows through our lives — from nursery rhymes to rap music. We'll share different poetry forms and techniques to help writers create a

format for their work," Irwin said.

The council will be using the pandemic as a general topic for this project to encourage students to find positive outcomes through difficulties.

Workshops to create, finalize and perform poetry are being planned for this spring and summer and will be open to all community members, regardless of age or experience level. These workshops are especially beneficial for young writers to learn and grow. Irwin has also developed accompanying lesson plans, making it easy for local teachers to introduce the idea of submitting their work while adhering to New Mexico's curriculum guidelines.

"We especially want to include homeschoolers in the project," Irwin remarked. "This will be a great way to help parent-teachers to round out their kids' English program in a unique, community-oriented way." For more information about upcoming dates for this project, visit questacreative.org/art-for-everyone.

The Questa Art Tour is back after an extraordinarily successful Art Tour event in 2022. Last year's two-day event saw an estimated 829 visitors, with 57 artists and craftspeople participating in the tour, located at 18 art hubs ranging from

Questa to Sunshine Valley. Vendors reported great success with art sales, with five vendors reporting sales between \$500-1000, 10 vendors saying they brought in over \$1000 and four vendors reporting over \$3000 in sales.

Planning for the 2023 Art Tour is underway and there is a call for local artists interested in participating in the tour! Eligibility requirements include living north of the intersection of Highways 64 and 522, south of Sunshine Valley and west of Red River. Eligible and interested artists can find more information at questacreative.org or at northern-newmexicoartists.com. People can also inquire directly by emailing questacreativecouncil@gmail.com.

The Questa Art Tour is a Questa Creative Council event, supported by NM Arts, Chevron, and many local businesses and local sponsors. The Questa Creative Council would like to extend a special thank you to Peggy Trigg for her work and dedication in managing and growing the event over the past several years. Her work and dedication has established a solid foundation to continue to be the best Studio Art Tour in the state.

Questa is an incredible place to live.

Let's work together to make it even better.

The LOR Foundation works with people in rural places to kick-start community solutions. We're thrilled to be working directly with Questa residents, and we want to hear from you!

If you have an idea for something that could make Questa an even better place to live, contact community officer Maria Gonzalez: maria@lorfoundation.org or 575-665-2001.





Ellen Wood Displays Art At Questa Public Library

By PEGGY TRIGG,
QUESTA LIBRARY'S
DISPLAY COORDINATOR

PT: You're our Artist for March/April at Questa Library. Tell me about your artwork.

EW: I have several styles ranging from representational to abstract. My unique painting style is integrating the five basic shapes of Sacred Geometry (spiral, square, straight line, triangle, and circle) into images. "It's YOUR turn to deliver," says the stork about the baby elephant in my Sacred Geometry painting shown here.

Another series is called MAGIC WORDS – see it 'n say it. According to neuroscientists Newberg and Waldon in their book, "Words Can Change Your Brain," if you change your words, you can change your brain and your life. I embed affirmations (Magic Words) into images, e.g. I'M LOVED. I'M BLESSED. I'M HAPPY. I'M GRATEFUL. Shown below is I'M POWERFUL. When I see those affirmations on my wall, I say them and that lifts me up.

My third series is paintings of my cow Elsie, who is a life-size fiberglass cow near the end of the driveway. I put Elsie in various human situations, such as giving her boyfriend, who is a pig, a motorcycle ride.

PT: Your name is Ellen Wood. Why do you sign your paintings Maruška?

EW: I decided to use Ellen Wood for my writing, my legal name is Eleanor Wood, named after Eleanor Roosevelt, and to use Maruška for my paintings to honor my father; it was his middle name.

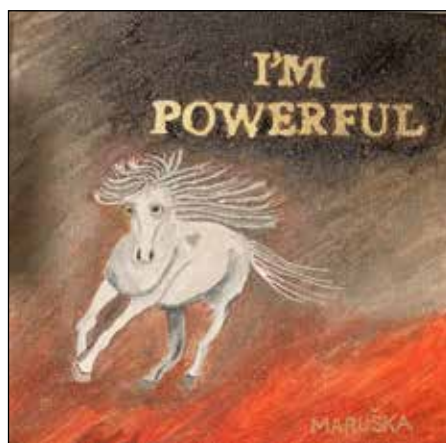
PT: You're an author as well as a columnist for Questa Del Rio News, The Taos News, The Enchanted Circle News and Law of Attraction Magazine. What do you write about?

EW: In my books, I write about how to grow younger, based on a program of Mind/Body/Spirit practices that succeeded beyond my wildest dreams to reverse my early symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease. I have the Alzheimer's gene, APO-e4. For my columns, I write about everything



Courtesy Photos

Sacred Geometry Stork-It's YOUR turn to deliver 24 x 30



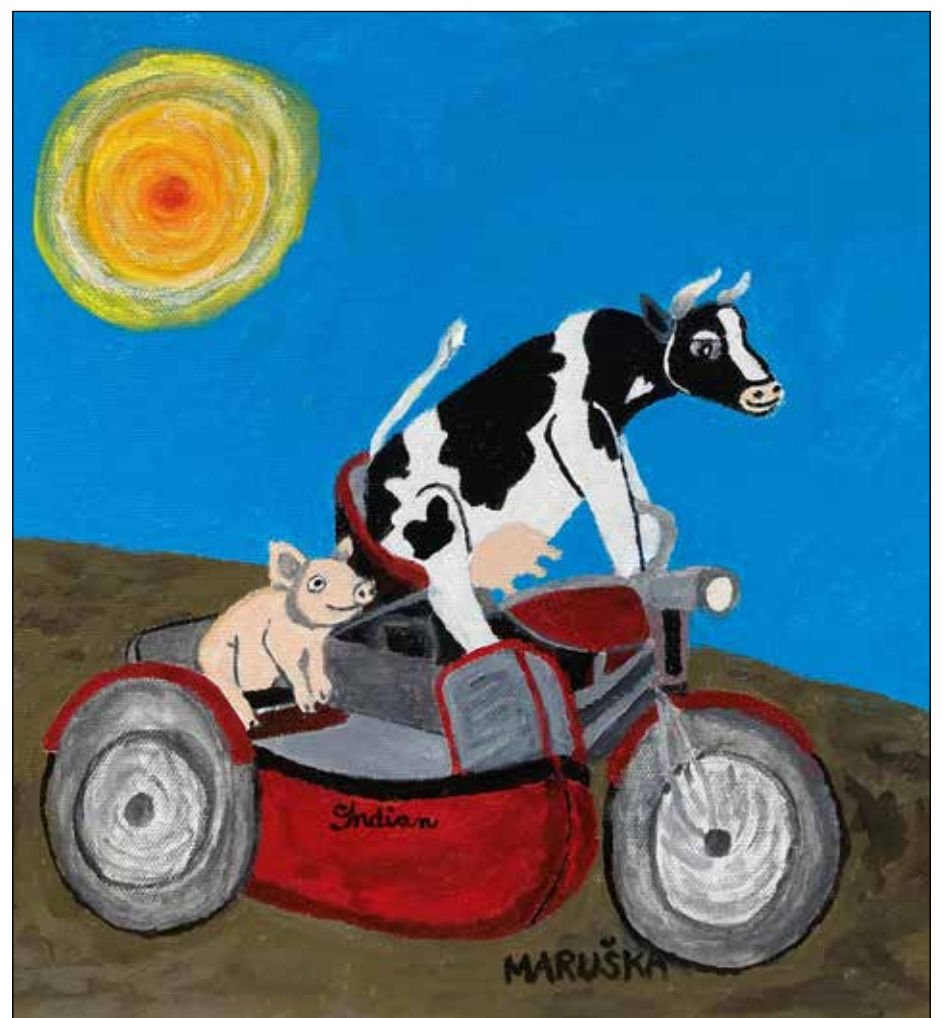
Courtesy Photos

I'm powerful-8x8

and anything that I think people might want to read.

PT: How long have you been painting?

EW: After COVID-19 put my vacation rental properties in Taos out of business, I found myself with extra time to do what I want. And what I wanted to do was paint! An old fear of not being good enough almost stopped me but I pushed through that, bought some supplies, and started in at age 84 in November 2020. What a blast! My soul was thrilled, and I painted every dog in our family plus a good friend's cat and gave those paintings away. Then I



Courtesy Photos

My Cow Elsie Takes Her Boyfriend for a Motorcycle Ride 12x12

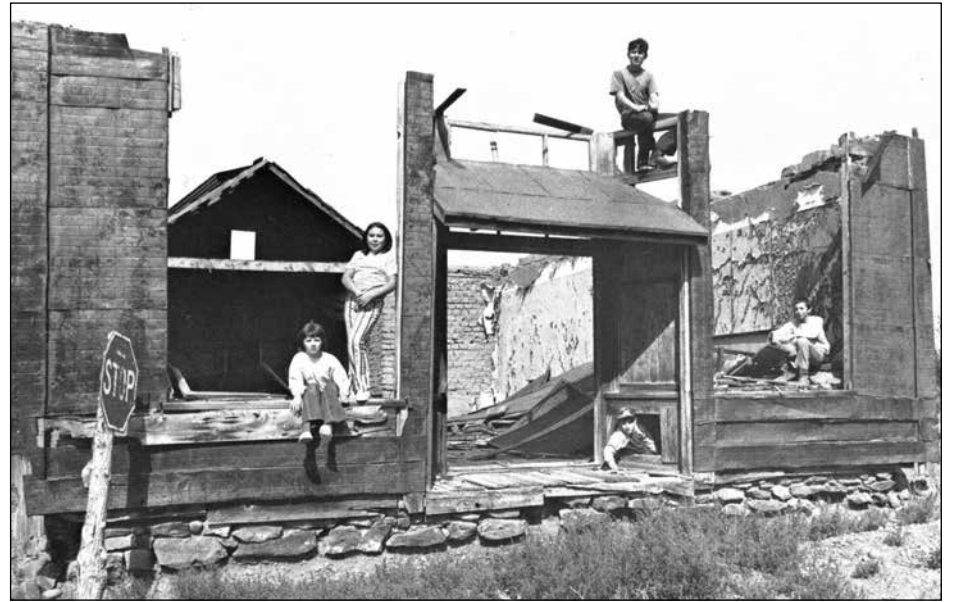
ARTIST HIGHLIGHT cont'd on pg 28

Stories On Film — San Luis Valley Oral History “A Story To Tell” Documentary Collection: Part 2



Courtesy Photo

The view of the street containing the silhouette of La Placita de San Rafael



Courtesy Photo

The native people who lived the culture depicted in the documentary series

By TOBY A. MADRID JR.,
TEACHER AND EDUCATOR

La Placita de San Rafael is one of a five-part documentary series highlighting the History, Culture and Spirituality of Nuevomexicano Communities in southern Colorado/northern New Mexico. 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.

“What good is a hometown when everyone you know is gone?”

— John Nichols, author of *Milagro Beanfield War*

The truth is, you never outgrow where you come from. You carry it with you everywhere you go. I was raised in the shadow of the church of San Pedro y San Rafael. Not the San Rafael Presbyterian Church in Mogote, but the Roman Catholic Church by the same name. Suffice to say that since I lived right across the fence from church, I spent a lot of my time there — attending mass, helping in the maintenance and upkeep, and even playing guitar in the three-person choir.

When asked where I grew up, a sense of pride and satisfaction comes over me. I was brought up in San Rafael and educated by Catholic nuns. It was all I knew. As far as other religions were concerned, they didn't exist — everybody was Cath-

olic. I'm not proud to say that my church attendance has lessened over the years but I'm still a Catholic. It's my identity, my culture. The entire population of the “Placita” felt similarly, and we all felt as if the little church belonged to all of us.

My family, as well as our relatives and neighbors, all shared a common bond — our little church. From the changing of mayordomos to the annual función

and our monthly mass, it was all about family and community. Father Felix Lopez was the pastor. He was from Spain and spoke little English. All our interactions with him, including mass, were in Spanish. That was fine though since it was our native language anyway.

When my father passed in 2014, my aunt Fedelina and I rang the church bell to announce his passing. I was told that

it was the tradition. Who I became and my perception of the people and places around me was forged in this placita. I don't live there anymore. I wish could spend more time there, but I carry it with me everywhere I go. I hope you enjoy this documentary as much as I enjoyed growing up en La Placita de San Rafael.

To see the film trailer visit: <http://downtoearthmedia.org>.

DVD Total Running Time: 20 minutes.

This is such an important record to preserve this history and culture of the Indo- Hispano villages of the Valle de San Luis for future generations.

— Ronald Rael, B. EnvD; University of Colorado, M.Arch.; Columbia University

It is so important to have this kind of history.

— Dr. Martha Urioste, Denver
Rick Vigil, from 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.



Courtesy Photo

A contemporary image of the interior of the San Rafael Church with community members celebrating mass.

**BODY
MIND
SPIRIT**



By **BARBARA TRACY**

How Do You Want To Be Remembered?

Many years ago, when I was 19 or 20 and had been living in Denver, I made a serendipitous decision to move to Los Angeles to see what worldly adventures awaited me there. I immediately began to make my travel plans and said my good-byes to family and friends. Without much forethought about weather, I set off in my

trustworthy red Ford Falcon.

Everything was going smoothly on the drive for the first hour or so and then a horrendous snowstorm moved in rapidly. I decided to keep on driving and the snow became heavier and heavier. I noticed there were fewer cars on the highway and no snow plows had come by. I figured I had no choice but to continue until I came to a town or highway truck stop.

So, I drove what turned out to be deeper into a huge snow storm. After a while it became difficult to see where the road was. I did my best to stay down the center of what I felt was the road. My little red Falcon was creeping along through the storm and light was fading quickly — and then finally it was dark. Visibility was only what I could see right in front of the car. Then my little red Falcon began to stutter and falter in what was her usually smooth engine sounds.

Oh no! What will I do now? There did not seem to be time or place, just this

feeling of being in some sort of bubble, too intense to become fearful while staring ahead at whatever I could make out and go in that direction. Then blessing upon blessing, I could see a faint light somewhere ahead and I navigated the car as best I could to reach that light.

After some time I came upon a gas station, but it was closed. The light was from a floodlight overlooking the station. I sat for a moment trying to get my thoughts in order when an elderly man knocked on my window. I rolled the window down and he said “Can I help you?”

I said, “there’s something wrong with my car.” He told me to get out of the car and come into the house, which it turned out was right behind the station. There I was greeted by his wife, both asked me what in the bloody blue blazes was I doing out on a night like that? I told them what happened as I finally let go and tears rolled down my cheeks. I remember they said nothing, and both simply nodded

their heads.

I don’t remember their names, I don’t even remember what they looked like or where this gas station was, but these two big-hearted and caring people took me in for the night and the next day the older gentleman told me my distributor cap was cracked and he had gone ahead and put a new one on for me.

I am sharing this story because this act of kindness and compassion from two strangers has never left me. I will always remember their gift to me even though I don’t exactly remember them.

What this brings to mind for me is, how do I want to be remembered? This is something that perhaps all of us could ponder, because our very presence in action, attitude, caring — how we treat one another has the potential to leave us with either an indelible scar or a beautiful memory. Perhaps it’s a good choice to make all our encounters with others as much a beautiful memory as possible.

