

DECEMBER 2019

Questa Del Rio News

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**QUESTA LODGING
PROJECT RECEIVES
\$200,000**

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**ARTIST HIGHLIGHT:
SHAWN FLORES**

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**THIS SEASON'S
WINTER DRIVING TIPS**

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

Mr. Tree Goes to Washington!

By ROBERT HUDSON WESTOVER
AND LOU MCCALL

As most of our readers know, this year a tree from the Questa area is adorning the West Lawn of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. On November 6 at 9:00 AM, in a remote section of the Questa Ranger District of the Carson National Forest, a tree cutting ceremony for a massive 60-foot blue spruce was held and attended by a large crowd. It was determined that the tree was about 68 years old. The cutting of the tree was led by Questa Mayor and Chairman of the Taos County Commission, Mark Gallegos who was assisted by Eddy Romero, Engine Captain of the Questa Ranger District of Carson National Forest. Mayor Gallegos grew up in Questa working in his family's logging operation. He said, "Who knew then that skills I learned from working with my father in our little village in Northern New Mexico would give me the opportunity to harvest this tree that so many people will enjoy in our Nation's capitol?"

Elders from the Picuris Pueblo blessed the tree before it was cut. It is estimated



Photo by Emily Wilde

Mr. and Mrs. Clause getting ready to lead the D.C. bound Christmas Tree in the Questa Veterans Day Parade where it will continue on it's journey to Washington D.C.

that over 200 watched the tree being cut down. With the help of a big crane and a wonderful crew, the tree was placed carefully on a semi-truck with an extra-long trailer bed and began the first stage of its

2,000-mile journey to Washington, D.C.

The Tree's first stop was Red River for a ceremony, attended by many dignitaries, including New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. A big celebration followed

at the Red River Conference Center with a Christmas Cookie Party and 75th Birthday Party for Smokey Bear. It was estimated that 300-400 people came to the Conference Center that day.

On Monday morning, November 11th, Veterans Day was celebrated in Questa with the Capitol Christmas Tree, starting with a big turnout at the parking lot of the Alta Vista Elementary/Intermediate School. In attendance were many officials, including those from the U.S. Forest Service, sheriff's and police departments, different fire departments, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and many more. Smokey Bear was there and despite celebrating his 75th Birthday, he was looking young and chipper. There were banners on the side of the truck and the public was encouraged to sign their names. There was then a parade from Alta Vista to Questa's Veterans Memorial Park near the corner of Highways 522 and 38 to honor our nation's veterans.

Mayor Gallegos was the Master of Ceremonies. He spoke words of thanks for our veterans and their families who were asked to sit at the front to be honored. He

GOING TO D.C. continued page 28

Positive Thoughts by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

December is chock full of celebrations. Most honor the sun's cycles of light, which make life on Earth possible and abundant and remind us of the light of goodness within humanity. Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year; as the sun sets

on that day, it sets into the heart of each human being, bringing the radiant light of all that is good and wise into the world. For this reason, beings of great compassion and wisdom are said to be born in the season of the Winter Solstice. Legend has it that Christ, Mithras, Zoroaster, Quetzalcoatl, Chiron, and Kwan Yin were all born within the Winter Solstice season. Each of these beings brought gifts to humanity that, like food and warmth,

nourished the human soul. St. Nicholas or Santa Claus represents this eternal heart of giving and the abundance of the human heart that never holds back and always has more to give.

The Winter Solstice also represents the potency of great compassion, care, and wisdom, as expressed through all humanity. As a result, the Winter Solstice is a time

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Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

Published Monthly by the
QUESTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
Publicación mensual por
EL FONDO PARA EL DESARROLLO ECONOMICO DE QUESTA

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GUEST EDITORIAL FROM ELLEN WOOD

DON'T READ THIS ARTICLE!

Pretend there's no newspaper in your hand. Imagine that there are no stories about people in your community, no photos, nothing humorous, no sharing of information or local history, nothing pithy. You miss events in your town or village or the surrounding communities because you don't know about them. You lament, "I used to read the Questa Del Rio News from cover to cover; it was all good news about my neighbors and friends. Even after it grew – like the little newspaper that could – to 32 pages, I didn't skip a page."

Pretend the newspaper is gone – because it could be. It began as a newsletter of the Questa Economic Development Fund and like all good economic development projects, the goal was to create a self-sustaining, free-standing business. A business offers goods and services and to stay afloat, it generates income. Well, advertising sales can be tough; our newspaper hasn't yet survived on ads alone.

Questa del Rio News needs funds in order to continue being a lively focal point for our communities and we are asking you for a donation. This paper, as a project of the QEDF, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and as such, any donation is tax-deductible.

Please open your heart and your wallet. 'Tis the season for giving and yes, you give generously to civic organizations, churches, food pantries, and other organizations that feed the hungry. This newspaper is food for the soul, and it needs donations, too.

By the way, 'tis always the season for gratitude so please join me in thanking our advertisers who support this paper month after month.

We have a lot to be grateful for in our talented, dedicated and fearless newspaper staff and the legions of community members who have stepped up as volunteers. These include writers, correspondents, contributors, poets, columnists, photographers, subscriptions manager, translator, Vista volunteers, food editor, distribution manager and those who help him, copy editor, proofers and others who don't get paid. There are many expenses involved in publishing, printing and delivering a newspaper and the post office cannot mail them for free.

So, here's how you can be part of the solution. The newspaper has a new website, thank you to volunteers who put it together and do not want acknowledgment! Go to www.questanews.com and click on the donate button. You can also send a check or money order to QEDF, PO Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556 and be sure to note that it is for Questa Del Rio News or Newspaper. Give however much you can - it's tax-deductible - and then sit back and say: Ahhh. I helped save our paper.

May the sweet magic of the holidays gladden your heart and bring you blessings galore!

YOUR FRIEND,
ELLEN WOOD

Our Condolences

Just last month, in our November issue, we featured a story about Ernesto A. Martinez. We were shocked and saddened to learn of his death on November 21st. He was born in Questa on March 14, 1927 and is survived by three children and five grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are being made through Imperial Funeral Home in Pueblo, CO. We at the Questa Del Rio News extend heart-felt condolences to his family.



THANK YOU TO OUR
CONTRIBUTORS FOR OUR
DECEMBER EDITION!

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VIDALIA VIGIL, ROBERT HUDSON
WESTOVER, ULY YARBROUGH AND
MANY OTHERS!



The Questa Del Rio News is a wonderful, informative and thought-provoking newspaper! I read every word of it. I have never read any other paper that deals with people and places so close to our hearts and homes with such compassion and clarity. "Thank you" to you and your staff for bringing the scattered residents of Questa together with your publication!

BETTY RICHTER

Thank you, Betty, we love hearing that our efforts are having the desired effect!

Dear Editor, Concerning our forest and the revision of its management plan, it is imperative that close attention be given to the proposed plan for the

future. Please "increase and make unbiased wilderness recommendation." The health of the forest, its care and maintenance, the trees and their harvesting by wood cutters must continue to be allowed because it aids general forest growth. Controlled wood cutting is a traditional activity. It is a serious part of survival and residents should not be charged. The volunteer education program should be expanded. The young must learn to protect our beautiful ecology, and funds should be allocated to hire controllers which would create jobs. Dead wood harvesters should be legally allowed to sell it.

Animal life-elk, bears, owls, turkeys, wild cats and all the other primal residents require their privacy and safety in order to prevent their extinction. Motorized vehicle recreation for example, in Cabresto Canyon and everywhere in wilderness areas must be stopped. Trail blazing vehicles and the loud zooming traffic in wilderness areas seriously disrupt wilderness animal life.

As our national and local economy evolves, angling or fishing may return as a food supplement. Hunting activity may also be impacted. Camping areas must also continue to be available. Fees in any amount should not be charged to local residents. Horse riding should be allowed. Herb gathering, hunting, fishing are all traditional cultural activities to local residents and must be included in the future plan. It is our local cultural heritage. The foundation for all life is a healthy lake, stream, air and land preservation.

To summarize, although the Carson National Forest is federally controlled, sensitivity to local resident requirements and survival needs must be addressed.

ARNO E. CORDOVA

Visit our website www.questanews.com!

Questa Del Rio News

Let's get fundraising!

Some of the best things in life are free, but some need funding. So, it is with our favorite Questa Del Rio newspaper. We are a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization. Your tax deductible donation pays for the newspaper printing, delivery and the layout, design and administrative costs of this valuable community resource.

Check out our new website and click the DONATE button! www.questanews.com.

You can also mail your check or money order with a note that it is for the newspaper, send to Questa Del Rio News, PO Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556. Your donations are always most gratefully welcome and appreciated.

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Questa Lodging Project Receives \$200,000

By LINDSAY MAPES

The Questa Lodging Project received \$200,000 in grant funding for a pilot phase from Chevron, the LOR Foundation, and the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF). “We’re thrilled that we can launch our project; it’s becoming a reality,” said Cynthia Rael-Vigil, President of the San Antonio del Rio Colorado Historic Preservation (SARCHP) board of directors who are spearheading this innovative approach to housing and community development.

Chevron, the LOR Foundation, and the QEDF agreed to pool resources to turn two years of planning into reality by kick-starting the Questa Lodging Project pilot phase. Chevron made the first commitment of \$100,000 last month, with LOR and the QEDF recently granting \$50,000 each. “Chevron supports the Lodging Project because it will not only strengthen economic development but will help maintain the identity and fabric of our community,” said Christian Isely, economic development advisor for Chevron, Inc.

During the first half of 2020, four vacant homes will be remodeled and then rented long term. The rent from the tenants will pay down the loans made for remodeling. A revolving loan fund will be seeded with the \$150k, to make flexible loans to the homeowners of these

vacant properties.

“We know that there is a real housing crunch in our neighboring communities of Red River and Taos, while at the same time we have a surplus of underutilized homes in Questa,” said Lindsay Mapes, staff for the SARCHP. A recent feasibility study funded by the LOR Foundation that was conducted by Rio Chiquito Planning and Research states that almost one-third of homes in Questa are vacant. “Why not rent these homes?” asked Mapes.

Many of these vacant homes are in various stages of disrepair and are not suitable for tenants. Of the four pilot project homes, remodeling costs vary from \$1,500 to \$68,000 each, which is representative of other vacant homes in Questa; there is a wide range of construction needs, from simple fixes to intensive remodels.

The Questa Lodging Project is innovative in design in that it relies on trust throughout each of the stages of implementation. First, SARCHP provides flexible capital from its new revolving loan fund to the owners of the vacant properties for remodeling costs. Homeowners are carefully screened, and character plays a large role in the lending considerations, as opposed to conventional qualifiers, such as credit scores. Next, SARCHP oversees the remodeling process with a team of local builders



Photo by Nick Nagawiecki

From left to right, Malaquias Rael, (QEDF), Christian Isely (Chevron), Cynthia Rael-Vigil (SARCHP), Lindsay Mapes (staff), Jake Caldwell (LOR Foundation)

and tradespeople. Then, once the home remodels have been completed and the home is ready for tenants, SARCHP screens long-term applicants and places them in the home, collecting monthly rents. The rent payments go back into the revolving loan fund, both paying down each homeowners’ construction loans, and recycling the funds to be available to the next homeowner. Each month, the homeowner receives a portion of the rent.

Having watched the transition of housing in Taos from legacy families selling to newcomers, to empty Airbnbs throughout the town, Questa folks have been wary. “The goal is to incentivize our

local families to keep their properties, many of which are legacy homes and have been in the family for generations,” said Malaquias Rael, Jr., President of the QEDF board of directors. “By keeping properties in the family, we keep the culture of Questa alive. We keep Questa,” he added.

“This project has it all,” said Jake Caldwell, program officer for the LOR Foundation. “It addresses housing, economic development, historic and cultural preservation, and community development. We are looking forward to seeing real things happening on the ground,” he added.

Senior Citizen Home Improvement Grant is Awarded in Questa

By LINDSAY MAPES

When Gloria Gonzales read the August edition of the Questa del Rio News, she learned of a USDA program we publicized that helps senior citizens continue living in their homes by giving them money, and/or a very low-interest loan, to make necessary improvements to their homes. Last month, Mrs. Gonzales was awarded a grant through the USDA Rural Development 504 Program and an additional low-interest loan to fix plumbing issues in her home.

The program, like many other governmental programs, has been around for many years but requires several pages of paperwork. Knowing that paperwork can be a barrier, the Questa Economic Development Fund, as part of the Questa Lodging Project, offered to help seniors complete the paperwork and make appli-

cations to this USDA program.

To date, seven applications have been submitted to the Albuquerque USDA office from the Questa area. Mrs. Gonzales is the first to receive the grant, which she will use towards new plumbing that is insulated from the elements and to replace broken pipes.

“Necessary home improvements” as stated in the program application, might be installing a wheelchair ramp to the front door, or changing out a tub for a walk-in shower, or fixing broken pipes so there is hot and cold water in every sink, to name just a few. Many senior citizens in Questa have necessary repairs that need addressing in their homes, but are not able to afford the improvements. The 504 Program is for them.

If you would like to know if you are eligible for a 504 grant of up to \$10,000 or a very low-interest loan of up to \$20,000



Photo by Lindsay Mapes

Questa resident, Gloria Gonzales (left) with USDA Specialist, Rose Perez (right) after signing her 504 grant award for home improvements.

for repairs to your home, contact the Questa Economic Development Fund

at 586-2149. Grants are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.



THE WHIPPING POST By LOU MCCALL

Visiting Questa's newest business, the Whipping Post, is a full spectrum experience. Is it Santa's workshop, a gift store, a museum, a sculpture garden, a junque store, a theme park? The answer is yes! We were invited to come check it out and check it out we did. A few hours later we came away with enough material for a year's worth of Business Profiles!

The Whipping Post is located at the home of Juhan and Teri in Questa on Old Red River Road. Juhan is an Apache artist from the White Mountain Reservation in Arizona. He has seen 78 winters and has lived and worked in this setting since 1988. Entering the home through his workshop, you can't help but feel a sense of wonder that anyone can be so productive. You pass jewelry and lapidary equipment, a woodshop, metal work of all kinds--and there is probably a lot of hidden history there that you may not ever know about! Lots and lots of interesting things going on there. Some are works in progress and some are part of Juhan's personal museum.

It should be noted that everything Juhan makes is custom-made: no two of anything are alike. He refuses to duplicate anything, so don't ask. The first thing we looked at were Juhan's custom-made juniper canes. The canes are very personal: each one is hand-carved with a story in symbols for the person he is making it for. They are inlaid with stones especially chosen for that individual. He cures the juniper wood for months to keep it from splitting. There are future juniper canes curing and hanging from his ceiling, along with other fun things to look at, including a bighorn sheep skull with three horns!

Next we enter a bright little gift shop, put together by Teri, Juhan's partner, who moved here from Amarillo, Texas. Teri wears a lot of jewelry and offers all kinds of jewelry in the shop. Some is Juhan's handmade silver and turquoise (and other stones), some is vintage bling, and some is Teri's own beadwork and other crafts. Teri's mother left her the family doll collection and there are hand-carved totems from Juhan. There are posters and fun art on the wall. In fact, everywhere you look, there is something to ooh and ahh about!



Inside the shop are shelves and glass display cases that Juhan has made, including one that is painstakingly crafted out of matchsticks, with its burnt ends forming lovely herringbone patterns. On display are Juhan's handmade knives of all shapes and sizes, with inlay, bone, stone, and wood. Another case has fringed leather medicine pouches and purses. Juhan and Teri are great story

tellers and have a lot to share about each piece in the shop. It is fun to hear about the totem animals and Native American spirituality that comes through in the work. Juhan and Teri love stones and if you are lucky you might get to see the collection of beautiful rocks before they become jewelry.

