

DECEMBER 2018



Questa Del Rio Colorado News

RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

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COMMUNITY SERVICE CLASS DEFINITELY A SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

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QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR!

Pages 12-13

Volume I, Issue XI

A New Face for Questa Credit Union

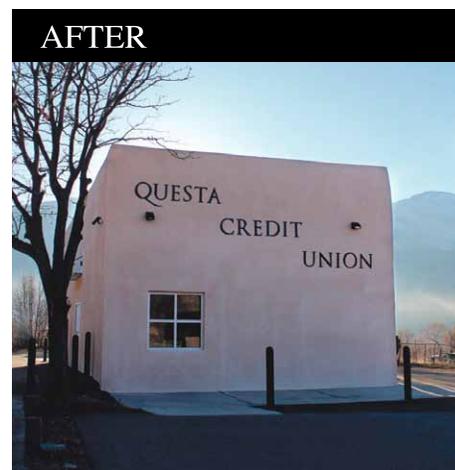
BUSINESS PROFILE
By KATHERINE FLORY

What do you have that was made in 1959? Perhaps you have a knickknack that is stuck on the top shelf of your closet. Maybe grandpa's tractor that is rusting out back is a 1959, but not many things we use every day have that kind of longevity. Questa Credit Union was started in 1959 and is more relevant than ever today. This coming year it will be celebrating its 60th anniversary.

From its humble beginnings in the living room of the home of its first manager, to its newly remodeled building, the Questa Credit Union has consistently evolved to serve its member's needs. It has added products over the years at the request of its membership. In those days everything at the credit union was done manually, today they have the latest technology to make your finances more accessible. It began as solely a savings and loan institution and has grown into a full-service financial institution.

When the stock market dropped in 2008 people realized that credit unions were a much safer place to keep their money than a large bank. People began placing their trust in the Questa Credit Union and haven't regretted it. The assets of the credit union have steadily increased in the past few years. Even with this growth the credit union has the charm of a family organization. When someone walks through the door they are greeted by name and often laughs can be heard between employees and members.

Did you know that the majority of Americans live paycheck to paycheck? According to a Career Builder Report almost 75% of people are in this situation, which means nearly 1250 people in



Newly remodeled Questa Credit Union

Photo by Emily Wilde

Questa. The Questa Credit Union is proud to offer free Financial Coaching services to assist people in the community break free of this cycle. While the credit union can't control the economy or help you find a bet-

ter job, they are committed to helping with budgeting and understanding your credit report. With a well-designed budget you can set priorities and discover where money is slipping away from you. When you have

a good understanding of your credit report you have the power to change your finances. Do you have a bill that you paid off years ago, that is still reporting that you are delinquent? Many people have this problem and many others that they are not even aware of. Your certified credit counselor can review your credit report with you and help you on the path to improving your credit score, or help you build a budget that works for your family.

In addition to credit counseling the credit union offers full service accounts

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TREE LIGHTING EVENT
SATURDAY • DEC 1 • 4:30pm
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see more on page 23

Del Rio Colorado News

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NOTICIAS DEL RIO COLORADO
QUESTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
DE LA COMUNIDAD DE QUESTA
FONDO PARA EL DESARROLLO DE QUESTA

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OUR MISSION

To Inform, Inspire, Connect and Unite the Greater Questa Community.

NUESTRO OBJETIVO

Es informar, inspirar, contactar, y unir a toda la comunidad de Questa.

PLEASE SEND ALL COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH

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ENVÍE ANTES DEL DÍA 15 DEL MES

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

FOR OUR DECEMBER ISSUE, OUR THEME IS GIVING......same stuff you hear every year at Christmas. This month, for us, it is different. We at the Questa News subscribe to the Christmas Everyday Policy. Every day we are here for our readers, giving them the gift of a community newspaper. We started in February to fill a need at an important time. The paper began as a four-page newsletter and look at us now! Maybe we have gotten too big for our britches, since we can't afford it and it is more work than we can manage with our current staff.