SENIOR MENU: MARCH 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 BBQ Chicken , Parsley Potatoes, Zucchini , Wheat Roll , Peach Cobbler	2 Sweet and Sour Pork , Rice, Carrots, Wheat Roll , Mandarin Oranges	4 Macaroni & Cheese, Santa Fe Blend Vegetables , Spinach Salad, Wheat Roll, Whipped Lime Jello /Pineapple
6 Beef Stroganoff over Noodles, Green Beans, Wheat Roll, Tropical Fruit	7 Ham and Scalloped Potatoes, Chuckwagon Corn, Tossed Salad, Wheat Roll, Apricots	8 Pork Loin Chop w/Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Broccoli , Wheat Roll, White cake w/Strawberries	9 Hot Beef Open Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Capri Vegetables, Tapioca Pudding	10 Green Chile Sour Cream Enchiladas, Tossed Salad, Pinto Beans, Crackers, Chocolate Chip Cookie
13 Pork Posole, Mexicali Blend Vegetable, Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Crackers, Orange Jello w/Fruit	14 Baked Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Winter Blend Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Wheat Roll, Chocolate Pudding	15 Green Chile Cheese Burger, Lettuce/Tomato/Pickle/Onion, Potato Wedges, Tropical Fruit	16 Chicken & Stuffing w/Gravy, Mixed Greens, Wheat Roll, Fruit Cocktail	17 Macaroni in Tomato Sauce Casserole, Mixed Vegetables, Wheat Roll, Strawberry/Banana Compote
20 Hamburger Steak w/Gravy Brown Rice, Peas and Carrots, Wheat Roll, Peaches in Cottage Cheese	21 Pork Chop w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Spinach, Wheat Roll, Banana Pudding	22 Chicken Fajitas, Fajita Blend Vegetables, Pinto Beans, Crackers, Peanut Butter Cookie	23 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Peas and Onions, Wheat Roll, Fruit	24 Spinach Lasagna, Corn, Salad, Garlic Bread, Jello w/Fruit
27 Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Broccoli, Wheat Roll, Orange/Pineapple Salad	28 Orange Chicken, Rice, Spinach Salad, Wheat Roll, Cherry Cobbler	29 Chili Dog, Mixed Vegetables, Potato Wedges, Whipped Berries	30 BBQ Sandwich, Potato Salad, Cucumber/Onion/Tomato Salad, Fruit	31 Tater Tot Casserole, California Vegetables, Wheat Roll, Pears, Oatmeal Rasin Cookie

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 ST PADDY'S DAY Questanews.com



LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

Think You're Aging Fast?

Studies have shown that people who just think they are aging faster actually do age faster!

Mayo Clinic research shows that people with positive outlooks typically live 19 percent longer than people who see the glass as half empty. To support the hypothesis that immune systems are strengthened by positive thoughts, Dr. Bruce Lipton's experiments, and that of other leading scientists, have examined in great detail

the processes by which your cells receive information.

The implications of this research radically change our understanding of life. In *Biology of Belief*, Dr. Lipton tells us studies show that genes and DNA do not control our biology. Instead, DNA is controlled by signals from outside your cells, including the energetic messages emanating from your positive and negative thoughts.

You can modify your genes without changing their basic blueprint by modifying their environment through changes in your diet, emotions, toxins, stress, etc. This process is called epigenetics.

Everything you eat, drink, breathe, think and expose yourself to affects your genes. Understanding how your cells respond to your thoughts and perceptions illuminates your path to personal empowerment. This largely determines how you look and feel and how long you live. In fact, only about five percent of cancer and cardiovascular patients can attribute

their disease to heredity. And you can regulate this with the world's best "cure all," your mind.

Dr. Lipton concludes that beliefs control biology. He clearly describes the connection between your core thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes and how your cells function as a result.

Happy thoughts put your cells' functions in balance. Hateful, angry, and resentful thoughts do the exact opposite; they suppress your immune system, alter your hormones, upset your digestive system, and diminish your brain function and respiration.

An often-repeated study showed that when a person's living cells from different organs are put in separate dishes, cells from one organ would respond when cells from a different organ in a different dish were stimulated. If the cells were from two different people, they would not get that reaction.

This means the trillions of cells in your

body are always in direct communication with one another, even if they are not in direct contact by chemical or neurological pathways.

"You are what you think!" Confucius said.

In the 6th Century B.C.E Lao Tzu said:

- Watch your thoughts for they become words.
- Watch your words for they become actions
- Watch your actions for they become habits,
- Watch your habits for they become character.
- Watch your character for it becomes your destiny.

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.

¿Crees que estás envejeciendo rápido?

Los estudios han demostrado que las personas que nomás piensan que están envejeciendo más rápido ¡en realidad envejecen más rápido!

Las investigaciones llevadas a cabo por la Clínica Mayo demuestran que las personas con perspectivas positivas suelen vivir un 19 % más que quienes ven el vaso medio vacío. Para respaldar la hipótesis de que los pensamientos positivos fortalecen el sistema inmunológico, los experimentos del Dr. Bruce Lipton y de otros científicos destacados han examinado con gran detalle los procesos mediante los cuales las células reciben información.

Las implicaciones de esta investigación cambian radicalmente nuestra comprensión de la vida. En su obra *Biology of Belief*, el Dr. Lipton explica que los estudios demuestran que los genes y el ADN no controlan la biología. Por el contrario, el ADN está controlado por señales que vienen desde el exterior de las células, incluidos los mensajes energéticos que emanan de los pensamientos tanto positivos como negativos.

Es posible modificar los genes sin cambiar su modelo básico modificando su entorno a través de cambios en la dieta, las emociones, las toxinas, el estrés, etc. Este proceso se llama epigenética.

Todo lo que comes, bebes, respiras, piensas y todo a lo que te expones afecta tus

genes. Comprender cómo responden tus células a tus pensamientos y percepciones ilumina el camino hacia el empoderamiento personal. Esto determina en gran medida cómo se ve y se siente y cuánto tiempo se vive. De hecho, solo alrededor del cinco por ciento de los pacientes con cáncer y problemas cardiovasculares pueden atribuir sus enfermedades a la herencia. Y puedes regular esto con la mejor "cura para todo" del mundo: tu mente.

El Dr. Lipton llegó a la conclusión de que las creencias controlan la biología. Él describe claramente la conexión entre pensamientos, creencias y actitudes y cómo funcionan las células como resultado.

Los pensamientos felices equilibran las funciones de tus células. Los pensamientos de odio, ira y resentimiento hacen exactamente lo contrario: deprimen el sistema inmunológico, alteran las hormonas, hacen funcionar mal el sistema digestivo y disminuyen las funciones cerebrales y de respiración.

Un estudio repetido a menudo ha demostrado que cuando las células vivas de diferentes órganos correspondientes a la misma persona se colocan en platos separados, las células de un órgano responden cuando se estimulan las células de otro órgano colocado en un plato diferente. Si las células son de dos personas distintas no se obtiene esta reacción.

Esto significa que los trillones de células de tu cuerpo siempre están en comunicación directa entre sí, incluso si no están en contacto directo por vías químicas o neurológicas.

"¡Eres lo que crees!" dijo Confucio.

En el siglo sexto a.n.e. Lao Tse dijo:

- Cuida tus pensamientos porque se convierten en palabras.
- Cuida tus palabras, porque se convierten en acciones
- Cuida tus acciones, porque se convierten en hábitos,
- Cuida tus hábitos, porque se convierten en carácter.

- Cuida tu carácter porque se convierte en tu destino.

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

Traducido de Teresa Dovalpage

JR (Malaquias) says:

"NorthStar will be under construction late March and a couple of weeks into April.

There will be no service during that time."



We love our customers so please bear with us.

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

Questa Fire And EMS Increases Fleet For Emergency Response

By STAFF WRITER

Questa Fire and EMS announced on social media the addition of a new water tender for fire and emergent response. The new tender added to the department's fleet of emergency vehicles will be called Tender 1. Funding for obtaining the new vehicle included a grant award from the New Mexico Fire Grant Council for \$300,000, \$30,000 from Chevron Mine, and additional Village general-fund dollars.

County Fire Chief Mike Cordova, Jr. assisted in supporting and ensuring



Photo Courtesy Questa Fire & EMS

the department was able to receive the funds needed to add Tender 1 to its fleet. On Feb. 16, Tender 1 was placed into service. The new tender will carry up to 5,000 gallons of water to respond to a structure fire.

The department extended its gratitude to Chief Cordova, Questa Village Clerk Valerie Vigil, Finance Director and Village Administrator Karen Quintana-Shannon, Questa Mayor Ortega, and Questa Village Council for their support in increasing the response capabilities for the Village of Questa.

Alta Vista Boot Drive Takes Over Main Street Of Questa

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

QUESTA, N.M. — Alta Vista school volunteers spent Saturday, Jan. 28, collecting money for a January Boot Drive to benefit Alta Vista School students. Volunteer firefighters from Questa and Cerro Fire Departments were present, assisting with the collection by providing safety vests and traffic control.

The money raised will directly assist students with an end-of-year field trip, according to Questa Fire & EMS Facebook page. "Please know that we

are only there to assist in this process and this shouldn't be confused by our Annual Boot Drive," the Facebook page went on to say.

Principal Elaine Romero could be seen shouting, "for spring field trips" and "for student field trips" while generous drivers were holding cash outside their driver-side window as they passed the mainstreet intersection.

"We've racked up almost \$2,000," said Principal Romero at about 2:20 pm. The boot drive ran from noon to 3 pm.



Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb

From L to R Cerro Fire Chief Austin Martinez, Questa Fire Chief Alfredo Romero, Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova, Alta Vista Principal Elaine Romero



Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb

Alta Vista Volunteers

Thank You Larry Archuleta And George Montoya For Beautifying Questa

By STAFF WRITER

The saying "it takes a village" couldn't be truer in thought and action for many nortenos who are always willing to lend a helping hand for the greater good of the community. Questa residents Larry Archuleta and George Montoya spent some of their time in February beautifying Perovich Park at the intersection of Highways 522 and 38. Questa resident Jeannie Masters was also kind to thank these gentlemen by dropping off food for them. Village Councilman Jason Gonzalez also stopped by to acknowledge them and thank them. They were recognized at a February Questa Village Council meeting.

CLEAN UP DATES FOR MARCH

Councilman Jason Gonzalez has scheduled additional community clean-up days in March. If you're interested in lending a hand, they will meet at Parovich Park from 11am-2pm on the following days:

- Friday, March 3
- Friday, March 17
- Friday, March 31

You're encouraged to bring your own snacks and gloves. Contact (575) 586-0694 with any questions or to sign-up.



Photo by Maria Gonzalez

From left to right Questa Village Councilman Jason Gonzalez, says thank you to Larry Archuleta and George Montoya



Photo by Maria Gonzalez

Jeannie Masters, left, brought food to clean-up volunteers, shown here with George Montoya, not pictured is Larry Archuleta

Early February Water Main Fixed Within 24 Hours

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

QUESTA, N.M. — Just after midnight Sunday, Feb. 7, Village of Questa employees responded to a water main break on Cabresto Road. Public Works employees stayed on scene through the night working to locate the leak. Additional crew members responded at 8 a.m., Sunday and worked throughout the day to stop the leak and rejoin the pipe.

As temperatures fell, there were concerns that repressurizing the water through the newly repaired pipe could cause complications, however, village employees successfully repressurized the line without any issues, restoring water and water pressure to Questa residents off Cabresto, East Llano, and Calle Sin Salida.

In a separate and unrelated incident, a water leak was found at Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate School in a building on school property Sunday afternoon. School officials tell us it was a minor elbow leak and took just over one hour to fix. This leak caused temporary loss of pressure to residents off Gonzales Rd. around 4 pm.



Courtesy Photo



Get your local news ONLINE!

Village Of Questa's Current Water Rate No Longer Sustainable

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

After months of discussion, Questa's Village Council may be ready to move on utility rate increases for water and sewage services.

Inflation is battering the Village of Questa and infrastructure costs are now out-pacing revenue streams, particularly as regards its water system. The village currently has the lowest base water rate compared to several other comparable municipalities throughout New Mexico.

The Village of Questa has been diligent about keeping water rates low for its residents. In reviewing water rate changes since October of 2008, Village water rates have increased by a meager 20 percent while, nationally, the cost-of-living has gone up by 40 percent.

Village officials, including Finance Director and Village Administrator Karen Quintana Shannon, have been

Current Water Rate Comparison

Questa: \$19.76
Hatch: \$29.01
Eagle Nest: \$34.36
Angel Fire: \$36.12
Estancia: \$46.44

warning the Village Council about water revenues lagging behind costs. Councilwoman Louise Gallegos said back in December, "We've known for a long time that we had to raise rates, we didn't because we didn't want to burden our residents; but the time has come."

The Village is basing a potential rate increase decision on data from a 2019 study, "Water Rate Analysis for Village of Questa, New Mexico," done under the previous mayoral administration by

WATER RATES cont'd on pg 28

Taos County Sheriff's Office Locate Remains Of Elderly Man

By STAFF WRITERS

Taos County Sheriff's Office announced on social media the recovery of the body of an elderly man near Des Montes on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The body was located by a hiker Monday, Feb. 13 on a trail in the Turley Mill area of Des Montes. Due to an incoming snowstorm and timing of the report, the recovery of the body didn't take

place until Tuesday, Feb. 14 when it was safe to do so. Deputies from the Taos County Sheriff's Office along with three Hondo-Secco Fire & Rescue volunteers recovered the body of the elderly male late on Tuesday.

The cause of death as well as the identity of the man is pending an investigation by the Office of the Medical Examiner.



Courtesy Photo

Questa Agricultural Listening Round Table

By LYNN SKALL,
DIRECTOR,
QUESTA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FUND

We want to hear from you! Dan Hobbs, the Cooperative Specialist for the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union will be facilitating an in-person community "Listening Session" around agriculture on Friday, March 24 at 4 pm. Sponsored by QEDF, the Village of Questa and Chevron. What do Questa area farmers and ranchers envision for the future of agriculture and food sustainability in our area?

Do you want an agricultural co-op, perhaps something with a consumer business hub? Would you like to develop sustainable local food systems, regenerate fallow lands, address food sovereignty, or work on "succession planning" for retiring farmers?

This is your opportunity to have your voice heard, to share your ideas, express your concerns, and help guide the direction of agriculture to invigorate and fortify our ranching practices and heritage for the generations that follow.

For more information, contact Lynn Skall, lynn@questaedf.com or leave a message at (575) 586-2149 or Rocky Mountain Farmers Union <https://rmfu.org/>.

Questa Agricultural Cooperative Listening Round Table

Friday, March 24
from 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Questa Village Council Chambers,
Questa, NM 87556
Facilitated by Dan Hobbs,
Rocky Mountain Farm Union
More info:
lynn@questaedf.com or
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
<https://rmfu.org/>

\$5 Million Proposal Could Help Acequias Recover From Disasters In The Past And Future

By MEGAN GLEASON,
THE SOURCE NM

Because of last year's massive wildfires and floods, farmers and ranchers are dealing with clogged-up irrigation systems affecting their livelihoods. Now, they're looking for ways to clean up all the damage and get water flowing again.

Senate Bill 176 would create a \$5 million pot that acequia stewards and communities could pull from each year to help recover from recent or future disasters.

It got through the Senate Conservation Committee Tuesday, Feb. 14, with bipartisan support and is heading to Senate Finance.

Paula Garcia spoke as an expert on the bill and said irrigation channels are full of silt, ash and debris after the destructive fires and floods last year. Garcia, the executive director of the New Mexico Acequia Association, said the money would help meet the needs of those damaged irrigation systems.

"What we're looking for is responsiveness to the unique needs of acequias," she said.

Gillian Joyce, spokesperson for the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, said these historic irrigation systems are the only way agriculture can thrive in areas that don't have many wells, or any at all.