Outside are metal sculptures, antique vehicles, and other curiosities. When we



Photos by Lou McCall

Above: Juhan has been creating wonders in this workshop since 1988. He and Teri recently opened The Whipping Post, a gift shop like no other.

Left: Teri, co-owner of The Whipping Post, behind one of the jewelry counters.

Upper Right: Juhan's canes are custom-made out of local juniper wood, decorated with stones, and hand carved with totems and symbols telling the story of the person he is making it for.

Upper Left: Handmade display case with Juhan's hand-crafted knives of all sorts.

left, our senses were saturated. There was so much to take in! We know every time we go back we'll see something new. If you want to have a truly amazing Christmas shopping experience, I encourage you to visit the Whipping Post. Pay Juhan and Teri a visit.

2353 Old Red River Road. From Highway 522 turn onto Lower Embargo Road and when it tees into Old Red River Road, turn right and take the first right. Just knock on the front door. Call them at 575-586-5034 or 806-420-9451 or email jwathawa@yahoo.com.

Low Oxygen Causes Fish Kill at Eagle Rock Lake

By NICK NAGAWIECKI

In mid-November, Questa saw a depletion of the fish population in Eagle Rock Lake. Underneath a thin sheet of ice on the lake's surface, dozens of fish were discovered floating belly up, causing concern for the health and safety of the picturesque lake and its visitors. The National Forest Service was contacted, but due to the Capitol Christmas Tree national tour, those field experts were in Washington, DC and unavailable to comment or offer an explanation.

Fish kills are not an uncommon occurrence, unfortunately. The most likely reason for fish deaths is the deprivation of oxygen. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish says the recent Eagle Rock Lake fish kill was likely caused by a lack of O₂ because of the large temperature swings that occurred this fall. When temperature changes in such extreme, the algae in bodies of water often die. With the return of warmer temperatures, the algae rot and the decomposition of algae consumes large quantities of oxygen. Then the fish don't have enough to eat or breathe.

The recent fish kill could have also been exacerbated by a lowering of the water level which is unusually low, effectively robbing the fish of oxygen as the volume of their habitat shrinks. Richard Hansen of New Mexico Game and Fish says, "Water deliveries are routinely curtailed this time of year to prevent damage to the sediment detector in the



Photos by Nick Nagawiecki

There are at least 11 dead fish in this photo of Eagle Rock Lake.

A dead melancholy trout stares through a thin sheet of ice in Eagle Rock Lake.

inlet system (keeps the lake from filling up with sediment during high flows). Eagle Rock Lake is maintained by stocking catchable-sized Rainbow Trout and we do not expect a long term negative impact on the system. In other lakes that have experienced similar die-offs, we have found the water quality returns to suitable conditions within a couple of days or weeks."

The dying off of the fish is likely caused by a combination of the factors that lead to dissolved oxygen, temperature swings, low oxygen levels from dead algae and low water levels created



the perfect storm for a fish kill. Not all the fish died--there was plenty of live fish seen still swimming in Eagle Rock Lake in November. Whatever the cause,

it serves as a reminder of the sensitive relationship that wildlife has with the environment, and how important chemistry is to the functioning of ecosystems.

Carson National Forest Christmas Tree Permits Available Until December 23rd



Permits for cutting Christmas trees on the Carson National Forest are now available through Friday, December 23. Each permit is \$5 for any species up to 10 feet tall, \$10 for 10-15 feet, and \$15 for 15-20 feet. As many as three permits can be purchased per person. You may either cut or dig up your tree.

"This is an important service that we are committed to providing to the communities we serve," says James Duran, Carson National Forest Supervisor. Permits can be purchased at all Ranger District offices in Peñasco, Questa, Tres Piedras, El Rito, Canjilon, and Bloomfield during normal business hours. All offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. The public will be notified as soon as sales are available in Taos.

A Christmas tree tag, map, and guidelines for harvesting your tree are included with the permit. To protect forest resources, tree cutting activities

are not allowed within wilderness areas, or within 100 feet of forest roads, state highways, streams and rivers, and any campground or trail.

As part of the "Every Kid Outdoors" initiative, every fourth-grader is eligible for a free Christmas tree permit. To redeem the free permit, the student must present a valid fourth-grade pass, downloadable at the website <https://everykid-outdoors.gov/>. Once the pass is printed out, the student must bring a parent or guardian over the age of 18 with them to the nearest Carson National Forest office to pick up the tree permit.

Check the Carson National Forest webpage www.fs.usda.gov/carson or Facebook page www.facebook.com/CarsonNF/ for updates on office hours and permit sales availability. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Questa Ranger District – Questa

Office Hours: 8 am – 12:30 pm, 1:30–4 pm
Closed Thanksgiving Day, open on Friday
November 29
No Saturday sales

A Walk in the Rocks - Exploring the Vistas de Questa Trail



Photo By Chris Dohmen

View of Flag Mountain from the trail.

By CHRIS DOHMEN

The Vistas de Questa Trail is a great place to stretch your legs and enjoy spectacular views of Questa and the valley right outside of town. It's a great place to hike, run, or ride -- take your mountain bike or saddle up your horses. If you take your dog, please remember to bring a leash.

The trail starts out in the high desert with spectacular 360-degree views. After entering a pinon-juniper forest, the trail gets steeper and rockier (revealing Guadalupe Mountain's volcanic history) and potentially quite muddy if there is snow melting on frozen ground. An intersection with a blank sign marks the beginning of the Punto de Coyote Loop. Continue straight and circle uphill

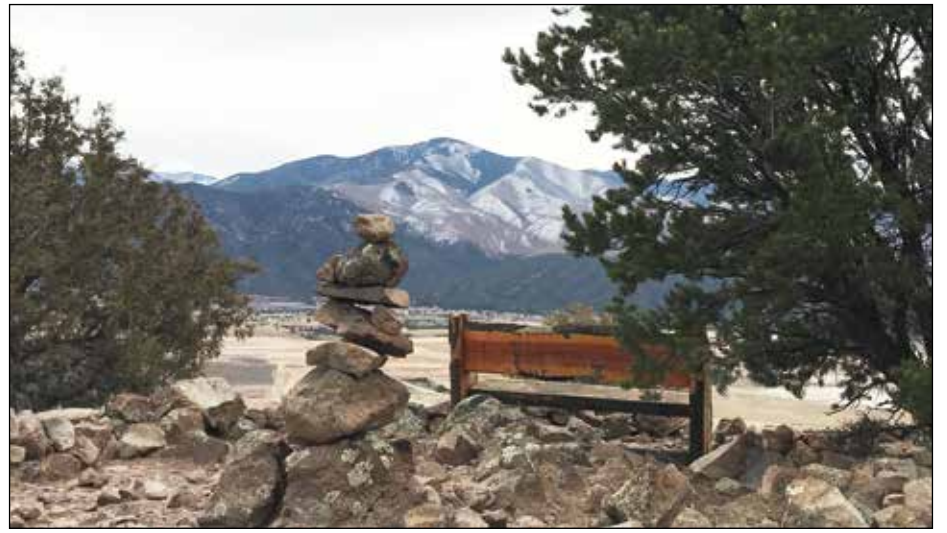


Photo By Chris Dohmen

The bench at the Upper Overlook is dedicated to the memory of Aaron Rael, late BLM Park Ranger, who was instrumental in creating this trail.

on the south side of the mountain. The views of Flag Mountain and Questa only get better, the higher you go.

The lower overlook is a rock outcropping with a good view to the southeast, but you don't want to stop here. Continue uphill to the top of the loop and take the spur to the upper overlook for a spectacular view to the south and east -- and a comfortable bench to rest

on after climbing about 500 feet. From here, you can continue to the Wild Rivers Recreation Area, or you can finish the lollipop loop by descending on the north side, down to the beginning of the loop, and from there back to the parking area for an enjoyable 3.7-mile walk with gorgeous views.. For more information, contact the Wild Rivers Recreation Area Visitor Center at 575 586-1150.

Trout Unlimited's Upper Rio Grande Community Initiative seeks to strengthen New Mexico's rural economies by **enhancing** and **protecting** the **watersheds** that have sustained traditional communities for centuries.



Since 2013, TU has supported the Village of Questa's expansion of its fishing-based economy through re-storing the Red River, developing a restoration work force, and improving the village's capacity to lodge and serve visitors.



TU has joined a diverse coalition of local stakeholders opposing a proposed copper, gold, and zinc mine in the Pecos River watershed. The mine would destroy the economy of the Village of Pecos, which depends heavily on revenue generated by the river



For over a decade, TU has engaged in restoring the Comanche Creek watershed, supporting reliable irrigation flows and imperiled Rio Grande cutthroat trout, a species of significant cultural value.



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It was in southern California in the early 1930s when Peter Kelder met Colonel Bradford, a retired British army colonel who told Kelder an amazing story. While stationed in India in the early 1900s, Colonel Bradford had heard rumors of Tibetan monks who had learned to reverse the effects of aging.

Years later when Kelder met the colonel again, he could hardly believe

his eyes. Despite his advanced years, Bradford appeared to be a youthful man. Colonel Bradford told Kelder he had searched for and found the monks' Tibetan monastery. There he had learned the Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation and began practicing them. Kelder was so astonished to see Bradford's youthfulness that he learned the Rites and in 1939, brought this monastic Tibetan wisdom to the Western world with the publication of his book, *The Eye of Revelation*. In 1985 Harbor Press renamed and published Kelder's book as *The Ancient Secret of the Fountain of Youth*.

Known as The Five Tibetans, or the Five Rites, this practice had been kept secret in Himalayan monasteries for centuries because they were considered to be a path to higher consciousness, with side benefits of physical strength, vitality, youthfulness, and virility. Only men were allowed to learn and perform these physical movements back then.

The Five Tibetans are performed daily as a moving meditation with the intention of altering the practitioner's

mind/body energy. Though physical, the Rites are not a fitness regimen – this practice was designed to align the energetic field to support rejuvenation and spiritual, holistic wellbeing. Today, men and women all over the world are practicing the Rites and reaping the benefits.

I have been practicing the Rites daily since 2004 and was happy to learn in 2010 of a new edition of Kelder's book, *The Eye of Revelation: The Ancient Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation*, edited by J.W. Watt and published in 2008. It gives greater details about the correct way to perform these Rites.

As Watt remarks in his introduction, "There is something very mysterious about the ancient Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation: they work – against all odds, they actually work. We don't know how, we don't know why, but we truly believe that anyone giving the Rites a fair trial will meet with surprising success." I highly recommend you explore this resource and *The Ancient Secret of the Fountain of Youth* if you want to learn more about The Five Tibetans.

Before 2004 I had never been athletic or gone in for exercise of any kind, but I've become a passionate advocate for the Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation – because they really work!

I've posted a brief video in which I show the correct way to do the five primary exercises. You can watch it by going to www.howtogrowyounger.com and scrolling down to the third video on my home page. If you don't already practice yoga or something similar, I suggest you first get your doctor's permission.

Happy Holidays!

[Editor's note: I have been doing the Five Tibetan Rites for 30 years and they really are the Fountain of Youth, most people would never guess that I am 115. (Just kidding about the 115 part, the 30 years part is for real!)]

Ellen Wood of *Questa* is the award-winning author of the series of books, "The Secret Method for Growing Younger." She is also editor of and contributor to "Late Bloomers: The Movement – Literary Gems by Taos Boomers in Their Prime."

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

¡Una práctica para rejuvenecer que de veras funciona!

Uno de mis mayores secretos para mantener la juventud es Los Cinco Ritos Tibetanos de Rejuvenecimiento. ¡Estos movimientos físicos que cuentan con 2.500 años de antigüedad fueron diseñados para rejuvenecerte y de veras funcionan!

No, no parezco más joven, pero los primeros síntomas de la enfermedad de Alzheimer desaparecieron, tengo mucha más energía y estoy muy sana a los 83 años.

Fue en el sur de California, a principios de la década de 1930, cuando Peter Kelder conoció al "Coronel Bradford," un anciano coronel retirado del ejército británico que le contó a Kelder una historia increíble. Mientras estaba estacionado en India a principios de 1900, el coronel Bradford había escuchado rumores de monjes tibetanos que habían aprendido a revertir los efectos de la edad.

Años después, cuando Kelder volvió a encontrarse con el coronel, apenas podía creer lo que veía. A pesar de su avanzada edad, Bradford parecía un hombre joven. El coronel Bradford le dijo a Kelder que había buscado y encontrado el monas-

terio de los monjes tibetanos. Allí había aprendido los Ritos Tibetanos de Rejuvenecimiento y comenzado a practicarlos. Kelder estaba tan asombrado de ver la juventud de Bradford que se aprendió los Ritos y, en 1939, trajo esta sabiduría tibetana monástica al mundo occidental con la publicación de su libro *The Eye of Revelation* (El ojo de la revelación). En 1985, Harbor Press le cambió el título y publicó el libro de Kelder como *The Ancient Secret of the Fountain of Youth* (El antiguo secreto de la fuente de la juventud.)

Conocida como Los Cinco Tibetanos o los Cinco Ritos, esta práctica se mantuvo en secreto en los monasterios del Himalaya durante siglos porque se le consideraba un camino hacia una conciencia superior, con beneficios secundarios de fuerza física, vitalidad, juventud y virilidad. Solo a los hombres se les permitía aprender y realizar estos movimientos físicos en aquel entonces.

Los Cinco Tibetanos se realizan diariamente como una meditación en movimiento con la intención de alterar la energía de la mente y el cuerpo del practicante. Aunque físicos, los Ritos no son

un régimen de ejercicios: esta práctica fue diseñada para alinear el campo energético a fin de apoyar el rejuvenecimiento y el bienestar espiritual y holístico. Hoy, hombres y mujeres de todo el mundo practican los Ritos y reciben sus beneficios.

He practicado los Ritos diariamente desde 2004 y me alegré de saber en 2010 de una nueva edición del libro de Kelder, *The Eye of Revelation: The Ancient Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation*, editado por J.W. Watt y publicado en 2008. En él se ofrecen más detalles sobre la forma correcta de realizar estos Ritos.

Como observa Watt en su introducción, "Hay algo muy misterioso acerca de los antiguos Ritos Tibetanos de Rejuvenecimiento: funcionan, contra todo pronóstico, realmente funcionan. No sabemos cómo, no sabemos por qué, pero realmente creemos que cualquiera que les dé a los Ritos una oportunidad encontrará un éxito sorprendente." Les recomiendo que exploren este recurso y *The Ancient Secret of the Fountain of Youth* si quieren aprender más sobre Los Cinco Tibetanos.

Antes de 2004, yo nunca había sido atlética ni había practicado ningún tipo de

ejercicio, pero me he vuelto una defensora apasionada de los Ritos Tibetanos de Rejuvenecimiento, ¡porque de veras funcionan!

He publicado un breve video en el que muestro la forma correcta de hacer los cinco ejercicios principales. Puede verlo si van a www.howtogrowyounger.com y bajan hasta el tercer video en mi página de inicio. Si aún no practican yoga o algo similar, les sugiero que primero le pidan permiso a su médico.

¡Felices Fiestas!

[Nota de la editora: He estado practicando los Cinco Ritos Tibetanos durante 30 años y realmente son la Fuente de la Juventud; la mayoría de la gente nunca adivinaría que tengo 115 años. (Sólo bromeo sobre la parte de 115, ¡la parte de 30 años es real!)]

Ellen Wood de *Questa* es la galardonada autora de la serie de libros "The Secret Method for Growing Younger." También es editora y colaboradora de "Late Bloomers: The Movement – Literary Gems by Taos Boomers in Their Prime." Su sitio web es www.howtogrowyounger.com Póngase en contacto con Ellen escribiendo a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

Traducido por Teresa Dovalpage

BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

FORGIVENESS IS THE KEY
TO HAPPINESS

"Forgiveness happens naturally when you see that grievances have no purpose other than to strengthen a false sense of self, to keep the ego in place. Jesus' teaching, 'Forgive your enemies' is essentially about the undoing of one of the main egoic structures in the human mind," says spiritual teacher Eckhart Tolle.

