

Questa Del Rio News

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

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Renee Martinez Awarded NM Municipal Clerk of the Year



Courtesy Photo

From left to right: Karen Shannon - Finance Director, Nadine Herrera - Utility Clerk, Dina Coleman - Chief Procurement Officer and Deputy Clerk, Renee Martinez - NM Clerk of the Year and Interim Administrator, Sarah White - Administrative Assistant, and Samantha Mascarenas, Receptionist.

By LYNN SKALL

Congratulations to Questa's own Renee Martinez for receiving the New Mexico Municipal Clerk of the Year Award! She was recognized at a surprise luncheon in the Questa Village Council Chambers on April 15 that was attended by her family, council members, village staff, and a handful of community members. It was a festive occasion, with lots of photos and food provided by Mayor Mark Gallegos and El Monte Carlo Grill.

The award was officially announced by the New Mexico Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association and it will be presented at the New Mexico Municipal League Organization's Annual Conference this fall.

"I am honored to receive this award and recognition. I could not have earned this without the love and support of my

family, the dedication of my amazing staff, and my fellow Municipal Clerk family. This honor is a reflection of our hard-working Village of Questa team and our supportive Mayor and Council," said Martinez.

"Questa is privileged to have someone of Renee's caliber representing our village," says Questa Mayor Mark Gallegos, "At the luncheon celebration, her mother, 87-year-old Esther Martinez, told me to stop making her work so hard, but that's who Renee is—it's what she does. We're proud she's being recognized as Clerk of the Year, and we're proud of all the contributions she makes to our community and within the state."

Renee was born and raised in Taos, and moved to Questa in 1998. When asked what she does when not working, Renee replied, "I enjoy spending time with family. I am the 11th of twelve

children." And what does she love most about Questa? "I love the people who have become friends and family... I love the community."

Renee began her career at the Village of Questa in 2000 when she accepted a position working at the Youth Center. She continued to gain valuable experience during her 21-year tenure through subsequent roles at the Village. These include receptionist, clerking for the Motor Vehicle Department, utility billing and Deputy Clerk, heading up Human Resources, serving as Municipal Clerk, and she was also appointed Interim Village Administrator in 2012, 2017, and 2019. Currently, Renee is still Interim Administrator, while also performing her duties as Municipal Clerk.

"I love Questa and I am honored to

Questa Del Rio News

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OUR MISSION

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

NUUESTRO OBJETIVO

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

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EDITORIAL

Honoring

In May we honor high school graduates; a time for celebration and for change. Perhaps the Class of 2021 will be going to college or tech school; or out into the world to find work or a career. Graduates: this is a time for being aware of who you are and for becoming you. Please remember Joseph Campbell's sage advice: "Follow your bliss!" If you do what you love, you will do it well and you will be happy. Always let kindness be your guide and go out there and create the world you want to live in.

In May we also celebrate Mothers Day. The past year has been a tough one for all of us—mothers especially. Many mothers (and others) added new job descriptions, such as teacher and caretaker, to their already long to-do lists.

Memorial Day has become a meaningful, national day of remembrance, honoring those who have served our country. Especially for the fallen angels who lost their lives, observing a day of gratitude and acknowledgement is the right thing to do, and from the heart. The Village of Questa and many volunteers and sponsors have created a most iconic event, now in its 17th year, over that special weekend: The Veterans' Healing Field of Honor (see story, p. 16). Many of the bikers who will attend the 39th Annual Red River Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally are veterans and have reported that it's an especially moving experience for them (see story, p. 6).

Reflecting on our country's conflicts and how they shaped history makes me wonder: will we always be beset by war? Will our species evolve past competition and into communication and cooperation? It can happen! The ancients knew what to embrace and what to let go of. Moral and ethical standards can still be taught, and the great books survive. The Bible, with its message of love and unity, continues to be number one on the charts, the greatest international bestseller of all time.

Still, after over 2,000 years, if the news and mass media are any indication, the trajectory moves farther from these ancient truths and toward fear and violence. Is it true? According to the media, our primitive instincts continue to run the show. Therefore, media literacy should be a critical part of youth education, to expand their awareness of what they are being exposed to—how media can manipulate and affect us emotionally and culturally. Don't believe everything you see on the screen! For

a wonderful look at media literacy, for folks at any age, visit <https://criticalmediaproject.org/>

Does the chaos we see on the news apply to our small villages? Not so much. What makes us more immune than big cities is community connection and care. We have dynamic committed groups like the Vida Del Norte Coalition, with passionate and lofty aims for our youth, some of which came together on April 23, to celebrate Earth Day and clean up the Questa Municipal Park, and engage in discussions for building a new skate park there. We are excited that Taos Behavioral Health has opened an office in Questa, at the Cisneros Youth Center, and is making a huge difference through their SUCCESS Program. (see story, p. 10).

Drugs, crime, domestic violence, and hunger are an inherent part of places of poverty. The North Central Food Pantry shares food with everyone. For those who are desperately poor, a life of crime might be prevented if food is offered by the generosity of their community. The Questa Economic Development Fund and this newspaper are working to raise Questa out of poverty as an instrument for connection and sharing of information. Through our efforts we bring jobs, health, entrepreneurial opportunities, and creativity—a better way of life—for all our people, young and old.

The Questa Del Rio News aims to be a "good news newspaper." We try to follow the Solutions Journalism model, to report what works, rather than complain and leave it at that. Every month in these pages you will see what the communities of northern Taos County are doing to make this corner of the world a better place for our children.

Please enjoy this beautiful month of May and let us hear from you!

FROM ALL THE FOLKS
AT THE QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS

Media Literacy is a 21st century approach to education. It provides a framework to access, analyze, evaluate, create and participate with messages in a variety of forms — from print to video to the Internet. Media literacy builds an understanding of the role of media in society as well as essential skills of inquiry and self-expression necessary for citizens of a democracy.

— Center for Media Literacy

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS MAY 2021 ISSUE, WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

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Mandatory 10-digit Dialing Coming



The Federal Communications Commission is permanently changing NM to a 10-digit telephone dialing system for 575 and 505 area codes. The 10-digit dialing transition period began on April 24, and phone calls using seven digits will still be connected until October 24, when use of the 10-digit dialing becomes mandatory. At that time a recorded reminder will notify callers of the requirement for dialing the area code along with the seven-digit number for all local calls.

The FCC has established a new three-digit "988" nationwide number to connect people in mental crises to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. As some local seven-digit phone numbers begin with 988, the 10-digit dialing will prevent the system from mis-routing the new 988 calls intended

for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the dialing change.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- You will continue to dial 1+ area code + telephone number for all long distance calls.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services).
- Any 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, or 811 services available in your community can still be reached by dialing their three-digit codes.
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can still be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Customers with questions about the dialing change should contact their local service provider.



By Marta Glover

This month's theme is Mother's Day, the continuing energy of the feminine, the guardians of the family hearth. What is the legacy from your mother? In what ways did she influence you that you are grateful for?

What are you grateful for that your mother bestowed upon you?

**DANIEL CARMONA
OF CERRO VISTA FARMS**

She loved me unconditionally and supported me. She listened to what I had to say and never judged me. "Don't worry, be happy," was an expression she used all the time. There was never a conversation without saying it. To always listen without judging is the highest service we can do for each other.

**LOUIS HERRERA,
QUESTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FUND BOARD MEMBER**

My mother was an angel on earth. She taught prayer through the rosary when we were very small. All of us watched her pray and it gave us a good foundation in knowing the Catholic faith.

MARTA GLOVER

I am grateful that my mother made me pursue an education, giving me the confidence to write poetry. My mother loved flowers and greeting others with a warm inviting smile that would spread across a room and lift you up. My mother believed in the power and beauty of the message in a smile. I hope I smile like that, too and show that kind of care to those I meet and know. Thank you, Mom!

**EMILY WILDE, PRODUCTION,
QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS**

I have no words that could possibly encompass what my mom is to me. To say she is complicated would be an understatement. My mom is a force of nature who loves me unconditionally to say the very least. She is bold and smart, demanding and generous, she is passionate and creative and very impatient. I see her entirely and love her deeply. I have so much of my mom in me and I am incredibly grateful to be her daughter.

**MARK GALLEGOS,
MAYOR OF QUESTA AND OWNER OF
EL MONTE CARLO LOUNGE**

My mother gave me the inspiration to help people out. She would give the shirt off her back to help a neighbor. And to keep your focus on work and family. Questa moms are the foundation of the household. The success you see today is because of our mothers' dedication to their families and community. She would catch everyone's grief and happiness.



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Taos Bakes™ Launches CosmoNuts & Trailblazer Granola

By LYNN SKALL

Taos Bakes offers “Alternate Snacks from an Alternate Universe...”, with out-of-this-world taste, proudly made right here in Questa. Yes, Questa is the center of the Taos Bakes™ universe: it is where their flavorful snacks are hand-mixed, carefully baked, packaged, and shipped to all 50 states, since 2011.

Taking advantage of the slower pace of the shutdown over the past year was a great opportunity to blaze new trails. Taos Bakes creators have recently perfected and launched two new product lines to complement their successful Taos Bakes Energy Bars and Taos Bakes Bites.

The founders of the company are local pioneers Kyle Hawari and Brooks Thostenson, who have been friends since they were 10 years old, together forging new snack frontiers with the addition of their Trailblazer Granola and CosmoNuts. Each new line features four original and unique flavors.

CosmoNuts are “savory and sassy” glazed nut clusters with exotic combinations, including Sweet Chile Cashew, Cilantro Lime Pistachio, Citrus Glazed Pecan, and Apple Spiced Walnut. The new Taos Bakes Trailblazer Granola pairs Dark Chocolate + Toasted Coconut, Ripe Banana + Maple Walnut, Maple Pecan + Madagascar Vanilla, and Wild Blueberry + Cinnamon Almond. “We are also actively working on a new snackable protein line that is plant-based, 100% vegan, with a wow taste factor,” confided Hawari. He hopes to launch this newer addition to their snack selection later this fall.

“Brooks is the Chief Innovation Officer,” said CEO Hawari, “He came up with these cool combinations; he’s been working on them for years—they are a new school take on old school recipes, focused on flavor. Our products are some of the cleanest and healthiest on the market.” As with the classic Taos Bakes energy bars, the new products are made with simple, healthy, flavorful ingredients, certified gluten-free, organic, and non-GMO.

All snacks are



Courtesy Photos

The new Taos Bakes Granola features four unique, appealing flavor recipes.

produced in their 10,000 square foot, 100% solar-powered production facility located in Questa’s new Business Park. As the first tenant to open operations in the Business Park in 2015, Hawari now hopes to expand their operations. “If not for the village and the state, we would’ve had to outsource our manufacturing outside of New Mexico, and we didn’t want to do that,” explained Hawari. “Now that we know how to work with local and state funders, we plan to go back and say, ‘Here’s what we’ve done and here’s what we want to do,’ so we can expand our facility up to 20,000 square feet and run three production lines at the same time.”

Hawari appreciates both the public and private partnerships they have established since starting the business in 2011. He is excited to share that Taos Bakes recently welcomed on board “high level celebrity investors,” —he called them “investor influencers.” A formal announcement will be released next month with all the details.

Questa is the permanent home of Taos Bakes. Fifteen employees currently work

Their original product: energy bars in eight enticing flavor combinations. They use simple, healthy, flavorful ingredients, certified gluten-free, organic, and non-GMO.

Courtesy Photos



Courtesy Photos

The new CosmoNuts are “savory and sassy” glazed nut clusters with exotic combinations.

at the headquarters, including production, sales, and office teams. Their snack products are shipped to over 3,000 accounts nationwide, including REI, Whole Foods, Natural Grocers, Kroger/Smiths, as well as smaller outlets, like Rael’s Coffee House and Questa Center Supermarket.

“The development process begins in Questa with the team, so everyone has buy-in right off the bat. We are taste testing on a weekly basis; the samples that are reviewed most positively by the team are sent to our friends and family for their input, and to our national partners, like Whole Foods and King Soopers, for their feedback,” reports Hawari.

Howari and Thostenson feel that the independent spirit of New Mexico gives them the freedom to create snacks “that refuse to play by the rules,” which includes the new, unique tasty flavors of their Trailblazer Granola, and CosmoNuts, along with the original energy bars in flavors combinations of peanut butter

chocolate + butterscotch, caramel pecan + cranberries, almond agave + cinnamon, dark chocolate almond + sea salt, toasted coconut + vanilla bean, pinon coffee + dark chocolate, pecan praline + maple syrup, gingersnap + pecan, and bags of Taos Bake Bites, in combo flavors of toasted coconut/vanilla and dark chocolate almond + sea salt.

Taos Bakes is currently hiring. “It’s been great to find people locally—we have an amazing work force,” boasted Hawari, “we pay fair, above-average wages that create stability and opportunities for our people to grow.” Individuals interested in working with Taos Bakes should email the company for more information, at info@taosbakes.com.

To purchase Taos Bakes products, including their new snacks, go to their website, www.TaosBakes.com to find local retailers, fill your online cart with a one-time purchase, or sign up for their repeat subscription program for regular deliveries at substantial savings.

OUR LITTLE SECRET

Life’s too short to eat food you hate. Our snacks were created in a kitchen, and each has a unique taste, texture, and experience. We create healthy, gluten-free snacks made from non-gmo and organic ingredients, ready to fuel your day.

taosbakes.com



Business Profile



A COOPERATIVE: METATE MILL
By DANIEL HUTCHISON

In New Mexico, we import 99% of what we eat. Many of us take that food for granted. Yet, the average supermarket holds only two to four days' worth of groceries. That reality sunk in one year ago, early in the pandemic, when shoppers found shelves bare of more critical items than just toilet paper.

Our survival didn't always depend on far-off food. Up until the 1950s, the people of northern Taos County grew almost everything they needed. For a time, our region grew enough wheat to export.

Bread is the "staff of life" and the global wheat trade is greater than all other crops combined. Wheat plants thrive in our harsh high desert environment, producing a premium high-protein grain. Wheat is easy to cultivate and store. Eaten as a whole grain flour, it can reverse ailments such as diabetes and heart disease.

With a newly revived Questa business—Metate Mill—local small farmers can grow wheat again without losing in the international commodities market. Metate Mill is a farmer-owned grist mill cooperative. This flour co-op cuts "Big Ag" out of the supply chain and allows farmers to sell directly to their neighbors. Local growers get more profit, and local eaters get a better value along with a higher quality product.

Metate Mill is a continuation of the Sangre de Cristo Agricultural Producers Cooperative. For 29 years, SCAPC has produced organic wheat in northern Taos County, initially in partnership with New Mexico State University and marketed under the Nativo label. According to longtime SCAPC President Gonzalo Gallegos, "We got into growing naturally to produce the highest possible quality, and that shows in our customer loyalty."

The cooperative is centered upon a 30" stone grist mill, grinding flour at a lower temperature than modern mills,

in order to preserve nutrients and taste. Thanks to grants from the LOR Foundation and the Taos Community Foundation, the mill and cleaning house are now operational and completing the first production runs.

Metate will focus on the value-added process and, like SCAPC, offer assistance to farmers interested in getting into growing small grains. Beyond flour, meal and grits, the cooperative has the potential to offer bulk seed cleaning and storage. Future developments may also include sprouting and malting, brewing or baking, and retailing.

Cloud Cliff Bakery in Santa Fe and Wild Leaven Bakery in Taos were early supporters of the co-op. Cloud Cliff's owner and master baker, Willem Malten, is working with the mill to perfect the baking qualities of the flour. "Perhaps more than ever we will have to shift and examine local food production," says Malten, a leader in local food.

While getting a fair price for the flour is critical, Metate co-owner and miller Daniel Hutchison says the mill is about more than maximizing profits, "We want farmers to be rewarded for keeping our lands and water working, while filling local bellies with good food." In a time of increasing food insecurity, the mill will supply nutrient-dense flour to the North Central Food Pantry and to the Taos Farm-to-School Program for made-from-scratch public school lunches.

Our area's farmers are among the most elderly in the nation. Flour is the foundation of most cuisines. By growing staple grains that will be widely consumed, Metate Mill hopes to feed demand for local food production. Hutchison insists, "To grow a resilient food system, we need farmers. Reliable local markets will offer young people an increasingly attractive career."

Metate Cooperative co-owner Domingo Gallegos welcomes farmers to get involved, "From a one-time custom milling of your harvest to enjoying all the benefits of membership—we can probably help you out." Gallegos points out it's not too late to get some spring wheat in the ground.

Interested producers or anyone who wants to purchase flour is encouraged to call (575) 613-6808, email metatemill@gmail.com, or visit www.metatemill.com.

Daniel Hutchison is executive director of the non-profit Localogy; moving passive consumers to be active producers of livelihoods and culture. Contact him at info@localogy.org.



Daniel Hutchison

The 30" stone mill getting "dressed" (chiseled to grind fine flour) at Metate Mill Cooperative.