"Many of these acequias that are being impacted by these disasters we've seen, they look like they haven't been dug out in 50 years," she said. "They have so much sediment in them."

Garcia said many of the acequias hit by the 2022 disasters need to be fixed up in the coming weeks or months.

"They will not flow this spring, and that's endangering a whole way of life that's been in our valley for hundreds of years," she said.

If it passes and is signed into law, the legislation won't go into effect until July.

Garcia said there's still time to add an emergency clause, which would have the measures kick in right away if passed. If that doesn't happen, she said she's glad the legislation could help in the long term.

"Tragically, other mountains are going to burn, other villages, other communities," Garcia said.

Paying for what acequias can't

This legislation builds on a fund that already exists. Currently, the acequia and community ditch infrastructure fund has \$2.5 million available annually through the N.M. Interstate Stream Commission to set up new irrigation systems and keep the channels in good shape.

That money comes from a state acequia construction fund. This legislation would double that amount and expand where the dollars can be spent.

It would also help pay for repair costs that many acequia stewards, a position that's often volunteer-based, can't afford on their own. State or federal emergency funding will cover most costs for these projects, but local officials are required to come up with the rest of the bill.

Sen. Pete Campos (D-Las Vegas) said there are over 700 acequias in the state, and many don't have the resources or money to cover their share. The proposal he is sponsoring would eliminate the necessary cost-share requirements. "That's one of the reasons why we're hoping to move forward with a very straightforward appropriation request," Campos said.

Arthur Romero came to the Roundhouse from Holman, N.M. in Mora County to represent the acequias in his area. He said their acequia fund is next to nothing, and added they can't afford to repair the fire and flood damage on their own.

"We really need help on cleaning these things out and getting as much as we can done," he said.

Sen. Leo Jaramillo (D-Española), one of the bill's sponsors, said this fund will make recovery dollars available to "New Mexicans who understand the acequia community, who understand the landscape and what it means to keep it."

"We need to ensure that water continues to flow into our valley and continues to provide for our way of life," Jaramillo said.

While nobody directly opposed the bill, not everyone was in favor of every detail.

Jonathan Martinez is the acequia program manager for the Interstate Stream Commission. He said the agency



Photo by Megan Gleason / Source NM

Flooding pushed trees onto this bank in the Mimbres Valley. The river should be flowing just beyond this buildup. Pictured on Dec. 15, 2022

supports the legislation but does have some concerns about locals not having to pay anything for repair projects.

"We feel that by having some local cost-share with the local communities that we tend to see that they're more engaged in the overall project, in the process of having a project completed for them," he said.

He said the commission is open to eliminating the cost-share requirement for disaster response projects post fire or flood events, or setting it up so there's less money locals have to pay upfront. The agency is worried about taking it away for every acequia set-up and upkeep project, he said.

Campos said there are questions as to if the proposed resources should go to the Interstate Stream Commission, as the bill is currently drafted, or directly to the Office of the State Engineer. He said the Senate Finance and water subcommittees could help hammer out some of those details.

Sen. David Gallegos (R-Enuice) asked if there are any other resources available to help the irrigation channels. Campos said there are not enough,

because the areas are considering a flood threat that could come soon as the state expects major snowcap melt to come from Colorado.

"Yes, there could be additional resources available," he said. "But again, we're trying to make all the resources available for the long term because it's going to take more than the resources that we have available in order to go ahead and clean out our acequias."

Federal resources don't come down quickly, either, Garcia added. She said there's a short time frame to get debris out of the acequias. Irrigation season starts every year in the spring.

And, she said, not all areas even have federal resources. She used the Black Fire as an example, where acequias don't have enough damage to qualify for federal help.

"The debris removal is what's really critical, and it's what has to happen within a matter of weeks or months to get the water flowing again," she said. "If the water doesn't flow, that means people are in a position where they have to sell their cattle, they're not growing hay."

CALL OR E-MAIL US FOR AD RATES! (575) 613-0856 or Sales@QuestaNews.com

Legislative Update for Northern Taos County

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB,
MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The legislative session is underway and we have been tracking various bills that could impact northern Taos County residents.

In the February *Questa del Rio* paper, Malaquias Rael, Chairman of the *Questa Economic Development Fund*, wrote an editorial on “The Green Amendment” formally known as HJR4 and SJR6. This would allow legislation that would allow leaders to amend the New Mexico Constitution and enshrine “environmental rights” into law to give residents a right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, and environments.

This bill was of grave concern to Chair-

man Rael. As he noted in his editorial, this could “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.” SJR6 currently sits in the Senate Rules Committee and HJR4 sits with the House Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee.

A bill to increase access to residents to vote in the state of New Mexico, formally known as HB4 would amend voter registration access, automatically registering eligible people to vote at the MVD. The bill would also extend voter registration access to citizens who have been convicted of crimes and have served their time. This

means that upon exiting the correctional facility, convicted individuals will be eligible to vote. The bill has passed the Government Elections and Indian Affairs Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

A bill to increase regulations of schools and their relationship with the NM Public Education Department (NMPED) is currently sitting in the Government Elections and Indian Affairs Committee. The bill, known as HB143, would codify new reporting requirements between local schools boards and the NMPED and grant the PED power to suspend individual school board members, increase mandatory training for school boards, as well as governing bodies of charter schools, and

mandate increase public access to the decision-making of school boards and governing bodies of charter schools through webcasting and archiving meetings. The current sitting school board has offered the most stability the *Questa Independent Schools* have seen in years, therefore it’s unlikely they will have any concerns with this current bill should it pass.

A bill, HB261, to reduce the wasteful killing of protected animals is currently in the House Judiciary Committee. Currently, New Mexico state law prevents the wasteful killings of bighorn sheep, ibex, oryx, barbary sheep, elk, and deer. Hunters are required to use the entire animal after

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE cont'd on pg 18

New Mexico House Passes Historic Voting Rights Act

By STAFF WRITERS

SANTA FE, NM — On February 21, the New Mexico House voted to advance HB4, legislation that will restore voting rights to over 17,000 New Mexicans impacted by discriminatory felony disenfranchisement laws, enhance voter data privacy, improve automatic voter registra-

tion, make Election Day a school holiday, and increase ballot access for Tribal communities.

Brett Edkins, Managing Director of Policy and Political Affairs, for the Advocacy Group Stand Up America commented on the passage, “...the New Mexico House reaffirmed that a truly representative democracy requires every eligible

voter to be able to cast their ballot without barriers. The House passage of HB4 is a pivotal step to protect the freedom to vote in the Land of Enchantment, setting New Mexico apart from other states that are actively restricting the right to vote.

“From guaranteeing much-needed resources for polling places and secure drop boxes in Tribal communities, to rectifying

the injustice of discriminatory felony disenfranchisement laws, the New Mexico Voting Rights Act will help build a democracy that works for all New Mexicans.

“We urge legislators in the Senate to follow the House’s lead and protect everyday New Mexicans’ freedom to vote by swiftly passing this crucial legislation.”

Nuevo Mexicana Xochitl Torres Small; Deputy Secretary Of Agriculture

By STAFF WRITERS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — New Mexico U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández issued the following statement after President Biden nominated Xochitl Torres Small, pictured, to serve as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture at the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

“New Mexico knows rural — it’s our



Courtesy Photo

herencia y cultura — it’s also a major economic engine for many ranchers and farmers. Our *hermana* Xochitl Torres Small has rural in her DNA and will be an amazing advocate at USDA.”

Following President Biden’s announcement that former U.S. Rep. Xochitl Torres Small will be nominated as USDA Deputy Secretary, Senator Ben Ray Luján, a member of the Senate

Agriculture Committee, sent the following tweet:

“Congratulations to my friend Xochitl Torres Small on her nomination as USDA Deputy Secretary. As a granddaughter of farmworkers, New Mexico native, and dedicated public servant, she will achieve great things in this position. I look forward to working with her on behalf of New Mexico.”

Leger Fernández To Serve On Powerful House Rules Committee

By NAIRKA J.
TREVINO MÜLLER

WASHINGTON, DC — On Jan. 25, U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM-03) announced that Leader Hakeem Jeffries appointed her to the powerful and influential House Rules Committee. The Rules Committee determines what bills are considered and voted on by the full House of Representatives. Rep. Fernández

will serve alongside Democratic Ranking Member James P. McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-05), and Rep. Joe Neguse (CO-02).

Although she will serve in the minority, Fernández will use her role on the Committee to advocate on behalf of hard-working New Mexican families.

“I am humbled to serve New Mexicans on the powerful House Rules Committee and be a voice for our people,”

Fernández said. “The Rules Committee is instrumental in influencing all major legislation that heads to the House Floor — we worked extensively with the Committee to pass the Hermit’s Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act and secure justice for those communities. I am grateful for the trust Leader Jeffries placed in me to serve alongside an amazing group of lawmakers. This is an opportunity for us in the minority to fight for what matters: lower

health care costs, good-paying jobs, and prosperity and hope for a better future.”

The Committee on Rules is among the oldest standing committees in the House, having been first formally constituted on April 2, 1789. Because of the vast power wielded by the Rules Committee, its ratio has traditionally been weighted in favor of the majority party and has been in its “2 to 1” (9 majority and 4 minority members) configuration since the late 1970s.



Questa Ladycats And Wildcats Basketball Season Comes To An End

By STAFF WRITERS

The Questa Ladycats and Wildcats basketball seasons have come to an end. We would like to congratulate the players and coaches for their work through the season, showing up to practice, and making Questa proud. The Ladycats ended the season winning 11 games and losing 16. The Wildcats ended the season winning 2 games and losing 25.

On the Ladycats team this season was Junior #1 Amalia Gonzales, Fresh-

man #2 Jocelyn Ortega, Freshman #3 Alyse Lovato, Sophomore #10 Alyana Leon, Senior #11 Karina Rael, Senior #12 Mariana Enciso, Sophomore #14 Ashlynn Rael, Sophomore #15 Aliyah Santistevan, Sophomore #21 Alianna Gonzales, Sophomore #22 Kamryn Cardenas, Sophomore #23 Kiara Arellano, Freshman #24 Marissa Ortiz, Senior #25 Emelina Medina, Sophomore #30 Marlena Vallejos.

The team was coached by head coach Steve Rael and assistant coaches Delena Trujillo and Mike Rael.

On the Wildcats team this season was Sophomore #10 Carlos Ortega, Junior #11 Nathaniel Rael, Junior #12 Martin Rivera, Senior #13 Juan Gonzalez, Senior #14 Marcus Gonzalez, Sophomore #15 Jacob Vallejos, Freshman #15 Dominic Vallejos, Junior #24 Antonio Romero, Junior #25 Esteban Gomez, Freshman #32 Noah Rael, Junior #34 Richard Sanchez, Senior #40 Joaquin Hawkes. The team was coached by head coach Miguel Romero.



Photos by Dylan E. Crabb

Above: Pictured Senior Karina Rael goes for a basket



Left: Pictured Junior Nathaniel Rael shooting the ball

QISD Considers Increased Drug Testing of Athletes

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

QUESTA, N.M. — The Questa Independent School District (QISD) Board deliberated their drug-testing policy for student athletes and came to a decision to increase their random testing of athletes from 25% to 33%. The initial proposal called for raising the drug-testing to 50% of athletes.

While the board decided to advance a measure that would increase the drug testing of student athletes, the measure also calls on lessening restrictions on athletes caught using substances, allowing athletes who test positive for drug-use to practice with their teams rather than be barred from athletics altogether.

Superintendent John Maldonado reported the past total cost of drug-testing 25% of student athletes was about \$735. Drug-testing is conducted three times during the school year — in the fall, winter, and spring.

While recent studies have shown that schools with drug-testing for extra-curricular activities report less drug-use overall than schools without drug-testing, the board expressed concern over the students who may be left behind as a result of drug-testing.

“I don't want kids to just give up because all they had to look forward to was sports, and now they don't even have that,” said Board President Jason Rael. “I think we should also take into account that they're not adults.” He called a complete ban from sports as an “adult solution to a juvenile problem.”

Board Member Juan Cisneros partially agreed, and advocated for leniency for initial violations of the policy and more punitive measures on subsequent violations.

Superintendent Maldonado, speaking optimistically about student athletes, agreed with Cisneros. “We don't have a big issue where there's a tremendous amount of players [using drugs],” said Maldonado. “Out of a team of about 10, we may lose one... most of our kids are fine.”

During this school board meeting, there was only one substance specifically mentioned in regards to the policy on mandatory drug-testing: marijuana.

A negative stigma remains around the use of marijuana, while currently marijuana is legal in 37 states for medicinal use and legal in 22 states for recreational use, New Mexico's legalization of



Photo by Dylan E. Crabb

recreational marijuana only went into effect in 2022, the drug remains illegal for anyone under 21. The school board still needs to pass a second reading of this measure in an upcoming school board meeting.

A recording of the 2/1 QISD Board meeting is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_UcRt-C3D3s&t=2382s

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Questa High Class Of '73 Needs Classmates To Plan 50th Reunion

By STAFF WRITER

When the Questa High School class of 1973 graduated, Richard Nixon was president, gas was 73 cents a gallon, and 'My Love' from Paul McCartney and Wings was number one on the radio. Over the years, many classmates have

lost touch and Dee Sims (Vigil) is interested in bringing the alumnus together for a 50-year class reunion. The reunion will likely be held Labor Day Weekend in September 2023.

Currently, Dee along with Nancy Gonzales, Melvin Valdez, and Larry

Quintana are on the planning committee. Dee is looking for more classmates to get involved. If you're interested, contact Dee at (505) 289-4446 or by email at dee.sims@hotmail.com.

A planning meeting is scheduled for 1 pm, Tuesday, March 14 at Rael's Coffee

Shop in Questa.

Dee has a special message for her class of '73 classmates: "Let's come together to share your successes, growing of families, loss of loved ones and to reminisce on the good times. Life is short, let's catch up!"




SPROUTINGS

SPROUTINGS is our regular feature celebrating local young people. The 5th and 6th grade students of Alta Vista teacher, Mr. John Walsh, have been our most loyal contributors!

QUESTA WILDCAT'S MARCH SPORTS SCHEDULE

Varsity Baseball					
Mar-18	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	HOME	QUESTA HIGH	Logan High
Mar-20	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	AWAY	Edida High at Santa Rosa High	QUESTA HIGH
Mar-23	3:00 PM		AWAY	Laguna-Acoma High	QUESTA HIGH
Mar-25	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	HOME	QUESTA HIGH	Menaul
Mar-28	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	HOME	QUESTA HIGH	Clayton High
Mar-31	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	HOME	QUESTA HIGH	Centennial

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QUESTA PUBLIC LIBRARY



E-Books Now Available To Questa Library Patrons


By STAFF WRITER

The Questa Library is making it easy for people to read and listen to books on their smartphones and

tablets by offering e-book rentals to the community for free.


In order to access e-book rentals, a valid library card is needed to see the library's digital collection. The collection includes e-books and audiobooks including best-sellers and new releases. The categories range from mystery, romance, children's, business, and more. The digital library collection can be accessed by downloading the easy-to-use Libby app. Libby is compatible with all major computers and devices, iPhone, iPad, Android phones, tablets and Chromebook.

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BIRD IS THE WORD

By BRYCE FLANAGAN

Bird Flu Woes

By now we've all felt the effects of the latest Avian Influenza, or bird flu, pandemic. The cost of a dozen eggs has more than doubled from a national average of \$1.78 in December 2021 to \$4.88 in December 2022. This current iteration of bird flu is the deadliest on record, surpassing the previous high of 50 million bird deaths in 2015 by 8 million at the time of writing.