In our journey through this labyrinth called life, we encounter challenges that can catch us unaware and trigger negative thoughts towards ourselves as well as those that we hold against others. As we venture forward through the years we consciously (and unconsciously) store many issues that would be better left behind at the time they first happened. Often these begin in childhood, and then progress and accumulate as we grow into adults. These can be old cobwebs from sibling rivalry, and/or resistance toward our parents and their good intentions, guidance, and control. We accumulate

grievances from all directions; issues with friends and neighbors, loved ones, and traumas that may involve others. Most often the one who carries the heaviest burden is our own self, our own transgressions against ourselves. The Course in Miracles says forgiveness is the key to happiness. Try it yourself and see if it is true.

This is our personal journey and precious passage through this life. The spirit resides within us giving us the gift to forgive. When we hold on to grudges and ill feelings, we remain trapped in a limbo that is painful, attached by an unseen strand linked to a time that is past and gone, nonexistent.

Pain and discomfort arise at opportune times to remind us we have not forgiven. We can move out of that limbo state and move up the rung of the ladder of consciousness by forgiving. The person who is unforgiven is not the one suffering -- we are -- and they move through life with or without our forgiveness. Everyone's job is to forgive themselves.

Being attached to painful anger and resentment is a probable cause of emotional imbalances such as anxiety, tension, depression, and even ill health. When

*Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing
There is a field, I'll meet you there.*

—Rumi

we push against something we judge as wrong, the resistance to something we feel should never have happened is at the root of our pain. When we do not forgive ourselves, we find it difficult to forgive anyone else. When we decide we are done with this unforgiving game, the place to begin is to become aware of those things that we do not forgive in ourselves.

I have at times had difficulty forgiving. The ego wants to be right at all costs and has a grand time making others wrong. This is a negative ego tactic that is potent and can make the experience of forgiving a true challenge. We can see the dance of the ego's desire to be right when we stop in the midst of tension and take a look at what is at play. Is there a desire to be right and stick to our position even though it is a destructive force and has significant impact over our happiness and peace, not to mention alienating others? We need

to be aware of the level of consciousness we wish to have running our lives. This is when we have to be very vigilant and strong in our intent. It can feel as though we are having an inner war with the negative ego, because there is such delicious juice in "being right" or being a "victim," and who wants to give up being right? Personally, I would prefer to be at peace with all actions and reactions here and now. Why wait?

"There is only one perpetrator of evil on our planet: human unconsciousness. That realization is true forgiveness. With forgiveness, your victim identity dissolves, and your true power emerges -- The power of Presence. Instead of blaming the darkness, you bring in the Light." -- Eckhart Tolle

Wishing you all a very peaceful and loving holiday season.



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Thank You!

Thank you to the community of Questa for coming out and voting on election day.

— Tammy Jaramillo —

The Shadow

BY JILL ANSELL

"I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me and what can be the use of him is more than I can see." Robert Louis Stevenson

Now is the time of year when Festivals of Light are celebrated by diverse cultures around the world. Diwali in India, Solstice, Hanukah, Kwanza, and Christmas to mention a few. In the silent darkness of the long winter nights, by lighting a candle I am reminded of the potential for peace. As the season of darkness descends upon us, I think of our ancient ancestors creating such ceremonies in order to commemorate the return of the light. They now serve as a metaphor for our opportunities to further discover our inner Light.

At this time when we are witness to hatred and anger in the news on a daily basis, and when our own lives become confused by the pull of opposite forces, I feel called upon to bring forth a perspective on Shadow and Light.

Carl Jung said, "One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious." To journey into the realm of our own darkness is to enter a process where we are called upon to take a deeper look at the stories that we tell ourselves. Winter offers us such opportunity.

Jung defined the shadow as a portion of the human psyche which is hidden in darkness. He posited that shining light into this dark realm reveals hidden jewels of great value. It is a process of inquiry where we come to know and identify our own tendencies, creating an opportunity for healing and transformation.

The shadow is an ephemeral trickster, a shape shifter that changes its identity in order to survive. When stricken by the light it scrambles to reassemble. Bringing forth light requires an act of commitment, strength, and courage. I am witness on a daily basis to examples of the collective shadow which when projected brings suffering to our world. Racism is an example that immediately

comes to mind.

Historically the collective shadow is projected when a group gathers strength through feelings of untouchable superiority. Perhaps it is an attempt to cleanse and deny the darkness within themselves, an attempt gone awry. Myriad examples include ethnic cleansing: the Nazis killing the Jews, the Caucasians killing Native Americans, the disputes between the Jews and Muslims, and the atrocities in Syria. Police brutality is another contemporary example, as well as the immigrants close to our own border who are being treated in inhumane ways.

Getting swept into such attitudes becomes a betrayal of self, for contained in the concept of "other" is almost always a hidden piece of ourselves. Taking this journey into the realm of shadow often leads to this conclusion.

I have listened to multiple stories of people entering a room only to feel immediately stricken by a strong sense of dislike or even revulsion by someone

present. It feels visceral. We are swept away, caught. But it is here that any of us can catch ourselves telling stories which serve to justify our own sense of superiority. It is here that the potential for oppression is born if we don't catch it in time.

How can we discover compassion without inquiry into other people's experience? What are their challenges? When frozen by attachment to habitual attitudes of prejudice and judgment we can stumble unintentionally into the world of darkness and are blinded. It is here that we become bound and caught in contraction; it is in expansion and openness that we are set free. Finding light is a lifelong quest. Without darkness there is no contrast. Without contrast we cannot see the light.

This little shadow that goes hither and thither and in and out with me is a piece of ourselves. Let's reveal it by lighting candles in order to dispel darkness, both within us and out in the world. Doing so makes an offering for Peace.

Chair Yoga at Red River Community House



By STAFF WRITERS

Several years ago, Red River resident Barbara Dry started getting together with her friends at the Red River Community House to practice chair yoga. They followed along with an instructional video on a large screen TV there. The class was free, with a jar for donations (as with RRCH activities even now). Over the years, many of the same group continue to get together and are joined by visitors to Red River or anyone else interested. Now the group is facilitated by Rosie Fisher from April through November and Dianne Hughes during the winter. They meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00 am. All are welcome.

The group starts with poses for strength and balance. Balance poses, many yoga teachers say, are essential for staying young. The balance poses are a good fit for their community yoga group. They then continue with exercises for upper body strength, followed by



Courtesy Photo

Rosie Fisher (center) of the Red River Community House facilitates the Chair Yoga during the summer. Pictured on left is Sandy Kohleffer, visiting from Texas and Questa News Staff Writer Jessica Manley on the right.

an optional lower body workout. Chair yoga is perfect for those who like to stretch and find it difficult to get up and down off the floor. It is a great warm-up for other activities to avoid injuries,

especially for skiers. Although the movements are gentle, they can provide a great overall workout for everyone.

John and Judy Miller, longtime Red River residents who have been coming

to the group for years say, "The chair yoga makes a big difference for us." They almost always come to class, unless the weather is bad. In any given class, there are generally between four and eleven participants. One tourist brought his two little girls to class and they had a blast!

If you would like to try chair yoga on your own, the group recommends DVDs by yoga instructor Jane Adams, particularly, *Yoga for Seniors*, *Balance*, and *Strength* available at www.janeadamsyoga.com or 406 257-4527. One visitor to Red River attended the class, ordered the DVD, and started her own chair yoga class at her church back home.

WHEN & WHERE:

You are invited to join the group for chair yoga at 11:00 am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Red River Community House, 116 E. Main Street in Red River. If you have any questions, contact Dianne Hughes at dbhughes44@gmail.com or (817) 291-5994. Please check the calendar at redrivercommunityhouse.com, especially during the holidays.

UNM Law Students Visit Questa to Learn about Environmental Justice

By CLIFFORD VILLA,
UNM SCHOOL OF LAW

On Friday, November 1, 2019 a group of some 20 students and faculty members from the University of New Mexico School of Law embarked on a day of experiential learning in northern New Mexico. On a bus ride from Albuquerque, the students came to Questa to learn about the Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site. Questa Mayor Mark Gallegos and Councilman Charlie Gonzales met the students at Eagle Rock Lake and explained the history of mining in the area as well as the mighty challenges remaining to address the pollution left by nearly a century of mining and milling operations.

The students learned that the massive volumes of mine waste plus contaminated groundwater may require cleanup on the order of hundreds of millions of dollars. After viewing the mine site, the students proceeded to the Questa municipal building, where they heard directly from community members impacted by the pollution. The trip was led by UNM law professor Cliff Villa, who teaches courses on environmental law and constitutional rights. Professor Villa observed, "Students participating in this field experience learned about the unique concerns in Questa and will be better prepared to address concerns in communities throughout the state of New Mexico."

The UNM School of Law is the



Questa News Photo

UNM Law students from the Environmental Justice class visit Questa Village Hall to listen to community members tell their stories of how the mine has affected their families.

state's only law school and is located on the University of New Mexico's North Campus. The UNM School of Law is known for its excellent student-to-fac-



Photos by Uly Yarbrough

UNM Environmental Justice Law students at Eagle Rock Lake with Mayor Mark Gallegos and Village Council member Charlie Gonzales.

ulty ratio and outstanding employment rates for graduates. Visit lawschool.unm.edu for more information. For further information on this work, please contact Professor Villa at villa@law.unm.gov.

Zero Waste

By TONER MITCHELL

A feeding trout is innately equipped to count calories, those it burns and those it consumes. A fish won't rise through five feet of fast water to eat a single mayfly off the river surface, but it will for a fat grasshopper, a wounded minnow, or twenty mayflies. To put it in human terms, while a person might sprint across a football field of broken glass for a Wildcat's Den cheeseburger, doing so for a piece of popcorn would make no sense.

Evolutionarily speaking, animals are predisposed to such economy of effort; beings that exert themselves in excess of potential rewards simply don't survive long enough to pass their genes along to future generations.

Unfortunately, we humans have developed a tendency to postpone this inevitable reckoning. For example, I can buy food at a store for very little effort, consume its calories, and feel satisfied that I've come out on top. What's not accounted for, however, are the humanity-wide costs of this seemingly simple transaction.

Purchased food must be produced and delivered with costs in fuel, packaging, shipping, warehousing, retailing, and who knows how much human labor. Consuming it results in landfilling of packaging, and in many cases, unconsumed food (about half of the food produced in the U.S. is wasted). By these measures, our standard means of obtaining and consuming land turns the

economy of effort scale upside down. In other words, it's wasteful.

The Zero Waste lifestyle was conceived to lead us back to our waste-reducing instincts and to ensure that more of our discarded byproducts become available for other uses. We can approach zero waste by adopting the Five Rs of Recycling.

Refuse. Simply saying no to unnecessary offerings can dramatically limit your waste stream. An easy example is refusing to accept a plastic or paper bag from the store; instead bring your own cloth bag. Not only will you have less plastic to stuff in your already full kitchen spaces, you will reduce the bag-purchasing costs of your local store and also do your part to reduce the pollution caused by manufacturing plastic goods. Do you really need a single-use plastic straw for your water at the restaurant? If you're uncertain of whether they adequately wash their glasses, you probably shouldn't be eating there in the first place.

Reduce. Reduce the amount of water and energy you use and only wash your clothes when they are dirty. Your clothes will last a lot longer, too. If you don't roll in the mud as often as detergent companies want you to believe you do, your clothes will get clean with less detergent. Not to brag, but I've managed to reduce my shampoo use by 100 percent. My secret? Losing all my hair when I was 38 years old.

Reuse. If you don't have a cloth bag for grocery toting, maybe bring the bags

you got the last time you went to the store. I don't eat fast food because of the ridiculous amounts of packaging, but if I did, I would reduce my waste by using the forks, spoons, and knives I carry in my car. I carry a personal water bottle wherever I go, but if I didn't have one, I would reuse a soda bottle I may have purchased at the gas station.

Composting is another form of reusing; not only does it make for a productive garden, but it can eliminate your purchase of packaged, and often inorganic, fertilizers. It sure keeps a lot of methane out of the landfill and keeps the stink out of your garbage.

My best friend from childhood packed his lunch in the same Gold Medal flour bag for all four years of high school (we sat at the nerd table). Cottage cheese containers are nothing but free, old school Tupperware, and not only is Snow Cap Lard a tasty, calorie-rich snack, it comes in handy buckets that can be used and used again. They make great compost buckets!

Repurpose. At the Earthship community west of Taos, the houses are made of dirt-packed tires and bottles. An extreme example to be sure, but those discarded items are serving a purpose now, as opposed to littering the roadside or a favorite fishing spot.

Recycle. Recycling is what we do when we have used up all the other options. Remember that aluminum and other metals must be mined at great cost to the environment. Recycling aluminum uses as much as 95% less energy

that mining raw material. Paper mills are fueled by deforestation and discharge dioxins and other harmful chemicals to our waterways. Cans and bottles can fall in the "refuse" category too, especially if you're trying to cut down on alcohol.

Perhaps the best way to reduce waste is to eat real food, such as vegetables from your garden or the farmer's market, and, if no one's looking, that deer grazing your neighbor's alfalfa field. Seriously, local eggs are packaged in nothing but a shell, homegrown beef in skin, and trout from a stream has no packaging at all.

Truth be told, if you live in northern New Mexico, you're probably ahead of the game as far as reducing waste is concerned. You've grown up knowing the true value of land, of water, and of sunshine through a clean blue sky. You eat food grown at home or in the mountains around you.

We can all do better knowing that every increment of waste reduction will benefit our communities and our families. With the Christmas season approaching, consider saving your wrapping materials for future gift-giving occasions. Or make your own wrapping paper, ribbons, and boxes. Think of how good you'll feel buying Grandpa another gift with the money you save. Imagine the look on his face when he peels off last year's wrapping paper and pulls those tacky Santa Claus socks out of a repurposed lard bucket. Priceless!

Yoga Vibrations

LaSala
QUESTA

By MICHAEL GRANEY

Come join Mike Graney and Lane Kingsbery for this unique year end two-hour practice of yoga asana, pranayama, and sound immersion on New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31 from 4 – 6 p.m. Cost is \$45. Save money and bring a friend: two for \$80!

Lane and Mike met in 2001 on opposite sides of an addiction-recovery program. Since then they have forged a friendship that has inspired a wonderful journey into the healing and joy of vibratory awareness that sound and yoga generate in our lives.

Both Mike and Lane have earned certifications as yoga teachers. Lane hails from Lubbock, Texas and Mike is newly arrived in the Questa area from New Zealand. Their combination of philosophy, asana, pranayama, and sound will leave you with a feeling of freshness in both body and mind from which to head fully into 2020 with renewed energy and joy!

This event will be held at La Sala, located at 2331 State HWY 522 in Questa, NM. To learn more about La Sala, go to LaSalaQuesta.com and subscribe to "News" or go to YogaSalaQuesta.org. Also, see Instagram and Facebook at Yoga Sala Questa, or contact Gaea McGahee at 575-224-2102; yogasalaquesta@gmail.com.



Photo by Michael Graney

The Creative Spirit

By MARIA MIKHAILAS

When I am sitting at my easel, my spirit is always reaching out to feel the creative stream that is flowing through me. Sometimes it is a trickle and I am grateful for the little guidance I get, but sometimes it is a powerful stream and I am like a fish swimming in a great expanse of inspiration. From our dull human consciousness which just chat-

ters most of the time, this self-forgetfulness is what happens when the creative stream is moving fast and steady. The great mystery is how this manages to happen.