Having our own newspaper has been a source of community pride and it has its practical aspects. We have nurtured, fed and watered the seeds of new growth in and around Questa and our commitment is to continue to do so. The Questa News has been a valuable catalyst in growth and development and has been well acknowledged as such. We all like the paper, even love it, and would hate to see it go. The reality, though, is that if we do not make it sustainable, both financially and with human resources, this paper cannot continue. We are facing up to that reality and want our readers to know. What would we do without the paper?

Here's a look at what is going on inside the workings of the Questa News. The Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF), a 501c3 non-profit, got us started and we cannot continue to rely solely on them to keep us afloat. We owe a great thanks to the QEDF and our advertisers. Having a community newspaper is expensive, and we are looking for ways to bridge the financial gap.

1. We have many options for fundraising and increasing revenue. Being a non-profit opens us to a lot of possibilities. See page 3 for more information on making tax-deductible donations and receiving subscriptions and other gifts.
2. To sell more advertising, we would like to hire ad sales people (base salary plus

commission, call 586-2149!).

3. We leave papers at almost 40 sites, not counting six post offices—a lot of effort for volunteers. At some places many papers are wasted. We have about 10 locations that consistently distribute the most papers. So far, the winner is Questa Center Supermarket, yay!
4. While continuing to mail them free to postal customers, we are considering selling the paper at select locations for 50¢ or \$1.00. Since we started the paper, this has been suggested to us by many people. We will be talking to businesses to see if they are willing to be vendors.
5. Because our small team is overworked, underpaid or not paid at all, we don't have the staff to manage mail subscriptions. This leads us to the other aspect of becoming sustainable; human energy. Few readers know what it takes to produce this paper every month. We have experienced professional burnout and we hope to continue making this paper fun. We have a fine crew of volunteers and contributors! We need more help to continue, especially an assistant editor and writers (and did we mention that we are looking for a paid advertising sales person?).

We ask our readers to look at what this paper has done, is doing, and can do for Questa Land. We know it is valuable and we hope you do, too. Everyone has been so supportive and we are asking for your financial support, as well. Thank you for everything and we hope to hear from you soon. Enjoy this blessed time of giving. Happy Holidays!

LOU McCALL AND THE FOLKS
AT QUESTA DEL RIO COLORADO NEWS

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To whom it may Concern at the Questa Del Rio Colorado News:

November, 11, 2018 will be Veterans Day. This will be the second year in a row that Sylvia Sandoval at My Tia's Café in Cerro, New Mexico U.S.A. Hwy. 378 will have sponsored free food for all veterans! Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner in appreciation for all that the Veterans have done for our Country! No one in the area has done more for Veterans. There's your story. Please put that in your paper.

"Mine"
L. SALAZAR
Sgt. U.S.M.C. Veteran
HOUSTON, TX

Thank you, Sir, for your service and thank you so much for letting us (and our readers) know, this is important! In continuing our November theme of gratitude and honoring our Veterans; our deep thanks go out to Sylvia Sandoval and all the team at My Tia's Café. As you may know, every month we feature a different eating establishment in our Questa Quisine section and My Tia's is coming up soon, stay tuned!

LOU McCALL, EDITOR

Dear EDITOR,
I'm really enjoying your paper. I find it full of interesting articles that are relevant to my life here on the mountain. The writing is well done—I must say it's better than some writing done by the staff of the Taos News! Keep up the good work!

JOAN YOUNG
QUESTA

*Thank you, Joan,
We love to get written feedback. We got a giggle about being compared to the Taos News. They have won numerous awards as one of the best small-town newspapers in the country. Did you know that Taos News featured a story about our paper, in the September 27th edition? Check it out! They also now have a regular feature column in the Tempo called Questa North, written by Questa local, Anna Racicot. There is definitely enough to report, and we think Taos County is big enough for both of us! Glad you enjoy the paper, we are happy to hear that you find it relevant, that is what we strive for!*

LOU McCALL, EDITOR

Dear EDITOR,

Thank you kindly for the beautiful ad about Veterans Pancake Breakfast. We truly appreciate it.

We hope you would be able to add in December's issue that Harvest Questa will be hosting a free Gently Used Clothes Drive on Monday, December 3rd 8 AM - 4 PM. It will be happening that same day in the same location as the Taos Feeds Taos Application intake.