Egg production companies have responded to these historic losses with his-

toric price increases, prompting criticism from farmer advocacy groups like Farm Action. In a letter to the Federal Trade Commission chair, the group accuses industry dominating companies of "price gouging" and "price collusion." The letter argues that a substantial loss of chickens does not justify a sharp price increase on eggs, as "the average size of the egg-laying flock in any given month of 2022 was never more than 7-8 percent lower than it was a year prior" and even these losses were "blunted by 'record-high' lay rates."

Wholesale prices for a dozen eggs were \$1.73 at the end of February 2022 but had shot up to \$4.50 in the beginning of December. During this time, Cal-Maine Foods, the largest egg distributor in the industry controlling 20 percent of the market, reported a five-fold increase in profit margins. By contrast, the 2015 bird flu killed more egg-laying hens but egg prices only increased from \$1.29 to \$2.61.

Farm Action does not mince words in their letter, calling these price increases

"organized theft" and urging the FTC to "open an investigation into the egg industry, prosecute any violations of the antitrust laws it finds within, and ultimately, get the American people their money back." But the American Egg Board denies these accusations of price gouging, saying it's simply a matter of economics: "Eggs are bought and sold on the commodity market, where farmers don't set the price of eggs — the market does."

Egg prices aren't the only fear on people's minds as this strain of bird flu has led to the first documented case of mammal-to-mammal transmission, a development that has some worried about the possibility of human-to-human infection. What has scientists worried is an incident at a mink farm in the Galicia region of Spain, where the captive mink tested positive for bird flu. No workers at the farm contracted the virus but the fact that it mutated to spread between mammals alarmed scientists. Tom Peacock, a virologist at Imperial College London

said the virus' mutation was "incredibly concerning" and "a clear mechanism for an H5 pandemic to start."

Other scientists are hesitant to sound the alarm. Thijs Kuiken, a veterinary pathologist at Erasmus University Medical Center, based in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, notes that most mammalian cases of bird flu are from predators feeding off infected carcasses and that this mink farm was exceptional due to the nature of several predators being kept in close quarters with one another. He says, "It's a human construct." The CDC is currently developing a bird flu vaccine in the unlikely event of widespread human transmission.

The good news is that bird flu has always been seasonally predictable, peaking around February and then slowly fizzling out as the year goes on. The worst is already behind us, and New Mexico only recorded 40 infected birds in total. Here's hoping egg prices come down alongside new case numbers.



By TONER MITCHELL

Snow Day

We got a good, old-fashioned snow dump last night, the kind that could put your car in a ditch if you got too distracted by happy visions of green hillsides come spring.

Since they canceled school today, I did what I viewed to be my fatherly duty, to encourage my son, Gus, to brave the hellish roads up to the ski area. As my own dad used to say, it would be "powder past the knees and silence in the trees," and it would be a crime for Gus to miss it.

Here at my desk, I'm reveling in thoughts of a robust snowmelt that will flush the trout streams of their silt and fill the air with insects for the birds and fish to eat. I'm seeing the sparkle of inundated fields, trucks taking crops to farmers markets, and stacks of alfalfa bales to feed cows and horses through next year's winter.

I'm also thinking of the downsides to heavy snowstorms, what northern New Mexicans have forever viewed as "life." For a rancher friend of mine, this storm couldn't have come at a worse time. He



Courtesy photo

Wintry mountains overlooking Santa Fe

works a BLM allotment out near Cuba, where over a foot of wet snow has piled up among the piñon and junipers. He has eleven pregnant heifers out there, and must bring them home right away so his family can attend to their births, which for first-time mothers, is usually the most difficult.

Here's what the snowstorm has done. Plowing roads, as obligated by his day job with the Department of Transportation, will compete for his time to deal with his heifers. Going into the allotment with heavy loads of horses and then out with

heavier loads of cows will be a nightmare if the roads get too greasy. The roundup will strain the resolve of his horses and three cattle dogs, and the routine task of breaking pond ice will still need to be done.

One thing for certain, there's no alternative to bringing in the heifers, especially since they're all ready to pop. Even if they birthed without difficulty out on the range, their calves could land on snow and might freeze in the night. Not having gone through this before, the mothers could get confused between their instincts to attend to their own recovery or protect their

babies from coyotes and the cold.

As a fisherman working in the conservation field, I'm grateful to have learned that my fishing — and recreation in general — is but a small component of what must be considered when we discuss our natural resources and how they're used. Managing public lands, especially their multiple use, is a big and convoluted issue. How do we do this?

Perhaps more importantly, how do we do this with adequate respect and appreciation for our communities?

There are few easy answers. Just ask the village of Costilla, to which heavy winter snowfalls (and subsequent runoff) can be a blessing and a curse. Due to the presence of a large beaver colony, Costilla faces a unique challenge in which a large source of stored water is both unavailable to downstream property owners and a nuisance to upstream residents whose private land is frequently flooded by the industrious beavers. Solving this problem — reducing flooding and delivering water downstream while maintaining abundant pond storage — will require the active support of resource management agencies

It will also require public support, specifically the public's deeper understanding of "life" in northern New Mexico. It's about so much more than mountain biking and fishing, or my son getting a powder day for the ages. We also need to remember that there are villages that need water and heifers that need to come home, among many other things that keep our rural areas alive.

Recycling Thoughts On Recycling Issues

By JENNIFER PARIS

Last month's article Solid Waste Recycling on Shaky Ground highlighted the Jan. 18 decision that Taos County could not financially support recycling at this time. Your support for recycling was asked for by letting councilors and commissioners of the town and county know your opinion and knowledge on the importance of recycling. Thank you to those who wrote to our elected representatives!

Personally, I wrote to all the commissioners, the mayor, and a councilman, and I received many positive replies and reassurances that recycling is greatly valued by town and county and that it is a problem that is sincerely being worked on. Not knowing the details of the work being done, the county administrators

were contacted and a fuller picture of what must be done to start up recycling emerged.

Some years ago, the county commissioners were so supportive of recycling that they worked with Solid Waste, Lorenzo Gutierrez, and Edward Martinez, to start recycling at the transfer stations. The idea was that if the program could be financially successful as well as operationally successful, it would move forward.

Recycling is a commodity with its ups and downs. For example, a metric ton of cardboard fluctuated roughly between \$20 and \$210 in the past five years in the U.S. The work it takes to pick it up from the transfer stations, move it to another location once or twice, bundle it with a hand-fed bailer to prepare it for purchase is a money loser at today's low

prices, and it takes personnel that the department hasn't funded and are not available to do that work. And the public doesn't always deposit clean cardboard, which makes the bales worth even less (not to mention clean metals or properly separated metals!). And then there was COVID-19 with the resultant economic ups and downs and difficulty in hiring personnel.

The decision was made that to move forward and put the mechanisms in place to get a thriving department, the whole picture needed to be looked at — comparative waste fees, recycling fees, competitive market values, etc. Says Jason Silva, the Deputy County Manager - Operations, "We want to make sure we have a viable program going forward." To do that, the analysis must be done, town and county have to

cover the true costs of all of the waste pickup and recycling, and they hope to broaden the scope of recycling and work with enterprises such as TiLT's Repurposing Plastic, the Recycle Ranger, and Conscious Taos to repurpose and recycle waste. Except for Los Cordovas in Rancho de Taos, the folks at Solid Waste are still processing the recycling at the other seven transfer stations without extra help.

There is still much to be done, and it helps if the public knows the details, the overview, and an estimated timeline for re-implementing town and county recycling in a sensible way. We can trust that the passion our county has for recycling and the realities of the responsibilities of the administration(s) will create a thriving recycling program. We just have to do our part and be patient.

Watering Your Trees In Winter

By CORVA ROSE,
TREE SCHOOL

Winter watering is like most other things we classify as 'chores.' We hear about it, it sounds like a good idea, and then we're like, "Wait, how do I do that again?" And then we do something else. Sound familiar?

I get it. There are a few things that need to align perfectly for it to happen:

- Outside temperatures need to be reaching the high 40s or higher for a few days so that the trees are actively moving the water, and the ground/hoses aren't frozen.
- You need a few hours to move the hoses around and then drain them before it freezes overnight. (A drip system saves a lot of time, but sometimes you're watering your trees by draining

the rain barrels.)

- You have to set a timer on your phone to move the hose every 15 minutes or so.
- And brrr sometimes you just wanna stay inside where it's warm.

So here are some tips to help get that spatula under your tush to flip yourself outside into the brisk, fresh air... to do some winter watering:

- Motivation: The resilience that trees have in the summer comes from winter watering. Yes, that's right! If we want our trees to have the reserves to make it through the heat then we need to give them a good, deep (24") watering once a month in winter.
- When: Our winters are becoming drier than usual, but thankfully we've had some good snows this winter. This month is technically the last month for

winter watering down in Albuquerque, but up in Taos winter watering continues though May, as the last frost date is late May. Do one good, deep watering each month until then, unless there's at least 6" of snowfall each month. In June, shift to every 2 weeks.

- How: Use your drip system, a hose with sprinkler attachment, or just a hose on low. If using a hose, move it to a new location every 15-30 min. Check the depth that the water has reached with a small trowel. Every site's percolation rates will vary due primarily to soil type. Get to know your own site.
- An awesome resource: <https://www.505outside.com/> The folks at the Water Authority have put together very easy-to-follow directions on this page, including downloadable

guides and charts! This site is Albuquerque-centric, so just roll the dates forward and backward to account for a later frost date (end of May, beginning of June) and first frost date (end of September), so that the winter section of the charts is longer, and summer is shorter.

- Change your mind: I find that if I see it as one more chore, then I have some resistance and it feels ordinary. But if I can change my outlook to be one of looking after the space I'm caretaking, of helping the local wildlife, and getting to be outside in the brisk, fresh air... then I'm more likely to not just do it, but enjoy doing it!

For more information about learning to care for trees in New Mexico, visit <https://treeschoolnm.com/> or give us a shout at hello@treeschoolnm.com.



Soul Kitchens

"Hope is delicious." That's the slogan on the t-shirts at the JBJ Soul Kitchens.

Since 2011, Jon Bon Jovi and his wife Dorethea have been feeding the hungry in their New Jersey Soul Kitchen restau-

rants, regardless of their customers' ability to pay.

Diners are asked to pay a \$20 donation to cover their meal, plus a donated one. Those who can't pay can donate by washing dishes, prepping food, waiting tables, or harvesting organic food grown on donated land for the restaurant.

Diners are encouraged to share a table with someone they don't know via their "getting to know you" community-style seating.

The first Soul Kitchen opened its

doors in Red Bank, New Jersey in 2011.

A second followed in 2016 near Toms River — an area once devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

In 2017, a third opened at Rutgers University, where hungry students can eat hot, healthy meals and can volunteer their time if they can't afford to pay.

Bon Jovi says that "the way to feel good is to do good" and he's feeling pretty good by creating socially sustainable commerce, serving delicious and nutritious food, all while helping out

neighbors and their neighborhoods at the same time.

This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live.

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Audio Story: https://mcusercontent.com/6dd23531465f1c13f80eb7d84/files/22d36ddf-1937-bcd6-2ec7-25779790e8fc/GN_7.70_SoulKitchens.mp3

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Norteños Urged To Prepare for Wildfires Year-Round

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

QUESTA, N.M. — The U.S. Forest Service, in partnership with other local and federal agencies, has launched a wildfire-preparedness campaign called “Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round.” The goal of the campaign is to improve residents’ emergency preparedness.

Wildfire risk is not new to the people in northern Taos County. In May 1996, the residents of Questa grappled with the potential of losing their homes, land, and town as the Hondo fire raged down the mountain, forcing people to evacuate to the nearest shelter for safety. While this fire never reached the Village of Questa,

it burned over 10,000 acres and destroyed more than 24 homes in less than 24 hours. This incident is etched into the memories of many *Questeños*, underscoring the importance of taking small, meaningful steps to prepare for emergencies and disasters.

This month’s campaign is meant to teach the public about the importance of “Go Bags.” Go Bags are an essential step toward preparing your family for an emergency or disaster. According to the U.S. Forest Service, some important items to include in your Go Bag include a change of clothes and undergarments, cash in small bills, and copies of important documents. Emergency Go-Bags should include things that you and your family

need for the next 36-48 hours if you’re displaced. To download a checklist to ensure you have everything you might need, visit <https://tinyurl.com/TaosEmergencyChecklist>.

Communication during an emergency or disaster is another crucial part of preparedness. Rural communities are at an elevated risk as the distance between towns can cause a delay for fire personnel to respond in a timely manner. Additionally, rural and low-density areas are vulnerable because they are located in high vegetation areas where fire can spread rapidly. For this reason, the Taos County Office of Emergency Management has created an opt-in system for residents to be able to

receive emergency notifications directly on their cell phones that inform them of imminent danger and/or of evacuation orders. To sign up to receive these alerts, visit <http://onelink.to/alertme>.

While signing up for Emergency Alerts will increase your emergency preparedness, it’s also equally important to grow your social media community. Follow local news and radio stations to get the latest information about potential immediate breaking news which could impact you. The Questa Del Rio News can be found on Facebook.com/QuestaNews, Twitter at @QuestaNews and on Instagram at #QuestaDelRioNews.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE cont'd from pg 15

a kill. This requirement would be extended to javelina, bears, and cougars.

The bill SB21 would prohibit prescribed burns during red flag warning

days. Red flag warning days are issued whenever there is an extreme risk of fire danger, e.g. high winds, warm temperatures, and extreme drought due to low to no precipitation for an extended period. Prescribed burns are useful to thin out

dense pine woodlands, however, doing mitigation work during high fire risk days could be devastating should the burn grow out of control, as the residents of neighboring San Miguel saw with the Calf Canyon Fire and Hermit’s

Peak Fire last year. The bill passed both committees, the Senate Floor as well as the House Rural Developments, Land Grants, and Cultural Affairs Committee. It currently sits in the House EENR Committee.

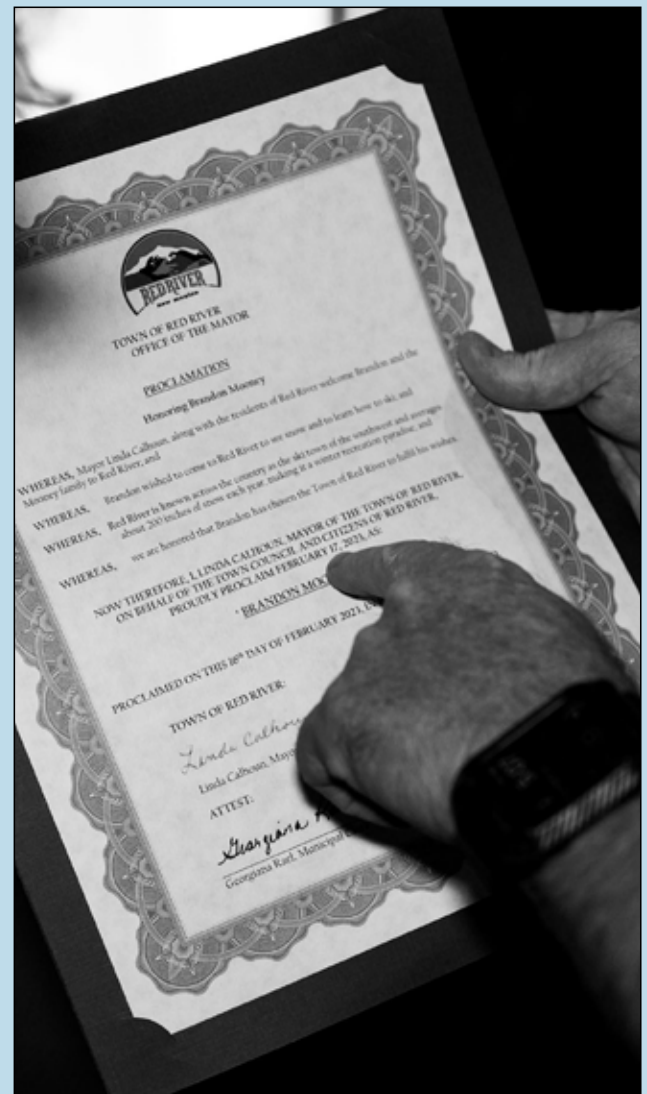
Teen’s Wish Granted To Visit Red River

By STAFF WRITER

It was a big week for teenager Brandon Mooney as the “Make a Wish” Foundation granted his wish to visit Red River! Mayor Linda Calhoun signed a proclamation marking Feb. 17 as Brandon Mooney Day and the proclamation was presented to Brandon at Texas Red’s by local Red River leaders. Brandon was also given a special “welcome bag” filled with gifts from Red River. Brandon visited Red River for five days. To help grant more wishes like Brandon’s, you can visit wish.org/nm.