I can't tell you, because I do not know how this happens. I am in a state of wonder just like anyone else. I do know that this state of creative awareness, alertness, and self-forgetfulness is a holy place, a place of grace. It is like the real center of

my being, my true self, which sometimes just opens. It feels like that.

In my morning meditation, I envision a stream of light that pours down onto me. In that light are little seeds of inspiration coming from that place of the great unknown. They permeate my mind and heart, and I take them in. At the right time, these seeds will germinate and the new birth of this creative idea will begin. If I am attentive to the im-

pulse, I will give it life--through me. My energy, my faith in my abilities, and the tools at hand all help the manifestation -- or it withers and dies.

Another of my morning meditation prayers is that I have the strength of focus, belief in my inspiration, as well as the patience and attentiveness without distraction needed to give the fledgling form life. Distraction is the great thief of the creative spirit.

Our ChristmasTree

By SHARRON TAVERNIER

We needed to go out and get our Christmas tree. The days ticking by, this was our last, best opportunity. Only, it was 8 degrees outside, blowing 40, with a foot of snow on the ground. Bloody rotten cold. It took us 20 minutes just to get dressed to go out in it.

We went next door to find the perfect victim. Sword hanging off Bob's belt, 20 yards out, Bob points out the juniper skeleton lying down half buried in the snow. It hasn't seen a living needle in 5 years.

"It's quite shapely," I replied.

We dug it out, held it up and declared it perfect.

She's up now, suffering under the weight of all our decorating debris. Branches reaching out, sometimes breaking off as we brush by. A gaudy old lady with too much rouge and lipstick.

ATTRIBUTED TO VINCENT VAN GOGH

Love many things
for therein lies the true strength.
For whosoever loves much, does much
and can accomplish much,
for what is done in love is done well.

Ama muchas cosas
Pues ahí yace la verdadera fuerza
Quienquiera que ama mucho, hace
mucho y puede lograr mucho
Porque lo que se hace en el amor se
hace bien.

—Contributed and Translated into
Spanish by Jessica Manley

Queen of Bones by Teresa Dovalpage

Last month we announced Teresa Dovalpage's new novel, *Queen of Bones*, set in the author's native Cuba, it is a suspenseful murder mystery page turner! The best way to buy it is directly from Amazon, where there is a choice of three formats - hardcover, Kindle, and audio book. ¡Mil gracias!

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07DZGNZH4/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btcr=1



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Ahhh.
I helped
save our paper.
See page 2!



Photos by Nick Nagawiecki

1: Shawn Flores in his studio with one of his prized planetary works.

2: A variety of work by Shawn Flores.

3: One of Shawn's popular tile crosses.

Artist Highlight: Shawn Flores

By NICK NAGAWIECKI

Shawn Flores began his art career under unfortunate circumstances. The stress from his mother's short battle with stage four ovarian cancer, which she ultimately lost in October 2017, became unbearable and took the family by surprise. Then, four months later, his uncle, for whom he was the primary caregiver for five years, also passed away. Without having his mother and uncle in his life, his time seemed empty. He discovered that painting, using the unique medium of aerosol spray cans, was a way to cope with his grief and to find a new chapter in his life. Since then, he has been working full time as an artist in his beautiful outdoor studio and has developed a technique of spray painting that is very original. Recently, his work has been popping up around town. You might see some of his art at Jay's Unique Thrift for sale and he sometimes sets up to sell in front of the Stop-N-Go or the Questa Supermarket.

Shawn will display his paintings this year at Alumbra de Questa. Shawn paints the cosmos with explosions of color and texture. His primary subject has been planets, though his bestsellers

are painted crosses on ceramic tiles. He has been branching out from stark circular forms on square compositions and he does a lot of experimentation. One of his favorite works (pictured) depicts a planetary surface. The high contrast texture makes this gaseous atmosphere jump to the foreground of the painting. He uses a variety of methods to create his dramatic nebulae. It almost feels like these planets are set in their own Guardians of the Galaxy-inspired universe.

His heavily stylized depiction of space draws from several sci-fi influences. When you walk into his home, you cannot help but notice dozens of DVDs from classic movies of the past 40 or so years--*Blade Runner*, *Star Wars*, *Rob Zombie*, and other eccentric, dreamlike films. When asked if he likes science fiction, he says, "That's about all I watch!"

Shawn is grounded by his four children, 11 grandchildren, and one grandchild that was lost at birth, Raymond Abel. He also has one great-grandchild; Shawn is surrounded by family and would like to acknowledge them. His children and grandchildren have picked up his artistic itch. His daughter has been casting resin to make small sculptures. Shawn hopes to learn from her so

that he can use resin in his own work. A few of his grandchildren have taken an interest in spray painting and the vibrant colors he works with and they have learned from grandpa how to make similar compositions. Shawn's home features not only his own art, but also that of his children, grandchildren, and his mother, who was also an artist. Shawn is creating a bright future for himself and his family--they are all refining their skills and riffing on one another's work.

Shawn's painting also takes on a religious dimension. One of his strongest products are the tiles with crosses on them. They sell really well with people who want religious articles in their home. His brother Abel died at age 27 from diabetes and Shawn and his father, David Flores made an entire shrine for him in the cemetery, as well as Shawn's grandmother, Dora Montoya, who is also buried there. The balance between spirituality and cosmic psychedelics has come to define his work.

Originally, Shawn started his paintings on cardstock paper. He does all of his spraying outside and would like to build a well-ventilated spray room for protection from the wind. His mother painted tiles in a very traditional New

Mexico style. Many of those old paintings still grace his property near the post office. But there are many unpainted tiles that were left when she passed. Shawn decided to start painting those with his designs. Many people have purchased these tiles for different purposes; either to mount with grout or just display on a shelf. He has also moved on to spraying on flagstones. The texture of the stone reminds him of mountains on his surreal planetary landscapes. While these make up the bulk of his work, he is starting to branch out in exciting new directions. Shawn was recently commissioned to paint a *Star Wars*-inspired mural for a local family who has a large collection of *Star Wars* memorabilia. He has painted fuel tanks for motorcycles, and clocks made out of old LP records. Shawn is looking into painting more furniture. The flexibility of his craft means that he can paint many different surfaces. Talk with him! Maybe you have ideas for something he could paint for you. If you want to contact him to ask about his work please visit his Facebook page, Shawn Flores. You can also call him at 575-779-3665. Help Shawn paint the town and bring more vibrant pops of color to the area!

To all our readers:

Due to the kindness of our wonderful editor Lou, I have the month off for the December Enchanted Eats Restaurant Review. It's not that I didn't want to experience another culinary delight in the Enchanted Circle, it's that I have not been in New Mexico! For the past few months, I have been in Tulsa, Oklahoma, renovating the home where I raised my children, getting it ready to put on the market. In lieu of a restaurant review, I hope you enjoy all the fun holiday recipes that we have put together.

I am grateful to be a part of the wonderful Questa Del Rio News and look forward to being back home for our January edition. In the meantime, enjoy this time with family and friends.

Let us not forget this is the season to count our blessings and celebrate everyone's holiday, everyone's faith, and for helping those in need. Reach out and give of yourself, for that is the most precious gift.

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a healthy, Happy New Year!

YOUR FOOD EDITOR
ROBYN BLACK



EATWILD

PIÑON

By DONNA MITCHELL-MONIAK

Was it the abundant snowfall to the mountains? Or, maybe it was the just-enough-to-be-pretty snow that rhythmically blanketed our yards all through last winter. Or was it the May snow that took out the apple tree blossoms all over northern New Mexico? Whatever it was—the piñon trees have produced a bumper crop. Plenty for birds, chipmunks, and all manner of creatures and

people alike. This year, with a trip to the backyard or up the mountain, we can harvest a large bowlful quickly. And what a nice way to spend a beautiful autumn afternoon. Everywhere you go this fall, cars were parked beside the road and people were gathering piñon. Hand-written “PINON” signs have dotted Highway 522 for weeks. I was happy to give one of them my green for their bag of brown. Now I have this bag of brown nuts and I know there is white gold inside!

I have always loved pine nuts, which I bought already shelled. As a newcomer to the area, my neighbors showed me

how to gently crack open the shell with my teeth, just enough to crack the shell and not hurt the nut, saying, “It's an art.” A nice lady described shelling the piñon by carefully using a rolling pin, to get enough shelled nuts for fudge or other holiday recipes.

We have asked around for holiday piñon recipes and have gotten answers ranging from, “It's a secret family recipe” to “Just substitute piñon in any recipe.” The thing about piñon is that you may eat them all day long before you start cooking. For our Holiday Enchanted Eats, we are sharing recipes that we hope you enjoy, with or without piñon!



Courtesy Photo

BACON JAM, WHAT A CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Someone sent this to us from the foodnetwork.com and we do not know who! Please let us know who you are so we can thank you properly!

Bacon jam, it's probably about as decadent as it gets! You may be asking yourself, “Has the bacon craze gone too far?” Well, the answer is a resounding no! You'll want to put this wickedly delicious spread on everything. We suggest spreading it over your baked sweet potatoes, adding it to the inside of a baked Brie, or simply serving it with a really good aged sharp Cheddar. Or how about a peanut butter and bacon jam sandwich?

Ingredients:

1 pound bacon
1 large onion
4 cloves garlic
¼ C apple cider vinegar
1 C freshly brewed coffee
½ C brown sugar
2 chipotle chilies in adobo, chopped

¼ C bourbon
¾ t. cumin

Instructions:

Cook bacon until crispy. Remove from the pan and drain onto a paper bag or paper towel. Reserve about 2 tablespoons of fat in the pan.

Slice your onion finely, add it to the greased pan, and sauté over medium heat until softened.

Chop the garlic cloves and add them to the pan, sautéing a further minute.

Add apple cider vinegar and cook until slightly evaporated.

Add remaining ingredients and combine well.

Crumble in the crisped bacon, stir to combine, and simmer for 45 minutes or until the liquid has become syrupy (this may take as long as an hour).

Pour the mixture into a food processor or blender and pulse until it is spreadable but not entirely smooth—you want a little texture and the occasional piece of bacon for some crunch.

Place the jam in a jar and label it. Keep refrigerated and bring desired amount to room temperature before spreading it on absolutely everything!

PIÑON PIE

Preheat oven to 450°

Cream together

¼ C butter
1 C firmly packed brown sugar, jaggery, or raw sugar
3 eggs, one at a time
Stir in
½ C rice syrup (aka yinnie syrup)*
1 to 1½ C piñon or pine nuts (shelled!)**
1 t. vanilla or rum
½ t. salt

3. Bake a pie crust partially, 5-7 minutes, and allow it to cool. Reduce oven heat to 375°

4. Fill the pie shell. Bake for about 40 minutes or until a knife comes out clean. Don't overcook!

If you do not want to make a pie crust,

this can also be made as a cookie bar.

*Rice syrup is the best, and it is hard to find. . . You can substitute honey, agave syrup, or maple syrup; it is all good!

**This pie is usually made with pecans which you can use if you don't have piñon.

QUESTEÑO PASTEL DE CIRGUELA OR PRUNE PIE

These plums come from the wild trees that we see around the community. We refer to them as pululu or “cirquela de Indio.” We dry them, turning them into prunes, for later use.

Cook dried plums in a pressure cooker for about 1 -1/2 hours. They should become completely hydrated.

Leave the plums in the cooker until cooled, then pit them. Save the juice.

Mash the plums with your hands until you have created a rough paste.

Add sugar, cinnamon, and vanilla to mellow the taste. You may have to add some of the juice also.

For the best taste, let the mixture stand in the refrigerator overnight. This allows the cinnamon to permeate the mixture. Add more of the juice if the paste or filling is too thick.

Prepare your pie crust dough for the cookie sheet. The amount of filling you use should not exceed 1/2 inch, for best taste and balance.

There are no specific measurements for the preparation of the filling. Use the old-fashioned way in which “a little this and a little that” play a big role. Good taste, texture, and appearance are what matters in the end.

RED CHILE PIÑON FUDGE

Ingredients:

3 C semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 C shelled piñon (raw or toasted)
1 T of fresh red chili powder
1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
1 t. vanilla extract





FLAVIO CISNEROS
By STAFF WRITERS

It was an absolute privilege to sit down with Flavio Cisneros to learn about his life of service. He was honored to hear he was nominated as Volunteer of the Month by last month's honor-ees. Each of our past Volunteers of the Month was nominated by previous individuals that were chosen and say they "really work hard and deserve it." A tradition has been established by those whose backs find no favor in receiving pats. Their hands, hearts, and minds exalt the praises of other brothers or sisters in the fold. It's the mark of a humble person who, even while being interviewed for their service, continues to mention others doing more: that is what our Volunteers of the Month have all done and Flavio is no exception. He says, "The Lord gives and expects us to give in return."

For the past few years, Flavio has volunteered a lot of time and effort working on the Questa History Trail, which he said he got hooked into by Jeannie Masters and Kate Cisneros. Because of his academic studies in history, he has had a lot to offer and acts as the project's historian. It has been a wonderful experience and source of community pride to celebrate Questa's unique history. When the Questa Creative Council got started, Flavio jumped in and the Questa History and Community Trail became one of the QCC's projects. There are so many givers in the community and yet, at the recent meeting celebrating the two-year anniversary of QCC, Flavio expressed a wish to see more long-time locals at the table sharing the invaluable knowledge and experience only a true Questeño can bring. He lights up when he speaks of the "wonderful experience" that working with the QCC has been. After a long pause, he goes on to say simply, "It's moving."

Flavio is a well-read man of study whose default setting is openness, with a strong inclination to fervently quote the Bible and speak up where necessary. The fact that he is an inspiration to many comes as no surprise. For two years in the Air Force studying in Germany, he translated, taught, and trained electrical engineering personnel. Now age 78, he says he had always wanted to be a



Photo by Emily Wilde

Questa's Flavio Cisneros, Volunteer of the Month for December, laughing and smiling as usual!

teacher and received his training and education through military service as well as an impressive list of higher learning institutions. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees at WNMU in Silver City. With 22 years as a history and American government teacher in Taos and Questa, he taught his students "Our primary goal is learning and serving to advance the cause of mankind." "Everyone is equal," he says, with palms open and apart in a gesture of generosity which seems to be his trademark.

Flavio learned the value of staying involved with youth long after his teaching career ended. One of Flavio's greatest acts of service is raising his grandson, Ernesto, which he says has kept him young. Ernesto is now in his first semester of college at NMSU in Las Cruces. Flavio taught his grandson the same values he grew up with, which shine through when he speaks of wishing to pattern his life after his own mother. He also taught Ernesto to get out into the world, because while Questa is unique and special, there is a whole spectrum of experience and opportunity available to everyone to take advantage of. These experiences inevitably highlight the many aspects of ourselves and our community we wouldn't otherwise know the value of.

One of Flavio's various volunteer activities included his service at St. Anthony's Church. He served the Church as Mayor Domo President by cleaning and preparing for Sundays. When the east wall of the church collapsed in 2008 or "went down," as Flavio puts it, he joined others outside the Church every evening to pray the rosary, sometimes around a campfire. Flavio says he wants to do his part, "Give, give, give," he says.

During the reconstruction of the Church, he was responsible for making sure the construction volunteers were well fed, and he did this every Saturday for six years. During Flavio's "Friday Bake Days" he would work up to six hours to provide bread, cookies, and other sweets for morning coffee. He also scheduled volunteers to prepare lunch on Saturdays and kept a logbook of the families who volunteered to feed between 20-55 people working on the restoration. The logbook was included in the time capsule in the corner of the church, which is scheduled to be opened in August of 2116, one hundred years after the reconsecration of the Church.