Thank you for unifying and inspiring our community through the monthly writings. I know it's a ton of work. I especially enjoyed the article about Valdemar De Herrera.

In His Service,
PASTOR KRISTI GONZALES

Dear Editor,

Ellen Wood's column elevates all of us. She is the Fairy Godmother of Mindful Living! Thank you. I would like to subscribe to your (our!:-) newspaper. Please let me know how to do so.

Many thanks~
LAURIE LAMBERT

Thank you, for asking the question, Laurie! See the answer in Subscription in grey box on right:

LOU AND THE FOLKS
HERE AT QUESTA NEWS!

OOPS!

No, we didn't fire Robyn Black, we just forgot to list her as our Food Editor last month. Sorry, Robyn!

CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to everyone who supported us and contributed to this paper in a lot of ways!

Alberta Bouyer, Hilary Clayton, Dina Coleman, Rodney Cordova, Janie Corinne, Claire Coté, Peter Crider, Katherine Flory, Louise Gallegos, Kathy Gonzales, Kristi Gonzales, Maria Gonzalez, Olga Gressot, Charlene R. Johnson, Priscilla Shannon Gutiérrez, Roger Harrington, Hae Won Kwon, Margaret LeJuste, Nicholas Maestas, Sharon Nicholson, Kami Ortega, Danette Rael, Jana Rael, LeAnne Salazar, Santana Santistevan, Martha Shepp, Karlton Terry, Peggy Trigg, Naomi Woodspring, Michael Young

And if anyone out there would like to join our team and volunteer as our Subscription Manager, jump on board! Contact us at news@questaedf.com.

IF YOU LIKE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING, HELP SUPPORT THIS PAPER BY MAKEING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION AND RECEIVE A SUBSCRIPTION!

If any of our readers would like to subscribe to our free online edition, shoot us an email and we will put you on our list. We have not promoted the paid snail mail subscriptions because 1.) we do not have staff to manage it and 2.) we honestly cannot guarantee we will be in business for a year!

Our paper is struggling so we are going into full fundraising mode (see page 2 editorial). Because QEDF is a 501.c3 non-profit organization you can make a \$60 tax-deductible donation and we will mail a one-year subscription to our paper. With a donation of \$120 or more, you will receive a subscription plus a "Questa, Find What's Real" T-Shirt. You can also send us a check just for the fun of giving, subscription or not, the bigger the better! Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution, an investment in the community.

We will continue to mail our local postal customers the paper for free. If you or a family member live far away and want to be a part of our community, please make a contribution for any amount. We have every faith that we will pull through this crisis and thank you for supporting us so far. Think of the Questa Del Rio Colorado News as Community Supported Media!

Make checks payable to QEDF, re: "For the Newspaper" and mail to P.O. Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556.

Questions? Ask at news@questaedf.com.

Have a blessed and wonderful Holiday Season.

Dear READERS,

We have received anonymous letters to the editor in the mail and also via email. Some have had valid messages that should be in the paper and others have been mean and crazy. Please do not send letters to us without your name on it. If you want us to print a letter and do not want your name published, we can print it with "Name Withheld" where your name usually is... As editor, I open the mail and would be the only one who would know who sent the letter AND I can keep a secret!

As far as I know there is no newspaper anywhere that will print an anonymous letter. Usually they also ask people to include their phone number in their letters so if there are any questions the paper can clarify and also verify who sent the letter. This is a good policy. For all of you who want to write to us, via email or snail mail, please include your name and phone number. The phone number is not included in the published letter.

This month we got a letter about the rise in crime, drugs and suspicious activity in Questa and the need for more police presence. It was signed, --A Concerned Local. I am sorry we cannot share the letter with our readers. If this Concerned Local is reading this and would like our community to read it, please send the letter again with your name and phone number so we can print it next month.