Micah Roseberry

Taos Farm-to-School experiments with Sonoran White Flour for school lunch hamburger buns, fresh out of the oven and into Jo Sandoval's hands.



Daniel Hutchison

Heirloom Sonoran White Wheat soaks up a summer shower at Big Wheel Farm.

39th Annual Red River Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally Makes a Comeback!

By MAX KHUDIAKOV,
TOWN OF RED RIVER

Even though Red River's Rally is not as big as South Dakota's Sturgis or Florida's Daytona Beach, it surely is one of the oldest in the nation. With its almost 40-year history, the Red River Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally is well known all over the country.

The 39th Annual Red River Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally is making a comeback this year and is scheduled for May 27 through May 31*. This popular Memorial Day weekend tradition brought thousands of road warriors from all parts of New Mexico and surrounding states who line Main Street with their motorcycles. This weekend kicks off the town's summer season in true Red River style, although taking into account the current health climate!

Bikers from near and far cruise around the 84-mile loop of the Enchanted Circle, making many stops along their way. Many Memorial Day traditions are cherished during this truly Enchanted Circle event: from stopping at the annual Veterans Healing Field of Honor in Questa to visiting the Vietnam Veteran Memorial complex in Angel Fire, to attending the Flag Retirement Ceremony in Red River. Join us in remembering our nation's heroes and fallen soldiers.

A true motorcycle rally could not be



Photos from the Red River Tourism Office

complete without different contests, specialty vendors, and live music! All Red River bars and breweries will be hosting live music concerts featuring our favorite local and guest musicians. Challenge yourself to the famous tattoo contest or try your luck at many other contests during this event. Many beloved vendors are returning to Red River and bringing all sorts of goods: from leather attire and collectible patches to specialty products like prescription motorcycle goggles and gourmet food. Instead of having vendors

concentrated in the middle of the town at Brandenburg Park, they will spread out throughout the whole town along Main Street and River Street.

During the weekend, the Busted Knuckles Stunt Tour will wow spectators with three performances each day. These "American Daredevils" push the limits of their Harley-Davidson motorcycles, performing wheelies, acrobatics, burn-outs, jumps, pyrotechnics, and other gravity-defying stunts! The louder the crowds, the wilder the stunts. Exciting,

crazy, fun, and completely insane, the Busted Knuckle Stunt Tour is one of the featured highlights of the weekend.

For more information about the 39th Annual Red River Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally, please contact Red River Tourism Office at (575) 754-3030 or visitorcenter@redriver.org.

Town of Red River will proceed with this event in accordance with all COVID-19 policies and procedures implemented by the State of New Mexico at the time of the event.



VILLAGE VOICE
MAY 2021

Position Open at VOQ Administration Office

The Village of Questa is seeking qualified applicants for the position of full-time Receptionist. Must be a highly organized self-motivator, have excellent time management skills, good communication skills, and the ability to multi-task. The receptionist is responsible for performing a variety of complex clerical and record keeping duties.

Applications and complete job description may be picked up at Village of Questa municipal offices or may be requested by calling (575) 586-0694 or emailing swhite@villageofquesta.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Position Open at VOQ Public Works Department

The Village of Questa is currently accepting applications for the full-time position of Utility Worker. This position requires operation of all equipment as well as a variety of work in construction, maintenance, repair, and operation of Village infrastructure, including streets, airport, parks and landscaped areas, sewers, water and wastewater systems, and will perform other related duties as required.

Applications and complete job description may be picked up at Village of Questa Municipal offices or may be requested by calling (575) 586-0694 or emailing swhite@villageofquesta.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

Questa Motor Vehicle Department

The Questa Motor Vehicle Department is open to the public for walk-ins. Masks are required, and social distancing is expected. Regular office hours are 8 am – 4 pm from Monday through Friday. Contact Sara for questions at (575) 586-2429.

Library Update

The expansion project is almost complete. Ribbon-cutting soon to come! Please follow event updates on the Questa Library Facebook page.

Questa Fire and EMS

Questa Fire and EMS Departments are in need of a support group to help assist the crews through fires and emergency calls. The support group would be willing to provide items of need to crews when needed. The department is currently requesting donations of such items as cases of water, Gatorade, snacks, etc.

Village Council Meeting

The Village of Questa Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month via GoToMeeting. All meetings are virtual and open to the public, including an allotted time for public comments. For more meeting information you may contact the Village office at (575) 586-0694.

LA CURACIÓN OCURRE AQUÍ



Desde 1978 (mil novecientos setenta ocho), Community Against Violence (CAV) ha apoyado a los sobrevivientes de violencia sexual. ¿Conoce a un sobreviviente? Puede que seas la primera persona que le hayan dicho. O podrían estar compartiendo contigo semanas o años después de que sucedió.

Es importante responder con cuidado.
 "Te creo" "No fue tu culpa"

Para obtener ayuda para usted o para alguien que ama, llame a la línea de ayuda directa de 24 horas del CAV al 575-758-9888 o visite TaosCAV.org.

Creemos que todos merecen estar seguros.



Hablamos Español

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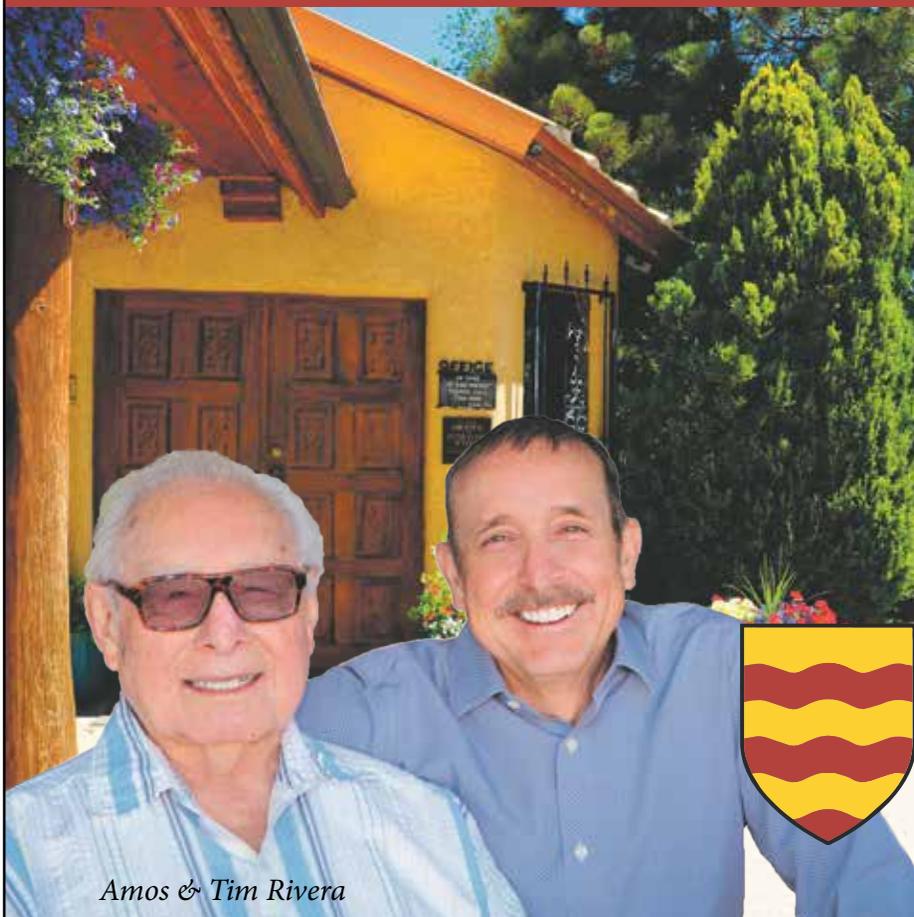


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BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

FUN WITH DIY

For those who have a heart for the natural things in life, as well as an adventurous bent toward being more self-sufficient, away from the cacophony of mainstream—perhaps you will enjoy reading and even trying some of these Do-it-Yourself ideas.

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN HERBAL SHAMPOO You will need a jar with a lid. Next, pour one tablespoon of olive oil, one 16 ounce bottle castile soap and 2 to 3 teaspoons of your favorite culinary herb. Lemon verbena, rosemary, and thyme are good choices. Mix your ingredients well with a wooden spoon. Put the lid on the jar and let the contents rest in a dark place for about a week. Then strain to get the solids out. What remains is your herbal shampoo. Or you can use it as a hand or body soap.

DIFFERENT WAYS TO CLEAN YOUR TEETH When you are out and about and feel the need to brush your teeth and you don't have a toothbrush handy, try an organic apple. It is a good temporary solution. You can also use a paper towel or

a washcloth. The apple is good for other purposes. For instance, when you are driving and feeling drowsy, eat an apple, it will help keep you alert.

TOOTHPASTE can be made from baking soda with a drop of oil in it, such as spearmint, peppermint, cinnamon, or cloves in. Or a mixture of 3 parts baking soda and 1 part salt. The best recipe for toothpaste made at home is a mixture of 4 teaspoons baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon mint flavoring, and just enough water to get a "toothpasty" texture. Keep in a covered container so it does not dry out.

KEEPING WARM is very important for the area we live in. So, if getting firewood is a problem, consider rolling a newspaper tightly to make a homemade Pres-to-Log. Newspapers can also be used as an emergency blanket.

SOLAR COOKERS can be a great adventure. They are a wonderful technology that uses the sun's energy to cook. No energy cost, no pollution. You can find plans online to make one and there are many commercial varieties for sale. I bought my solar cooker on eBay in excellent condition and paid only \$40 for it. You can cook just about anything as long as the sun is shining.

CLEANING SOLUTIONS When it's

time to clean, it's useful to have on hand distilled white vinegar, baking soda, salt, and borax. A simple cleaner: Equal parts water and distilled vinegar in a spray bottle. A scrub for stains and more difficult cleaning: Equal parts vinegar, salt, and borax to form a paste. Apply the paste to problem areas and let sit for several minutes and then wipe with a clean cloth.

PLUMBING PROBLEMS

Another use for these common household products is unclogging a drain: Put 1/2 cup baking soda into the drain followed by 1/2 cup white vinegar. Once the mixture stops fizzing, pour boiling hot water down the drain.

AND THEN THERE IS FOOD

If you are not presently growing food or have a limited space to grow, consider the growing towers that are available to purchase or creating your own growing tubes from PVC sewer-size pipes. Cut the top off lengthwise, cap the ends and drill holes in the bottom for drainage. Fill them with dirt, and plant your veggies. These can be chained one above the other in a greenhouse or sunny window, allowing watering from the top to drip to the next level down. A good way to conserve water.

ANOTHER TRICK TO GROWING FOOD

When I buy a head of lettuce at the market and have consumed just about

all of it, I cut the core off the bottom, put 3 toothpicks spaced evenly around, and place in a jar of water. Keep the water levels above the bottom of the core. Within a couple of weeks you will see new green sprouts coming up from the core. And eventually there will be roots so that you can plant your new growth. I have done this with celery as well. It works, and you double the return on your food purchase.

AND OF COURSE, OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IS NUTRITION

Learn how to grow wheatgrass. Wheatgrass juice contains every nutrient the body needs. You will need a juicer. There are hand-crank ones that work fine if you have the time and patience. Some electric juicers have the attachment specifically for wheatgrass juice.

If you have any questions about any of these DIY ideas, please e-mail me at divimal7@yahoo.com. Subject: DIY info. I will be very happy to answer any questions I can. Have a great month of May!

The Six Best Doctors in the World

The Sun, Rest, Exercise, Diet, Self-Respect, Friends
Stick to them at all the stages of your life and enjoy a healthy life.

—Charlie Chaplin

Positive Thoughts

by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

Spring is springing, birds are nourishing their young with insects and song, the smell of green is in the air, and the sound of bees vibrates everywhere. Hummingbird scouts will arrive around mid-May. Please have feeders out for them. They are ravenous from their long migration.

May Day and Cinco de Mayo begin the month. Then Mothers' Day. Life couldn't happen without all the mothers in the world, including Mother Earth. Thank you, to all.

Global Love Day, International Day of Light, Good Neighbor Day, and Day of Living Together in Peace call on the best within us: equanimity, wisdom, charity, and justice.

Memorial Day was established as a day to remember all who have passed. Many people still do so by tidying grave sites and placing new flowers or calling to mind a loved one through stories. But for the most part, Memorial Day has become a weekend-long indication that

summer is here. Cottages and cabins are opened, first barbecue is on the grill, and a first swim for the intrepid. Gardeners are busy, and hikers inventory their summer hiking gear to see what needs replacing for camping off-road throughout the region. The fish will be biting, mosquitoes too. Ah, Memorial Day weekend! This year, in addition to whatever you will be doing this Memorial Day, please bow your head for all the people lost to COVID-19, all the families still grieving, and to everyone whose lives still haven't found a new normal.

Appreciation? We have School Principal's Day, Teacher Appreciation Day, International Firefighters Day, and International Nurses Day.

May includes days focused on health, with World No Tobacco Day, Bike to School Day and Bike to Work Day, plus Senior Health and Fitness Day.

Did you know that the teachings of the Buddha were the most widespread in the world through much of the last 2,500 years? Most of Asia, including Mongolia and Siberia, from Afghanistan to Burma, across China to Japan, and the countries of the Himalayas—all followed the way of the Buddha for centuries, and in some cases more than a thousand years.

Buddha didn't create a religion; people do that. Many of his teachings were philosophical and psychological. He was a revolutionary who accepted everyone regardless of caste or gender.

The Buddha taught for almost 40 years. He asked a seeker to search within his or her mind and experience for the truth. He said, "Test a teaching before accepting it. Question it, analyze it, put it into application to determine its benefit or lack. After these methods of evaluation, if a teaching is truthful and is wholesome, then accept it, but not otherwise."

El Rito, north of Questa, has a stupa, sometimes called a peace pagoda, that is open to the public year-round. It is a building whose shape symbolizes the Buddha and his teaching, and the innate truth of being that anyone can uncover for him or herself. Its hand-painted images are intended to serve as mirrors. One looks into one's purest potential when looking at them.

Lastly, spring is a time of renewal and awakening. Here is a promised tree-planting tip. Get a PVC pipe, no less than 2-1/2 feet long and a minimum of one inch in diameter. When planting a new tree, enlarge the hole by four inches

of width. Place a small pile of medium rocks (not little pebbles) at the bottom of the hole against one side (not in the back). Place the PVC tube on the pile of rocks and lodge it with one or two. Fill in the hole, plant the tree. Leave 18 inches or so of tube above ground. It will serve like a well shaft. Water through the tube every couple of weeks for deep root watering. Fill the tube once or twice depending on the diameter of the tube and size of the tree. This method provides water directly to the roots where it is needed.

SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY

May 1	Global Love Day, May Day, Mother Goose Day, School Principal's Day
May 2	Orthodox Easter, World Laughter Day
May 4	Teacher Appreciation Day, International Firefighters Day
May 5	Cinco de Mayo, African World Heritage Day, Bike to School Day
May 8	Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day
May 9	Mother's Day
May 12	International Nurses Day
May 16	Day of Living Together in Peace, International Day of Light
May 18	Buddha Day/Wesak
May 2	Bike to Work Day
May 26	Senior Health and Fitness Day
May 31	Memorial Day, World No Tobacco Day

My Mom and the Motorcycle Man



**LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

May is Moms' month, as well as the time when over 20,000 bikers ride through our area. That seems reason enough to tell you in this May issue about my Mom and how she met the Motorcycle Man (my Dad!).

Mom's first instinct about my father was curiosity. Later it turned to anger. And that was before she ever laid eyes on him.

My mother Anna, even at 16, was a beauty. Just like in the song that was popular in the 1920s, she was five foot two with eyes of blue. Eyes so intensely blue they looked like melted cornflowers.

Her Cousin Annie was her best

friend and she's the one who brought Anna news on that one day in 1928. "Anna, Anna! There's a new, good-looking, single guy in the neighborhood. He just opened a shoe repair shop right down the street. His name is Nicholas Bilansky, he's Slovak like us, and he drives a motorcycle!"

Excited by this news, Anna grabbed a worn-out pair of shoes from under her bed and handed them to her cousin Annie. "Give these to him to fix and tell him I was asking about him."

That evening and over the next few days, Anna envisioned the possibility of her first romance and she could hardly wait to hear what Nicholas had to say.

At the end of the work week, Anna and Annie got together and Anna, even though she was bursting with anticipation of good news, allowed herself just a coy smile when she asked about the shoemaker.

Annie wasn't smiling. "He said," Annie began sheepishly, "I no want

no crrrrrooked-footed woman asking 'bout me.'" As Anna took in her cousin's shocking words, tears began to form and she felt angry and ashamed for picturing a happy ending that couldn't be.

A less resourceful young woman might have exploded with fury, walked into that shop and given Nick Bilansky a strong piece of her mind. But that wasn't my mother's way. Instead, on Saturday afternoon, she put on her best dress and applied just the right amount of makeup. Too much would have made her look like a harlot. Not enough and her sapphire eyes wouldn't be able to do their magic.

