



THE TAOS NEWS

In 2007 Voted Best Weekly Newspaper in the U.S. by the National Newspaper Assoc.

County could take over arts district, senior program (excerpted)

By Elizabeth Cleary and J.R. Logan

The Taos News, 11/7/2013

Taos County is moving toward taking over a local senior services program and has approved a new position meant to salvage the town's Arts and Cultural District.

As for the Arts and Cultural District, Archuleta told *The Taos News* Wednesday (Nov. 6) that the county commission approved a new "Economic Development Specialist" position that could serve as the Arts and Cultural District Coordinator.

The town of Taos has supported the existing Arts and Cultural District for several years, but did not act on a new agreement with the group this year. Town manager Oscar Rodriguez has said the current district coordinator, Cindy Spray, has not met objectives set out in her contract, and he added that the town has questions about whether it can legally fund the district.

Spray and the district board counter that the town was intentionally dragging its feet and have asked the county to become sponsor of the program.

Because of the town's inaction, the state officially rescinded a \$70,000 grant last month meant to pay for a "Downtown Master Plan" — the final requirement before the district would be eligible for capital outlay funds from the state.

Deputy county manager told the district board at a recent meeting that he hoped the state would allow the county to take over for the town. A cost-sharing agreement between the two governments was in the works several months ago, but appears to have fallen through.