Thank you for caring,
LOU McCALL, EDITOR

Harvest Questa Hosts Gently Used Clothes Drive & Taos Feeds Taos

By PASTOR KRISTI GONZALES

Last year was my first year living back in Questa after being away for 14 years. I didn't know or recognize very many people in our community, and our church was attended by mostly my relatives and only a few other families. So naturally I turned to my family (even those attending other houses of worship), the Marcello & Rachel Vialpando tribe, to help me and Harvest Questa members organize a clothes drive. We got to work collecting donations, recruiting, organizing and distributing. The distribution was held during the Taos Feeds Taos event that we hosted. That day we also had other awesome items to give away, such as wrapping paper, stuffed animals, new socks, toiletries, dry food, snacks and drinks that were donated to us by Convoy of Hope. The free community event was quite a success. (See pictures on our Harvest Questa Facebook page.)

I have 4 kids and they are all doing what kids do best- GROW! I serve my kids many cups of coffee throughout the week, in hopes that the old wives' tale

is true: "coffee will stunt their growth". I wash their laundry in cold water and avoid using the dryer, so that the heat doesn't shrink their clothes. Despite my

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has".

-Margaret Mead.

efforts to make the new jeans I purchased at the beginning of the school year NOT rise up 4 inches above their ankles, they still end up looking like Urkel, from the 90s sitcom Family Matters, without the use of suspenders.

Well, kids aren't the only ones growing, right? Especially this time of the year! With all the Halloween candy in every corner and the pumpkin pies leaping out of the grocery aisles, even I find I've grown... horizontally. Time to get rid of the Skinny jeans and switch to Husky fit. Maybe you're the opposite of me

and somehow you're growing in reverse.

If you have some items you'd like to donate, please make sure that they are clean so that they can be distributed on Monday, December 3rd. Drop-offs can be made in the enclosed porch area until Saturday, December 1st, 7pm. Harvest Questa is a non-profit 501(c)3. All donations are tax deductible!

Will you join us in making this round a successful community service event that provides for those in need? This COULD evolve into a more frequent event that helps hundreds of community members in need for free.

This year, distribution will be Monday, December 3rd because this is the date Harvest Questa is honored to host Taos Feeds Taos again. Taos Feeds Taos is a non-profit organization helping low-income households receive free food boxes for the Christmas holiday. Village of Questa Councilwoman, Louise Gallegos, has been a volunteer with Taos Feeds Taos for over 15 years and she will be accepting applications from Questa/Cerro residents on behalf of Taos Feeds Taos on December 3rd, 2018 from 8 AM

- 4 PM, also at Harvest Questa. Applications will also be accepted in Costilla / Amalia on December 3rd from 9 AM to 12 PM at the RCCL Office.

Let's quickly clean out those closets before December 1st! Bring over the winter clothes we've outgrown to 2558 HWY 522 Harvest Questa. Tell your friends, if any of them would like gently-used clothes Monday, December 3rd is the day to receive, 8 AM - 4 PM. God bless you!

TAOS FEEDS TAOS APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Monday, December 3

Time: 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Location: 2558 HWY 522 Harvest Questa



Applications will also be accepted in Costilla/ Amalia on December 3rd from 9:00AM to 12:00PM at the RCCL Office.

Harvest
YOUR closet

DONATE
CLEAN GENTLY USED CLOTHES
BY SATURDAY: DECEMBER 1st
BY 7:00PM

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTED ON DECEMBER 3RD
FROM 8 AM TO 4 PM

Harvest Questa
2558 Hwy 522

THANKS TO ALL

for the care and beauty that went into the Nov 2nd Dia de los Muertos celebration. Image courtesy of Nova Photography.
To see more, visit LaSalaQuesta.com.

My Doll's House in El Rito



By HILARY CLAYTON

I first came to know El Rito, North of Questa, when I was in Veterinary School (CSU) in Fort Collins, CO in 1994. I used to enjoy escaping for long weekends in between studying for exams, and Taos was a favorite destination. One evening I popped into the Adobe Bar before leaving to set up camp somewhere, and I met Lasita Shalev, another British woman, who lived in El Rito. She invited me to come and camp on her land, so I did. I remember being awestruck by the numerous stars, and the almost surreal light of the moon as it rose above the mountains.

During my first year of vet school my Dad died. He left my brother and I some money and I had no clue what to do with it. Then I realized I wanted to have some land somewhere. El Rito came to mind. My 10 acres was the



very last place the real estate agent showed me. He had shown me six other plots and nothing jumped out at me. We were about to leave when he said "Oh, there's one more...no...it's too remote."