She checked herself out in the mirror while smoothing her waistless dress and then walked down the street to Nicholas Bilansky's shop. Anna opened the door, walked into the shop and waited for the man behind the counter to turn around.

He did. He saw her. He was conquered.

"Are my shoes ready?" she asked him

rather haughtily.

"Which you shoes?" he asked in his broken English, while he excitedly wiped his hands on his shoemaker's apron. He was obviously caught in Anna's spell.

"Those," and she pointed to her shoes near the top of a pile of repaired shoes ready for pick up.

"They no rready. I deliver." Fast thinking for a man who had my future in his hands. Lucky for me, he did deliver.

On August 3, 1980, my Mom and the Motorcycle Man celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Ellen Wood of Questa is the award-winning author of the series of books, "The Secret Method for Growing Younger," available at northernnewmexicoartists.com. Her website is www.howtogrowyounger.com

Contact Ellen at ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

For more info about the Home Digital Archive, contact emailforleap@gmail.com or call (575) 224-9066.

Mi Mamá y el Hombre de la Moto

Mayo es el mes de las Mamás, además del tiempo en que más de veinte mil ciclistas recorren el área donde vivimos. Esta me parece una razón suficiente para contarles en este número de mayo sobre mi Mamá y cómo conoció al Hombre de la Moto (¡mi Papá!)

Lo primero que Mamá sintió por mi padre fue curiosidad. Más tarde esta se convirtió en enojo. Y todo eso pasó antes de que ella lo viera por primera vez.

Mi madre Anna, incluso a los 16 años, era una belleza. Como dice una canción que fue popular en los años veinte del siglo pasado, medía cinco pies y dos pulgadas y tenía unos hermosos ojos azules. Tan intensamente azules que parecían nomeolvides derretidos.

Su prima Annie era su mejor amiga y fue la que le dio la noticia a Anna ese día de 1928. "¡Anna, Anna! Hay un chico nuevo, guapo y soltero en el vecindario. Acaba de abrir un taller de reparación de zapatos al final de la calle. Se llama Nicholas Bilansky, es eslovaco como nosotras y maneja una motocicleta."

Emocionada con la noticia, Anna tomó un par de zapatos viejos de abajo

de su cama y se los entregó a su prima Annie. "Dáselos para que los arregle y dile que pregunté por él."

Esa noche y durante los días siguientes, Anna se imaginó cómo sería su primer romance y esperaba ansiosamente para saber qué había dicho Nicholas.

Al terminar el trabajo de la semana, Anna y Annie se juntaron y Anna, aunque esperaba con ansiedad las buenas noticias, solo se permitió una sonrisita tímida cuando preguntó por el zapatero.

Annie no sonrió. "Él dijo:", comenzó tímidamente, "No quiero que ninguna mujer de pies torrrcidos ande preguntando por mí". Mientras Anna analizaba las mortificantes palabras de su prima, empezó a lloriquear y se sintió enojada y avergonzada por haberse imaginado un final feliz que no sucedería.

Una joven con menos recursos habría estallado de furia, entrado a la zapatería y dicho un montón de impertinencias a Nick Bilansky. Pero mi madre no era así. En lugar de eso, el sábado por la tarde se puso su mejor vestido y la cantidad justa de maquillaje. Demasiado la habría hecho parecer una ramera.

Menos de lo apropiado y sus ojos de zafiro no podrían ejercer su magia.

Se miró en el espejo mientras se alisaba el vestido con una cintura estrechita y luego caminó por la calle hasta la tienda de Nicholas Bilansky. Anna abrió la puerta, entró en la tienda y esperó a que el hombre que se hallaba detrás del mostrador se diera la vuelta.

El hombre se volvió. La vio. Y quedó conquistado.

"¿Están listos mis zapatos?" le preguntó ella con cierta altivez.

"¿Qué zapatos suyos?" preguntó él en su inglés no muy bueno, mientras se limpiaba las manos, emocionado, en el delantal de zapatero. Obviamente estaba atrapado por el encanto de Anna.

"Esos," y ella señaló para sus zapatos que estaban sobre una pila de zapatos reparados listos para recoger.

"No están listos. Yo los entrego." Un pensamiento rápido para el hombre que tenía mi futuro en sus manos. Por suerte para mí, fue y los entregó.

El 3 de agosto de 1980, mi Mamá y el Hombre de la Moto celebraron su aniversario de bodas número cincuenta.

Ellen Wood de Questa es la galardonada autora de la serie de libros "The Secret Method for Growing Younger," disponible en

www.Northernnewmexicoartists.com. Su sitio en la red es www.howtogrowyounger.com. Para ponerse en contacto con Ellen escriba a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

Traducido por Teresa Dovalpage



Taos-based SUCCESS Program Expands to Questa

STAFF WRITERS

Students Using Courage Confidence and Emotional Support for Success spells SUCCESS!

SUCCESS is a fast-paced program that offers clinical mental health, comprehensive community support services, and academic support to students ages 8 through 19 in northern New Mexico. The program is spearheaded by Brian Salazar, of Taos Behavioral Health. Brian is a licensed mental health counselor who practices both family and youth therapy. He lives in Costilla, and has been working in Taos for 16 years. Driving through Questa, he relates that it would almost break his heart—he knew he could do so much for the youth of Questa, and he felt like he was truly needed here. Now, Taos Behavioral Health has opened a Questa office at the Questa Youth Center, and Brian is very excited to be a part of the transformation that he sees happening in the community, especially with the youth.

The SUCCESS program seeks to support adolescents and teens with their transition into adulthood with skills to navigate emotional stability, healthy decision-making, and self-advocacy. Students have unique opportunities to engage in many therapeutic activities, such as milieu-based therapy groups, virtual, or face-to-face group therapy. Other activities build confidence and self-esteem with wraparound services for all life areas, including financial, social, emotional, behavioral, and recreational domains. SUCCESS's culturally competent programming expands stu-



E. Wilde

Brian Salazar of the Questa Office of Taos Behavioral Health, now working with Questa youth.

dents' experiences to activities outside of their familiar socioeconomic or cultural situation. The program demographic includes students with Independent Education Plans (IEP), developmental delays, cognitive deficit disorders, severe emotional disturbances, severe mental illness, involvement with the Juvenile Probation Office, Children Youth and Families Department protective services, gang affiliations, and substance abuse. Approximately 90% of the SUCCESS students come from local Latino, Native American, or Anglo families suffering the effects of generational trauma and colonization.

Currently, the therapy that the SUCCESS program offers include individual, family, group, and milieu therapy with a theoretical foundation in family systems and client-centered therapy.

Active group therapy includes girls' group, boys' group, and LGBTQIA group. The program will expand their

group therapy to meet additional needs. SUCCESS also uses a trauma-based approach to support emotional stability and treatment.

SUCCESS students use art to express their struggles, their lives, and their successes. The SUCCESS program hosted a SUCCESS Art Gallery on April 23 from 10 am – 2 pm at Questa Youth Center. It was open to the public during the Earth Day Workday Celebration at the adjacent Questa Municipal Park, and many workers enjoyed seeing the variety of expressions.

Would you like more information about the SUCCESS Program? Please contact Brian Salazar at briansalazarlmhc@gmail.com or call or text (575) 737-8789. Or visit <https://taosbehavioralhealth.org>.

Brian Salazar, LMHC, received his Bachelors Degree in Psychology with a minor in Chicano Studies, from Colorado State University. Brian received his Masters in Counseling from



E. Wilde

SUCCESS Gallery opening, translucent window art at the Cisneros Youth Center in Questa. Their tag line with this display says "Be Transparent"

Southwestern College in Santa Fe. Brian has worked as a health care professional since 1999 in the Taos community. Before joining Taos Behavioral Health, Brian worked at CYFD, Los Angelitos y Ensuenos, UNM Health Education, and UNM HEP program.

Brian's career goal is to help strengthen children and families to create opportunities for success.

46th Annual National EMS Week , May 16-22

By CYNTHIA NAJIM, LATIR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a critical component of every community, and the lifeline in all emergency situations. Service providers, whether paid or volunteers, must be professionally trained and licensed, and fulfill stringent continuing education certification requirements. These standards apply to all ranks—entry-level Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs), Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) Basic and Intermediate, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMTs), and the

highest tier of training, Paramedics.

The nation's EMS certification body is the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT). Their mission is to provide a valid, uniform process to assess the knowledge and skills required for competent practice by EMS professionals throughout their careers, and to maintain a registry of certification status.

We are proud to report that New Mexico currently has 4,198 nationally registered EMS providers across all levels of service. And this number continues to climb. In the Enchanted Circle alone, more and more volunteer firefighters are becoming licensed EMS professionals

(including the writer of this article), thereby strengthening the network of emergency care available in our rural communities.

In the U.S. in 2020, there were 433,353 nationally registered EMS providers. That includes 9,060 EMRs; 293,891 EMTs; 18,449 AEMTs; and 111,953 Paramedics.

“The number of nationally registered personnel speaks volumes about the value in protecting the public,” said Bill Seifarth, executive director of NREMT. “The public can be assured that a nationally registered EMS professional in New Mexico is practicing at the same level

of competency as their counterparts throughout the United States.”

Last year, the National Registry celebrated its 50th Anniversary. And this month marks the 46th annual National EMS Week, May 16-22. While NREMT takes part in this yearly recognition, the event is sponsored by their partner organizations: the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT). For more information, visit these websites:

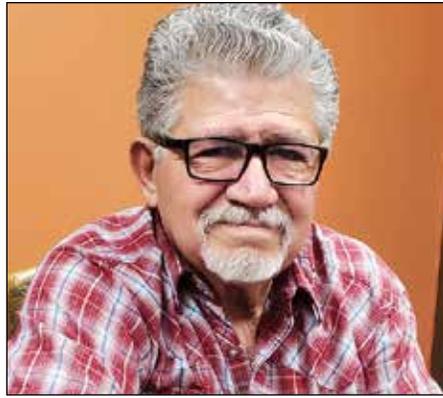
<https://www.nremt.org/> and <https://www.naemt.org/initiatives/ems-week>



QCC UPDATES

Here we are in May, a time in previous years we'd normally be gearing up for outdoor summer events. In 2020, we were unable to hold them in person, but this year, we are pushing forward with the Studio Tour and an opening celebration for the HHistory Trail, all with COVID-safe practices in place. The year 2021 finds the Questa Creative Council honing and expanding our programming. NeoRio is evolving. We're exploring local music traditions, offering live chamber music with yoga gatherings, showcasing local artists, and building collaborations to benefit local youth. Online and live features of the Northern New Mexico Music: Past & Present is making 2021 better than ever!

Northern New Mexico Music: Past & Present - A CONCERT, May 21
Project director and musician Chris Arellano has completed his final inter-



Chris Arellano

Local musician Michael Rael

views and recordings, and is looking forward to sharing with you in the final phase of his research—with plenty of music! Tune in to the Questa Creative Council Facebook page: @QuestaCreativeCouncil at 7 pm on Friday, May 21 for a Facebook Live concert. There will be special guests, too.

Bernie Torres and Michael Rael are the most recent interviews. Bernie provided information on the northern New Mexico/ southern Colorado tradition of Los Dias New Year Celebration, which dates back hundreds of years. Michael's prowess as a performing musician, steeped in local tradition and history, offers many invaluable jewels he has shared.



Gladys Torres

Project director Chris Arellano, left, with Bernie Torres

This project is a collaboration with the Manitos Community Memory project and Questa Stories. Both entities gather and share voices, stories, images, and traditions of the communities of northern Taos County and southern Colorado villages. The work Chris is doing will become part of these archives. This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts, and Taos Community Foundation.

Learn more at QuestaStories.org and Manitos.net. Donate to support this project at QuestaCreative.org.



Questa Studio Arts Tour

The artists of the Questa Studio Arts Tour are coming together to make the 2021 tour memorable and exciting. With our past pandemic shutdowns, there has been a lot of shuffling of artists and locations. New artists and new locations continue to pop up. With artists having an extra year to create new and exciting work, this tour will be one to remember! Over 35 artists are planning to participate. Come to the QSAT, August 14-15, from 10-5 starting in Questa and running east and north to Sunshine Valley. COVID-safe practices will be in place. More information can be found at northernnewmexicoartists.com or contact Peggy Trigg at pegtrigg@gmail.com

Questa Baccalaureate Service for the Class of 2021
WEDNESDAY • May 12 • 6:30 pm
Meeting ID: 885 5755 3645
An in person and virtual event.
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LIVE Friday, May 21, 7:00 pm (Mountain Time)
A project of the Questa Creative Council
NORTHERN NM MUSIC PAST & PRESENT
Featuring Chris Arellano and friends on our musical heritage and traditions.
TUNE IN @QuestaCreativeCouncil on Facebook!
This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.
nma new mexico arts
taos community foundation
QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL questacreative.org

Sustainable Sheds by Taos' Repurposed Plastic Project

By CAROLINE YEZER

Scientists have recently discovered microscopic plastic particles in the food we eat, the water we drink and, most disturbingly, even in human organs. Because the plastic items that we throw away can take as long as 500 years to decompose, those that sit in our landfills leach into our soil, streams, and eventually the ocean. In light of this, our local Repurposed Plastic Project (RPP) is an urgent and welcome idea.

Last year the RPP collected hundreds of bags of plastic that would have ended up in our land and water, and instead used them as building materials for a shed in Questa, as well as new seating areas and windbreak walls at the Questa Farmers' Market site. Compressed plastic can be reused in walls, planters, benches—anything the builders or their future clients can imagine.

The RPP team includes founder and project coordinator Todd Wynward, builder and site supervisor Daniel "RYNO" Herrera, office manager Melanie Baca, builder and transport supervisor Randy Martinez, and architect Doug Eichelberger. This year RPP worked with Morris and Fran Reynolds of San Cristobal to build a shed that might just be the first permitted repurposed plastic project of its kind in northern New Mexico!

Measuring 10 by 20 feet, and sporting a double front window, the nearly completed Reynolds shed is the size of a small studio. It used more plastic trash than any other RPP project to date: over 1,000 bags. The building was large enough to require a building permit.

Once it's completed, later this year, it will have stucco inside and out, colored to match the owners' home.

The goal of the Repurposed Plastic Project is not just to keep plastic from hurting ourselves and the environment, but also to aid local economic development. The RPP aims to eventually become a worker-owned cooperative, providing additional skill and training for local people to build. For now, however, it is housed under the non-profit Taos Initiative for Life Together (TiLT).

There was one problem with developing the RPP into an economic enterprise last year: the time it took to compress all that plastic to be used for wall fill. Using "people power" to physically stomp the plastic into a collapsed shape worked well at the Questa Farmers' Market last summer with volunteers, interns, and the willing public: People were more than happy to take out their pandemic frustrations on the trash. But such people power is not readily available for all projects, nor is it efficient. Problem solved: with aid from the LOR Foundation, the RPP purchased a plastic baler. The baler can compress plastic trash into 30-lb bales the size of a few milk crates (42 x 22 x 16 inches). Much like hay is bound up, the plastic baler compresses and binds plastic that can then be stacked within wire fencing to build walls. The baler is now at the Questa RPP headquarters, ready to turn more plastic into building material.

What does this mean for you readers? Some of you running community projects may want to enlist RPP's assistance on a community-centric project such as building a privacy wall at a school, a shed at a church, or benches in a plaza. Or you



Caroline Yezer

Doug Eichelberger and Fran Reynolds standing outside the unfinished shed in San Cristobal.

may want to tackle your own plastic masterpieces by purchasing bales from RPP.

The shed design is a load-bearing post and beam structure, with 16-inch infill plastic walls. The structure for the walls is a regular fence panel lined with chicken wire, all available at our local hardware store. All that plastic in the walls helps insulate much better than a prefab shed. To be sure—it's not as warm in the winter as an adobe house, but you might get away with using one of these plastic filled sheds as a studio, provided you had a safe heat source in there with you. (Buildings 10 by 12 feet do not require a permit but larger buildings like the Reynolds' shed do).

Other readers may just be interested in getting rid of their plastic trash in a way that keeps it out of our water and land, especially since Taos County stopped accepting plastic at the recycling



Caroline Yezer

Architect Doug Eichelberger inside the shed explaining the plastic repurposing process (the walls will be stuccoed over).

center. For just \$5/month, the RPP will accept up to two trash bags monthly of your clean plastic trash, and put it to good use. Drop-off locations are convenient, in both Taos and Questa. To become a member of the plastic project, go to <https://www.repurposing-plasticaos.com/>



**CHANGE YOUR FOCUS,
CHANGE YOUR WORLD.**

TAP THE POWER

Torrents of water flow beneath cities all over the world, creating pressure in their pipelines which must be vented. Lucid Energy in Portland, Oregon, has found a way to harness that pressure and change it into useable energy, without

disrupting water delivery or the environment. The company has invented a series of water turbines, which look like giant egg beaters that are placed in large, gravity-fed pipelines. As water flows through the pipes, the turbines spin, creating renewable energy which can then be used to generate clean water or be sold back to the power company.