Flavio loves to bake and is often asked to provide goodies for events, including the very first NeoRio outdoor contemporary art event. He carries on his mother's tradition of baking legend-

ary biscochitos. He has written several articles and shared recipes for the Questa del Rio News. We hope to see more local recipes for traditional, forgotten foods in the future and Flavio plans to offer a Traditional Foods Workshop with the QCC.

Flavio has volunteered for elections as a poll worker since 1976. The most memorable election years for him were when Obama ran as the first man of color, and when Hillary Clinton ran as the first woman candidate--those were exciting times!

There are many more volunteer opportunities waiting for Flavio. He is especially excited about the possibility of restoring the La Cienega School, which is a hot topic of Questa conversation. He says he will step up and do whatever he can to advance the project. He also adds that such an undertaking would require a large volunteer effort, and encourages anyone interested to join in.

If you really want to see a man like Flavio Cisneros light up a room, ask him about who he has nominated for next month's Volunteer of the Month. "Now there's someone who really works hard and deserves a pat on the back." Stay tuned to find out who that is in our January issue. Happy New Year!

Veteran's Day Parade & Memorial and Captiol Christmas Tree Send Off.



VETERANS DAY PARADE



Photos by Emily Wilde



Community Votes in New School Board Members

STAFF WRITERS

A record number of voters turned out on November 5 to show their support for the six different candidates running for the School Board of Questa Independent Schools. Over 900 citizens voted in the election, which volunteers said was a lot more than past local elections. Juan Cisneros won 84% of the vote to beat incumbent Daryl Ortega for Position 1. Rebecca Griego also won over the incumbent Ellis Garcia for Position 2 with 73% of the vote. Some candidates' campaigns had their fair share of drama, but in the end, it was a majority of voters who chose to replace both incumbents.

While the campaign trail for position 1 was a casual walk around Eagle Rock Lake, position 2 was a bit more like jogging in the rain. At registration time there were four hopefuls for Position 2. Garcia and Griego were accompanied by Vivian Apodaca-Vallejos and Cori Jenkins. All four candidates had excellent answers at the board forum held at the Questa VFW on October 9. However, within a couple of weeks, Vivian said

she was withdrawing her name from the race since she would be focusing on the unexpected medical needs of her husband.

On October 24, Garcia was advised by the attorney general's office to resign immediately; that he was not allowed to run for a second term and that they could take legal action if he ignored the advice. In essence, two of the four members were withdrawn from the race on election day, however, all four candidates brought in a number of votes. Griego won with 675, Jenkins had 168, Garcia, 42 and Apodaca-Vallejos, 36. The voters overwhelmingly chose Juan and Rebecca to open a new chapter for the Questa Schools.

We had a chance to talk to Juan Cisneros about his goals as a new school board member. Juan thinks that the biggest priority of the board will be to create a better environment for the kids and teachers. "Too many students and teachers have left the district and we need to get them back," he said. Juan believes that for the size of the district,

the schools could be performing better and that our teachers could do a lot more if they had the support needed to do their job. Finally, he would like to see more interaction between the school district, the Village of Questa, QEDF, and community members. Juan has been adamant throughout the campaign that the community must come together to support our students through hard work and a more positive attitude.

Newly elected Rebecca Griego also shared what she hopes she can accomplish as a school board member. "First, I would like to thank everyone who supported and helped me during the election. I am excited to begin my term as a member of the Questa School Board. I look forward to working with current board members, staff, students and the community to ensure that our students receive the best education while improving the morale of the district. One of my priorities will be working with the administration to understand the financial position the district is in. We need to review where funding has

been spent to ensure that it is being used appropriately. I realize that it is going to be a long and at times difficult road to improve the schools, but with the changes in the school board and with the help of our community, I am positive we can make Questa schools better." These words from Rebecca reflect her ongoing dedication to our students. When Rebecca and others heard about the possibility of ending the spring sports program a couple of years ago, they formed an Athletics Booster Club and began fundraising for the sports programs within a month.

Juan and Rebecca held a thank-you dinner on November 15 at the Monte Carlo, not only to thank people for their support but also to continue community discussions of the changes needed. They want the positive efforts started on election day to continue so that our children can be successful. With Juan's entrepreneurial skillset and Rebecca's background in finance, we look forward to their experience and professionalism on the QISD school board.



BY CATHY GALLEGOS
QJSHS PRINCIPAL AND QISD
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

I realize that the recent actions of the New Mexico Department of Public Education (PED) are cause for alarm for some and cause for celebration for others. [See related article, next page]. No matter where you stand on the situation, let's keep in mind that our students

should remain our top priority. Now would be the perfect time to talk to our young people about the political process and how important it is to exercise their right to vote.

PED has not relieved me of my position. In a conversation with PED, I was told that they were keeping me in place. This shouldn't affect most of the day-to-day operations of our school district. Teachers are still teaching, and students are still learning.

Be assured that the district is working diligently to correct the Special Education issues that were commented upon in the letter from PED. We've introduced teletherapy to ensure that there is no break in ancillary services due to weather or provider-related illness. The

SPED Bureau has been working with me to help clear our corrective action plans and I am hopeful that they will be cleared by the beginning of December.

It is my hope that when the Board is reinstated on January 1, 2020, everyone will keep in mind that we are here for our students, our staff, and our community. We need to commit to a shared vision of what we want for our school district and work together to create goals that will get us closer to attaining that vision.

The current situation has not changed my desire to serve the students and staff of the Questa Independent School District (QISD). I'm a hard worker. I love challenges. I'm not afraid of asking questions or admitting that I need

to research things. I want the opportunity to help create a school district that is innovative, that trusts and supports its teachers, and expects the best for our students. I want our schools to become a place that teachers are happy to go to and that students are sad to leave. I want the chance to create a family, whether that is in my capacity as the high school principal, or superintendent.

The QISD is moving forward and has the resources available to turn our challenges into opportunities. This is a new day for our schools and for our community and we will continue to work hard to create a really great learning environment for our young people. Thank you for your support.

WE HAVE A WEBSITE!!!

QUESTANEWS.COM

Ahhh.
I helped save
our paper.
See page 2!

PED Suspends QISD School Board

STAFF WRITERS

On November 12, the New Mexico Public Education Department suspended the Questa Independent Schools Board until January 1, 2020, when the newly elected board members begin their board terms. As reported on November 12 in the Taos News, "instability of leadership; noncompliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and violations of the Open Meetings Act" were cited as reasons for the suspension. NMPED secretary Ryan Stewart has appointed Tom Sullivan to act as the QISD board for the remainder of 2019.

As we reported earlier in the year, this election, which normally takes place in February, was moved to November. This gave the two board members up for

re-election an additional nine months in office. Those two seats were filled by Daryl Ortega and Ellis Garcia. Based upon the large election margins and total votes for the winning candidates, Juan Cisneros and Rebecca Griego, the voters were clear in expressing their dissatisfaction with the previous leadership. Some believe the election may have been what helped PED make its decision to finally intervene.

We reached out to all current QISD board members about the suspension, the only response came from Jose Lovato by press time. Lovato stated, "One chapter for QISD has been completed and a new chapter will begin in January." Lovato's priorities are "putting the community first." He invites the newspaper and community members

to attend school board meetings and get engaged with our students. "It's been a rough time for the district but having the school board suspended until January will give everyone a few weeks to recharge, focus, and re-energize and get ready for 2020." Those who have been following the district news know that the reasons PED gave for the suspensions are quite valid and we can only hope that this leads to lasting change. With the election of two new

school board members, the dynamics of the board will inevitably transform the district in many ways. The lives of students have been impacted the most by all of the shifts in leadership and their schools now look radically different in terms of staffing even from a year ago. With the help of PED, a new board and our community members, this suspension could be the first step in improving our students' chances of success.

Alcohol and Drugs: What part in our lives do they play?



BY MARIA GONZALEZ,
VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION

Alcohol and drugs are part of our lives, right? Sometimes a small part, sometimes a big part. Sometimes just a drink with family and friends, sometimes a disease that destroys lives.

So, what happened when Questa teens Anjelica Lovato, Alianna Gonzalez, Amalia Gonzalez, and McKayla Young were asked this question:

"What would our community look like if alcohol and drugs were no longer an issue here?" At first there was silence. Then someone said, "We would have more of our culture."

More silence. As a paper was passed from one to another the words began to create a picture.

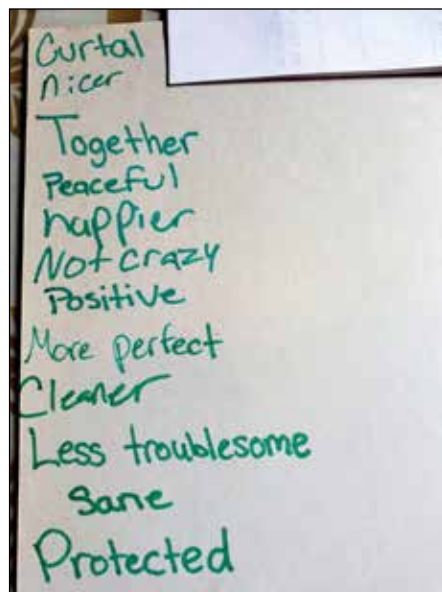
Nicer
Together
Peaceful
Happier
Not crazy
Positive
More perfect

Cleaner
Less troublesome
Sane
Protected

Parents and grandparents, would you like to start this conversation with your kids and grandkids? Let us know what you learn!

Vida del Norte Drug Free Coalition is bringing the northern Taos County community together to create just such a reality. Youth and adults, everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact
Maria Gonzalez, 575-779-2260 or
maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com.

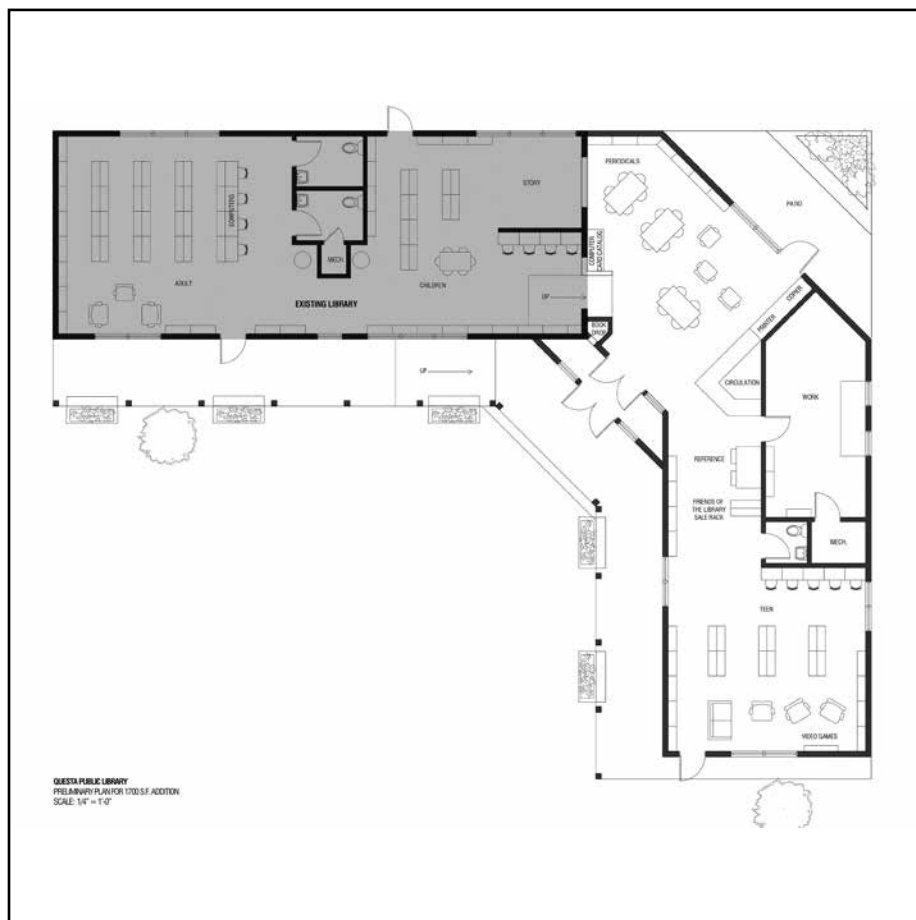


Questa Public Library Expansion: New Space for Questa's Children

By JUDITH CUDDIHY

The Village of Questa Council and Mayor Mark Gallegos have approved the design for the new addition to the Questa Public Library. We now await the scheduling and performance of the required engineering surveys before the Questa winter sets in. Detailed architectural and construction design has been finalized for the addition to the Questa Public Library. Over the past few months Village officials, library staff, and members of both the Library Advisory Board and the Friends of the Questa Public Library Board have met with Doug Patterson and Andrea Starr of Living Design Group Architecture in Taos to nail down the design details for the new library addition. Emphasis has been on featuring exciting new space for Questa's children and delineating a dedicated space for our teenagers. The adult books and reading spaces will remain at their current location in the existing building.

Most eye-catching will be a beautiful gathering room joining the old and new sections of the library. With a vaulted ceiling and windows looking out on



our mountains, it will provide space for community exhibits and meetings as well as being a welcoming place to

relax and visit. Our new addition will comprise 2048 square feet (the current building is 1570 square feet).

The big question is, "When can we use our expanded library?" As the schedule stands now, Living Design Group is working on the construction documents, which will form the basis of the construction bidding and negotiation process. Construction is not possible during the winter, so we expect the project to go out for bids sometime in February, with a final decision and contract to be executed sometime in April of 2020. With construction beginning in the spring, our fingers are crossed for a completed building in November of 2020. We can't wait! But there is much more planning to do (and money to raise) for furnishings for the new addition as well as upgrades to the current building. We will provide updates on all of this activity in upcoming issues of this newspaper.

This project is being financed by a capital outlay grant of \$580,000 from the New Mexico Legislature. Detailed design documents for the addition can be viewed at the library—everyone is welcome to come and have a look at the plans for our exciting new Questa Public Library!



DECEMBER EVENTS AT QUESTA LIBRARY

DEC. 6 FUN FRIDAY 1:00-3:00 PM

Thanks to Betsy Irwin, noted Questa artist, this is your opportunity to turn a miniature gourd into a Santa, a snowman, or other holiday ornament, ready to hang on your tree. All materials will be supplied. Kids 4-12 and their parents are welcome!

DEC. 14 ALUMBRA 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Join us for the fun at the Questa VFW for ¡Alumbra! Our Friends group will be selling donuts and beverages. Visit the library table to participate in a holiday craft, sign up for Friends membership, enter a drawing for some special Questa fun, and find a gift to purchase for your holiday shopping.

DEC. 20 CLAY AND CARDS 1:00-3:00 PM

Peggy Trigg will lead the kids in finishing up their pottery glazing and painting. The pottery was constructed in classes during the fall. They will also be working on creating a favorite card for the holiday season to give to that someone special.

DEC. 24 AND 25. CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

Wildcat's Kitty Club will not meet in December. Back in January for more Kitty fun.

The Questa Library Book Club will not meet in December. We hope to get a lot of reading done during the holidays!

Dropped Stitch continues to gather at 2:30 pm every Thursday at the library. Leftover holiday goodies welcome!

Photo credit: Margaret Lejuste

Unidentified Mad Hatter models her exquisite hat created at Fun Friday, October 4. This event was offered by the ¡Explora! Science Center in Albuquerque.

Día de Los Muertos at the Questa Public Library. The explanation of traditions for this holiday were followed by colorful face painting.





5th anniversary

Indoor/Outdoor
Christmas Market

Alumbra
de
Questa

2019

Sunday • December 15

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Come out and enjoy unique holiday shopping, traditional foods of the season,
Santa, children's activities and festive music.

Questa VFW 2597 Hwy 522 (at Sagebrush Rd.)



Vendors Wanted • For more information contact Dina at dina@questaedf.com or 575-586-2258.

Will Dollar General Open in Questa?