Photos Courtesy of Visit Red River

Brandon Mooney (left), with Red River Town Councilor Steve Cherry (right), wished for a trip to Red River from the Make a Wish Foundation



A Homecoming Brings A Brand-New Ski Team For Red River



Courtesy Photos

Happy Red River and Santa Fe racers celebrate following the first-ever Fun Race for the Red River Ski Team, Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Red River Ski Area Chalet. Left to Right: JT Radcliff, Kingston Gist-Trujillo, Journey Burnett, Jasper Noll, Jade Madewell, Caleb Noll, Hannah Noll, Kaylie Kinsman, Gideon Hampton, Ryleigh Pockrandt. All racers were with the Red River Ski Team, except the Nolls who race with Santa Fe. Front (sitting) Carson Kinsman of the Santa Fe Ski Team

By ELLEN MILLER-GOINS

Mark Darby honed his skiing skills at Red River Ski Area — and he wanted to make sure every child growing up in Red River had the same opportunity. A former professional ski racer and Endurance auto racer, Darby says he was itching to get back to the town he loved.

That was step one. Step two was getting involved with the ski team.

“I came back in October and the first thing I asked about was the racing team,” Darby says. “Ed Hampton told me we hadn’t had a team since 2008.”

Hampton, who is the pastor at Faith Mountain Fellowship Church, as well as a longtime ski instructor and professional ski racer himself, had coached the team for eight seasons before calling it quits at the end of the 2007-2008 season. He suggested Darby talk to Red River Ski & Summer Area Owner/GM Linton Judycki.

“I got the race director job and the ski team racing job,” Darby says, adding, “I also work two days a week with the ski school.”

“I’m very excited Mark has found his way back to New Mexico and is helping restart a little bit of ski racing in the area,” Judycki says. “As a kid, the ski team was the best part of skiing. Having fun with friends while learning how to ski better... hard to beat that!”

An Oklahoma native, Darby came to skiing as did so many Red River visitors:

“I had skied my whole life, but only like a week a year.” When his parents purchased the Copper King Lodge and his father went to work for the town Marshal’s office in 1978, it was life changing. “I came up over Christmas break from college in 1979 and never went back.”

Soon after Darby was fully-certified as a ski instructor and even worked as an associate coach for the Red River Ski Team in the early ‘80s. “...parents of my kids now remember me because they were on the ski team when I was coaching,” he notes.

Under Hampton’s and others’ tutelage, Darby excelled at ski racing and competed on the Southwest Pro Tour, the Peugeot and Audi Cups, and the popular local Doodah Race Series. It was while ski racing that Darby got seriously hurt in a ski accident and ended up at a spinal center in Atlanta. “I was in a wheelchair for almost four years.”

In that time, he fell in love, got married, had two children, and fell into his career as an endurance racer, most recently working as a test driver at Oracle Red Bull Racing.

Red River stayed in Darby’s heart, and he finally found his way back. Asked why, he incredulously answers, “Are you kidding me? There’s no comparison. There really isn’t. I’m not the kind of person who wants to make a lot of money. I like the Mayberry life.”

As for ski racing? Darby notes, “I was



Courtesy Photos

Red River Ski Team Coach Mark Darby

so worried I wouldn’t be able to ski. I didn’t ski for 22 years after the accident. I got back here and within three days it was like I hadn’t been off of them.”

Darby met with parents Nov. 17, 2022, and “The very next Saturday I started taking the kids out. I think only two kids on the team had even run gates before. First off, you get them all carving on the mountain. That’s how we spent the first month and a half — hip angulation, knee angulation... Your turns done when you get to the gate. Right now, I’ve got 14 kids ages ranging from 4 to 14 and about 9 of those are proficient in the gates.

“When Ed had it, they were state champions for three years. He even had people from Amarillo coming up.”

Darby coaches the less-experienced kids on Mondays and Fridays and adds, “I’ve been taking the fast kids out on Saturday. I’ve had two different Santa Fe parents ask me about the team. Red River Ski Area’s one of the few places in New Mexico where they’ll let you run gates.

“It’s all about having fun when they’re this little. If they stop having fun, they’re done.”

Darby describes one child who was perpetually locked in a wedge. He worked with the child, associate coach Ronnie Pockrandt worked with him... Finally, Darby says, “I worked with him all day one day.”

He had the budding racer ski one

Local Racers Excel At First-Ever Fun Race

The newly revived Red River Ski Team competed in their very first fun race Saturday, Feb. 11, competing against youth from Santa Fe, Sipapu, Albuquerque, and Angel Fire.

“Ryleigh Pockrandt not only won the 6 and under class, but she finished 10th overall in all age classes,” Coach Mark Darby said. “Half the people at the top were going ‘Oh my god! That girl is flying! Rick at The Boot Guru decided to sponsor Little Ryleigh with new race skis and boots after seeing her performance! Nobody can keep up with her. And Atlas Judycki... He’s my other little superstar in the making.”

Drew Judycki Fun Race

Final Results,

Saturday, February 11, 2023

AGES 6-7:

- 1st-Ryleigh Pockrandt
- 2nd-Jasper Noll
- 3rd-Xandra Madewell

AGES 8-9:

- 1st-Caleb Noll
- 2nd-Enoch Madewell
- 3rd-Ezra Coss, RR

AGES 10-11:

- Boys:**
- 1st-Nate Perlak
 - 2nd-JT Radcliff, RR

AGES 10-11:

- Girls:**
- 1st-Kaylie Kinsman
 - 2nd-Journey Burnett
 - 3rd-Hannah Noll
 - 4th-Jade Madewell

AGES 12-15:

- Boys:**
- 1st-Carson Kinsman
 - 2nd-Gideon Hampton
 - 3rd-Kingston Gist-Trujillo

AGES 12-15:

- Girls:**
- 1st-Ava Renner
- Overall:**
- 1st-James Bell
 - 2nd-Gary Moreno-Ulibarri
 - 3rd-Ava Renner

on one leg switching legs. “Within two runs on the Bump he was skiing parallel. His confidence... it was like he was on top of world.”

Support the team at the newly revived Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser featuring Brett’s Bistro’s famous 3-meat spaghetti, Wednesday, March 1, 6 pm, at the Red River Ski Area chalet.



St. Paddy's Day Green Food!

Cream of Broccoli Soup

2 pounds broccoli with stems
 1/2 medium onion, roughly chopped
 1 small potato, scrubbed and roughly chopped
 1 t garlic powder
 2 C fresh or frozen green peas
 1/8 t freshly ground black pepper
 3 T fresh lemon juice (from 1 to 2 lemons)
 1 T finely chopped fresh dill
 Sea salt to taste
 Cut the broccoli into large pieces, keeping the florets separate from the stems. Peel any very tough stems.
 Place the stems in a large soup pot and add the onion, potato, garlic powder, and 3 cups water. Bring to a boil over high heat.
 Reduce the heat to medium and cook for 10 minutes.
 Add the broccoli florets and peas to the pot and cook until the broccoli is very tender, about 15 minutes.
 Carefully transfer the soup to a blender, working in batches if necessary, and blend until smooth. (Alternatively, use an immersion blender to purée the soup in the pot until smooth.)
 Return the soup to the pot. The consistency of the soup should be moderately thick. Add water if necessary. Stir in the pepper, lemon juice, dill, and salt to taste.
 Bring to a boil.
 Turn off heat and serve immediately.

New Mexico Chile Rellenos

12 oz. (about 3 cups) shredded cheese, preferably Monterey Jack or asadero
 12 whole, roasted, large New Mexican green chiles, slit end-to-end
 6 large eggs, separated
 1/2 C all-purpose flour
 3/4 t salt
 Vegetable oil or shortening for deep frying
 1 C all-purpose flour
 Green Chile Sauce, warmed
 Preheat oven to 400°
 Stuff each chile with cheese, filling them well but not to overflowing
 To prepare batter, beat egg whites in large bowl with electric mixer until soft peaks form. Mix in egg yolks, the 1/2 cup flour, and salt, beating only until combined. Note the batter should be lightly stiff and thick enough to coat the chiles.
 Heat 4 inches of oil in large heavy pan to 350° F. Place a baking rack over a few thicknesses of paper towels within easy reach of the stovetop
 Pour 1 cup of flour onto a plate. Lay the first chile, seam-side up, in the flour to coat, using a spoon to cover it thoroughly.
 Dunk chile into batter, seam-side up, and spoon more batter over it. When evenly coated, pull it from batter by stem and let excess batter drip back into the bowl. No cheese should show — the batter should be thick enough to seal the chile's slit.
 Slip the chile into oil and repeat with remaining chiles as you have room in the pan.
 Fry chiles 4 to 5 minutes, turning as needed until evenly golden and crisp. Drain chiles on baking rack.
 Transfer the chiles to heatproof platter or individual plates, top with chile sauce and cheese. Pop into oven for about 3 minutes until cheese on top has melted.
 Serve immediately.

Chile Colorado

18-20 dried Red Chile pods
 6-8 cloves garlic, peeled
 1 onion, chopped
 3 Tbsps. Lard or Olive Oil
 2 Tbsps. Flour
 2 tsp salt
 3-1/2 cups water
 Clean chile pods by removing stems and seeds. Soak pods in water in large bowl using a plate to weigh down the pods. Preheat oven to 375°. Arrange oven rack on lower half of oven. In cast-iron skillet, combine garlic, onion and lard or oil and season with salt. Roast covered on the lower rack for 25 minutes. Drain chile pods and place them in large Dutch oven covered with fresh water.
 Bring to a boil then reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes.
 When the oven timer goes off and veggie mix has roasted, transfer from oven to stove top. Over medium heat, add flour and stir until the roux has browned to a caramel color. Add half a cup of fresh water and stir until it reaches a boiling point. Turn off heat and set aside to cool slightly then puree in a blender and push through sieve. Once chile pods have finished cooking, remove from water and in two or three batches puree them with about a 3/4 cup of fresh water per batch and push through sieve.
 Combine with veggie puree and reheat before ladling over fritters. Makes about 6-8 servings.
Recipe courtesy Liddie Martinez
Shamrock Shake
 2 C vanilla ice cream
 3/4 C whole milk
 10 drops liquid chlorophyll or green food coloring
 1/4 t mint extract
 Whipped cream, sprinkles and cherries
 Place the ice cream, milk, food coloring and mint extract in a blender. Blend until smooth.
 Pour into two glasses. Top with whipped cream, sprinkles and cherries, then serve.

Salmon Patty Recipe

1 (14.75 ounce) can salmon, drained of all but 2 T of liquid, flaked
 1 large slice bread, crust removed, shredded (1 C, 50g)
 3 T green onion, chopped
 1 medium garlic clove, minced
 1 T fresh dill, chopped, or 1 t dried
 3 T minced green bell pepper
 1 T flour
 1 large egg
 1/2 t sweet paprika
 1 t finely grated lemon zest
 2 t lemon juice
 1/4 t kosher salt
 Several turns of freshly ground black pepper
 3 T extra virgin olive oil
 In large bowl, gently mix together salmon (including 2 T of can liquid), bread, green onion, garlic, dill, bell pepper, flour, egg, paprika, lemon zest, lemon juice, salt and pepper.
 Form 8 patties, about 1/2 inch thick. Chill at least 30 minutes (or longer):
 Brown in skillet: Heat olive oil over medium high heat in large skillet. Cook patties until nicely browned on both sides, about 3 to 4 minutes per side.

Green Chile Spinach

1 T vegetable oil OR 2 strips bacon, diced
 1/4 medium onion, chopped
 2 cloves garlic minced
 1 15 oz. can chopped spinach, drained
 1 C cooked pinto beans, drained
 2 T Coarse Green Chile, chopped
 1/2 t granulated garlic
 1/2 t salt
 Heat oil or bacon in a non-stick skillet. Sauté onion and garlic in oil.
 Add 1 15 oz. can chopped spinach, 1 cup cooked pinto beans, 2 T chopped Coarse Green Chile
 Stir in 1/2 t granulated garlic and 1/2 t salt
 Cover and cook over low heat 15 minutes



Lou's Super Smoothie

1 banana
 1/2 C fresh or frozen blueberries, or any fruit
 1 handful of spinach, kale or any fresh greens
 3-4 slices of fresh ginger or 1 t dried
 3-4 slices of fresh turmeric, or 1 t dried
 a few shakes of black pepper (if using turmeric, add to activate its anti-inflammatory properties)
 1 T non-GMO soy lecithin granules or sunflower lecithin powder
 1 T green powder, such as spirulina, chlorella, dried wheat or barley grass, or a combo
 1/4 t Vitamin C powder (ascorbic acid) or 1 packet Vitamin C mix powder
 1 C apple juice, or other unsweetened fruit juice or veggie milk, such as almond or oatmilk
 Blend on high. Add more liquid if needed. Or if it is too thin, add more banana.
 Optional Additions: aloe juice, coconut oil or flax oil, yogurt, raw eggs, protein powder, collagen powder, and any food supplements you take daily, such as maca root, magnesium or psyllium husks. Nutritional yeast is a favorite but the flavor takes some getting used to. Don't use brewer's yeast, ick!
 Makes one 16-24 oz breakfast shake

Liddie's Torta de Huevo Recipe

6 Eggs, separated
 2 1/2 T Flour
 1 t Baking Powder
 1/2 t Salt
 1/2 t Cream of Tartar
 1 C oil or lard for frying
 Beat egg whites and Cream of Tartar to stiff peaks and set aside. Heat oil or lard over medium high heat in cast-iron skillet. In medium bowl whisk egg yolks, flour, baking powder and salt. Fold in egg whites and drop batter by spoonful into hot oil in batches. Be careful not to crowd the pan. Fry on each side until golden brown (about 10 seconds) and drain on paper towels.

The Latest From The LOR Foundation

By CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The LOR Foundation's new Questa community officer, Maria Gonzalez, has really hit the ground running since starting at the end of last year. In February LOR sponsored the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) workshop, a training to help community members stay connected about projects they're working on. It was a great opportunity to network and collaborate. You can always see the latest inspiring community projects (more than 120!) LOR has helped support across the Mountain West at lorfoundation.org/solutions.

Gonzalez also sends out a monthly email with potential funding opportunities and other helpful resources. You can find last month's list at lorfoundation.org/resources/february-2023-resources. If you want to be added to the email list, feel free to reach out to Gonzalez at maria@lorfoundation.org.