Sensors installed in the pipes can also detect changes in water pressure, helping to predict potential burst pipes, saving millions of gallons that would otherwise be wasted. They can also monitor for contaminants in the drinking water. This system is capturing energy—free energy—that is otherwise being lost. It operates day and night and is completely

independent of the weather. And since it's already enclosed, no fish or wildlife are harmed. For water utilities, which use massive amounts of electricity, this approach is a game changer that can make it cheaper to provide clean drinking water.

They can either use the power themselves or sell it as a new source of revenue. Now, in places like Riverside, California and Portland, Oregon, when you turn on the tap, you are generating excess electricity that runs water operations during the day and powers the streetlights at night. With the U.S. water infrastructure due to be overhauled over the next 20 years, there's an opportunity here, to add these water turbines every-

where, creating renewable energy within existing water delivery systems. And this is just the beginning, as this technology is gaining worldwide attention, because the production of clean water and energy are so closely dependent, and are now more sustainable.

This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live. Building community through creativity. SecoLive.org

Audio file on SoundCloud:
<https://soundcloud.com/user-259154859/tap-the-power>
Transcript PDF:
https://musercontent.com/6dd23531465f1c13f80eb7d84/files/0855a611-950f-404b-b54d-747773c614b9/GN_7.07_TapThePower.pdf

Cerro Vista, A Local Community Farm

STAFF WRITERS

Have fun. Be in nature. Meet new people... and take home best-quality fresh produce from a local farm! Cerro Vista Farm grows best-quality fresh vegetables and flowers, grown with organic methods. They do not use pesticides, herbicides, chemicals, or genetically modified organisms to grow their produce. A crew of 50 local community members works at the farm each week, putting lots of love into the food they produce.

The farm is beautifully situated, at 198 Lower Buena Vista Road in Cerro, north of Questa. They sell their crops on the same day they are harvested—talk about fresh! Produce that fresh can have healing qualities as well as delicious flavor.

Though the growing season averages only 85 days frost-free, the sandy loam soils and high mountain snowmelt



Daniel Carmona

Fresh flowers and produce at Taos Farmers Market, with smiling Sheri.

that irrigates the fields enable them to grow 40 different varieties of vegetables, grains, and beans.

Beginning May 19, from 3 to 6 pm on Wednesdays, you can stop by the farm stand at Cerro Vista Farm. Vegetable and flower seedlings will be offered for sale until June 16.

Starting June 23, fresh vegetables will be for sale all summer long. You can get this wonderful food in small bits at their outlets: the Questa Farmers Market



Daniel Carmona

18 acres of healthy living fresh produce, right here in our backyards!

on Sundays, Taos Farmers Market on Saturdays, and at the Farm in Cerro on Wednesdays. OR, better yet, secure a weekly bag-full, a “farm share,” with whatever is harvested that week. This investment keeps you in fresh produce and supports the farm, known as Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm

Shares. Farm shares are for sale until May 15, and as of press time there were still 44 available!

If you have questions about the farm’s offerings or if you would like to purchase a CSA Farm Share, contact Daniel Carmona, farm manager, at the farm website www.cerrovistafarm.com.

KCEC 100% Renewable Energy Goals Will Be Met!

A significant milestone for Kit Carson Electric Cooperative has been met ahead of time. Partnership with Torch Clean Energy in two solar and storage projects will allow KCEC to surpass the 41 megawatts (MW) required to meet its goal of 100 percent daytime solar energy about nine months sooner than anticipated.

These new developments build upon the solar arrays that KCEC has installed over the past 12 years. Chevron’s solar array in the Village of Questa has been in operation since 2011. It generates approximately 1 MW per day, the equivalent of the Village’s electric demand. Chevron sells the power to Kit Carson, helping KCEC create a network, of distributed energy resources throughout the service territory in Taos, Colfax, and Rio Arriba Counties.

Once these projects are completed, KCEC will have a total of 53MW of renewable energy, including 38MW of solar and 15MW of storage capacity. The Taos Mesa Energy Facility will deliver 15MW of solar and 12MW of storage capacity, and the Angel Fire Energy Facility is slated to deliver 6MW of solar and 3MW of storage capacity.

“Torch is honored to partner with Kit Carson on these two projects in support of Kit Carson’s efforts to become a fully renewable powered utility,” said Jon Kil-

berg of Torch. “This is a major milestone for both the communities of Taos, the village of Angel Fire, and the nation! We are proud to play a role in Taos’ and Angel Fire’s transition to a green future.”

Through a long-standing financing relationship as Kit Carson’s largest private lender, CoBank provided the financing for both projects. “CoBank Farm Credit Leasing is excited to finance a leading edge solution that will help Kit Carson expand their energy resources and pair them with affordable renewable options,” said Landon Reneau, senior relationship manager with CoBank. “This is a major project with a number of intricacies that required all partners working together to meet key project deadlines. We look forward to the successful completion of their project in the coming months.”

KCEC and Torch have selected local New Mexico contractor Affordable Solar Installation (ASI) to build both projects. Construction is expected to begin this spring. Both projects will be fully operational by the end of 2021.

“We’re ecstatic to work with a co-op that matches our passion for renewable energy and are honored to have been selected to help Kit Carson reach their goal of becoming the greenest co-op in the country. We’re hopeful this project will positively impact the Taos County

and Angel Fire communities,” said Kevin Bassalleck, President at Affordable Solar Installation Inc.

Kit Carson Electric Co-op was formed in 1944, Kit Carson is a member-owned electric distribution cooperative in northern New Mexico and the second largest cooperative in the state. Kit Carson is one of 16 electric cooperatives that serve rural New Mexico communities, reaching nearly 30,000 members in Taos, Colfax, and Rio Arriba counties. To learn more about Kit Carson, visit www.kitcarson.com.

Torch Clean Energy was founded in 2008, Torch Clean Energy is a renewable energy developer with extensive experience developing, permitting, designing, and building both solar and wind projects. To learn more about Torch, visit www.torch-cleanenergy.com.

CoBank is a \$159 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America, providing loans, leases, export financing, and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. The bank also provides wholesale loans and other financial services to affiliated Farm Credit associations serving more than 75,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers in 23 states around the country. CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of

banks and retail lending associations chartered to support the borrowing needs of U.S. agriculture, rural infrastructure, and rural communities. Headquartered outside Denver, Colorado, CoBank serves customers from regional banking centers across the U.S. and also maintains an international representative office in Singapore.

Affordable Solar Installation started its business from an Airstream trailer in 1998. The company’s roots trace back to a passion for renewable energy, a strong commitment to community, and having fun. With many hundreds of megawatts of solar and energy storage projects completed and underway and over 150 employees, Affordable Solar has outgrown the Airstream but remains committed to the principles on which the company was founded and helping families in New Mexico save money and help the planet.

Kit Carson aims to be the greenest co-op in the country. The addition of these two new solar arrays gives us almost twenty solar projects within our territory, making Taos and the surrounding areas the “Solar Capital of the World.”

—Luis Reyes Jr., CEO of KCEC.

Rio Grande Caddisfly Hatch

By TONER MITCHELL

Albuquerque has its balloon fiesta and Santa Fe has Zozobra. Many places also have annual celebrations around nature-made events: the blossoming of Washington, D.C.'s cherry trees, for example, or the spectacular autumn leaves of New England's deciduous trees.

If you're an observant trout angler, you can go from spring through fall knowing what month it is by visiting a local stream and taking note of the insects flying around you. In northern New Mexico, April is the time of the caddisfly hatch, the natural Cambalache on the Rio Grande. At its most prolific, the flyfisher can keep neither fish off her line nor bugs out of her mouth and eyes. Sounds gross, but one gets used to this special kind of mayhem.

Known as the Mother's Day hatch, the American Grannom hatch, or just the little black caddis hatch, the event features the *Brachycentrus occidentalis*, a variety of caddisfly known for cocooning itself in a house of tiny sticks and then hatching into a moth a little smaller than your pinky nail. The hatch isn't unique to the Rio. Famous caddis hatches—and by famous, I mean hatches that inspire die-hard trout bums to buy plane tickets or hit the road in RVs—occur on the Yellowstone River in Montana and northern California's lower Sacramento, among other major rivers. The Colorado towns of Buena Vista and Salida view the Mother's Day hatch on the Arkansas River as a time of great economic opportunity, of jam-packed restaurants and hotel rooms booked far in advance.

The caddis hatch is generally trig-

gered when spring water temperatures warm to around 50 degrees Fahrenheit, at which point caddis larvae metamorphose into a pupal phase. At hatching time, these pupae break out of their houses and rise quickly to the water surface in an air-filled bubble of their own saliva. Having evolved to understand that pupae reaching the surface will pop directly into the air as fully-developed moths, trout feed on caddis with a thrilling urgency. Casting downstream and across and letting the current swing your fly back to you is a great way to experience this feeding frenzy. Word to the wise, you will feel all your strikes when you fish this way. Your line should be tight and the fish will hit hard, so setting the hook usually results in your line snapping. Resist setting the hook and let the fish hook themselves.

Due to climate change, the Mother's Day hatch has essentially become the Tax Day hatch, since water warms earlier in the year. The Rio is a bit murky at that time from earlier runoff, but the fish don't seem to mind. The hatch used to progress upstream, from around Velarde to the state line, but it's often everywhere these days, perhaps another change from pre-climate change times.

Fishing the hatch is easy, at least at its onset. Productive dry flies include Elk Hair Caddis or any downwing fly in black or dark olive on a size 16 hook. Fish a Renegade as a dry fly or swing it downstream to imitate emergent pupae. Good caddis nymphs include the Fox Poopah, Prince, Hare's Ear, and Secret Fly. Again, anything dark olive or black should do the trick.



Toner Mitchell

Fish feeding frenzy during the hatch of the caddisfly.



Toner Mitchell

For fishing the caddis hatch, use productive dry flies such as Elk Hair Caddis or any downwing fly in black or dark olive on a size 16 hook. Fish a Renegade as a dry fly or swing it downstream to imitate emergent pupae. Good caddis nymphs include the Fox Poopah, Prince, Hare's Ear, and Secret Fly.

After it's been moving for a week or so, the caddis hatch can get a little tough. You'll see bugs everywhere, but the fish will seem to have disappeared. Imagine eating a potato chip every couple



Toner Mitchell

Brown trout, fat and sassy and full of caddisflies.

seconds, non-stop, all day long for a week. You will eventually reach a point when your belly will be all stretched and your desire to eat will become inversely proportional to your need to lie on the couch and take a nap.

In the heat of the caddis hatch, this is how the trout feel—fat—and for much of the middle of the day, extremely lazy. Take slower fishing as your sign to focus on the shady hours of morning and evening, when the fish will be eating their fill before ducking under the rocks for siesta time.

Remember Campfire Safety to Prevent Wildfires

By JAVONNE GOODMAN

The Carson National Forest reminds visitors about the importance of campfire safety and preventing human-caused wildland fires. Abandoned campfires are still the leading cause of this kind of wildfire.

An ongoing drying trend across the Carson National Forest has fire managers concerned about an early start to the 2021 fire season. The dry winter and spring conditions combined with strong winds have already brought wildfires to many parts of New Mexico.

With warmer temperatures and more

people exploring the Forest, visitors are urged to follow campfire safety procedures. It is every camper's responsibility to properly maintain and extinguish a campfire to prevent wildfires.

If you build a campfire, or if you come across an abandoned campfire, please remember to:

1. **Drown:** Pour water on the fire. Drown ALL embers, not just the red ones. Pour until hissing sound stops.
2. **Stir:** Stir dirt or sand into the embers with a shovel to bury the fire. Make sure that no embers are

exposed or still smoldering.

3. **Drown:** Continue adding water, dirt, or sand, and stir with a shovel until all material is cool.
4. **Check:** Place your hand close to the material to ensure that it is cool. If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

If you plan to visit the Carson National Forest, know before you go and check the weather forecast for current conditions.

More campfire safety tips to recreate responsibly and prevent wildfires are:

- Bring a small shovel, rake,

and buckets of water to drown a campfire.

- Don't start a campfire in tall grass. Make sure there is bare ground or a pre-established fire pit.
- Don't start a campfire underneath overhanging trees or brush.
- Don't start a campfire on a windy day or during a RED FLAG WARNING day.

Stay up to date on Carson National Forest news by visiting the Carson National Forest website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/carson>, and following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Enchanted Circle Trails Association Updates

From THE ECTA NEWSLETTER

The Enchanted Circle Trails Association (ECTA), a non-profit organization, and its partners continue to develop, maintain, and promote trails for all users in the Enchanted Circle. American Trails estimates that 70% more people used trails in the last year, whether to find solace in the natural world, trying to keep healthy with exercise, or to pursue a passion for hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, or hunting. Join them in some training, providing input into trail plan drafts, or maybe you're interested in adopting a segment of trail to maintain!

Trailhead locations are being refined, but the design for the Questa to Red River Trail (Q2RRT) along NM 38 is essentially complete. Q2RRT is a trail system to accommodate all citizens, highlighting natural beauty, promoting appreciation of wildlife and natural systems, providing educational opportunities, identifying points of interest along the trail, and connecting with other regional trail systems.

Partners include the Carson National Forest, Town of Red River, Village of Questa, Questa Economic Development Fund, Amigos Bravos, Trout Unlimited,



Enchanted Circle Off Highway Vehicle Association, Chevron Mine of Questa, National Forest Foundation, SAGE GIS, Enchanted Circle Trails Association, and a number of dedicated community members. Appreciation goes out to the Town of Red River who listed the project on their Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (ICIP) and secured Capital Outlay resources for engineering of the river crossings and NEPA planning! We are looking at additional resources from the New Mexico Department of Transportation Recreational Trail Programming to help move the project forward, which is

very exciting.

Here is the link to the map created by SAGE GIS: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=452e0f0a9d08421399f2977b7e9d1414>

Other Trail News: Maintenance!

ECTA is getting ready to jump back into trail maintenance in 2021 after an off year during COVID-19. The Trail Master Training is scheduled for May 15 and 16, and will include both class time and field work. This training will increase your skill set in general trail maintenance techniques and help build a more

qualified volunteer pool for the region. There is no prerequisite, but numbers are limited and preference is given to civic or community groups over individuals, so contact Carl soon! (See below.)

ECTA will convene an Enchanted Circle Trail Stewardship event on June 5 to recognize National Trails Day. Sites will be announced soon! The Questa History Trail will host an opening celebration and guided walk starting at 11 am on that day, too.

This year the ECTA will introduce the Enchanted Circle Adopt-a-Trail Program, where community groups, companies, civic clubs etc. formally accept stewardship responsibilities for a trail in exchange for recognition on signage and publications. If you know of a group interested in getting together a few times a year to help maintain your favorite trail, drop us a line and we'll set you up. Hint: participating in the Trail Master Training will be required for adopting groups. Contact the ECTA on Facebook @EnchantedCircleTrailAssociationn, call Carl at (575) 770-8940, or email them at enchantedcircletrails@gmail.com

*American Trails <https://www.americantrails.org/>

Don't Be Fooled, Prepare for Wildfire

By JAVONNE GOODMAN

Dry winter and spring conditions combined with strong winds may bring wildfire season to many parts of New Mexico early this year. To help communities throughout the state, the Carson National Forest is working with local, state, federal, and tribal partners and non-governmental organizations to share this message for the 2021 wildfire preparedness campaign: "don't be fooled, prepare for wildfire."

With increasing fire danger, bringing threat to homes and property from flames and embers, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides guidance on preparing a "Home Ignition Zone."

After starting with the home, move to the landscaped portion of your property, referred to as the "Intermediate Zone," about 5 to 30 feet from your structures, where the objective is to reduce the intensity of the fire through landscaping.

- Create breaks in vegetation with driveways, walkways/paths, and patios. Using concrete, stone, gravel or other non-combustible materials to create these breaks in vegetation (this practice is also known as "hardscaping").
- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches.
- Remove vegetation under trees (ladder fuels) so a surface fire cannot reach the tops of the trees (crowns). Prune trees up to 6 to 10 feet from the ground. For shorter trees, do not exceed pruning one-third of the overall tree height.
- Space trees apart, with a minimum of 18 feet between the trees' crowns, and with an increased distance with increasing percentage of slope.
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than 10 feet to the edge of a structure.
- Trees and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters, to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.
- Preventing ignitions that can lead to wildfires is as important as improving your Home Ignition Zone. Chainsaws, mowers, and other equipment can overheat or spark. Using fire to clear acequias or burn debris can be risky in the wrong weather conditions. To prevent a fire:
- Ensure your equipment is in good working order.
- Check the weather prior to beginning work. Visit the National Weather Service website and watch your local news weather reports to find out if there is a Red Flag Warning forecasted that indicates critical fire conditions.
- Have the proper tools such as a shovel, fire extinguisher, and water readily available.
- Ensure you have a burn permit, when required, and stay until the fire is out.
- If you are not prepared, or if the weather conditions will be windy and dry, consider doing the work when the weather poses less of a fire risk. Choose a time of day such as early morning when temperatures are lower, humidity is higher, and winds are calmer.
- The Carson National Forest is working with the Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests, EMNRD Forestry Division, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico to build a 2021 wildfire preparedness calendar and share the message across multiple platforms, including social media, webinars, and community events. Bookmark the wildfire preparedness webpage to follow the campaign throughout the year. Stay up to date on Carson National Forest news by checking the Carson National Forest website and following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Evergilio “Virgil” Martinez Turns 101!