By LOU MCCALL

Many people in Questa, including local businesses, are opposed to a new Dollar General store opening in downtown Questa, especially regarding the proposed location, on a scenic historic site, just one block south of Questa's stoplight. The Questa History Trail, which includes the historic St. Anthony's Church, is very close to the proposed building site where fiestas were once held.

The concerns of the Village include traffic safety, concerns about the local economy supporting another store of this type and the historic and scenic nature of the proposed lot. The Dollar General Corporation's real estate developer, 12 Oaks Development, LLC, contacted the Village of Questa in July. Despite months on the part of the Village to slow down the project to address some of their concerns, 12 Oaks has moved forward. The Village has no restrictions or any legal grounds to prevent the business and does not have the authority to forbid its opening. The Village's 50-year-old ordinances need to be updated, says Mayor Mark Gallegos. The Mayor proposed that the store relocate to a safer, more

appropriate location on the north side by the Questa Business Park, a site with no historic value.

At the November 12 Village Council meeting, community members spoke up, expressing their concerns. Locals say there are many reasons why Dollar General is not a good fit for Questa. Some businesses are already struggling and adding another store to the field, with no additional money coming into the community, could threaten existing locally owned businesses. Questa already has one dollar store, the Family Dollar, so why, locals ask, does it need another? Dollar General has a store in Angel Fire where there is also a Family Dollar store. It appears to be Dollar General's business model to come into communities to compete with this older, more established franchise.

Esther Hall of the Questa Center Supermarket raised concerns over redundancy and competition for local merchants such as her family-owned grocery store, as well as the existing Family Dollar. She says the winter months can be a struggle for their business. She also expressed her concern about the historic value of the proposed building site.

Betty Richter, who owns the property adjacent to the proposed Dollar General site, appealed to the council to protect this beautiful meadow, its historic and cultural value to the community is immeasurable, as are the scenic views. She, along with other community members, noted that elk, deer, and other wildlife—including bobcats—are seen on this land and it would be a shame to replace the wildlife corridor with an eyesore of a metal building. A building, Ms. Richter says, would remain an eyesore even after the business has failed. Questa does not need another empty building, signifying a failed business.

The Village of Questa cannot deny the construction of a business of this sort unless the site is zoned residential or agricultural. Both Ms. Richter's and the adjoining site are zoned commercial. Taos County has no jurisdiction over this property. The County's only role is to review construction documents and building permits, make sure the building is compliant and structurally sound and to conduct periodic and final construction inspections.

From the perspective of planning, zoning, and traffic, the site has many

problems. Jeannie Masters, of the North Central Food Pantry, provided documentation regarding the number of seniors being served at the senior center who drive near the proposed site. She voiced worry that the traffic at the already steep entrance would be worsened by the addition of the Dollar General in the vicinity. Traffic is a concern shared by many.

The Village of Questa's attorney, Chris DeFellippo, stated that traffic concerns are in fact under consideration and the New Mexico Department of Transportation would be performing a study of high peak traffic hours. Egress and ingress are already constricted, and locals say that inclement weather would make traffic difficult, even dangerous, especially for seniors. A deceleration lane, more commonly known as a turn lane, would be needed for ingress and egress into the parking lot. The feasibility of a turn lane will be included in the traffic study. The Village of Questa has been asking the NM DOT for a turn lane for years along that stretch of highway. A number of accidents have occurred there, especially in icy conditions.

A New Telephone Scam Warning!

FROM QUESTA RESIDENT

I received a call on a local 586 number recently from a man who spoke urgently. He said, "Ma'am you have downloaded a virus in your e-mail and we have to get access in order to prevent the attack NOW." I could hear a call center behind him with many others doing the same thing. I was answering a friend's phone, not my own, and he began asking me to "verify" my personal information. That is how they get you to GIVE them the information they don't really have.

Never give out personal information over the phone, even if the person on the other end claims to be from "Microsoft Computer Support," as this man did. Customer service agents will never ask you for your personal identification number (pin) or passwords over the phone unless you have specifically set up a phone password. Furthermore, the real Microsoft Technical Support does not call you on the phone unless you have

had ongoing customer support work going on that you initiated, and have given them permission to do so.

When I told him I knew he was a fraud, he got even more insistent and said, "You have no idea what you are doing. We are trying to protect you and you sound like a child. Where is your mother? I want you to put her on the phone!" I was so fired up at that point I told him he should reconsider his career choices and that what he was doing was very, very wrong. He began laughing maniacally so I quickly said a few "God bless yous" and hung up the phone. The man spoke with such a forceful intensity that I could see how it would be easy to get confused, tricked, and even convinced by one of these people if we are not informed and confident in our own actions on the computer. Always be aware and diligent about where you give out your personal information. Never download anything or click on a link if you don't know exactly who it is from. Better safe than sorry!



Photo by Lou McCall

Thank you to all our readers who commented on our November Veteran's issue. In the last month, we have heard so many great new Veteran stories, and Questa native Roger Blanco's was one of them. Shown here is Roger Blanco now and Roger Blanco in 1968 in Viet Nam. He saved many lives and was to receive a Silver Star Award. His award paperwork went missing during the Tet Offensive and he never received his award. Just one more casualty of war. Roger holds up the November 1, 2019 Veterans Day issue of the Santa Fe New Mexican, where his story was told.

Chevron's Social Investment in the Questa Area

AN END-OF-YEAR THANK YOU FROM THE QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS

Chevron acquired the Questa Mine in 2005 as a result of the Chevron-Unocal merger and prioritized the mine's relationship with the Village of Questa and surrounding communities. Fostering strong partnerships with local governments and communities is a key tenet of how Chevron operates, both here in Questa and globally.

As early as 2008, the Village of Questa and Chevron recognized the need to start diversifying the Questa economy. The Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) was created as a non-profit 501(c)3 to partner with the Village to accomplish this goal. At that time, Chevron committed to an eight-year annual funding commitment to the QEDF of \$320,000: \$120,000 goes into their endowment fund and \$200,000 is to be utilized for economic development projects.

The QEDF has a five-member board of community leaders including the current Mayor, Mark Gallegos; one Village Councilor, Brent Jaramillo; and one former Mayor, Malaquias Rael, who serves as Chairman. Other board members include community members Louis Herrera and Marcus Rael Jr. All of them are volunteers. They devote significant amounts of their time and energy for

the benefit of the community. Chevron's local Economic Development Advisor, Christian Isely, is a non-voting observer to the board.

In addition to the establishment of the QEDF, in 2008 Chevron donated approximately 30 acres of land to the Village for the establishment of the Questa Business Park, where Taos Bakes is currently a tenant.

Due to changes in market conditions, the Chevron Questa Mine was closed in 2014. At the time of the mine closure in 2014, Chevron provided the following additional funding commitments for economic development:

- \$500,000 for economic planning. A portion of this funding was used to hire a consulting firm which completed the comprehensive 2015 Questa Economic Development Plan. The plan identified tourism (including outdoor recreation), agriculture, and light manufacturing at the Questa Business Park as the primary avenues for economic diversification.
- \$1,000,000 in funding for the QEDF's endowment fund.
- An eight-year extension of the annual \$320,000 funding commitment to the QEDF thru 2023

As of 2019, Chevron made the following additional commitments:

- \$500,000 in grant match funding to the Village for the build-out of additional infrastructure at the Questa Business Park. Chevron's funding enabled the Village to attain an additional \$1.7 million in federal and state funding.
- Five acres of riverfront property to the Village for trout habitat restoration and public access for fishing.
- \$10,000 to the QEDF to research agriculture technical assistance for the benefit of local farmers and ranchers.
- \$100,000 to the San Antonio Historic Preservation organization for the Questa Revolving Loan Fund Pilot Project.
- \$30,000 to the QEDF for two promotional tourism videos.

To date, Chevron's committed support to Questa for economic development is over \$7.3 million.

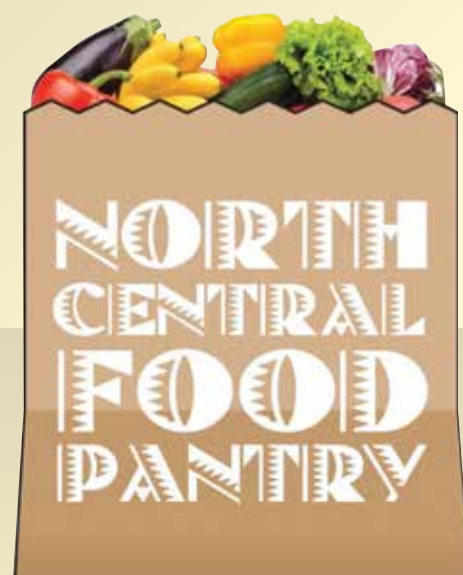
Chevron is very pleased to see the Village and the QEDF making great progress in implementing the economic development plan. Success doesn't happen overnight, but Chevron is now

seeing Questa's efforts paying off. The Questa Del Rio News is one result of this hard work and we would not exist without the support of Chevron. It's great to see our increased readership, due to the strong sense of pride within our Village and our neighboring communities.

In addition to the economic development investments to the community, Chevron supports the sustainability of the community by supporting over 30 local non-profits through a grants program focused on health, education, and welfare of the community throughout the year. Every month Chevron provides an ad in this newspaper for a worthy non-profit organization to support their program and events. Chevron's Grants for Good program has existed for over a decade and is open to any and all non-profits in Taos County. It has awarded over \$75,000 in grants and scholarships each year since the mine closure. The Questa Del Rio News extends a warm thank you to Chevron for its support, not just for this newspaper, but for the Village and surrounding communities. Happy holidays to all.



OPEN FRIDAY DECEMBER 13TH & 20TH



For more information contact Jeannie Masters
586-0486 • PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556

Year's End Recap

**QUESTA
CREATIVE
COUNCIL**



By ALBERTA BOUYER

The Village of Questa's Youth and Family Center continues to come back to life, in part by hosting events like the Questa Creative Council's annual presentation in late October. With impressive banners representing all its projects decorating the main room, this dynamic non-profit celebrated its two-year anniversary with about 40 guests.

A monitor displayed a continuous loop of images from the creative council's three annual events and five community projects. The volunteer energy on view showed a cross-section of our residents, though more involvement is much needed. This became clear as out-going co-Chair, Roger Herrington of Art Questa Gallery, referred to "growing pains", and Executive Board member, Alberta Bouyer, defined the QCC's current state as being a "victim of our own success". Local artist, and out-going co-Chair, Peggy Trigg, let the audience know that their founding Board is made up of Project Directors who cannot continue to also run this non-profit that now has an annual budget of near \$40,000. The call is out for additional neighbors to join the fun!

Many of the QCC's projects existed, in smaller forms, prior to the formation of this non-profit. The Wild Rivers Plein-Air Festival and the Questa Studio Arts Tour had two years under their belts in 2017. NeoRio had nine years of attracting growing attention to our national monument, and the Questa History Trail was under way with its planning and grant funding. What the smart originators of these projects foresaw was the efficiency and strength they would gain by working together, not only with each other, but by coordinating with the Questa Del Rio News, our Village government, Questa's Economic Development Fund board, and the BLM directly, plus other entities such as the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, and New Mexico Arts.

This strategy has been wildly successful. It's led to our community enhancements of the Questa History Trail that now connects our main intersection to St. Anthony's Church plaza along a walkable route that beautifully represents a microcosm of northern New Mexico history. Our local

culture is also highlighted in the streetlight banners decorating downtown. These banners will be followed by two more series of images; one representing local artists, and one of historic photos.

Aside from these visible projects, the annual events of the QCC have attracted a growing number of visitors to our village. The work of the Questa Creative Council, and its much-valued volunteers and supporters, have enhanced the quality of life in this community, made for a dynamic illustration of what our area has to offer, and shown how attractive these attributes are for visitors from Taos County and points much further afield.

All we need now are more local businesses to serve this current and potential customer base, and, the community involvement to support this valuable non-profit in its mission to strengthen and sustain community enrichment and economic opportunities through arts, culture, history and education. This non-profit is ready to expand its funding to include a paid Executive Director to oversee the many activities of this board, and, a paid Bookkeeper to accurately balance their funding with the varied project categories. Their grant-writing team does not foresee this funding being won until late next year. In the meantime, the creative-council board is hoping to add a few enthusiastic members to their team to help bridge their efforts in the coming year.

At the end of October's presentation, an audience member suggested they all go home and discuss with their family and friends the valuable work of this group, and how much fun it would be to get involved. "There are so many ways to take part," Claire Cote, of NeoRio, explained, "from helping at a bake sale or a History Trail walk, or, by putting yourself forward to join the Board, in an Executive position with a specific role, or, as a general member helping to maintain the mission of this group."

As we say farewell to 2019 and envision 2020, consider making the QCC a part of your life. Find more information about the Questa Creative Council at QuestaCreative.org, email QuestaCreativeCouncil@gmail.com, or, leave a message at 586-5636 for a board member to answer your questions. Also note the rich website of the Questa History Trail, which we neglected to include in last month's article; QuestaTrail.org.

Veterans Honored at Questa High

On Friday, November 8th, Students of all grades honored local veterans at Questa High. Special Honors were presented by Mayor Gallegos to Valdemar de Herrera and was accepted by his family.



Photos by Emily Wilde

This Season's Winter Driving Tips



Photo by Emily Wilde

HWY 522, Cerro

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Know Your Car

- Every vehicle handles differently; this is particularly true when driving on wet, icy, or snowy roads. Take time now to learn how your vehicle handles under winter weather driving conditions.
- Before driving your vehicle, clean snow, ice or dirt from the windows, the forward sensors, headlights, taillights, back-up camera and other sensors around the vehicle.
- When your area gets snow, practice driving on snow-covered or icy roads—but not on a main road. Sharpen your winter weather driving skills and know how your vehicle handles in snowy conditions by practicing in an empty parking lot. See your vehicle's manual to familiarize yourself with the features on your vehicle—such as antilock brakes and electronic stability control—and how the features perform in slippery conditions. For example, your vehicle or pedals may pulsate when con-

trolling traction.

- For electric and hybrid-electric vehicles, minimize the drain on the battery. If the vehicle has a thermal heating pack for the battery, plug in your vehicle when it's not in use. Preheat the passenger compartment before you unplug your vehicle in the morning.
- When renting a car, become familiar with the vehicle before driving it off the lot. Know the location of the hazard lights switch in case of emergency and review the owner's manual so that you're prepared for any driving situation that may arise.

Stock Your Vehicle

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, such as cleaning off your windshield, as well as any supplies you might need in an emergency. One must also bring survival supplies in a northern New Mexico vehicle - warm clothing, water, blankets, source of heat, all in the case of being stranded in an emergency.

Plan Your Travel and Route

- Keep yourself and others safe by plan-

ning ahead before you venture out into bad weather.

- Check the weather, road conditions, and traffic.
- Don't rush; allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely. Plan to leave early if necessary.
- Familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go, even if you use a GPS system, and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time.

Floor Mats

Improperly installed floor mats in your vehicle may interfere with the operation of the accelerator or brake pedal, increasing the risk of a crash.

Tires

If you plan to use snow tires, have them installed in the fall so you are prepared before it snows. Check out nhtsa.gov/tires for tire ratings before buying new ones and look for winter tires with the snowflake symbol.

Regardless of season, inspect your tires at least once a month and before long road trips. It only takes about five minutes. If you find yourself driving

under less-than-optimal road conditions this winter, you'll be glad you took the time. Don't forget to check your spare tire.

As the outside temperature drops, so does tire inflation pressure. Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, which is listed in your owner's manual and on a placard located on the driver's side door frame. The correct pressure is NOT the number listed on the tire. Be sure to check tires when they are cold, which means the car hasn't been driven for at least 3 hours.