Gonzalez has also been busy meeting with locals to understand what's important to Questa residents. If you have an idea for something that could help make Questa even better, drop Gonzalez an email or give her a call at 575-665-2001.

ABCD WORKSHOP

Volunteers in Questa Get a Boost from a Community Organizing Workshop LOR Sponsorship Summary:

Local Champion:

Questa Economic Development Fund

Date Funded: March 16, 2022

Grant Amount: \$6,700

There's a lot of energy and enthusiasm for community work in Questa, New Mexico—both from established nonprofit groups as well as more informal volunteers who are interested in giving back. There has also been, at times, a lack of communication and collaboration about projects between these groups, which has occasionally led to a duplication of efforts. The staff at Questa Economic Development Fund came up with one potential solution for addressing this: Host a free, one-day Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) training workshop to guide sustainable community-driven development. Supported by funding from LOR, the ABCD workshop brought together community members, volunteers, and organization leaders to work together to develop short- and long-term community models for future community improvement efforts.

A Prayer For Springtime Awakenings In New Mexico

By STAFF WRITER

Spring is a wonderful time in northern New Mexico. The snow is melting, the trees are blooming, and new animals are being born. Winter is being left behind and new life, new hope, new possibilities are awaiting you. May you feel renewed and awakened this Spring and may every endeavor be blessed with sacred and divine abundance flowing from the greater power.



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Preview Harwood Museum's Centennial Celebrations

By CONTRIBUTING WRITER

TAOS, NM — There's a timelessness about the Taos Valley and its mountains that transcends mere centuries. Even so, Centennials are cause for celebration, and such is happening this year as our Harwood Museum of Art celebrates its 100th anniversary as a steward of Western history and American art and as the heart and soul of Taos' artistic life.

In advance of the Centennial kickoff in June, the Taos County Historical Society is pleased to present Juniper Leherissey, the Harwood's executive director, for a look back at the Harwood's remarkable history and a look ahead at the seven months of events that will launch the Harwood into the future.

Ms. Leherissey's talk begins at 2 pm, Saturday, March 4, in the Kit Carson Electric Coop boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Road.

For questions about the Harwood



Courtesy Photo

Jennifer Leherissey, Harwood Museum executive director, speaks to the Taos County Historical Society on March 4 about the Harwood's upcoming centennial celebrations

and the Centennial events, call Shemai at (575) 758-9826 x 109 or Jennifer at (505) 603-8643. For questions about the March 4 TCHS program, call (612) 743-6546.

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2023 Oscar Predictions

By MICHAEL YOUNG

Here are my predictions for how the Oscars will be awarded in the ceremony on March 12. These predictions are based, in part, on my Initial Analysis and Ranking of the movies. For details on the reasoning and more discussion backing up my predictions, go to MichaelsMovieMoments.com.

Here's my track record which, admittedly, could be better:

- 2022: 10/23 (43%)
- 2021: 14/23 (61%)
- 2020: 8/24 (33%) - a bad year for me
- 2019: 15/24 (63%)
- 2018: 16/24 (67%)

My overall average is 53%, random chance would yield a little less than 20%. So, I invite the reader to peruse my predictions and then, of course, make your own based on how you think things will go down. So here we go, by category.

Oscar Shorts

- Documentary Short Subject: *How Do You Measure a Year?*
- Animated Short Film: *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*
- Live Action Short Film: *Night Ride*



Special Categories

- Animated Feature Film: *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio*
- Documentary Feature: *Navalny*
- International Feature Film: *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Minor Categories

- Original Song: Black Panther: *Wakanda Forever* ("Lift Me Up")
- Original Score: *The Banshees of Inisherin*
- Sound: *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Makeup and Hairstyling: *The Whale*
- Costume Design: *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
- Production Design: *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Visual Effects: *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Cinematography: *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Film Editing: *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

Major Categories

- Supporting Actor: Ke Huy Quan (*Everything Everywhere All at Once*)
- Supporting Actress: Jamie Lee Curtis (*Everything Everywhere All at Once*)
- Leading Actor: Colin Farrell (*The Banshees of Inisherin*)
- Leading Actress: Michelle Yeoh (*Everything Everywhere All at Once*)
- Adapted Screenplay: Berger/Patterson/Stokell (*All Quiet on the Western Front*)
- Original Screenplay: Martin McDonagh (*The Banshees of Inisherin*)
- Director: Martin McDonagh (*The Banshees of Inisherin*)
- Best Picture: *The Banshees of Inisherin*

Again, for more explanation of why I made these predictions, go to MichaelsMovieMoments.com. After the Oscar ceremony, I will write a recap and fess up to my poor judgments...



MARCH Movie Review: *Cyrano*

By MICHAEL YOUNG

Cyrano is surprisingly good! Powered by a stellar performance from Peter Dinklage, and ably assisted by Haley Bennett, the movie tells the powerful story of a man's unrequited love so strong that, in the end, it consumes him completely.

In previous movie productions of *Cyrano*, the *Cyrano* with the large nose was reinforced with obvious prosthetics. These movies suffered from the distinct problem of turning the *Cyrano* character into someone with a comical appearance which has the effect of distancing the character from the audience.

This *Cyrano* changes that formula and creates a movie where the emotional engagement is deep and meaningful. By changing the physical issue from one of a problem nose to one of "short stature," the nature of the relationship between *Cyrano* and the audience changes dramatically. It is no longer something comical, but something profoundly intrinsic to the man himself. Like a lot of people, I didn't pay much attention to Dinklage before his outstanding performance in *The Station Agent* (2003). There he proved that his "short stature" did not diminish, in any way, his human, emotional capacity. Any remaining doubts of his talents were quickly dispelled with his powerful, Emmy-winning, performance as Tyrion Lannister in *Game of Thrones*.

As *Cyrano*, then, Dinklage brings an entirely different problem to the story other than a comical nose — a difference that drives the story in new and more interesting directions. We know Dinklage's differences are not the result of some makeup prosthetics, but rather are at the core of his identity and, therefore, the challenges his *Cyrano* faces — presenting a "handsome" visage to his intended Roxanne — are much more grounded; the emotional impact is greatly intensified and, importantly, transferable to the audience.

Dinklage is so good in *Cyrano* that he forces our attention almost exclusively on him. It is true that this is a musical and his gravelly voice isn't the best, but we also don't care because we feel the honesty of his emotions. But can a single character carry an entire movie? Haley Bennett as *Cyrano*'s Roxanne

is a good choice. She displays passion well and her scene in her bed virtually making love to the letters she has received is full of erotic energy. It also helps, since this is a musical, that she can sing. Her and Dinklage's chemistry is further enhanced because they both starred in a stage production of *Cyrano* in 2018 and 2019. It should also be noted that Dinklage's real-life wife, Erica Schmidt, wrote the screenplay for this movie while Bennett's partner and father of her child, Joe Wright, directed it. Clearly there was a lot of intimate involvement leading to their inspired performances.

Despite two terrific actors *Cyrano* did not fare so well with either viewers or critics. The not-so-good audience reaction is based on only about 11,000 ratings which is very small for an Oscar-nominated film. Part of that might have been because of its limited distribution. Critical reaction, though, has been uniform — all thought Dinklage and Bennett were wonderful, and enjoyed the costumes, makeup, choreography, production design and location shots (filmed almost entirely in Sicily, Italy). But the one thing that consistently hurt the film in critical reviews was the music. Predictably, if you're going to do a musical and the music isn't "memorable," then the movie is not likely to succeed. There are about a dozen original songs in this movie and while I didn't think they were all that bad, you want something more — especially with Dinklage's memorable performance. Two of the songs, "Madly" and "Wherever I Fall" are particularly good, but mostly for their lyrics — I can't remember the melodies and I just watched the movie two days ago!

For a great evening's entertainment, I recommend *Cyrano*. (4*) For more, visit [MichaelsMovieMoments.com](https://www.MichaelsMovieMoments.com)



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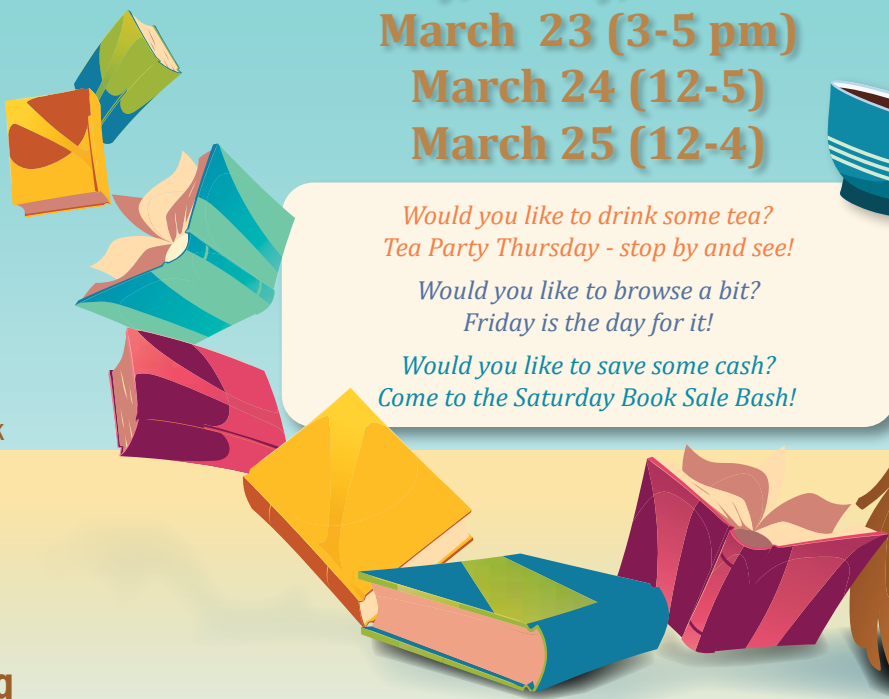

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Chevron Grants for Good Fund Grant Opportunity 2023

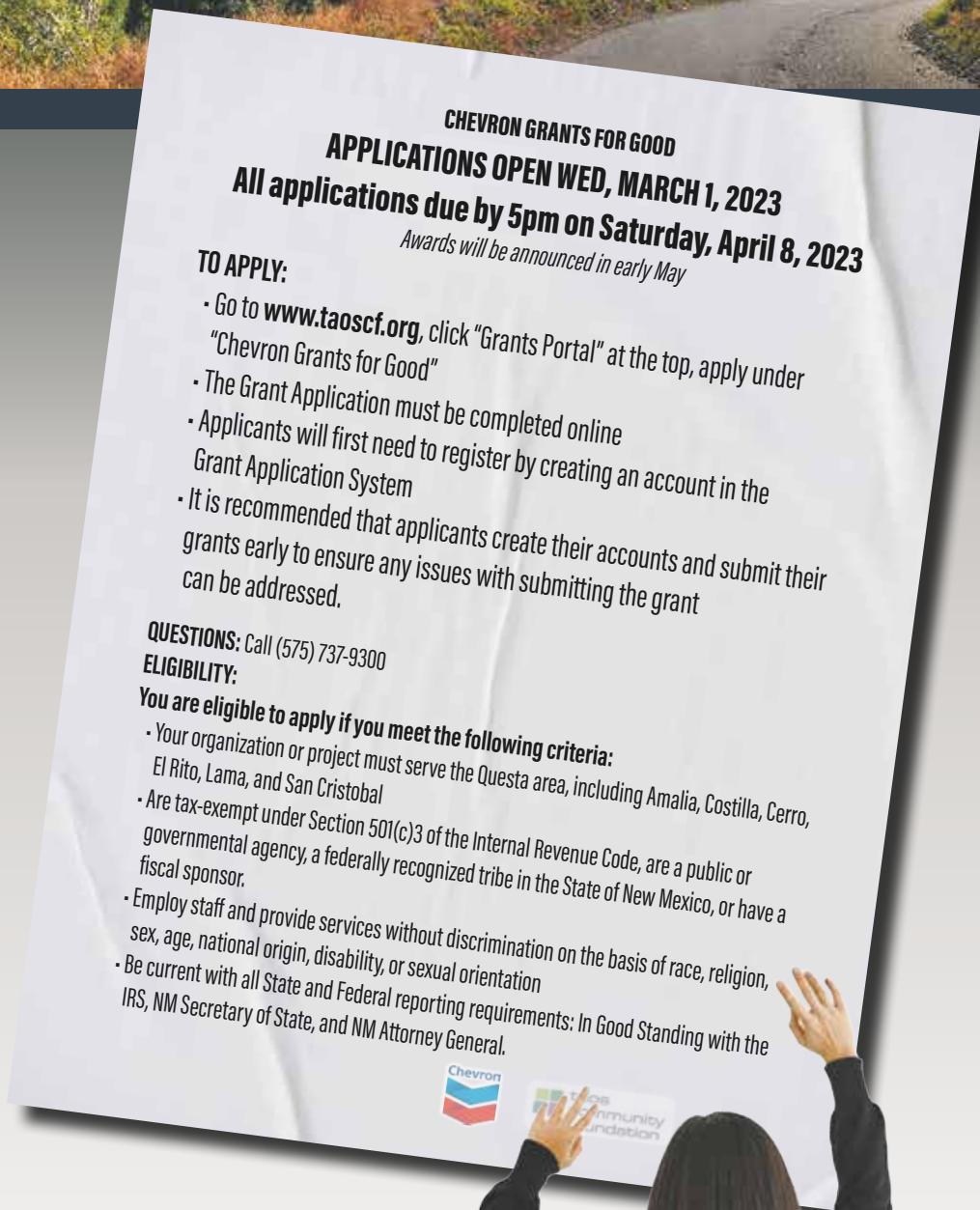
APPLICATIONS OPEN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1



Welcome to the Chevron Grants for Good Fund grant cycle at Taos Community Foundation. This grant opportunity is open for organizations serving the Questa area. Applications may be submitted for operational support, or specific projects.



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

Community Commentary

Neighborhood Dogs Shouldn't Be A Threat

By BETH SUMNER-WICHMANN

Neighborhood roads, whether maintained by the county or by the residents who live there, are common spaces. They are the paths to our homes, they are where we exercise outdoors and, since we live in the countryside, they are often the places we ride our horses and walk our dogs, if we have them.

Common space requires common courtesy.

When we moved here 27 years ago, our neighborhood was less populated, there were fewer dogs, and it was easier to pinpoint owners who let their dogs run free. Times change and more people are seeking the quiet of the countryside. Many want the companionship and protection of their family dogs, but with dog ownership comes necessary responsibility.

Recently, in our neighborhood there has been a major influx of dogs who are allowed to run free. It's become harder to know which dogs belong to any given neighbor. Several of these dogs constantly menace my husband when he walks our dogs who are always leashed. Our collie-shepherd cross rescue is partially blind and is the subject of frequent attacks. Fortunately, she has a heavy double coat and has not been injured so far. My husband carries a sturdy walking



Courtesy Photo

stick and uses it if necessary to run these other dogs off, but it makes his walks less than pleasant.

We live on a dead-end road, which we use to walk our corgi who is not up to 5K hikes. A few weeks ago, a neighbor's dog sat near the top of the road, blocking its full use, while at the bottom of the road a strange pit bull blocked the other end of the road.

The last time I came home from grocery shopping, there were two strange dogs in our front yard. One of them ran off right away, but the pit bull refused to let me out of my car until it finally decided to wander away.