By LOU MCCALL

Evergilio (Virgil) Martinez was born here in Questa on May 21, 1920, to Marcelino and Alfreda Martinez. Some of you may remember when Marcelino Martinez & Sons built Questa Center Supermarket in 1965. The Martinez family still operates the store. It began as a mercantile store on Cabresto Road, Questa’s main business district at the time, and later the supermarket was built at its current location. Virgil, like his brothers, worked at the store growing up. Virgil’s father, Marcelino, was Questa’s first mayor and went on to become a New Mexico state senator.

Virgil, like his father, always loved to learn. He attended the Moly Mine School in Red River and was valedictorian of his 1938 graduating class at the Menaul School in Albuquerque. In those days, there were not many options for secondary education, so many Questa students went to boarding schools and came home on weekends. Virgil went on to attend Stanford University and the University of Arizona in Tucson, to study science. He later moved to Denver, where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Biology.

Virgil was married in 1941 to Ruth Rebecca Bazan, who hailed from El Paso, Texas. Before he could complete his college studies, World War II broke out, and in 1942 Virgil enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Because of his science studies, he worked as an assistant flight surgeon assistant, a job he continued throughout the war. His favorite wartime experience was being stationed in Italy and seeing the Blue Grotto. He was happy that he could serve his country as a staff sergeant. His four brothers also served in the military. He says that letters from his wife, Ruth, were what kept him going.

Virgil and Rebecca had four children: Yolanda Gabriel, Elizabeth Haley,

Rebecca Hollander, and Virgil Jr., who everyone calls Buddy. Virgil and Ruth were married for 75 years and had nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Rebecca passed away in 2016.

Virgil’s science studies brought him to the classroom. He taught biology, general science, chemistry and Spanish at Albuquerque High School for 30 years, working at the Moly Mine and on the family ranch during the summers. When he retired in 1974, the family moved back to Questa, where Virgil continued



Gary Coggins

Photo on left: Clockwise from left: Rachel Martinez, Richard Gabriel, Virgil Jr "Buddy" Martinez, Yolanda Gabriel and Virgil, wrapped in his new quilt. Photo on right: From left to right: Virgil Martinez, his daughter Yolanda Gabriel, Evelyn Coggins (standing) and Taos Quilters' Guild member, Josie Innis. On April 2, the Guild presented Mr. Martinez with this lovely red, white, and blue quilt.



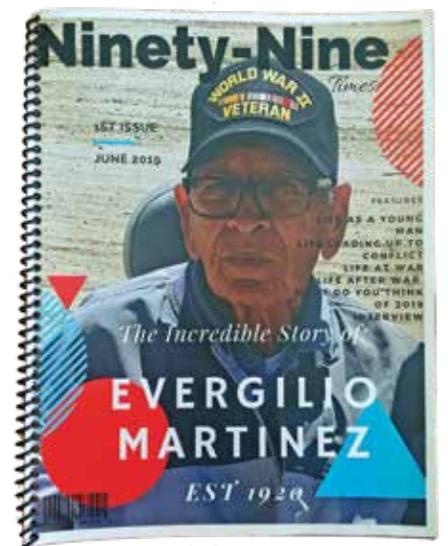
Courtesy Photo

Private Evergilio Martinez in the U.S. Army Air Corps, circa 1942, when he first joined the military.



Lou McCall

Mr. Evergilio “Virgil” Martinez, just weeks before his 101st birthday on May 21, 2021. He is wearing his World War II service medallion from his 50th class reunion from the University of Denver.



Lou McCall

When Virgil turned 99, his great-grandson in Wisconsin, Drew Loewe, created this magazine for his birthday “The Incredible Story of Evergilio Martinez.”

the family tradition of entrepreneurship. He bought the Sangre de Cristo Motel, which the family still owns, and also the El Seville Restaurant nearby. He continued to help out at the supermarket and later purchased the Questa Lodge RV Park, which remained in the family until recently.

When Virgil turned 99, his great-grandson Drew Loewe, in Wisconsin, had a high school assignment to do a project about someone he admired. He created a magazine called Ninety-Nine, with the cover story, “The Incredible Story of Evergilio Martinez.” Through an assortment of stories, photos, and

interviews, he shared his great-grandfather’s life story. It is one of the family’s greatest treasures.

On April 2 of this year, The Taos Quilters’ Guild presented Virgil with a lovely red, white, and blue quilt, which now adorns his room.

Evergilio Martinez has been an inspiration to everyone who has ever known him. He was a dedicated patriot, an inspired educator, a man of great faith, and an honorable businessman. He continues to inspire and is adored by his family and community. Thank you, Mr. Martinez, for your service!

EVERGILIO MARTINEZ’S FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; uphold you with my righteous right hand.

—Isaiah 41:10

Veterans' Healing Field of Honor Persists in 2021!

By LOUISE GALLEGOS

Anyone driving through Questa on Memorial Day weekend who sees the rippling red, white, and blue of 1000 U.S. flags planted in even rows against the backdrop of our beautiful mountains cannot help but be moved. It's a "WOW!"

The inspiration for the Healing Field came back in 2003 from then Questa's Mayor Charlie Gonzales and Brent Jaramillo, who was the Village Administrator at that time. Our current Mayor Mark Gallegos and Village Council continue to support this community-led effort, so that the Village of Questa (and including Cerro, Costilla, Amalia and San Cristobal) could honor our Veterans from any and all armed conflicts. The event also honors those who served between conflicts in peacetime who did not fight in combat. The legacy of this event is that it says so much about our community and what we value.

This is the second year that the flags will fly without a ceremony. The "Healing Field" will still be there to enjoy, though, from Thursday May 27 through



Carrie Leven

Healing Fields flags and freedom-loving children running.

Monday, May 31. It is located on the east side of Highway 522 in the middle of Questa, south of the light.

There are so many people, especial-

ly Veterans, who look forward to this display every year. When a Veteran comes up to you and says, "Thank you and all the volunteers for this field,

you will never know how much this means to me or how it has helped me," that leaves a person speechless because it is we civilians who need to thank every American Soldier for their service to our country. We will never really know what they went through or how their experiences affect them.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of this event because they put so much of their heart, time, and talent into what they do year after year. Without volunteers the annual Healing Field would not continue. Thank you to all volunteers! Special thank you to Claudio Rael and family who continue to allow us to use their field for the display and to the Entact crews who lead the charge to set up the field. And let us not forget the Village of Questa's Public Works Department!

If you feel the call to honor those who have served our country and preserved our freedoms and/or are currently serving, please contact the Village of Questa at (575) 586-0694 to volunteer or help with sponsorship.

May God bless you and your families and God Bless America.

Sw

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Questa High School Class of 2021 Graduation

By MARIA MEDINA,
SENIOR CLASS SPONSOR

Questa Independent School District is proud to announce the commencement exercises of the Class of 2021. Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 10 am. Due to the pandemic and

COVID-19 protocols, there will not be a Senior Night, and for graduation, there will be limited space available. (All events will be combined into one day.) Those who wish to attend must reserve their seat.

Each senior will be getting tickets to give to their parents, family, and friends for the ceremony. Razor Sharp Produc-

tions of Taos may live-stream the graduation for anyone who cannot attend. More information will be available as we get closer to the ceremony.

Questa Independent School District will follow all COVID-safe procedures. Masks will be worn during the entire ceremony.

The Senior Class of 2021 hasn't had the typical year—or school year. They weren't able to host prom last year, didn't get a Homecoming, didn't get to paint the "Q," or make lasting memories with their classmates. We owe it to them to have at least a little bit of normalcy with a nice graduation!

QUESTA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING SENIOR CLASS OF 2021

- Anika Cardenas
- Ashton Carpenter
- Santana Cintas
- Wyatt Coutu-Ulch
- Mariah Griego
- Ozzy Hernandez
- Anthony Lovato
- Josiah Mandonado
- Aalyiah Martinez – Salutatorian
- Elizabeth Martinez
- Mateo Medina
- Tiana Medina
- Monica Molina
- Emily Ortiz
- Luk Pacheco
- Christopher Quintana
- Justin Rael-Valedictorian
- Mariah Ramirez
- Ikhira Rodriguez
- Jason Salazar
- Consuelo Trujillo

POEM OF THE MONTH

My soul tells me, we were all broken from the same nameless heart, and every living thing wakes with a piece of that original heart aching its way into blossom. This is why we know each other below our strangeness, why when we fall, we lift each other, or when in pain, we hold each other, why when sudden with joy, we dance together. Life is the many pieces of that great heart loving itself back together.

—Mark Nepo



VIDA CAMP IS BACK!

SAVE THE DATES,
Questa's own Vida Day Camp
is back in 2021 with three sessions:
June 21 - June 25 • June 28 - July 2 • July 5 - July 9

The farm and nature camp runs weekdays from 9 am – 4 pm. Vida Camp is a safe place for 6- to 12-year olds to make new friends, learn valuable skills, and strengthen our community.

Call (575) 613-6808 for more information or go to www.localogy.org/vida to sign up!

Questa High School Entrepreneurship Class

By LINDSAY MAPES

This school year, a new course was offered at Questa High School: Entrepreneurship. Despite many challenges due to COVID-19, four students decided to give this class a go. Last semester, the class was taught by Jennifer Vialpando. Students covered topics such as their personal vision, grit, and opportunities. The second half of the course was taught by Lindsay Mapes. As a continuation in coursework, students developed a business plan.

Here are brief descriptions of each student's business idea:

Mark's Bakery 'n' Goods

Envisioned by Mark Tannahill, this business would serve up freshly made high-quality baked goods. Menu items

include cakes and crepes to cookies and coffee. As a person who enjoys baking, this sweet business would be located in Questa with a target market of locals and drive-through tourists alike. Although Mark is still a junior in high school, he is on the lookout in the next few years for this welcome addition to Questa's business landscape.

Nelly's Nails

With a shortage of nail salons in Questa, once Danielle LaCome gets up and running, there will be no need to travel to Taos to get your nails or eyelash extensions. With the ability to start services in her home to save on startup costs, Danielle may be willing to offer nail services this summer at no cost to you, as she gains experience, but she has another few years before she fully

launches the business.

Sunrise to Sunset Tea and Pastries

If you're needing a relaxing place to enjoy high-quality teas or a snack, AshLeigh Archuleta's Cafe will be just the place. Modeled in part after STEAM Coffee Co. in Red River, AshLeigh will offer an assortment of fine teas brewed at just the right temperature plus locally made pastries, salads, and other light bites. With her previous experience as an entrepreneur, expect to see this business in Questa someday serving tourists and locals alike.

Tate's Devine Landscaping

After years of experience helping family with yard work and shoveling, Tate Danis is taking his knowledge to form Questa's newest landscaping

and snow removal company. If you're a landlord, property manager, or an older person in Questa who needs an extra hand, Tate will have you covered. Possibly starting as early as this summer, if you have moving, weeding, or general landscaping needs—and on weekends throughout the winter if you need snow removal in Questa—you can rely on Tate's Devine Landscaping.

If you see any of these burgeoning entrepreneurs this summer, be sure to encourage them in their entrepreneurial journey. After all, small businesses are the backbone of our economy. And thank you to AshLeigh, Danielle, Mark, and Tate for their creativity and enthusiasm this semester. Best wishes to you all in your future entrepreneurial endeavors!

Red River Student Wins State Writing Contest

By KIMBERLY RITTERHOUSE

Having the students back on campus in person at Red River Valley Charter School has been wonderful! It is great seeing the students, hearing their laughter, and watching them reconnect with one another. One of our 8th grade students, Haddi Rychlik, entered a state writing contest and was awarded 2nd place. She was one of eight state finalists in Level 2. See the New Mexico Letters About Literature site at <https://letters-aboutliterature.nmculture.org/> to read about the contest, the state champions, the winning letters, the state judges, and view the virtual awards ceremony with the state champions.

Here are excerpts from the notification letter Haddi received from the New Mexico State Library bureau chief and NM Letters About Literature coordinator Lori Smith Thornton: The judges read many well written and thoughtful letters. They made the following comments about your letter: "used good personal expression; demonstrated reading helped her understand and gain insight; used good letter format; thoughtful, reflective, questioning, touching, and spoke to the judges." You should be proud of this recognition. Thank you for sharing your thoughts about the book you chose to write about and for entering the Letters About Literature competition. Keep reading and writing!

HADDI 'S WINNING SUBMISSION
January 6, 2021

Dear Mr. Thurber,

I read the short story, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," during my school class this year. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" changed my feelings on how I



Courtesy Photo

Eighth grade student Haddi Rychlik of Red River Valley Charter School.

perceive people. Your short story opened my eyes to fully see what people may be going through privately. Human beings might tend to hide their feelings or what they're going through just like Walter. I never took into consideration that individuals shove their personal life away and put on a smile no matter what they are withstanding. Normal people that you might be so quick to judge and call "crazy" or "unstable" might be having troubles that no one cares to talk about or even ask about. The individual themselves might not even want to talk to someone because they might feel misunderstood or ashamed.

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" got me really thinking about it and looking through things at different angles. When I look back at the story, I realize that individuals that you think you know could need help but they don't ask. Your short story also got me thinking about how I view myself. How am I so oblivious to what's going on around me? I can recognize that if I need help I should ask because it can be dangerous. The

people around

me can't read my mind and help me if I don't open up.

In my own experience, I had a family friend that was always smiling and making jokes. He was the life of the party and just fun to be around. Like Walter, he seemed like a normal human being. No one knew that deep down he was in a rough state which ended up in

him taking his own life. The boy who seemed happier than most was fighting his own demons all alone because no one checked on him and just assumed he was doing fine since he covered up with a smile. This made me realize that what you see on the outside is not always what's on the inside. He and Walter alike didn't go to anyone and talk about what was going on.

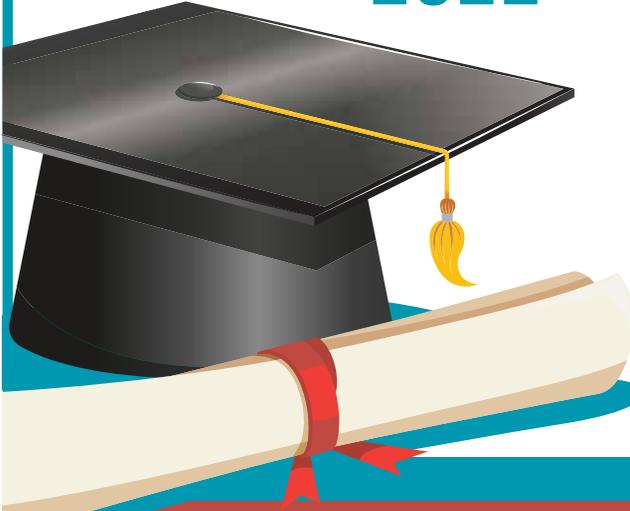
I was wondering what your inspiration was for this story? Have you had personal experiences or are you just addressing real life issues that people aren't recognizing?

I know you are really busy so I wanted to thank you for taking time out of your day to read this letter. I also wanted to thank you for writing stories like these to remind us that life isn't quite what it appears to be. I hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,
Haddi

Kimberly Ritterhouse is the School Administrator for Red River Valley Charter School, contact her at (575) 754-6117 ext. 130

CONGRATULATIONS QUESTA GRADUATES 2021



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OVER THE SANTA FE TRAIL TO MEXICO: THE TRAVEL DIARIES AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF DR. ROWLAND WILLARD

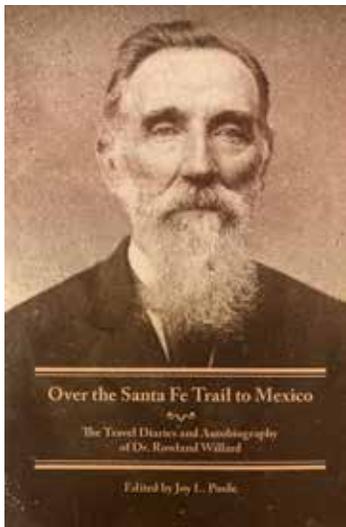
By ROWLAND WILLARD, EDITED BY JOY L. POOLE

Few Americans knew much about New Mexico when Dr. Rowland Willard (1784–1874) set out on his journey from St. Charles, Missouri, where he had recently completed a medical apprenticeship. The growing commerce with the southwest presented opportunities for the ambitious doctor. On his first day travelling the plains of the Santa Fe Trail, he met the mountain man Hugh Glass, who regaled Willard with stories of his wilderness experiences. This colorful



Courtesy Photo

Joy L. Poole



character, Hugh Glass was portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio in the movie *The Revenant*).