Look closely at your tread and replace tires that have uneven wear or insufficient tread. Tread should be at least 1/16 of an inch or greater on all tires.

Check the age of each tire. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend that tires be replaced every six years regardless of use, but check your owner's manual to find out.

For more information on tire safety, visit NHTSA's Tires page.

AROUND THE BEND: AUSTRALIA



Photo by Ellen's Camera

"Mrs. Kangaroo, let's jump right into the interview."



Photo by Ellen's Camera

"Mr. Pelican, do you wanna be in the Questa del Rio News?"

"HAVE THE BEAST DIE!"
by ELLEN WOOD

That's what the customer service rep said at the end of a phone call before I left for my trip to Australia to visit family, "Have the beast die!" I thought: what beast? And why does she want it to die? After I hung up, I figured it out: she was with Air New Zealand and she was telling me to have the best day!

It's now Wednesday, October 16. Although my trip back home will be via Air New Zealand through Auckland, today I'm flying Delta to Los Angeles (LAX) and then to Sydney. Uh oh, I just got an email telling me LAX is under construction and to take a tram in some far-off part of the airport. I'll get lost! I don't understand this map, oh my!

Well, I solved that: I ordered a wheelchair. Hey! I know wheelchairs are only for the infirm and elderly, and I'm neither, but I will be 83 in one month and that must count for something. The assistant sailed us through that nightmare of LAX shops, elevators, trams, gates, and construction.

In Sydney, too, I got a wheelchair and after twists and turns and more elevator and tram rides, we boarded a bus for a 10-minute jaunt and then zipped to the head of the line at Customs. I still had

almost six hours to wait in the Sydney Airport before my next flight to Adelaide via Virgin Australia. I asked the wheelchair assistant about a lounge, even though I knew that only those with first-class or business-class tickets were allowed into the Virgin Australia lounge. I guess he misunderstood me because he pushed me the distance of several football fields and we arrived at the Virgin Australia lounge—where I was told I didn't qualify. Nope, I didn't cry or pretend I didn't speak English, I just sat there with a forlorn look on my face—and they eventually relented and let me in. The all-white-and-gleaming-steel lounge was beautiful—and everything was free! Free food, free drinks of all kinds, free chairs you could sink into. And would you believe it? There was no tipping at the Virgin Australia lounge.

October 18 to November 5: I'm here! South Australia is beautiful with green rolling hills textured with lush vegetation, ocean waves that nod as they crest, flowers of all colors and shades, tall Eucalyptus trees scraping the blue sky, and parrots, parakeets, cockatoos, and other birds we don't see at home, tweeting and squawking. It is all very strange and exotic.

My stepdaughter Danielle and her family -- Charlie, Nina and Bruno, and



Photo by Ellen's Camera

Cute koala with furry ears, a big head, black nose, and claws that could play a mean guitar.

dog Simon -- are treating me like gold. I don't have to do any cooking; Charlie is famous as the best chef in Adelaide, and I'm getting fat! Their home is at the top of a hill with a deck even with the tops of tall trees and wow! on my second day, there's an adorable koala on a limb near the deck.



Photo by Ellen's Camera

"Come back, Emu! You just read my column and I want your opinion."

I brought along a Questa del Rio News and at the Cleland Nature Preserve I chased a kangaroo, emu, and pelican to get a comment. The wallabies were mating so I didn't disturb them.

November 7: I'm home! It took 52 hours of traveling, including a short stay at a motel in Albuquerque. Even with the jet lag to follow, it's all worth it for the new, precious experiences I've had in Australia, where every day was the beast die!

Christmas Traditions Along the Culebra

By RICHARD DE OLIVAS
Y CORDOVA

Christmas in San Luis and the surrounding villages was a special time indeed. The families gathered to pray and sing the villancico (Christmas carols), Venid Pastorcillos every night after dinner. Children went out to play in the cold night and would light great bonfires (luminarias) in each community for the nine nights before Christmas.

One bonfire lit for each night of the Novena to the Santo Nino which begins on December 16th and ends with nine

bonfires on the night of December 24th, hearkening back to our ancestors' Jewish roots and the celebration of Hanukkah over eight consecutive nights with similar lights. The children would play around the fire, daring each other to jump over them or throwing snowballs at each other.

In our New Mexico and Colorado Manito culture, an elder (perhaps a village elder, sometimes one of the older teens) would suddenly appear as if out of nowhere, dressed with a mask and carrying a whip. This was the Abuelo and on the nights of the luminaria his

word was law. Children were told to pray or sing villancicos. Not doing as you're told ran the risk of getting a licking with the Abuelo's chicote (whip).

On the evening of the 24th, Christmas Eve, the Abuelo acted as the guide as he took the youngsters from house to house in the given village. Each child carried a pillowcase. At the door of the house the children knocked and bellowed out the centuries-old poem: Oremos, Oremos. Angelitos semos. Del cielo venemos a pedir oremos. Si no nos dan oremos, puertas y ventanas quebraremos. Translation: "We pray, we

pray. We are little angels. From heaven we come to ask for oremos (goodies). If you do not give us goodies, we will break your doors and your windows."

The owners of the home invited the children in. The children were asked by the homeowner to pray or sing. The children were admonished by the Abuelo to either sing or pray or both as the homeowner had asked. Once the children had done what was asked of them, they received a goodie in their bag. It might be an empanadita, or a biscochito, or a piece of fruit or candy.



Very cute Halloween Parade on Main Street in San Luis, Colorado!

Photo by Nick Nagawiecki

MICHAEL'S MOVIE MOMENTS

REVIEWS OF THE YEAR'S
OSCAR-NOMINATED MOVIES
AVAILABLE FOR RENT OR STREAMING

By MICHAEL YOUNG

DECEMBER'S MOVIE REVIEW:
FREE SOLO



Free Solo was this year's Oscar winner in the Academy Awards' "best documentary" category. It is the gripping story of Alex Honnold's stunning climb up Yosemite's El Capitan wall without ropes (hence the name "free solo"). Honnold was the first person - and so far, the only person - to make that climb. He scaled this 3,000-foot cliff with nothing more than his hands and feet, aided perhaps by a little chalk to keep his hands dry, and climbing shoes to insulate his toes. Most climbers are simply too afraid of this challenge to attempt it. Honnold

not only did it but managed the climb in a remarkably short three hours and 56 minutes.

Free Solo has all the components of a good storytelling movie - suspense, intriguing characters, beautiful scenery, action, and adventure. That it is a documentary, and hence, factual, makes it all the more compelling. Three independent filmmakers worked on it, it was financed by National Geographic and the cinematography is hard to beat.

The documentary succeeds for many reasons. One is that it effectively builds the suspense by educating the viewer on the technical aspects of the climb. We are shown how he practices the approach and, bound by ropes to keep him from falling, sometimes fails to make the correct move. We also see pictures of the mountain face with drawings on the various "pitches" he must navigate to make the ascent. The film does a good job of laying out the technical challenge.

It also doesn't shy away from the technical problems of making the movie. The discussions between the director and Alex reinforce the notion that there

are two entirely different missions here. One is to film a movie; the other is to stay alive! Obviously, Honnold is most concerned with the latter.

Except that maybe he isn't. Honnold doesn't seem to have the fear threshold that most of us do. In fact, there is one scene in the movie where he is given an MRI scan of his brain. The doctor concludes that his amygdala (which is apparently where fear is triggered) doesn't work quite like most people, requiring a much higher level of stimulation to trigger it.

And then there is his girlfriend Sanni McCandless, an outdoors fanatic like him, equally fit and extremely cute, with dimples and a vivacious personality. Yet, when they are discussing their relationship, Alex isn't one bit reluctant to admit that she is second to his mountain climbing. She is told in no uncertain terms that she shouldn't even attempt to dissuade him from doing what he really has to do, despite her best interests and being threatened by his death. It is telling, that on the day of the climb, both of them agreed she shouldn't be there.

She hugs him in tears, and leaves him to do what seems to be the most important thing he will ever do in his life.

It is not a spoiler to report this is not a "snuff" film. Alex completes the climb (a well-known fact) and has set a record that may take a very long time to break. The fact that he succeeds does not take away the huge amount of suspense this movie creates for the viewer.

But the film just seemed a little too easy for me. The inherent drama of the subject is so compelling it makes you wonder whether it's even possible to create a bad movie on this subject. The problem with judging documentaries is that it is very easy to confuse the subject matter with the filmmaking. Honnold's story is epic, though, so for that reason, I recommend that you see the movie. And, essentially, Alex Honnold did all the work here - the filmmakers pretty much went along for the ride. Because I think Oscars should be earned by the filmmakers and not their subjects, I can only give this movie 3.5 stars.

GOING TO D.C. continued from page 1

and the community wanted all of them to know that their community is always there for them and very grateful for their service.

The Mayor acknowledged his father, Lawrence Gallegos, who passed away earlier this year. He wished he could have been there but felt like he was watching from above. Lawrence Gallegos was a Vietnam Veteran, who was known for having been in serious combat and dire situations and never shared his experience with anyone except for other veterans.

Questa Village Councilor Charlie Gonzales also spoke at the event honoring Veterans. There are plans underway to rename the park after the late Senator Carlos Cisneros, from Questa, who passed away earlier this fall.

From Questa's Veteran's Park, the Tree left to begin its cross country tour through eight states, from

New Mexico to the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. The Capitol Christmas Tree Tour took the tree through eight states and more than 25 communities across the country hosted festivities to celebrate the journey of the tree. It arrived at the U.S. Capitol Building on Monday, November 25.

The tradition of the Capitol Christmas Tree, or "The People's Tree," began in 1964 when the Speaker of the House placed a live Christmas tree on the Capitol lawn. In 1970, the Capitol Architect asked the USDA Forest Service to help. Since then, a different National Forest has been invited to provide "The People's Tree" to celebrate the holidays annually. The Forest Service also works with state forests to provide smaller companion trees for offices in Washington, D.C.

A major part of the annual Capitol



Courtesy Photo

Mayor of Questa and Chair of the Taos County Commission leads the cutting of the Capitol Christmas Tree. It was first blessed by elders of the Picuris Pueblo.

Christmas Tree celebration includes state-wide partnerships and community participation and this year New Mexico's residents created decorations for the tree. As in years past, this tree was adorned with thousands of ornaments made by New Mexico's schoolchildren. Over 10,000 homemade ornaments were sent to Washington D.C. to decorate the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Many organizations, communities, schools and volunteers contributed ornaments for this project. They even designed a special Christmas tree ornament to commemorate the occasion. The ornaments can be purchased at Red River Tourism Office.

CELEBRATING THE CUTTING OF THE TREE IN RED RIVER

- The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of New Mexico
- Message from the New Mexico Con-

- gressional Delegation
- The Honorable Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales
- NM State Representative - District 42
- The Honorable Linda Calhoun, Mayor of Red River
- The Honorable Mark Gallegos, Mayor of Questa and Chairman of the Taos County Commission

The Capitol Christmas Tree festivities also celebrated a very important birthday.

Besides this year's tree being a beautiful Christmas gift to the nation from the state of New Mexico, it is also a 75th birthday present to the world's most recognized fire prevention hero, Smokey Bear. Smokey was a real bear, an orphaned and badly burned cub found by the Taos Pueblo Snowballs Fire Crew in the Lincoln National Forest of New Mexico after a forest fire, in the late 1940s.



Courtesy Photo

A 60 Foot Blue Spruce from the Questa Ranger District of the Carson National Forest, now adorns the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC. It is thought that the tree is about 68 years old.

- Cal Joyner, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region USDA Forest Service
- Bruce Ward, President, Choose Outdoors
- Ricardo Martinez, Questa Deputy District Ranger, Carson National Forest
- Blessing By Picuris Pueblo

Any fan of Smokey Bear who has been following his year-long birthday celebration knows that he's been a very busy bear. He will walk in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena on New Year's Day, opened his very own exhibit at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, and floated as a giant balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. When Smokey attends the lighting of the National Capitol Christmas Tree on Wednesday, December 4th, it will be a fitting end to an amazing year of celebration and homage to the Forest Service tradition.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS from page 1

of taking care of others through giving. Whatever is needed for comfort and joy, including food, fuel for the heart, and stockings knitted from the wool gathered in the Spring shearing. The Celt, Norse, and European traditions have held Yule-tide (hearth, logs, warmth) together with Winter Solstice sunset in great stone circles throughout much of Europe for many thousands of years. To a great extent, our culture maintains these communal traditions of simplicity, caring for the well-being of one another, and supporting the light of goodness in all.

Another tradition of the season is

that of light itself. It is represented by the eight candles of a menorah at Hanukkah and by the sun as a guiding principle of interconnectedness and shared being with Kwanza. The Mayans celebrated the Winter Solstice with the understanding that it was a type of space-time wormhole: an aligning of the visible sun with the great celestial origins of light, goodness, power, and cosmic wisdom from which the sun was born and derives its eternal power. These master Mayan mathematicians also noted that December 21 of 2012 completed a lesser cycle of light in the evolution of humanity, which meant that a new cycle of human potential could begin. We are living that

beginning - a disruption of the old - so that our luminosity can express anew with one another and the world.

December 1 is World AIDS Day and December 2 is International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. AIDS has become largely a health problem of the third-world, as is slavery in all forms of human trafficking. Let us raise awareness regarding these two scourges of humanity perpetrated by human beings on human beings. Remember that slave labor keeps some merchandise cheap, but the cost is human decency. Aptly, December 10 is Human Rights Day.

This Winter Solstice season take a step back in time to the truths that have

been honored by all traditions: that of light within represented by the sun's warmth and human warmheartedness. Spend less money on gifts and more time with those around you. Reach out to a neighbor with homemade goodies or socks or a log for their fireplace. And, when the Winter Solstice sun sets, light a candle and say to yourself, "I am the light of the world," then hold hands with family and friends and together say with joy, "We are the light of the world." Happy Solstice, everyone, Feliz Navidad, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Joyous Kwanza!

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
DECEMBER 2019

FESTIVAL WEEK

“Capricorn is the energy that drives the seeker to the summit of spiritual achievement. The more earth-bound worldly side of Capricorn is the unbridled ambition that leads to success on the material, physical plane. The higher form of this same urge . . . is the driving spiritual aspiration that rivets the focus on the lighted way and will brook no obstacle to the achievement of liberation.”

—Alice Bailey

Capricorn is the sign of Initiation and the sign in which the Christ and other spiritual leaders have been born, always on the darkest day of the year. This idea is known and honored by far more religions than just Christianity. This year we celebrate a seven-year cycle beginning on Winter Solstice, December 21 — Dec 28. Every seven years an influx of special energy flows through the supernal light of Capricorn. Meditations all over the world will be invoking energies of light, love, and spiritual power. By the end of the week no less than six planets will be closely aligned, all in the sign of Capricorn: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Vulcan, Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto. If these are your ruling planets, pay attention! In keeping with the Plan for the Age of Aquarius, this is a time to join groups and evoke together the Power of the One Life and the Love of the One Soul, to recognize that we truly are all One. This is a week when all of humanity can experience a spiritual growth spurt when nations can heal. The energy which is released from on high can be assisted by groups coming together to help anchor these energies.

Why every seven years? In its relationship to Earth, Saturn — Capricorn’s planetary ruler — has a 28-year cycle. We call them Saturn returns. Every seven years of 28 marks a critical phase in Saturn’s influence. During the week we shall also have a New Moon and an annular Solar Eclipse, though not visible from our continent. Nonetheless this enhances this special seven-year energetic flow. For more information please visit www.festivalweek.org.

Everyone: The festival week begins with the ringing of bells worldwide followed by a silent minute on December 21 at 4:00 pm EST. Join us.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19
Dynamic: Midway through the month something you thought you knew may prove fraudulent.
Direction: Study! And of course, ponder.
Soul Thought: The danger of beliefs.