In rural areas there are also many risks to dogs who are allowed to roam. Domesticated dogs are not meant to run free. They rarely have the know-how or instincts needed to survive in the wild. The number of dogs who have disappeared from our neighborhood over the

years is heartbreaking. Coyotes, cougars and even bears will prey on dogs who are left outdoors for extended periods. Typically, the predators go after the smaller dogs, but they will attack and kill large dogs as well.

Dogs who are allowed to run free also face other risks. They tend to chase cars which can lead to injuries-or worse. Our neighborhood, like many others, borders a major highway. Heavy traffic poses a severe risk, especially at night.

Most people in rural areas own guns. If a strange dog shows up on private property, it runs the risk of being shot.

Keeping your dog close to home doesn't mean they have to be kept indoors all the time. Pre-made chain link fence kennels are available from local hardware stores or other sources at a range of prices. Depending on your dog's personality, it can be as simple as creating an enclosure from stakes and hog panel fencing wire.

For those who have faced attacks by dogs, as of this writing, pepper spray is legal in New Mexico. Although it can be difficult to obtain support from Taos County Animal Control this far north, it is important to report every attack in

order to document patterns of behavior.

Being a good neighbor means making the neighborhood safe for everyone, and this means following county rules and responsibly keeping your dogs on your own property, not letting them roam wherever they please.

From Taos County Animal Ordinance Section 2-2:

(A) Animal Restraint. All persons owning, having charge, custody or control of any Companion Animal shall keep such Animal reasonably restrained to prevent damage or harm to people and property.

(B) Animals At Large. The owner or custodian of a Companion Animal shall not allow it to run At Large or create a nuisance on another's property, be it public or private, including entering onto roadways, yards, driveways, walkways, or place of recreation.

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Inspiration For An Old Soldier

By MATTHEW
CORVIN WOHLBERG

As an old, but proud, retired soldier, one who has truly lamented the passage of years, I have been seeing a counselor for some time. He and I discuss many things unrelated to the original issues for which I started to see him. One thing stands out; we talk about the many meaningful writings we have enjoyed.

Somehow, we got around to a favorite poem which has recently recaptured my attention, *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night* by Dylan Thomas. This poem says a lot to me. I am sad at the passage of the years; there is so much I wish to accomplish but haven't the stamina I once had. My counselor and I refer to this often, he also wishes he had more time left in this world for all the things he would like to do.

To me the intent of this powerful poem is to live, live, live your life each moment and let not old age deter you from accomplishing all that you can. Over the past few years, I have endeavored to do just that. Sometimes I almost feel rescued from the doldrums of old age by seeing a counselor regularly and rereading a few poems of which Dylan Thomas's is a key one.

Dylan Thomas, during World War 2, worried about conscription into the military and repeatedly referred to pulmonary ailments to avoid being conscripted. He was finally classified as among the last to be called up for military service and only in the most dire or critical of national situations in wartime Great Britain. Dylan Thomas had suffered with chronic bronchitis during most of his brief life.

As early as the 1930s Thomas professed to being a pacifist. After I came back from Viet Nam, I developed a strong dislike for those who had resisted conscription or enlistment. I have greatly softened my views and now realize with each day that people need not see things my way for me to embrace them as valued fellow human beings.

As veterans discuss our life histo-

ries, I now realize that one need not be a military veteran to be called a dedicated "veteran" of some other calling. My counselor, who also served in the military, and I key in on this point time and again and we agree 100 percent. As he noted, had he not been in the Army, he would still consider himself a dedicated veteran of the profession of clinical psychology.

Dylan Thomas, in his brief, but tumultuous life, had a change of heart about the need to contribute to the war effort. In February 1941 the village of Swansea was bombed, and Thomas got to see the carnage firsthand. He was writing scripts for the BBC and it became important to him to show that he was actively supporting and engaging in essential war work. Thomas lived through severe bombing raids in London and saw from a ringside seat the need for all to contribute to the war effort.

My understanding of this classic poem, *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night*, is that he admonishes all to continue to push ourselves. He points out that we all feel we have not done as much or as well as we should have and goes on to tell us to rage against the passage of years. And do not go gently into old age. Rather push forward as if our very existence depends on it.

As with many of us with memories related to combat, Dylan Thomas had his own very dark periods. He wrote a poem entitled, *And Death Shall Have No Dominion* and speaks of how the moment of death solves all problems. It is well documented that Thomas consumed alcohol in excess. Tragically, and as pointed out by VA studies, alcohol and the tragic act of suicide have consumed many veterans. Though Thomas specifically disavowed military service he seems to have suffered from many of the same manifestations. He avoided facing his personal issues, though he alluded to them freely in his writings. Before he appeared in public, he often became inebriated, as do some of my fellow vets.

When Dylan Thomas passed away in 1953 he was not even 40 years of age. Accounts differ as to the exact cause of his death. It is quite probable that he abused himself with alcohol and exacerbated his physical issues. His wife noted several years later that, "the bar was our altar."

Those of us at New Mexico Veterans Upward Bound (<https://nmvetub.com/>) would like to see veterans pushing ahead with educational skills that will become their altar for the future.



Courtesy Photo

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Poems By Dylan Thomas

And Death Shall Have No Dominion

And death shall have no dominion.
Dead men naked they shall be one
With the man in the wind and the west moon;
When their bones are picked clean and the clean
bones gone,

They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;
Though lovers be lost love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.
Under the windings of the sea
They lying long shall not die windily;
Twisting on racks when sinews give way,
Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break;
Faith in their hands shall snap in two,
And the unicorn evils run them through;
Split all ends up they shan't crack;
And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion.
No more may gulls cry at their ears
Or waves break loud on the seashores;
Where blew a flower may a flower no more
Lift its head to the blows of the rain;
Though they be mad and dead as nails,
Heads of the characters hammer through daisies;
Break in the sun till the sun breaks down,
And death shall have no dominion.

MARCH
13-16

K-8TH GRADE
SPRING BREAK

SPORTS CAMP



SIGN UP AT

SIGN UP AT [RCCQUESTA.ORG/COMMUNITY](https://rccquesta.org/community)



GUZMAN ENERGY SECURES 15-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH KIT CARSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- This partnership is expected to save KCEC \$150- \$170 Million dollars over the lifetime of the contract.
- Fixed wholesale power rates delivering power cost stability for coop members.
- Flexibility to add local, renewable power generation resources.
- Continue to increase KCEC's access to renewable energy. As a result , it is expected that KCEC will exceed the Energy Transition Act, NM statewide renewable energy standard of 50 percent by 2030.
- Guzman Energy continued investment in the KCEC Community Fund.

"The value that Guzman Energy provides our membership goes beyond cost savings. They have been consistent supporters of our community and share the KCEC Board vision to develop modern, resilient and locally managed renewable energy assets. Guzman Energy is a true partner for energy transition strategy and execution, helping KCEC become one of the cleanest, most cost-effective power distribution cooperatives in America."

– Luis A. Reyes, Jr., CEO of KCEC

Since July, KCEC has
SAVED MEMBERS
\$6,629,391
on their
electric
bills.



kitcarson.com

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

FEATURED ARTIST cont'd from page 6

began selling them.

PT: Where do you sell your paintings?

EW: At the Questa Studio Art Tours, to friends and relatives including a

stepdaughter in Australia (the postage was sky high!) And I have Madonna and Child and Holy Family paintings in the Benedictine Monks Gift Shop on Kit Carson Road in Taos.

PT: Have you studied art?

EW: No, but my daughter Harper has

and she's an excellent artist. Before I sign my name on a painting, she critiques it for me. My friend Mark taught me how to use gold leaf in my paintings.

PT: Will there be a preview party at the Questa Library for your artwork?

EW: Yes, on March 4 from 2 to 5

pm. I hope people will come – it's my first solo show.

PT: Anything else?

EW: For some unknown reason, my muse insists I put at least one heart in each painting. I've noticed that people get a kick out of searching for the hearts.

AGUA ES VIDA cont'd from page 1

protections and could essentially revert water rights that have belonged to people for centuries back to the public.

In her public comment testimony, Gallegos expressed the grave danger this bill could pose to small communities such as Questa. It could potentially deplete the community of its most precious resource: *la agua*.

"*¡Agua es vida!* You have no life

without water," Louise proclaimed when asked what she would tell younger *norteños* (northern New Mexicans) who may not understand the importance of water rights and the cultural importance of acequias to the Questa community. "This is how we do it, even if you don't use the acequia, and you use village water, you are still using the source and in order to maintain the healthy flow of water into our community, we have to work our ditches."

HB 346 failed out of the House Agriculture, Acequias, and Water Restoration committee on Tuesday, Feb. 14, with the committee voting 8-0 with a do-not-pass recommendation. Sen. Matthew McQueen, the sponsor of the bill, was disappointed by this outcome. McQueen said in a statement to the Questa del Rio News, "Unfortunately, there were a lot of misconceptions and misinformation about the bill. The result of the bill would have been to protect the people who are actually us-

ing their water rights from developers looking to buy up 'paper' water rights. New Mexico needs to better manage its water resources, and this would have been a step in the right direction."

It's unclear if Senator McQueen will re-propose this legislation again in the future. As for Gallegos, and other *Norteños*, they are relieved with the outcome and will continue to work with the community to protect the system that was passed on by generations before them.

WATER RATES cont'd from page 11

the University of New Mexico's Southwest Environmental Finance Center. The analysis encourages raising water rates

to increase pay and benefits for Questa public works employees, who currently make substantially less than other public works employees throughout the state, create an emergency fund to ensure the Village can adequately respond to and

address emergencies around the aging infrastructure, and create a reserve for replacing the aging infrastructure, which would include increasing water storage, better pumping capacity, and future expansion of the current infrastructure.

Currently, the set rate increase amount has not yet been decided. The council heard from the public about this proposed change on Feb. 28 and the Village is reviewing the matter and will be making a decision.

O B I T U A R Y



Benjamin Garcia

Benjamin Garcia, 90, of Questa, N.M. was called home to our Heavenly Father Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023 with his family by his side. He was born Dec. 16, 1932 to Herman and Eliza Garcia.

Benjamin, aka "Ben," was the third oldest child among nine siblings. At the age of 9, his father passed away and his mother married Aurelio Maestas, his stepfather.

Ben married the love of his life Isabel Herrera in 1953 before leaving to the Army to serve his Country in the Korean War. He was a hard-working individual who turned his talents into an entrepreneurship. In the 80s he and his brother-in-law merged their talents and created H&G Construction. He also started his own plumbing compa-

ny he ran for many years.

He is preceded in death by his brothers Nelson (Eutemia), Robert (Orlinda), Louie (Mary), Bonifacio Garcia; sisters Ida Lopez, and Charlotte (Eusebio) Salazar; and stepsister Grace (Alfredo) Rivera.

He is survived by his wife Isabel Garcia; sisters Lillian (Roger) Ortega, Dora (late Arsenio) Brito, and brother Roger Maestas; three children: Germaine (Gene) Sanchez, Louise (Roger) Archuleta, and Benjamin (Frances) Garcia, Jr.; seven grandchildren, Ruben Salazar, late Nicole Salazar, Patricia (James) Raschel, Benjamin (Anna) Garcia, Devonnie (Michael) Montoya, late Issac and Issiah Garcia; seven great grandchildren, Christopher Elliott, Avi, Koi, Rio Garcia, Memphis, Michael, Maverick, and Mason Montoya.

Rosary was recited Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, followed by a Mass of Christian burial at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa, with burial to follow at El Pueblito Cemetery.

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

Antonito Man Needs Kidney

By STAFF WRITER

Questa del Rio News received a letter from a man from the Antonito, Colo., area. He is in need of a kidney transplant and has asked us to run his story in hopes of finding a match.

Orale Family and Friends:

I'm Waldo Madrid, I was born to Teofilo "Toby" and Judy Dupont Madrid and raised in San Rafael (Paisaje,) Colorado. This cool little placita is west of Antonito in the County of Conejos, in the San Luis Valley in the great State of Colorado, USA. Many of you may have known my parents: Dad was the County Sheriff and Mom was the Cook/Nutritionist at the Senior Citizens center in Antonito.

I have shared the past 26 years with the love of my life and soul-mate, Linda DeHerrera. We live in the community of Lobatos, north east of Antonito. We have three very special grandkids.

This is hard for me to put it out there but, I have kidney failure. My kidneys

failed in 2020 and it changed my life. I am alive because I'm on dialysis three times a week. I'm grateful for today's technology that keeps so many of us alive. I was approved to be on the kidney transplant list two years ago and I am still looking for a kidney.

I need your help, family and friends! Can you "share a spare kidney"? Can you spread the word about my need? Can you pray and send positive energy for me? I really need all of that. My blood type is O+ and I am hopeful to find a donor who will agree to help me with a kidney donation.

If you would like to contact me, we can talk about it. Send me a message via email at waldo.madrid.kidneywarrior@gmail.com and then we can contact the UC Health Transplant Team to see if you're a viable match to help me.

Thank you for reading my story, for thinking about it and for keeping me in your positive thoughts and prayers. I believe that God has a plan for me, somehow you are linked in that plan.

QUESTANEWS.COM - Get your local news ONLINE!

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
MARCH 2023

VENUS & JUPITER

“The closer one comes to “knowing” spiritual truth, the more one realizes Truth can only be implied for It is the transcendental nature of All that is perceived.” Alice Bailey

On March 2, Venus and Jupiter, two of our brightest planets in the sky, will come the closest to one another they have come since 2016. Venus is one of the best known of all the Roman mythological goddesses, known as Aphrodite to the Greeks while Jupiter, known as Zeus to the Greeks, was king of the gods, in a manner of speaking, and Lord of the Sky.

The goddess of beauty and love is the planetary partner of Gemini in esoteric astrology and is one of the most benign of all the planets, a gracious and enlightening influence, which can help harmonize the communication between the opposing factors which Gemini symbolizes. Her poise and coordination can bring out the best of other aspects in relationship to her in the chart.

Jupiter, our gas giant among planets, represents expansion, benevolence, and abundance. It is associated with Aquarius and is the Lord of our Age of Aquarius, the Age of Knowledge, encouraging group work, generosity and acceptance. Thinking big and dancing light on our feet are two metaphors which work well in this new age.

Both of these planets are in the sign of Aries, the sign of Creation and starting anew. When these planets and signs all come together to affect the Earth, they also manifest the power of the three major Rays of Aspect. Truth, Beauty and Goodness, the mantra of this planetary creation will literally dance together. When the planet of beauty and love dances with the planet of expansion and jollity in a perfect conjunction in the sign of Aries, anything can be created, especially when approached with the spirit of cooperation and tolerance. All hands on deck!

Everyone: These two brightest stars in the sky will visibly dance the evening of March 1 through the afternoon of March 2.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: The year begins anew for you with the Spring Equinox.

Direction: Make it matter.

Soul Thought: “It’s Spring again; earth is like a child that knows poems by heart.” Rainer Maria Rilke

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: Time to forge something new.

Direction: And to ask the ultimate big questions.

Soul Thought: Who are you: “I am,” or, “I have”?

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: Creation and beauty are in your life this month.

Direction: Look for it.

Soul Thought: “Truth and goodness and beauty are but different faces of the same All.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: Emotions may get the better of you mid-month or so.

Direction: When something strikes home, examine it first.

Soul Thought: Words can wound; they can also heal.

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: From now on, the light begins to win.

Direction: Don’t let it go to your head!

Soul Thought: “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Socrates

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: The energy of creation is strong for you.

Direction: What is it you wish to create, or re-create?

Soul Thought: “The visible world is the invisible organization of energy.” Heinz Pagels

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: It may be possible to make good on that investment.