Conducting a physical examination of Glass, Dr. Willard provides the only eyewitness medical account of Glass's deformities resulting from a grizzly bear attack. Willard refers to the mountain man as Father Glass, a testimony to his age. Willard goes on to practice medicine in Taos, visits Santa Fe, and treats the governor, then travels south to El Paso del Norte. His diary reveals a Camino Real paraje (overnight camping spot) that historians did not know existed in the 1820s. Dr. Willard arrived in Chihuahua during a measles epidemic and treated patients in Mexico for two more years before returning to Missouri in 1828.

The Santa Fe Trail and Camino Real took Willard on the journey of a lifetime. This account recalls the early days of Santa Fe Trail and Camino Real trade, and westward American migration, when a doctor from Missouri could cross paths with mountain men, traders, Mexican clergymen, and government officials on their way to new opportunities.

Throughout his travels Willard kept a diary that was edited into this fascinating book by Joy L. Poole. This book was first published in 2015 and this 2021 edition marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail trade route. Joy Poole is giving lectures to various organizations around the state and along the trail regarding its history.

Joy L. Poole is Deputy State Librarian for the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe, and former Director of El Camino Real International Heritage Center, Museum of New Mexico. She co-founded the Santa Fe Trail Association and served on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Advisory Council for the National Park Service – Long Distance Trails. An award-winning librarian and museum director, Joy has worked with the National Park Service, numerous state and local historic sites, various western trail associations, research libraries, museums, and humanities councils. She has discovered, researched, and edited numerous travel diaries on the Santa Fe and Chihuahua trail portion of El Camino Real. She is also the author of Great Plains Cattle Empire: The Thatcher Brothers, 1875-1945.



From THE DESK OF SHARON NICHOLSON, LIBRARIAN

We have an expanded library! After years of discussion and planning, the dream of growing our Questa Public Library became a reality. First came the process of getting support from the state legislature. Funding and contract negotiations were next. After the groundbreaking in August 2020, nearly eight months of construction through rain, mud, snow, and COVID-19 inconveniences followed, but we did it!

In total, building our expansion took years. Now, thanks to funds raised by the Friends of the Questa Public Library, Go Bonds, state grant funds, and private donations, we are able to furnish and equip your new library space.

It will still be some time until we can say we are finally finished. We need concrete walks, a parking lot, landscaping, and a lot of renovation to the original building. But look at where we were last May and look where we are now. More space, more functionality, more of everything! Watch for information about our restored programs and the Grand Opening, coming soon. It is big. It is beautiful. It is ours, Questa!



Courtesy Photo

Shown is the NEW Questa Public Library expansion, now open!

Questa Library Presents “Tails and Tales”

By MARGARET LEJUSTE

After a year off due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Questa Public Library is pleased to announce its 2021 summer reading program, “Tails and Tales.” Summer reading programs motivate school-aged children to maintain and increase their reading skills during summer vacation.

This year’s program will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays of four consecutive weeks beginning June 7 and ending June 30. Activities will include games, crafts, story times, science projects, entertainment, and of course, reading! Scheduled guests include Taos Twirl, Puppeteer Christine

Masoliver, and The Party People. Children are encouraged to attend each day, but it is not mandatory. All COVID-safe protocols will be followed

Because this is a public library, there is no charge to participants. Registration for “Tails and Tales” began on April 29. For more information, call the library at (575) 586-2023.

Tails and Tales is made possible through a grant from the Chevron’s Environmental Management Company Questa Project, which has sponsored the library’s annual summer reading program since its inception.





**ENCHANTED
EATS**

BUBBA'S BAR-B-QUE
By LOU MCCALL

Bubba's Bar-B-Que's loyal customers will be excited to hear that Questa's favorite food truck is back! Our readers remember the distinctive black truck parked on Highway 522, in front of the old Movies at Home building. Chef Kambrel Coleman is also excited to start serving his authentic southern barbecue again, starting Memorial Day weekend. It has been a rough year for barbecue lovers, but help is on the way!

Like most food service businesses, things changed during the pandemic; Kam's was no exception. A large part of his business was catering and this past year saw no special events or large catered gatherings. Now people are starting to plan summer events and Bubba's Bar-B-Que is springing into action. Kam's catering clients include State Representative Bobby Gonzales, the RCCLA Annual Picnic, local contractors, weddings, graduations and many other events.

Before the pandemic, Saturday was BBQ Day in Questa, so Kam's hoping his faithful customers will be back this summer on Saturdays to make up for lost time! Bubba's Bar-B-Que will be taking the business to the next level— Bubba's is ramping up for a busy season: the plan is to expand into a full-time operation



Courtesy Photo

Grandson Bubba with his enthusiastic smiles and love for his grandpa and grandpa's bar-b-que!

for the summer. Kam loves Questa and is happy to have such a supportive home base. He hopes to stay parked here, if business allows. He also serves the Taos area for special events, such as music festivals.

Kam grew up in a traditional southern family with roots in Louisiana and Arkansas. He got his passion for cooking from his grandmother. She would cook for the whole neighborhood, so if you stopped by, you better be hungry! Cooking and celebrating southern cooking were a huge part of growing up. Kam started cooking when he was 10 or 11 years old. He helped his mother in the kitchen and she taught him the fundamentals. Kam's two uncles studied culinary arts, and the whole family was involved with their catering business. Kam says that the food experience is something he loves to share, it gives his life meaning to see people enjoy food, making him happy to see people "eat happy."



Courtesy Photo

Kam Coleman with Senator Bobby Gonzales who loves Bubba's bar-b-que.

Fifteen years ago, Kam and his wife Dina and their family moved to Questa. Kam managed the Red River Chalet food and beverage department and catered for the Lobos ski team and other ski area events. His clients consistently encouraged him to go into business for himself. Carl Hodges, the founder and original owner of Shotgun Willies in Red River was an important mentor to Kam and hired him to cook at the Red River Ski Area. Hodges was very supportive and motivated Kam to step out and start his first business. Bubba's Bar-B-Que launched in 2016, it has been a fun ride. He named it after his first grandson, the adorable Bubba, who loves barbecue and is the business's poster boy. Kids love barbecue, says Kam, and it brings him joy to see big smiles, especially on kids' faces.

Bubba's Bar-B-Que is what Kam calls "Real South." The menu consists of beef brisket, pork spareribs, chicken, smoked link sausages, and occasionally smoked

turkey legs. Kam says his potato salad is hands down the best in the world. He can't take credit for it, though, he says, as it's the family recipe he inherited. He says there are people in the world who hate potato salad, but they love his, and are converted!

Other side dishes on the menu are homemade coleslaw and meatless barbecue beans, for the vegetarians out there. The traditional accompaniment for southern barbecue is what is known as "a slice of white," and Bubba's serves dinner rolls. As Kam explores ways to expand the business, he may offer vegetarian collard greens and other specialty sides.

Memorial Day weekend marks the official start of barbecue season. Along with the Fourth of July and Labor Day, the close of barbecue season, Memorial Day is in the top three for the amount of barbecue consumed. So, come celebrate Memorial Day with Bubba's hometown cooking.

Some of the comments from Bubba's customers include, "Five-star meal all the way... huge portion, and amazing flavor!" "What a great addition to Questa and Taos County!" "This guy has the taste for some smokin' food... don't pass this up!"

But don't take their word for it—try Bubba's Bar-B-Que for yourself, starting Memorial Day weekend. Keep an eye out for the black food truck in Questa, across Hwy 522 from the Questa Center Supermarket.

Would you like to have your event catered with some delicious southern style barbecue? Kam can do it. Contact Kam at (575) 495-0762 or kamcoleman1@gmail.com and visit Bubba's Bar-B-Que on Facebook.



**PHOTO
OF THE
MONTH**

Men threshing wheat in Questa.
Courtesy National Archives, photo
521836 Photographer: Irving
Rusinow, Questa, NM circa 1941

e-mail news@questaedf.com
(don't forget to include a caption
and your name)

Positive Growth at Questa EMS, with Raynelle Sanchez Cordova

By CYNTHIA NAJIM

While you are eating, sleeping, working, in school, on vacation, enjoying holidays, and relaxing in your armchair, one agency is always on call and ready to respond. Questa Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is on duty 24/7 and jumps into action whenever someone dials 911. We don't often think about their commitment and service until the crisis involves one of our own loved ones. These skilled and caring emergency medical practitioners show up at a moment's notice to save lives, regardless of what the awaiting scene may hold.

Running a smooth EMS operation is no easy feat. It involves hiring, motivating, and training qualified personnel and volunteers. Seamless scheduling to ensure that every shift is amply covered is a puzzle on its own. Equipment acquisition, maintenance, and sanitization also require constant attention. All vehicles must be clean, fully supplied, and in optimal running condition to immediately respond at any hour of the day or night. This includes being thawed and warm in winter.

The time-consuming tasks of billing and budgeting affect the financial stability of the organization. Every emergency response is followed by a mountain of paperwork, critical documentation to track and uphold high standards—not just for medical services, but also the adherence to strict protocols and communication procedures. That list hasn't even touched on community interaction and public perception.

When *Questeña* Raynelle Sanchez Cordova took the reins as Director of Questa EMS on December 5, 2017, she knew the learning curve would be steep. Her first day happened to be the first day of the water outage in Questa, which lasted two weeks! She fearlessly stepped up and faced the challenges, guided by her innate drive to serve with excellence.

Raynelle was exposed to the demands of emergency medical care from a young age: her mother, Annette Sanchez, was (and still is) a career paramedic and nurse. Raised on a ranch by grandparents John and Viola Sanchez, aunt Arlene Sanchez; and as the oldest of five brothers and two sisters, Raynelle understands the value of family, community, and responsibility; being there for each other no matter what! To this day, she weaves that philosophy into her work, crew, and the people she helps.

Her favorite subjects in school were science, biology, and chemistry. She was



Vilma Bailón

Questa EMS Director Raynelle Sanchez Cordova proudly shows off their newly expanded fleet on April 29, 2020.

fascinated by animal anatomy, which she learned on the ranch. Upon graduating from high school, she chose the medical field and pursued internships in different facilities. Her most eye-opening position was as emergency room secretary at Holy Cross Hospital in Taos, which she almost quit after two weeks, given the trauma she witnessed. But she persevered and gained knowledge of medications, pathology, disease processes, and more. Ever hungry to learn, four years later she became an emergency medical technician (EMT) at the basic and then intermediate levels. After 12 years at the ER, she left to work full-time for Taos County Ambulance as EMT and part-time as EMT and firefighter for the Questa Volunteer Fire Department.

At the age of 24, Raynelle had her first child, daughter Kalena. Later, she and her husband, Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova, welcomed daughters Kaylei and Kynlei. This began Raynelle's ongoing juggling act as wife, mother, medical student, and employee, and she makes it appear effortless!

Her next big career step was paramedic school at Eastern New Mexico University in Roswell, from 2018-2020. Every week for 18 months, Raynelle drove four hours to Roswell after finishing her shift in Taos to attend three intensive days of classroom and clinicals, with rotations through Labor & Delivery, Burns, Trauma, ER, Surgery, EMS, and Fire Service. Every day before class, she went to the hospital from 6 – 8:30 am seeking opportunities to fulfill the requirement to perform 10 intubations.

For the following four exhausting years, Raynelle completed her internship at the busy Española Valley EMS, driving there for a 48-hour shift, directly after her 36-hour shift in Taos. On the front line,

she provided medical care for shootings, strokes, multiple drug overdoses, a double fatal car accident, and myriad other incidents. Raynelle's beloved family and one of her favorite quotes from Nelson Mandela got her through this trying period: "It always seems impossible until it's done."

In April 2015, prior to paramedic school, Raynelle was in a serious car accident caused by a drunk driver. The head injuries she sustained still plague her today. She has courageously learned how to adapt to these setbacks and will never stop fully engaging with life.

Now she's in charge of Questa EMS, whose broad service area encompasses 1,000 square miles, from north of San Cristobal through La Lama, Questa, Cerro, Latir, Sunshine Valley, Costilla, Amalia/Ventero and to mile marker 7 on NM State Hwy 38. This busy center, which is subsidized by the Village of Questa, responded to 437 calls in 2018, Raynelle's first full year. At the time of this writing, in 2021 there have been 155 calls.

Raynelle has increased revenues by refining the billing process and bringing the burdensome followup on outstanding bill payments in-house. She has secured a roster of two full-time paid staff and 30 responders—two people covering 10-hour day shifts and two on 14-hour night shifts.

Proudly, their fleet has grown as well. The newest addition, a 2019 Ford F450 with a fully equipped ambulance box on top, was made possible through funding efforts by Village of Questa Mayor Mark Gallegos and Councilman Charlie Gonzalez. The physical base of Questa EMS has also been transformed by sweat equity and generous donations. All equipment and furnishings (except for computers) were grants, gifts, or hand-me-downs. There



Kaylei Cordova

Assistant Questa Fire Chief Raynelle Sanchez Cordova tests equipment in Questa on August 21, 2020

are even staff quarters at the facility so the crew can cook, rest, and shower.

Raynelle sets a high bar for everyone. Beyond these ceaseless responsibilities, she is Assistant Chief of Questa Volunteer Fire Department, EMS Chief of Cerro Volunteer Fire Department, and Assistant EMS Chief of Latir Volunteer Fire Department.

Mayor Gallegos is very pleased with her abundant contributions to the Questa EMS organization and to the broader community. "Raynelle wholeheartedly addresses and overcomes every issue and inspires her team to deliver professional emergency medical services to whom-ever is in need. We all benefit from their sense of duty, badge of excellence, and dedication."

In addition to her arsenal of technical expertise, one of Raynelle's most endearing qualities is humility. She operates confidently yet quietly behind the scenes and showers her staff, volunteers, and patients with great compassion and caring. Her motto: "I won't let you fail." May we extend her the same, as she is now recovering from a painful knee injury that requires surgery and which has sidelined her from the action.

Questa EMS: 2500 NM State Hwy 522
Questa, NM (575) 586-0250



CAROLINE YEZER: BUILDING A CULTURE OF RECIPROCITY

By DONNA MITCHELL-MONIAK

Caroline Yezer's exuberance is matched by the sparkle in her eyes and her smile. Authenticity is a quality that our Volunteers of the Month exhibit. Like others, Caroline moves from a deep faith in humanity and a belief in the most precious wealth there is: an all-embracing concern for others.

Caroline's bilingual skills were part of what carried her from here to there, gathering life experiences that would become the foundation of a life of service. Peru was the location for field work pertinent to Caroline's doctorate in Latin American Studies and Cultural Anthropology. Living among the Quechua people, Caroline witnessed and participated in what she calls a culture of reciprocity, not unlike that found here in New Mexico. It is a theme that would become vital

in her professional and volunteer work, because reciprocity benefits all members of a society, a household, a workplace, or a community.

In the model of reciprocity, everyone contributes as they can, and no one is left out. This way of life and work or organizing information and roles is not based on competition or structured with a strict hierarchy. Most of the indigenous people of the planet still live and thrive using this inclusive and mutually supportive way of living. Due to her first-hand experience, Caroline said that she senses "a growing spirit: building a reciprocal society that builds upon older ideas formalized for now."

This ideal took on a new shape during the early months of the pandemic. Organized platforms of reliable information did not exist prior to the pandemic, and were not in place when urgently needed.

As we all recall, Italy was hit terribly by COVID-19 during the early weeks of the virus' spread across the globe. Caroline's sister lived in Milan, Italy and complete lockdowns were implemented quickly. This prompted Caroline to act. She created a Facebook page, Taos and Vicinity Community Group.

Connecting people in the communi-

ty to discuss needs and share whatever could be shared led to the creation of TaosConnects, which Caroline helped create and currently manages. She works with Taos tech developer Jason Seck and Erin Sandborn of Kit Carson Electric Co-op. It was created by Clean Taos' Genevieve Oswald, and is supported by County Commissioner Anjanette Brush, Taos' Paula Claycomb, and Taos Community Foundation's Helen Forte. The LOR Foundation and Taos Community Foundation fund the project.

TaosConnects is an online platform where people can submit a need and others can provide for that need. It also serves as an information platform in Taos County. Anyone who might have a little time to offer and wants to know how and where to volunteer can use TaosConnects. Examples include: Earth Day Clean-Up on April 20, Read Aloud to Students, helping out with Little Free Libraries, mentoring for K-8th grade children, and more. Please go to <https://app.vomo.org/org/taos-connects> to see how you might offer some time or old books or help to clean up your community.

Caroline also works for the the group Taos Immigrant Allies: "helping people especially hard hit during COVID-19."



Courtesy Photo

Caroline Yezer, May's volunteer of the month.