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♀ APRIL 19 – MAY 20
Dynamic: An expected expenditure may be thwarted.
Direction: If important, spend/pay it in the first half of the month.
Soul Thought: What do you truly value?

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20
Dynamic: A certain heaviness of spirit will lift.
Direction: If you allow it.
Soul Thought: “Life is a mirror and reflects back to him what he thinks into it.” Ernest Holmes.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♀ July 20 – JULY 22
Dynamic: A month of challenges and blessings, both.
Direction: Blessings may be lovely, but not always profitable from a Soul point of view.
Soul Thought: And then, one to grow on.

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22
Dynamic: By Festival Week, all is well.
Direction: Look forward to it as you struggle early in the month.
Soul Thought: Struggles strengthen us.

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22
Dynamic: The annular eclipse provides you with a halo.
Direction: Let it go to your head.
Soul Thought: You are Divine, and so are all you serve.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♂ SEPT 22 – OCT 22
Dynamic: A financial irregularity may be a blessing in disguise.
Direction: Buying something on a whim might actually serve.
Soul Thought: “The only constant in the Universe is change.” Heraclitus

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21
Dynamic: You’re stronger than ever.
Direction: Become the magician.
Soul Thought: It’s an auspicious month for you.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ☿ NOV 21 – DEC 20
Dynamic: You’re dear of the fray.
Direction: Now’s the time to be The Observer.
Soul Thought: Without and within.

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19
Dynamic: You’re in good space.
Direction: Use it well.
Soul Thought: Time to build a positive karmic bank account.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18
Dynamic: You may feel more serious than usual.
Direction: A time to expand on your studies?
Soul Thought: Or on the seriousness of humanity . . . with joy.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20
Dynamic: It’s chaos around you, but you are in a calm space.
Direction: Deep space also; dive in.
Soul Thought: The partnership of time and space.

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

Esoteric Astrology is focused on the rising sign more than the sun sign (we suggest you read both) and provides clarity, direction and answers for those seeking a higher level of life.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 2019

DECEMBER 1

World AIDS day

DECEMBER 1-6

QCC Art Kit Donation drop off at ArtQuesta during business hours

DECEMBER 2

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

DECEMBER 3 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Questa Youth Center Art Room: Clay Studio

DECEMBER 4 10:30-11:30 AM

Bookmobile in Lama at Roots & Wings Community School

DECEMBER 4 1:00-1:45 PM

Bookmobile at Questa Post Office

DECEMBER 6 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Questa Library Fun Friday Kid’s Program, Gourds with Betsy Irwin

DECEMBER 6 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Colcha Embroidery Bazaar, 401 Church Place, San Luis, CO

DECEMBER 7

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

DECEMBER 7 5:00 - 8 :00 PM

San Luis Manito Christmas, San Luis Town Hall, San Luis, CO

DECEMBER 9 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Questa Youth Center Art Room: Printmaking Cards. All ages welcome.

DECEMBER 10

Human Rights Day

DECEMBER 11

Small Business Development Center by appointment at Questa Visitor Center. Please call ahead 575-737-6219

DECEMBER 12 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Questa to Red River Trail Planning Meeting at Questa Youth Center

DECEMBER 13 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Questa Library Kid’s Program, ArtKids!

DECEMBER 13 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry!

DECEMBER 15 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

¡Alumbra de Questa! at the Questa VFW

DECEMBER 17 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Questa Youth Center Art Room: Clay Studio.

DECEMBER 18

International Migrants day

DECEMBER 20

Human Solidarity Day

DECEMBER 20 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry!

DECEMBER 20 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Questa Library Kid’s Program, Clay & Cards with Peggy Trigg

DECEMBER 21

Winter Solstice

DECEMBER 21 5:30-6:30 PM

Winter Solstice Community Yoga, Free at La Sala

DECEMBER 20 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Questa Library Kid’s Program, Homeschoolers Welcome!

DECEMBER 23

Hanukkah

DECEMBER 24 10:00 AM

Red River Chamber Board Meeting, RR Conference Center

DECEMBER 25

Christmas

DECEMBER 26

Kwanzaa

DECEMBER 27 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Questa Library Kid’s Program, ArtKids!

DECEMBER 31

New Year’s Eve

DECEMBER 31 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Yoga Vibrations for New Year’s Eve at La Sala

DECEMBER 31 7:00 PM-12:30 AM

Vida del Norte Up North Sparklin’, Rockin’, Poppin’, New Year’s Eve Party, Questa VFW

There will be no Wildcat Kitty Club or Vida Del Norte Coalition meeting in December.

For a complete list of December events in Red River, go to <https://reddriver.org/events/calendar/2019/12>

DECEMBER IS:

AIDs Awareness Month

Human Rights Month

Spiritual Literacy Month



HELP WANTED

Wild and Scenic Rivers Visitor Center is seeking seasonal volunteers to help operate the Center. Starting October 1st, 6 hours per day from 1 to 5 day per week, days per week depending upon your availability. Please contact the Wild Rivers Visitor Center for more information at 586-1150.

Do You Have a Home Rehab Business?

The Questa Lodging Project is compiling a list of Questa-area GB-98 contractors, roofers, landscapers, electricians, plumbers, and handymen and women to rehabilitate homes in Questa. If you own a business in the Questa area, have a Questa business license, and fall into one of these categories, please call to get in our directory so we can send home rehab customers to you! 575-586-2149 (more details on page 4)

Housesitters: The Questa Lodging Project is compiling a list of housesitters. If you would like to be in the directory, please call so we can tell people about you! 575-586-2149.

Housedcleaners: The Questa Lodging Project is compiling a list of people who clean houses, especially for short-term and vacation rentals. If you would like to be in the directory, please call so we can tell people about you! 575-586-2149.

WANTED

Our wonderful old **wood stove** is on her last legs. I'm seeking her replacement: a slightly used wood stove for our large house, efficient and affordable. Please contact gabrielle.herberson@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

35 gorgeous (not all flat) off-the-grid acres in Sunshine Valley. Reduced to \$25,000. Call 575-770-3064.

FOR SALE

Full-size Frigidaire refrigerator/freezer and gas stove and oven. Used but very clean. Too large for my cabin! \$400 OBO. Tel (561)290-9173 or email tillsuchttime@gmail.com

Solid oak regulation pool table, cue sticks, balls, lights. Great condition. Previous owner: Ray Vinella. \$1500, call Lynn or Krissie at 586-0515.

Mariachi Questa just got a new shipment of chile! This year's crop for sale. Green chile powder for \$9 a pound and red chile powder in medium, hot

and extra hot for \$7 a pound. Please spread the word! Ask any Mariachi Questa member or call 779-5601.

Freshly harvested Tipi (teepee) poles for sale. Poles are pre-order and harvested for you. Denedubbed, peeled, and dried. Delivery and set up available for an extra charge. Multiple lengths available. Contact Wendy for price: thetipilady@gmail.com or 541-497-0287.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Questa Del Rio News is looking for an assistant editor, must be computer literate, have some background in writing or journalism, social media skills a plus. Grant writing and fundraising skills appreciated. Email news@questaedf.com or call 575.586.2149. Can start immediately!

Questa Del Rio News is always looking for writers. We could use Questa, San Cristobal, Lama, Cerro and Educational Correspondents and a Social Media Coordinator. Email news@questaedf.com or call 575.586.2149. Can start immediately!

NOTICES

Support Your Local Newspaper. Some of the best things in life are free, but some need funding. So, it is with our favorite local newspaper. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your tax-deductible donation pays for the newspaper printing, delivery and the layout, design and administrative costs of this valuable community resource. Check out our new website and click the DONATE button! www.questanews.com. You can also mail your check or money order with a note that it is for the newspaper, send it to Questa Del Rio News, PO Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556. Your donations are always most gratefully welcome and appreciated. Thank you!

Colcha Embroidery Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 10AM to Noon at the Costilla County Economic Development

Conference Room, 401 South Church Place, San Luis, CO. For more information call Marcella Pacheco at 719-672-4237.

Colcha Embroidery Bazaar. You are invited to see a display of traditional Colcha embroidery. Holiday treats will be served. Friday, Dec. 6th, from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Costilla County Economic Development Conference Room, 401 South Church Place, San Luis, CO. For more information call Marcella Pacheco at 719-672-4237.

San Luis Manitos Christmas Celebration Saturday, December 7th from 5-8 PM, San Luis Town Hall, 408 Main Street, San Luis, CO. Dress Warm! Christmas Tree Lighting, Gifts from Santa for the kids. Celebrating San Luis Culture Tour, Adalante San Luis and CCPP ornament decorating for the kids, Picadilly's hot chocolate bar and \$1.00 a slice pizza, Town Hall Open House, Cider, Christmas Treats, Bonfire and Christmas Music. Drawing Held on December 8th. Family Fun Event sponsored by the Town of San Luis, Adelante San Luis and the Costilla County Prevention Partners.

Red River Ski Area is open and the Torchlight Parade and Fireworks will be every Saturday during ski season!

The Questa Visitor Center is now closed for the winter, see you in the spring!

Music lessons - piano, guitar, ukulele, accordion, base, saxophone and recorder, contact Nat Wilson, 575-779-2725, lessons at La Sala in Questa, 2331 Hwy 522.

Bluegrass Music Jam The Juice Caboose in Red River, every Thursday night at 6:30 pm

Weekly Music Jam Rael's Coffee House in Questa, Every Thursday at 6:00 pm.

Need Something? Have Something? List it in the Classifieds! Starting at flat rate \$10 for 25 words or less (25 word min. 50 word max) DINA COLEMAN dina@questaedf.com

Fuelwood Permits, Maps & More available from Carson National Forest



By Denise Ottaviano

Fuelwood permits, maps, Interagency Passes, and other products will once again be available for purchase at the Carson National Forest (CNF) Supervisor's Office in Taos. These products are also available at all ranger district offices.

As an added convenience, we will also be offering Saturday sales on a temporary basis. The Supervisor's Office will be open on five Saturdays from August 31 through September 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Starting Monday, August 26, office hours at the Supervisor's Office in Taos will be 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. until further notice.

Dead & down fuelwood permits are \$20 for 5 cords, with a maximum of 10 cords per household per year. Fuelwood permits are valid until December 31, 2019.

Forest maps are \$14. Maps for the CNF and all other national forests in the country can also be purchased online at <http://www.nationalforest-mapstore.com/>.

For a listing of our forest maps, visit our webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/carson/maps-pubs>

America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Passes are \$80. For more information about these passes visit the following webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/passes-permits/?cid=fseprd553944>

Rock permits must be obtained at the Ranger District office where the rock will be collected.

Customers may purchase all products by check, credit/debit card or cash.

For more information about the Carson NF visit our webpage www.fs.usda.gov/carson or Facebook page www.facebook.com/CarsonNF/.

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Executive Secretary

Custodian

Application Packet Available at <http://qisd-nm.schoolloop.com>

Application packet should include: Complete QISD Certified Application, Letter of Interest, Current Resume, (3) Three Employment or Education References (Include Current Names, Titles, Addresses and Phone Numbers) Satisfactory Background Investigation. All applications will be screened. Selected applicants will be invited for an interview. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**

Submit Applications to:

Kathy Gonzales, Human Resources Specialist

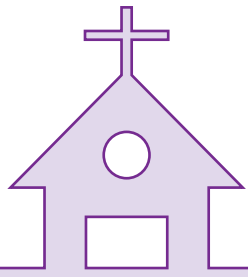
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Questa, NM 87556



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Sunday 7am in Spanish - 11am in English

MISSION CHURCHES:

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

HARVEST QUESTA

Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales
2558 Hwy 522
Sunday 11 AM- 12:30 PM
Phone 575-770-5906
Visit us online: HarvestQuesta.org

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

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

PATH OF LOVE

Teachings of Herman Rednick
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586-1454, Hilece
Sunday 11am Alice Bailey Theosophy Study Group
586-4641, Francis

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gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com
www.earthjourney.org
586-1454 or 586-1038

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

RED RIVER

CROSS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

(Standing in the Gap)
The Way Coffee House, 201 W. Main Street
Sunday 10:00am, Wednesday 6:30pm
Children's Church at Both Times
Pastor Chris Torres (505) 600-5859

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Corner of River Street and Copper King Trail
Sunday 10:30am

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

103 High Cost Trail
Sundays 8:15am and 10:30am
Pastor Joe Phillips 754-2882

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



QUESTA LODGING PROJECT CLASSIFIEDS

Call 586-2258 or e-mail Lodging@QuestaEDF.com

LAMA LOFT

Unique lofted 1 bedroom 1 bath home in Lama, house sits on 3 acres and is only 5 years old. Perfect for a 1 person or a couple. There are many special features to this home. Rent is \$1250. per month, plus utilities.

LAMA FOREST SERVICE AREA

3 bedroom 2 bath Trailer home nestled next to the forests. Nice quiet area with great views, large yard space, full size washer and dryer in a nice sized laundry room, semi furnished, this home is perfect for a small family wanting to live quietly in Questa. All utilities are tenants responsibility. Propane heat. No pets, allowed. Housing assistance considered. \$1000. per month \$1000. deposit. Available September 1.

CERRO CASITA – AVAILABLE NOW

2 Bedroom 1 Bath, unfurnished cozy adobe house located in a quaint area in Cerro. Bathroom recently remodeled to accommodate wheelchair accessibility. New tile in the kitchen area along with new door framing. The house is heated with propane and comes with 3 wood stoves that the tenants can use. Outdoor pets are allowed with a \$100.00 pet deposit (ie, only small dogs, or only 1 cat, etc), Outdoor smokers only, no smoking inside the house. Other improvements include new carpet in the bedroom and wood floor in the living room. Located on 1 acre of land, fenced in with a small porch in the front. Perfect for star gazing at night. Parking is uncovered. Washer and dryer available. \$650.00 per month with first and last month deposit. Prefer at least a year lease but willing to negotiate. Will consider traveling professionals. Utilities are renter responsibility. They average \$60 a month, more in the winter due to propane. Wireless internet included for a year. Renter provides modem

EMBARGO TRAILER

Available Soon by Mid December

\$650. Per month / First months deposit
No Pets

1 Bedroom 1 Bath
Tenant pays Electric, Water and Propane
Nice and Quiet location
Wood Stove and Furnace
Great Landlords and neighbor
Washer and Dryer Included
Photos available upon request

ROMERO'S RENTALS

Available December 1st. Apartment ,1 Bedroom 1 Bath located just off Highway 522 in Questa. \$550 per month, utilities included, \$250. deposit required. No pets allowed.

CERRO STUDIO AVAILABLE NOW

1 Bedroom 1 Bath Studio, Washer and Dryer included. Furnished except for bed. \$550 per month, \$250 deposit. Must sign 6 month lease. No pets allowed.

ROOM FOR RENT

Shared spaces \$350. per month plus utilities. Looking for an individual between 20-40 years old Males welcome, female preferred. No Smokers, drug users, or partiers. No pets allowed

HOUSING NEEDED

Single professional with dogs. Very clean, great references. Looking for 1 or 2 bedroom.

Professional individual looking to relocate to Questa area. Seeking a small rental apartment between \$700- 800. Utilities included. Internet is a must

School teacher looking for a small 1 bedroom in Questa area. Needs a month to month lease.



AA MEETINGS

Sundays 10-11:00 am

Open Meeting
Questa Youth Center

Mondays 7:00pm

Harvest Questa
2558 Highway 522

Tuesdays 7:00pm

Erik's Workshop
417 E. High St., Red River

AA WORDS OF INSPIRATION

AT PEACE WITH LIFE

Every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God's will into all our activities. "How can I best serve Thee?—Thy will (not mine) be done."


ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 85

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Questa Del Rio News



Ahhh. I helped save our paper.
See page 2!

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