Direction: Sell or buy.

Soul Thought: What is the difference?

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: Some interesting challenges this month but an even more interesting blessing.

Direction: Stay conscious of both words and feelings and you’ll be fine.

Soul Thought: When short and long-term karma work together.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♁ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: Your plans can take wings this month.

Direction: Stay on track.

Soul Thought: What does it mean to be the point of the arrow?

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You will experience a major energetic shift this month.

Direction: From thinking to feeling more.

Soul Thought: “Indifference is the knife that severs; feeling is the tie that binds.” Neville Goddard

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: The brilliance of the dance is lovely.

Direction: Look for good fortune somewhere!

Soul Thought: What is the Origin of Man?

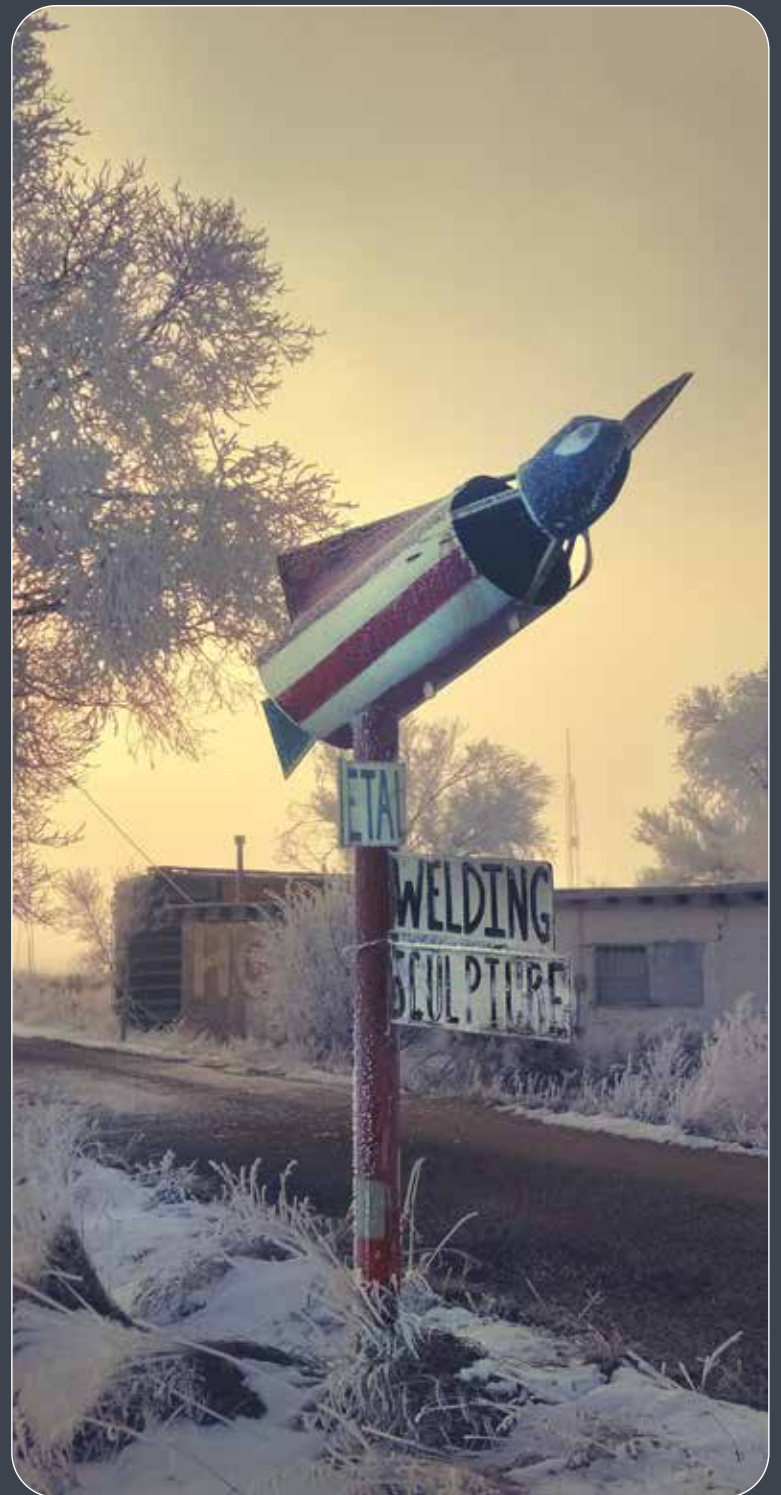
PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: By the end of the month a big shift occurs.

Direction: Everything will lighten up.

Soul Thought: It’s been a long time coming.

Featured Photo March 2023



Winter Morning, Questa, NM 2022; Photo by E. Wilde



Email your photo submissions to
GraphicsDept@QuestaNews.com

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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • FEBRUARY 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
EVERYONE BORN IN
MARCH!

MARCH 1: WED 6 PM
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Red River Ski Team, featuring Brett's Bistro's famous 3-meat spaghetti, at the Red River Ski Area chalet. Info, (575) 754-2223

6 PM
Questa Independent Schools 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>.

MARCH 4: SAT 4-6 PM
Live Music: Sound Healing Journey with Caitlin Alexander and Sebastian Marconato, Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, yogasalaquesta.org Suggested donation \$15-\$30

MARCH 5: SUN 1:30-3:30 PM
Dance like Nobody's looking, women's dance, at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, yogasalaquesta.org. Donations welcome!

5-7 PM,
Healing Circle and Reiki Share free, at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, yogasalaquesta.org. Donations welcome!

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

5:30 - 7:30 PM
TPAWS: Taos Pueblo Artists Winter Showcase at the Millicent Rogers Museum. Opening Reception. Free Admission. More than 20 artists. Jewelry, Pottery, Drums, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Fashion, Storytellers, Edibles and more! Visit www.millicentrogers.org for info

MARCH 11: SAT 10AM-5PM
TPAWS: Taos Pueblo Artists Winter Showcase at the Millicent Rogers Museum. Free Admission. More than 20 artists. Jewelry, Pottery, Drums, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Fashion, Storytellers, Edibles and more! Visit www.millicentrogers.org for info

7-8:30 PM
Live Music at Yoga Sala: High Desert Acoustic Duo is the enduring collaboration between musicians Mark Dudrow and Justin Dean. With cello, guitar, fiddle and voices they weave together original songs, covers, and traditional tunes. Location: 2331 NM-522, Questa. Website yogasalaquesta.org Contact: (575) 224-2102

MARCH 12: SUN 10 AM - 4PM
TPAWS: Taos Pueblo Artists Winter Showcase at the Millicent Rogers Museum. Free Admission. 2PM, Juanita Marcus Turley with stories of growing up at Taos Pueblo. More than 20 artists. Jewelry, Pottery, Drums, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Fashion, Storytellers, Edibles and more! Visit www.millicentrogers.org for info

MARCH 14: TUE 1 PM
QHS Class of '73 Reunion, planning meeting, at Rael's Coffee Shop, Questa. Info, contact Dee Sims (Vigil) at (505) 289-4446 or by email at dee.sims@hotmail.com.

6 PM
Village of Questa Town Council Meeting in person at Village Council Chambers, 2500 Old State Rd 3, Questa. For agenda see VOQ Website, *Questa Del Rio News* Facebook page, or call (575) 586-0694.

MARCH 15: WED 6 PM
Questa Independent Schools 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>.

MARCH 16: THURS NOON-4 PM
Free In-person, one-on-one, business advising in Questa with Anwar Kaelin, Director of the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL for anyone in any stage of business from ideation and business planning to starting a business, to growing an existing business, to downsizing, to closing a business, business owners, independent contractors, or anyone with a great idea. 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. Call (575) 586-1112 to confirm meeting.

MARCH 17: FRI
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

MARCH 19: SUN 1-4 PM
Drumming Workshop, Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, yogasalaquesta.org.

5-8 PM
EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) Tapping Course with Jiwanshakti at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, yogasalaquesta.org.

MARCH 20: MON 3:30 PM
Questa Library Book Club meets at the Questa Library. Join the conversation. The topic of the month will be a Science Fiction/Fantasy book you have read and enjoyed... or not! Info, (575) 586-2023.

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

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

MARCH 23, 24, 25 NOON-5 PM
Questa Library Spring Cleaning Book Sale. <https://questalibrary.org/> for the special hours of this event. Even the library has to do spring cleaning sometime! The Friends of the Questa Public Library has special prices on quality books and more... just for you! Don't miss the fun at the Questa Library. See ad

MARCH 24: FRI 3:30-4 PM
Kids' Music Class, free special monthly event at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, yogasalaquesta.org.

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

1-3 PM
Questa Library 3D Printing Club The Questa Library was gifted a 3D printer recently. It is time to learn how to use it! This is a 2-part series with TWIRL and Mike Barbee from Sage Automated Systems (local computer company) Friday, March 24 and 31, 1-3 pm. We will explore 3D printers and materials, discover online resources, customize, design, and print our own objects. Be assured

that there will be something even our younger club members will be able to do. Info, (575) 586-2023 or see the calendar post on www.questanews.com/events

4-6:30 PM
Agricultural Listening Round Table at the Village of Questa Council Chambers, 2500 Old State Rd 3, Questa. Facilitated by Dan Hobbs, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, have your voice heard. Help guide the direction of agriculture and farming in our area. For more info: lynn@questaed.com or (575) 586-2149.

MARCH 26: SUN NOON-1:30 PM
Yoga Sala Wellness Series: Microgreens Workshop, Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, <https://yogasalaquesta.org/wellness-series/> Facilitator: Kenny LaCome, Certified Living Foods Health Educator, with over 3 decades experience growing sprouts and microgreens as a lifestyle for ultimate health More info: <https://yogasalaquesta.org/wellness-series/> Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa

MARCH 28: TUES 6 PM
Village of Questa Town Council Meeting in person at Village Council Chambers, 2500 Old State Rd 3, Questa. For agenda see VOQ Website, *Questa Del Rio News* Facebook page, or call (575) 586-0694.

MARCH 31: FRI 1-3 PM
Questa Library 3D Printing Club The Questa Library was gifted a 3D printer recently. It is time to learn how to use it! This is a 2-part series with TWIRL and Mike Barbee from Sage Automated Systems (local computer company). We will explore 3D printers and materials, discover online resources, customize, design, and print our own objects. Be assured that there will be something even our younger club members will be able to do. Info, (575) 586-2023 or see the calendar post on www.questanews.com/events

WEEKLY
SUNDAYS

Please see Page 31 of our Church Directory. Always call to confirm service times.

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, yogasalaquesta.org

10 AM Qigong with Julian, online only, To Register: yogasalaquesta.org/classes-2/qigong-sundays-online/

MONDAYS

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, yogasalaquesta.org

10 AM
Kundalini yoga with Julian

5 PM
Free Community Yoga. gentle practice with Rae in person only

7 PM
Kickboxing practice, in person only

TUESDAYS

5:30-7:30 PM
Kundalini Yoga, Meditation & Gong at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Join Jiwanshakti in person only. More Info, yogasalaquesta.org

WEDNESDAYS

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. More Info, yogasalaquesta.org

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

7 PM
Kickboxing practice, in person only

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 RPP World Headquarters, the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Supermarket on Hwy 522. For more info, call or text (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., Questa. (575) 586-2023.

3-5 PM
Senior Technology classes at the Questa Public Library 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd., Questa. Bring your devices and technology problems! Call (575) 586-2023.

7-8:30 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, Questa. More Info, yogasalaquesta.org

5:30 PM
Power Hour Yoga with Gaea, in person and online (no class March 2)

2:30-4:30 PM
Dropped Stitch at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd., 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, Questa. Info, (575) 779-9249.

FRIDAYS

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. Info, 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 RPP World Headquarters, the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Supermarket on Hwy 522. For more info, call or text (575) 224-7386. Also meets Fridays.

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

SATURDAY

Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa, Info, yogasalaquesta.org

8:30 - 9:50 AM
Contemporary Dance for adults, for beginners with Monica Note: Tai Chi returns in April.



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 Senior Center is looking for a cook. 6hrs per week. Monday - Friday. Amalia Senior Center is also looking for a cook 4hrs a week. Call (575) 586-0508 for information.

NOTICES

Mark your calendars! The dates for this year's **Questa Studio Art Tour will be: Aug. 12-13.** We are currently working on a new application that will be done very soon. It will be available to download from the website or available to pick up at ArtQuesta. Entry fee will remain \$60. If you have any questions/ comments feel free to reach out! We are so looking forward to another fun Art Tour! www.QuestaCreative.org

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

Transportation for Qualified Seniors Every Mon, Tue, Wed, and Thur by donation. 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, 1-4 pm, at the Questa Visitor Center. Business owners, independent contractors, and entrepreneurs in the Questa area can receive free one-on-one business consulting and support in planning, marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, accessing capital, international trade, and more. Also offered via Zoom on the same day 2-3 pm: <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.

March Quote from Lisa Fox: "Your best teacher is your last mistake." — R. Nader



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR? FREE LISTINGS!

Enter your event Online! Scan QR Code above or email us. Include the date, time, place, and contact information to

Events@QuestaNews.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470
Sunday 8 AM only.

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

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

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

PATH OF LOVE
Sunday 7:30 am class and meditation in-person north of Questa or on Zoom. For more info: (575) 770-1682 or gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com

THEOSOPHY
Northern New Mexico Alice Bailey Study Group.
Sunday and Wednesday 10am-noon on Zoom. For more info, contact Francis at oeahoo17@gmail.com

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

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA
Tibetan Buddhism
Monday 11am Green Tara. Friday 1pm Green Tara both in-person and on Zoom. For more info www.earthjourney.org or contact Gabrielle at info@earthjourney.org or (575) 770-1682

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
(575) 586-1947

AMALIA

SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH
1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

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

RED RIVER

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

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
North end of Silver Bell Trail, Red River
Saturday 6 pm (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470

LIST IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

CALL for Rates (575) 613-0856 Email Gary for Rates Sales@QuestaNews.com



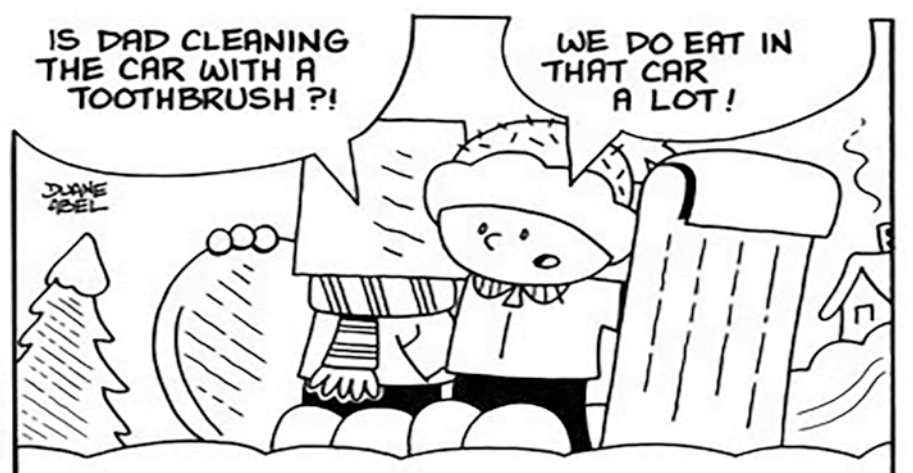
AA MEETINGS

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

"A WORLD OF THE SPIRIT"

We have entered the world of the Spirit. Our next function is to grow in understanding and effectiveness. This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime.

—ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 84



zed by duane m. abel

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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