Being bilingual, she assists people with filling out forms to register for vaccinations, helping them find a doctor, and providing ways to get to the doctor's office. She also helps arrange for payment plans for utilities. Additionally, Caroline volunteers with the Questa del Rio News and is a wonderful writer.

Friends, as COVID-19 eases, there will be a surge of need in every community. Please use resources like TaosConnects, <https://app.vomo.org/org/taos-connects>, to find out what those needs are and how you can help. It takes a village of people to support a village!



DID YOU KNOW?

As you have seen in the news, bed bugs are making a terrifying comeback, both nationally and regionally, causing an estimated \$500 million in costs per year.

In 2015, 64 reported infestations of bed bugs occurred in properties in Taos County. Lodges and rental properties lost thousands in legal fees, treatments, and lost rental income.

If you own a rental property, you must consider using Active Guard bed liners as your best defense against these prolific intruders. Active Guard bed liners are the only bedding product that kills bed bugs and dust mites. Don't leave your property unprotected!

When you stay at a hotel, ask if they use Active Guard bed liners. If they don't, stay somewhere else.

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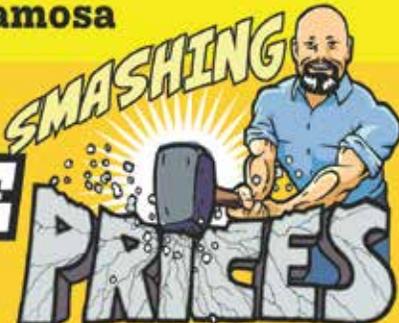
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MESSAGE FROM HARVEST QUESTA
By PASTOR KRISTI GONZALES

As I stood behind the keyboard on Easter Sunday, I glanced at the worship team to see them looking confident and beautiful as they led people into the joyful praise of the Lord. People were worshiping in different ways: some with hands lifted high, some with heads bowed low, some kneeling, some sitting with eyes closed, and some with hands clasped, standing as though they didn't want to draw attention to themselves. Pastor Johnny read the spoken word rhythmically about the love of Jesus, and tears fell off soft cheeks throughout the crowd.

After the sermon and a prayer of

repentance and salvation, I invited six teens to sing about God for their first time. In a room with over 70 people, the teens sang with conviction these words, "Oh God, I need you. Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips." Their youth, their courage, their worship BOOMED against the walls and pulled on my heart! I pinched myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming. The applause from all who witnessed these teens was loud and tangible. I dreamt of what could be next from them.

After the service, a tall man walked quickly toward me. He was wearing a leather vest, and black leather boots with a keychain hanging from his belt loop. He had a stern look on his face, so I braced myself for what might come out of his mouth. Pointing his finger toward the sky and then at me, he began to weep and tell me how God spoke to him through the sermon. I cried with him as he shared the pain of his past and we thanked God for extending His marvelous love and healing balm. In that moment, it felt like warm paint pouring down from heaven over our heads.

God was still moving in the hearts of the people, even though the service was "dismissed." I warmly said goodbye as people left the church. Like a mom sending her children off on a holiday, my heart was sad because my children had other places to go, and some of my children didn't make it to Sunday service. No, not my actual children—my spiritual children. As tempting as it was to get on the phone at the moment to call them, I returned to the rest of the children who stayed... my spiritual children AND actual children.

I welcomed two women who I had never seen before and invited them to stay for the potluck. One of them said, "Can we use your kitchen on Saturday?" I wasn't sure for what, but I emphatically answered "Yes!" They were excited! To be honest, I was wondering what I had just got myself into. Later, one of the women explained to me that they were going to use the kitchen to cook meat for a potluck we were having the following week. I wasn't expecting that!

Thank you to all of Harvest Questa for your love and acceptance of everyone

who walks through the doors. Thank you to all who brought friends, prayed, gave, loved, and served! Thank you! You make this mama happy. Our heavenly Father smiles on us.

To those of you who have read this far and have ever stepped into Harvest Questa, or haven't been home in a while, I invite you. Come. We meet Sundays at 11 am, at 2558 Highway 522, on the north side of Questa.

For Mother's Day, Harvest Questa will host a free family photo booth from 9:30 – 11 am. Each family will receive a digital copy of their professional photo via email and one 4" x 6" photo print at the following Sunday service. Thank you to Lita Mead Photography and Elijah Rael Photography who are donating their professional photography skills. Thank you, Harvest Questa, for making Mother's Day special!

Kristi Gonzales has been in ministry for over 20 years and serves as Lead Pastor of Harvest Questa along with her husband, Pastor Johnny Gonzales. Kristi and Johnny live in their hometown of Questa with their four children: Izziah, Micah, Mariah, and Zachariah. Learn more at harvestquesta.org



History of Memorial Day
By Harris B.

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day. It was established three years after the Civil War by Major General John A. Logan. The Major General declared it to be remembered every May 30th. In 1868 Decoration Day was a day to remember those who died serving our country. People decorated graves with flowers and the first ceremony took place at Arlington National Cemetery. Memorial Day was established as a national holiday after World War I, and it became

a federal holiday in 1971. Now Memorial Day is held on the last Monday of every May. Flags are placed at graves and the President visits the National Cemetery.



*From Alta Vista 5th Graders
Thank you to teacher, Mr. John Walsh*

My Mom

We all have moms but mine is the best
I truly think she is better than the rest!
I love her to the moon and back
And that's a matter of fact.
She is funny and smart
But the thing I love the most
Is that she has the biggest heart.
I love you mom.

Ryan A.

To my mom with love

You are my mom and I will never forget you
You will always be in my heart forever
I will never let you go, and you will never be alone
I'm there when you need me, and you are there
when I need you the most
I got your back, and you got mine
We will never be separated throughout are lives

Amber A.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is a day to celebrate with you mother and is a fun day. On Mother's Day you can buy gifts and you can decorate and play games. Mother's Day is on Sunday May 9. It's a day to have fun with your family and friends, but mostly your Mother. So, think about what you're going to do for Mother's Day.

Sierra O.





MAY MOVIE REVIEW:
PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN

The first scene that director and writer Emerald Fennell first imagined for this movie sets the tone for one of the most intriguing thrillers I have seen in a long time. But it is also not just a thriller. It shifts from comedy to crime mystery, and in other scenes it becomes an incisive commentary on the male-privileged culture that invites assault on women. This is a movie that men especially need to see. It does a terrific job of exposing the fallacy of assumptions that supposedly “promising young men” make as they pursue the path of callous sexual pursuit.

The scene portrays a drunken young woman, sprawled on a bed, having difficulty keeping her head up while a man tries to take her panties off. Slurring her words, she stutters, “What are you doing?” The man continues, unfazed. A few moments later, with a sure voice and a stone-cold sober tone, she asks again, “What are you doing?” This time, the man is completely taken aback and sits back, shocked and speechless. The woman, it turns out, had never been drunk before. And the man, now derailed in his purpose, hasn't the faintest idea what to do or say.

The film is so much more than a shocking first scene; it is genuinely fun! Emerald Fennell is an unknown to me because I don't watch much television. She is probably best known as an actress in the BBC series *Call the Midwife* and the Netflix series, *The Crown*. This is her debut as a director/writer of a feature film and she has scored a knockout. The film's nomination for Best Picture and her nominations for directing and writing suggest that she has talent that we will hopefully be seeing a lot more of. She brings to this genre of films a female perspective that is much needed, refreshing, and entertaining.

Promising Young Woman is not your simple rape/revenge movie; the violence is not front and center. There is some blood—or is that ketchup from a hot dog? This is not the kind of violence that would normally permeate this kind of movie. Instead, it is symbolized in the form of red marks in a diary, left to the imagination, rather than splashed against the camera lens.

The tone of this film is an amazing study in contrasts. Instead of violence, we get almost a feeling of bubblegum innocence. The color palette of the film is like that of a clown, with reds—yes, but also pinks, blues, and greens. The music includes nearly perfect references to songs like Paris Hilton's “Stars are Blind” or Britney Spear's “Toxic.” Female pop culture is an integral element on both sides of the camera lens.

All these elements come together to create a movie with remarkable tonal shifts. It is a romantic comedy, especially in the middle sequences, suggesting that Cassie might be emerging from her deepest and darkest feelings. At other times, it feels like a mental mystery, contorting our minds to understand the characters' motivations and complex thoughts. Sometimes Cassie is nothing more than a sophisticated comic,

making us laugh at how obvious her targets have become. And then, when the movie is most successful, it exposes its identity as a twisted thriller. Fennell and editor Frederic Thoravel succeed in moving us all over the emotional spectrum; it is one of those movies where you sit on the edge of your seat, unwilling to pause for popcorn, and then think about it for days afterwards.

And how about the character Cassie? Carrey Mulligan is not exactly a world-famous actress; her usual performances have always been understated, until this one. Perhaps what has earned her a Best Actress nomination is precisely because her acting style fits the role so perfectly. This is not a role for a front-and-center actress who hogs the limelight. Instead, it requires someone who is both reserved and incredibly intelligent; Mulligan fits the bill perfectly. At one point, one of the “promising young men” says, “It's every man's worst nightmare, getting accused of something like that.” Mulligan, as Cassandra, replies just perfectly, “Can you guess what every woman's worst nightmare is?” When Mulligan says it, the reflection of intelligence, pain, and determination is just so clear. (4.5 Stars.)

My Grandmother Maria Eusebia Espinoza

By SANDIE SEGURA WESOLOWSKI

Maybe you have heard the saying, "Grandmothers are the glue that hold the family together." In my family this was most definitely true. When my grandmother was alive, our family had more get-togethers and time together than after she passed away.

My grandmother, Maria Eusebia Espinoza, was born in 1914 in Cerro, New Mexico. Maria was the only child of Telesforo Espinoza and Rosita Salazar. Sadly, my grandmother lost her father Telesforo when she was only 16 years old. Maria took care of her mother Rosita when she was older because Rosita had lost her eyesight, until she passed away. My grandmother then married Jose Procopio Segura sometime in the 1930s and they had 10 children.

When I think back to my memories of my grandma, I always picture her with a smile on her face—every time we saw her, she was smiling. I cannot recall her ever getting angry or staying mad at anyone. I am sure she probably did get upset or angry, but I can't say I remember seeing it.

When I was born, we lived in Cerro, but we moved away when I was about four years old. Even though we lived in Denver, we came to visit my grandparents often. It never mattered what time we showed up at my grandparents' house—my grandmother came outside to hug and greet us. Grandma was always happy to get visits from her children and grandchildren.

You could always count on grandma making big meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I remember seeing her make tortillas so quickly! and it was almost a daily task for her. I loved my grandma's tortillas because they were so thick; I cannot even come close to making tortillas the way she did. Even the daily staples of beans and potatoes were so good, as well. While at grandma's you were expected to eat a lot, because if you didn't grandma would tell you that she wouldn't eat at your house when she went to visit. It was hard for me to eat at



Courtesy Photo

The little girl is Maria Eusebia Espinoza with her grandmother Maria Francisca "Sista" Santistevan



Courtesy Photo

Maria Eusebia Espinoza

times because I wasn't used to having so much food three times a day.

My grandma only spoke Spanish and most of the grandchildren only spoke English, but it didn't matter at all. Some of my aunts and uncles lived at home and would translate for us. When I look back, I wish I would have known more Spanish. Even though grandma only knew Spanish, one of her favorite shows on television was General Hospital. I never asked, but have wondered if she really knew what was going in the show.

A special thing that my grandma used to do for the grandchildren when they visited was give us each a dollar so we could walk to the store and buy candy. To some this may not sound like much, but to me it was a great thing for her to do. Of course, a dollar back then bought so much more than it does now. With all the grandchildren my grandma had, I am sure she saved money just for our visits.

When I got older there were a few times where I got to spend a week or two staying with my grandma. By this time my grandfather Procopio had suffered a stroke and my grandmother was sleeping in my aunt's room. Grandma and aunt would share a bed and I would be in a twin bed. My aunt would tell me scary stories and I would get scared and ask to change places with my aunt, but she wouldn't want to. Grandma would ask what was going on and, in the end, I would end up in bed with them. Grandma never complained, even though I would end up sleeping with them most of the visit.

Sadly, in 1981 we lost my grandfather, and in less than a year we lost my grandmother Maria. I was unable to attend my grandma's funeral because on the day she passed away I got chicken pox. Even though it has been 32 years since my grandmother died, I am very thankful for all my memories of her, our family, and Cerro. What makes a place like Cerro special? For me, my answer is that it is the people. The people I have encountered in Cerro have made the place even more special for me.

Local Newspaper for Local People ADVERTISING HERE!

CALL OR E-MAIL US FOR RATES! QUESTADELRIONEWSADS@GMAIL.COM OR (575) 586-2258

Need space for your business? The Questa Business Park is ready for you!

A GRAND ACHIEVEMENT: THE QUESTA BUSINESS PARK

Chevron congratulates the Village of Questa on the completion of the Questa Business Park.

This is a strong example of what can be accomplished by local, state, and federal partnerships with the private sector. Chevron is pleased to have participated as a funder and we are pleased to continue supporting Questa as it transitions to a diverse and sustainable post-mining economy. A job well done by Mayor Gallegos, the village council, the village staff, and the Questa Economic Development Fund.



"We are proud to say that all of our snacks are made in a 10,000 square foot, 100% solar-powered production facility in Questa, NM. The Business Park has been phenomenal for us! We're thrilled to see construction completed and look forward to having other businesses join us here in the Business Park," said Kyle Hawari, CEO of Taos Bakes.



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

RENEE MARTINEZ cont'd from page 1

have been able to serve this community in different capacities for the last 21 years,” said Martinez.

Renee was nominated by her colleagues and leadership at the Village of Questa. The final selection was made by the Executive Board of the New Mexico Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association; she was chosen from a field of 103 New Mexico municipal clerks. This is not her first award: Renee was awarded Court Clerk of the Year by the New Mexico Court Clerks Association in 2018.

The NMCFO Association nomination form explains, “The purpose of this award is to identify and recognize a member of the Municipal Clerks and

Finance Officers Association who has made an enhancement to the clerk’s own community or municipal government, made a significant contribution to the objectives of the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association in New Mexico, the advancement of the municipal clerks’ profession, and/or the promotion of municipal government in New Mexico.” Additional considerations for exceptional achievement also carried weight, including years of service as a municipal clerk and in local government, previous awards and accomplishments, and specific activities within the Association, among others.

Courtesy Photo

Mayor Mark Gallegos presenting Renee Martinez with her award for NM Clerk of the Year.



Get Help with Rent or Utility Bills: Are You Behind?

FROM CAROLE CLARK,
LOS ALAMOS DAILY POST
NEW MEXICO EMERGENCY
RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
| NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION,
AND REP. KRISTINA ORTEZ,
D-TAOS

Representatives Kristina Ortez (D-42), Andrea Romero (D-46) and Joanne Ferrary (D-37) introduced legislation in late January, aimed at helping thousands of New Mexico families who have fallen behind on paying their utility bills during the pandemic. House Bill 206 intended to provide relief to New Mexicans impacted by COVID-19 who have been unable to stay current on their electric, natural gas, and water bills.

Although the bill did not pass, Ortez points out there is help on the way,

through the emergency rental assistance program website. This program began on April 5 of this year. The state of New Mexico has allocated \$170 million of federal aid, available to New Mexicans for rental and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak. (You can apply online at www.renthelpnm.org, or call 1-833-485-1334 to speak to a representative.)

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program covers:

- Rent
- Utility bills, this includes electric and gas
- Water and sewer
- Trash removal, fuel oil, wood and pellets
- Other expenses related to housing costs such as hotel/motel costs

You are eligible if you are

- Obligated to pay rent; AND are able to demonstrate current primary residence in a housing unit in New Mexico
- Able to show a financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Under the household income limit that falls under the COVID-19 Housing Cost Assistance Program Income Limits
- Unemployed and/or receiving unemployment benefits (optional)
- Able to demonstrate risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Able to demonstrate rent and

utility obligations incurred since March 30, 2020

Applicants are required to provide documentation showing:

- The applicant is renting a residential dwelling
- That the applicant lives in New Mexico
- That the applicant has been indirectly or directly impacted by COVID-19
- That at least one household member is at risk of homelessness or housing instability
- The applicant’s household is under the Program Income Limits

New Mexicans are really hurting. Many are choosing between paying their utility bills and purchasing food, and that’s not ok with me. Others can pay little or nothing and worry every day about their growing debt. —Rep. Kristina Ortez

March Winners of the NorthStar’s Puzzle Contest

By ELLEN WOOD, AD AGENCY FOR NORTHSTAR TIRE & AUTO

It was Sundance Stadtler’s turn to pick the two winners from among the entries for NorthStar Tire & Auto’s March crossword puzzle contest. He covered his eyes and drew two entries: one submitted by Juan and Donna Baca; the other by Jeannie Masters—winners of the free oil change.

Sundance’s workmates also did not peek while Malaquias “JR” Rael, general

manager of NorthStar, held the can of entries. All wore their masks and will continue wearing them until the pandemic is over.

This month’s NorthStar ad is a Word Search Puzzle in Spanish—but you don’t need to speak Spanish to solve it; just circle the words that are shown. The two winners of the May puzzle drawing will be announced in our paper’s July issue. No purchase is necessary to participate in the puzzle contest. It’s an opportunity to win a free oil change!



Ellen Wood

Malaquias “JR” Rael holds the can of contest entries, while Sundance Stadtler (center) picks one of the winners. Rodney Cordova (left) and Lucas Lovato (right) cover their eyes so they cannot see the winner until it’s announced.

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
MAY 2021

THE ZODIACAL PROGRESSION

"The reason most people fail instead of succeed, is they trade what they want most for what they want at the moment." —Napoleon Bonaparte

Isn't it interesting that we need to know who we are (Aries) and what we have (Taurus) before we can reach out to communicate with another? The zodiac wheel is a progression, whether viewing it through traditional astrology or esoteric. In esoteric astrology, Aries is the "I Am!" of existence, the recognition that even though I still remember I am of the Source, I have chosen to return to Earth to continue a Soul's journey begun many lifetimes ago.

My descent into the material world, represented by Taurus, is actually a descent into the attraction of and attachment to things that are not of the Source or me—except on the level of the creator of that item. Yet how desirous we can become of the things of this plane of existence. We can literally go backward and identify ourselves with things, losing our identity with the Source. But if we can appreciate the beauty and the muse-inspired creativity of the thing, now we are not attached to it, and see it for what it truly is, another bit of the Source, already a part of us regardless of ownership. We don't have to have it to enjoy it.

Then we shift into Gemini, the sign of conflict for the purpose of finding harmony, where instead of fighting over our toys we choose to share them and communicate our love and appreciation of the other, rather than a sense of difference, alienation, or competition for stuff. Communication becomes an exchange of ideas on ever higher levels as we reach out to assist one another in our evolution.

Everyone: Check out the Lunar Eclipse on May 26, total on the west coast, partial on the east.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: Despite the challenges you could ace this.
Direction: Direct the ball to the proper court.
Soul Thought: Tennis anyone?

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: A bargain may be had.
Direction: Be aware of how you dicker.
Soul Thought: The best bargains are good for buyer and seller.

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: It's a great time for sharing ideas that unite us.
Direction: Communication is your ally when you watch your words.
Soul Thought: When duality becomes one.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: You may not care for the light-hearted bantering of important things.
Direction: Catch the light and take it into the depths.
Soul Thought: Plato's Cave

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: A shift from needing to do, to needing to think.
Direction: Can you think and do at the same time?
Soul Thought: "White men are all crazy because they think with their heads instead of their hearts." —Navajo elder Mountain Lake

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: Changes are happening so quickly they're beginning to blur.
Direction: Enjoy the changes.
Soul Thought: "The only way to make sense of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance." —Alan Watts

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♃ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: This challenge is between the Big Picture and the Nitty Gritty details.
Direction: Determine how to marry the two.
Soul Thought: Bring THAT down to THIS? Or vice versa?

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: It may be time for a finale.
Direction: Meditation will help feel into it.
Soul Thought: Or just a musical interlude?

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♂ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: Midway through the month you shift into your own, long stride.
Direction: Focus that stride with will; no distractions.
Soul Thought: Journey into the Unknown

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: The shift of the Sun on May 21 could affect you profoundly.
Direction: Communication on new levels becomes possible.
Soul Thought: When anchors turn to wings.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: Midway through the month a big energy shift.
Direction: You may need to begin a new exercise program to keep yourself "up."
Soul Thought: "If you want to find the secrets of the universe, think in terms of energy, frequency, and vibration." —Nikola Tesla

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: It's a good month for seeing clearly and solidly what is going on.
Direction: Around you and in you.
Soul Thought: When cold feet warm up.

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.

QUESTA HISTORY TRAIL

Opening Celebration:
Questa History Trail

Saturday, JUNE 5

Guided Walk - 11:00 am
on National Trails Day

Meet at Questa's traffic light plaza,
corner of Hwys 522 & 38.

QuestaTrail.org

QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL questacreative.org

Logos for UAS, LEAP, ARTQUESTA, and Questa Creative Council.

Questa Farmers Market Begins Sunday May 30th

10am - 2pm

questafarmersmarket.org
(575) 224-2102

Visitor Center at NM Hwy 38

EBT/SNAP, WIC, DUFBA ACCEPTED!

Vendors Welcome

Questa Farmers Market logo with truck and QFM text.

Cerro Vista Farm

Vegetable and Flower Seedlings
Grown in Cerro

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

Plants for Sale

May 19, May 26
June 2, June 9, June 16

198 Lower Buena Vista Road, Cerro

Wednesdays - 3 pm to 6 pm

HELP WANTED

Taos Bakes is currently hiring. We pay fair, above-average wages that create stability and opportunities for our people to grow. Individuals interested in working with Taos Bakes please email info@taosbakes.com.

VILLAGE OF QUESTA:

Full-time receptionist for the Village of Questa. Must be a highly organized self-motivator, with good time management and communication skills, and the ability to multitask for clerical and record-keeping.

Full-time utility worker for the Village of Questa. Equipment operation, work in construction, maintenance, repair, and operation of village infrastructure, including streets, airport, parks and landscaped areas, sewers, water and wastewater systems.

Applications and complete job descriptions may be picked up at Village of Questa municipal offices or may be requested by calling (575) 586-0694 or emailing white@villageofquesta.org. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

Red River Brewing Company: Now hiring dependable line cooks. Looking for reliable and hard working people who thrive in a busy kitchen environment. Salary \$17.50 - \$21.50 hourly. Year round employment, with benefits. Full time or part time positions available. Apply now at www.redriverbrewing.com/hiring-information.

Paid trash picker-upper around specific dumpsters, very part-time. Begins immediately. Send email to lynn@questaedf.com, or call 575-586-2149 and leave a message.

Questa Del Rio News seeks part-time Social Media/Website coordinator, approximately 10 to 20 hours per month, work from home. Salary based on experience. Contact lynn@questaedf.com or (575) 586-2149.

Vida Del Norte Coalition is excited to collaborate with the Questa Schools to bring the Botvin LifeSkills Curriculum to students.

Vida Del Norte is **currently seeking an intern** to receive the LifeSkills Training and funding to eventually turn this into a full-time position so that we can reach more students with this prevention program. For information contact Vida Del Norte Director Maria Gonzalez at maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com or call (575) 779-2260.

Welding Instructor Needed to teach hands-on classes at the new Questa High School Welding Lab. Classes begin with the Fall 2021 semester. The class will be held on Fridays for 2-3 hours with max 10-12 students. Welding certification required; past welding instruction experience preferred. For more information, and to apply, contact Lynn Skall, Questa Economic Development Fund, (575) 586-2149.

FOR SALE

1906 Baby Grand Walnut-finish piano, Beckwith brand, very sturdy, plays well but needs restoration (new strings and hammers eventually). In El Rito; contact Martha at sheppmartha@gmail.com. Asking \$350.

NOTICES

Heads Up: Mandatory 10-digit Dialing Coming! To complete all local calls, you soon need to the dial area code plus the telephone number. This applies to all calls within your area code that are currently dialed with seven digits. See story on page 3.

North Central New Mexico Food Pantry: Distribution days are the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 9:00 am to noon. 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. For more information call (575) 586-0486. If you need an emergency food box please call: Jeannie Masters (586-0486 or 779-9194) or Nancy Parker (586-2096 or (505) 699-7563).

To make a donation go to <https://www.ncfpquesta.com/> or mail donation to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com.

Questa One-on-One Business Counseling Drop-in Hour by the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos with Anwar Kaelin. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL

no appointment needed. Third Thursday of every month, May 20 from 2 – 4 pm. Business owners, independent contractors, entrepreneurs in Questa can drop in for one-on-one business consulting and training. Planning, accessing capital, marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, international trade, and more.

<https://zoom.us/j/5757376219> Join by phone: +1 346 248 7799, Meeting ID: 575 737 6219. For specific appointments call 575-737-6219.

MAY QUOTE FROM LISA FOX

“The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why!”

—Mark Twain

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a writer, photographer, social media whiz, fundraiser or grant writer? We are always looking for contributors to the Questa Del Rio News! Wanna help? Contact us at news@questaedf.com or check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/QuestaNews/>

SCAM ALERT!
A MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not be fooled!

If you receive a suspicious call:

- HANG UP!
- DO NOT GIVE THEM MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION!
- REPORT THE SCAM AT OIG.SSA.GOV

DATES TO REMEMBER MAY 2021

MAY 3 2:00 - 2:30 pm
Bookmobile at Questa Post Office

MAY 4 6:00 pm
Questa Independent School District Board Meeting online via Zoom; call the Administrative Office for the Zoom link and access code to participate, (575) 586-0421.

MAY 6 6:00 pm
Free Passion to Profits Workshop featuring the presentation “Farming to Funding: Future food fundamentals. Join the workshop via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82723797091?pwd=M0svbHNacUJnNkpPZ2VkdTdqdnRtdz09> Or Call-in at (346) 248-7799. Meeting ID: 827 2379 7091 Passcode: 846370 For more information contact (575) 770-6275.

MAY 9 Mother’s Day

MAY 9 9:30 - 11:00 am
Mother’s Day Free Photography at Harvest Questa, 2558 Hwy 522. The photo booth will be from 9:30-11 AM. Each family will receive a digital copy of the photo via email and one 4x6 photo print the following Sunday. For questions, you may call Pastor Kristi at (575) 770-1714.

MAY 11 6:00 pm
Village of Questa Town Council Meeting online via Zoom; call the Village Office for the Zoom link and access code to “attend” the meeting, (575) 586-0694

MAY 12
CANCELED! Questa Business Entrepreneurial Networking Meeting (QBEN). No meeting in May, join us on June 9 for presentation from Taos Bakes.

MAY 12 6:30 pm
Baccalaureate Service for the Class of 2021, at Living Word Ministries,

12 Llano Rd. An in-person and Zoom event (meeting ID: 885 5755 3645)

MAY 14 9:00 am - noon
Free food for everyone at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486. Website: www.questafoodpantry.org.

MAY 15 10:00 am
Questa High School graduation. Space is limited and depending on the state COVID-19 protocols, seating may be limited and tickets may be required. Call Senior Class sponsor Maria Medina (575) 586-1604 for more information.

MAY 15 - 16
Enchanted Circle Trails Association: Trail Master Training (see story page 15)

MAY 17
New deadline for filing individual income taxes.

MAY 18 6:00 pm
Questa Independent School District Board Meeting online via Zoom; call the Administrative Office for the Zoom link and access for the meeting, (575) 586-0421.

MAY 20 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Free One-on-One Business Counseling with the Taos Small Business Development Center drop-in via Zoom, no appointment needed: <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219>; by phone: (346) 248-7799, Meeting ID: 575 737 6219. For specific appointments or more information call (575) 737-6219.

MAY 21 7:00 pm
Northern NM Music Past & Present - A CONCERT, live concert on Facebook @QuestaCreativeCouncil featuring musician Chris Arellano

and special guests. See story on Page 11 for more information.

MAY 24 3:30 pm
Questa Public Library Book Club meets at Rael’s Market, Biography or memoir; call library for more information (575) 586-2023

MAY 25 6:00 pm
Village of Questa Town Council Meeting online via Zoom; call the Village Office for the Zoom link and access code to attend the meeting, (575) 586-0694.

MAY 26
Partially visible lunar eclipse

MAY 27 - 31
Questa 17th Annual Veterans Field of Honor. Over 1,000 flags are erected in commemoration of our military servicemen and women at 2389 Highway 522 in Questa. For information call the Village of Questa (575) 586-0964 (see page 16).

MAY 27 - 31
39th Annual Red River Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally. For more information contact Red River Tourism Office at (575) 754-3030 or visitorcenter@redriver.org (see page 6).

MAY 28 9:00 am - noon
Free for everyone at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486. Website: www.questafoodpantry.org

MAY 28 10:00 am
The Questa Visitor Information Center opens for the summer season with area information, local merchandise, and public restrooms.

MAY 30 10:00 - 2:00 pm
First Day of the Questa Farmers Market. Questa Visitors Center parking lot. <https://questafarmersmarket.org/>

MAY'S WEEKLY ONGOINGS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:00 am Early Bird Yoga, online only, Yoga Sala Questa, http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/	4:00 - 5:00 pm Ballet for Kids, online only, http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/	9:00 am & 6:00 pm Gentle Morning Yoga, in person & online, http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/	10:00 am Gentle Morning Yoga, in person & online, http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/	1:00 - 3:00 pm Questa Village Yard, brush collection and chipper services. Contact the Village of Questa for more information (575) 586-0964	8:30 - 9:30 am Zumba, in person & online, http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/	
	5:30 pm Gentle Candle-lit Yoga, in person & online, http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/	3:00 - 6:00 pm Cerro Vista Farm, plant seedlings for sale. 198 Lower Buena Vista Rd, Cerro, NM https://cerrovistafarm.com/	5:30 pm Yoga Flow and Deep Stretch, in person & online, http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/	6:00 pm New Thirst group at Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Rd., Questa		
		6:00 pm Yoga for Strength, online only, http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/	6:00 pm Thursday Night Jam Session at Rael’s Market & Coffee House; bring your instrument to jam or just bring yourself and enjoy. Free! 2430 NM-Hwy 522 in Questa (575) 779-9249			

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EVENTS OR CALENDAR LISTINGS! NEWS@QUESTAEDF.COM



CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH

Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470
Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 7 am in Spanish,
11 am in English

MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:

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

HARVEST QUESTA

Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales
2558 Hwy 522
Sunday 11 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesday Women's Bible Study on Zoom 6 - 7 pm
Check newspaper calendar for evening prayer dates
Message us for Zoom links
Phone (575) 770-1714
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 10:30 am
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm
www.lwmsite.org
(575) 586-1587

PATH OF LOVE

Sunday 7:30 am class and meditation
Introductory Meditation Class Sunday 3 pm
(575) 586-1454, Hilece

THEOSOPHY

Sunday 10am Alice Bailey Theosophy Study Group
(575) 586-4641, Francis

QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

Tibetan Buddhism
Thursday 4 pm - Chenrezig
Friday 8 am - Green Tara
gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com
www.earthjourney.org
(575) 586-1454

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

(575) 586-1947

AMALIA

SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH

1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

RED RIVER

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

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

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

North end of Silver Bell Trail
Saturday 6 pm (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470



Next QBEN Meeting
Wed., June 9, 2021
6:00 pm

The Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network monthly meetings are free to attend and all Questa area businesses are welcome and encouraged to participate. The purpose of QBEN is to act as a central hub of information, a place to share business ideas and resources, and to have a voice in helping to direct Questa's future.

JOIN US ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH VIA ZOOM

Here is the link to join the meeting by video:

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



Call-in only: (346) 248-7799

Meeting ID: 878 4936 4259 Passcode: 282982

For more information about QBEN, contact Cynthia Rael-Vigil, owner of Rael's Market and Coffeeshop in Questa's Town Center on Hwy 522: cynthiaraelvigil@yahoo.com call (575) 779-9249, or just stop by the Market and say hello (with mask in place).

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Questa Del Rio News



Have a voice in your town's future

Attend public meetings via ZOOM!
These meetings are open, and public comments are welcome with a limit of 3 minutes. Check the websites for agenda topics and past minutes. Call your Town Hall for accurate dates and times. (which are fluctuating currently)

VILLAGE OF QUESTA

<http://questa-nm.com/>

Questa Village Council meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 6 pm at Town Hall

Mark Gallegos,
Mayor

mgallegos@villageofquesta.org

Renee Martinez,
Town Clerk/Administrator
rmartinez@villageofquesta.org

Village of Questa Town Hall
575-586-0694
2500 Old State Rd. 3
Questa, NM 87556

RED RIVER

<https://reddriver.org/>

Town Council meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm at the Conference Center

Linda Calhoun,
Mayor

mayor@reddriver.org

Georgiana Rael,
Town Administrator
grael@reddriver.org

Red River Town Hall
575-754-2277
100 E Main Street
Red River, NM 87558
P.O. Box 1020



AA MEETINGS

HAPPY, JOYOUS, AND FREE

We are sure God wants us to be happy, joyous, and free. We cannot subscribe to the belief that this life is a veil of tears, though it once was just that for many of us. But it is clear that we made our own misery. God didn't do it. Avoid, then, the deliberate manufacture of misery, but if trouble comes, cheerfully capitalize it as an opportunity to demonstrate His omnipotence.

—ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, pg 133

Alcoholics Anonymous
Online Zoom Meetings:
https://aa-intergroup.org/directory_audio-video.php

For Information on local meetings call Mose at 575-224-4326

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stich51jones@gmail.com



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May ~ Online and in person

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575.224.2102

Yoga Sala

Register: YogaSalaQuesta.org

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 32 Sagebrush Rd. (next to Questa High School)

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