"I want to see it please," I said. As soon as we pulled up and got out of the truck I knew this was the piece of land I wanted. Bordering the National Forest and wilderness. Pristine. I knew my Dad would have loved it.

What I enjoy most about the house is the solitude, the feeling of being part of the forest. I never feel lonely there even when I'm on my own. The views are literally breathtaking, and constantly changing with the light. Apart from this, the house itself is very comfortable and cozy.

I am from London, England, originally. I lived there until I was nineteen, then went to University in Edinburgh, Scotland. I have always loved wild land, and Scotland was the closest I could get to that in the UK. I have always been a bit of a gypsy, moving around every few months. I have worked as a horse veterinarian in Florida for many winter seasons, and spend most summers between New Mexico, Montana, and England.

My original idea for the design of the house was a single room, log cabin with room for just a wood stove and a bed. No utilities. My builder, Jaysen Clark of Tradesmen Builders, persuaded me to upgrade quite a bit, and to put in water and solar electricity. I am glad he did, because he did an excellent job, and now I have a gorgeous little "Doll's House" up on the hill.

The house is two-story, with the

master bedroom, bathroom (tub and shower) and living room downstairs. There are two wood-burning fireplaces: a kiva-style and a stove-style with oven, the latter being used mostly in the colder months. A spiral staircase leads up to the open loft, which houses two full-sized futon beds. There is also a pull-out futon bed in the living room

for extra guests.

I would definitely recommend a four-wheel drive vehicle during the winter, although a high-clearance car suffices in the summer. Red River Ski Resort is twenty two miles away (a forty minute drive). The property is listed on AirBnB.com as "El Refugio", Questa, NM.

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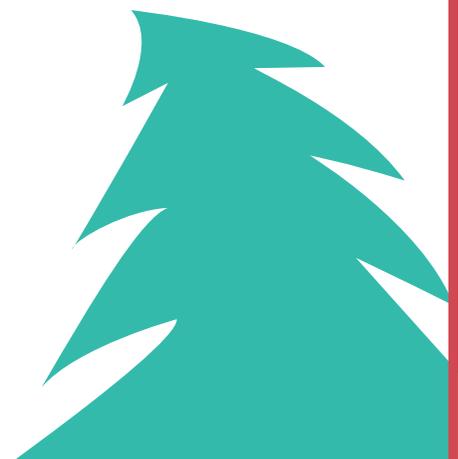
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Of Columbus, Crypto-Jews & El Río Colorado – Part I

By PRISCILLA SHANNON
GUTIÉRREZ

One of my research topics of late is tracing the Crypto-Jewish presence in the Americas, which dates all the way back to Christopher Columbus' first voyage in 1492! The more I investigate this topic, the more fascinated I become and I am amazed at the findings. Hopefully readers will find this story compelling as well, as we explore Crypto-Jews from Columbus all the way to El Río Colorado.

There is much to share here and so the topic has been divided into two parts. The early history of the Judaic arrival in New Spain, starting with Columbus' initial voyage up to his death in 1506 is the focus of Part I (In total, there were four Columbus voyages to the Americas). In next month's issue, Part II will move on to Jewish *converso* migrations through Mexico, Central America, and subsequently northward over the following centuries up to the present day.

Some readers may know something about Crypto-Jews or *conversos* in New Mexico. For those who aren't familiar with the term, *conversos* refer to the 14th-16th Sephardic Jewish population from Spain and Portugal, who after forced baptism outwardly converted to Catholicism, but continued to practice Mosaic Law behind closed doors. Many of these Crypto-Jews fled to other countries to avoid persecution to places where they could follow Jewish religious practices without fear. Crypto comes from the Greek word for hidden.

Some of the Jewish practices may sound familiar: the lighting of candles at sundown on Fridays to mark the Jewish Sabbath; grandmothers covering their heads with shawls while lighting the Friday Sabbath candles; refusing to eat pork; playing with tops or dreidels at Christmastime, covering mirrors during periods of mourning/death; the ritual slaughtering of animals that adheres to kosher Jewish law; refusing to eat eggs with any blood spots, and requesting to be buried with feet facing the East.

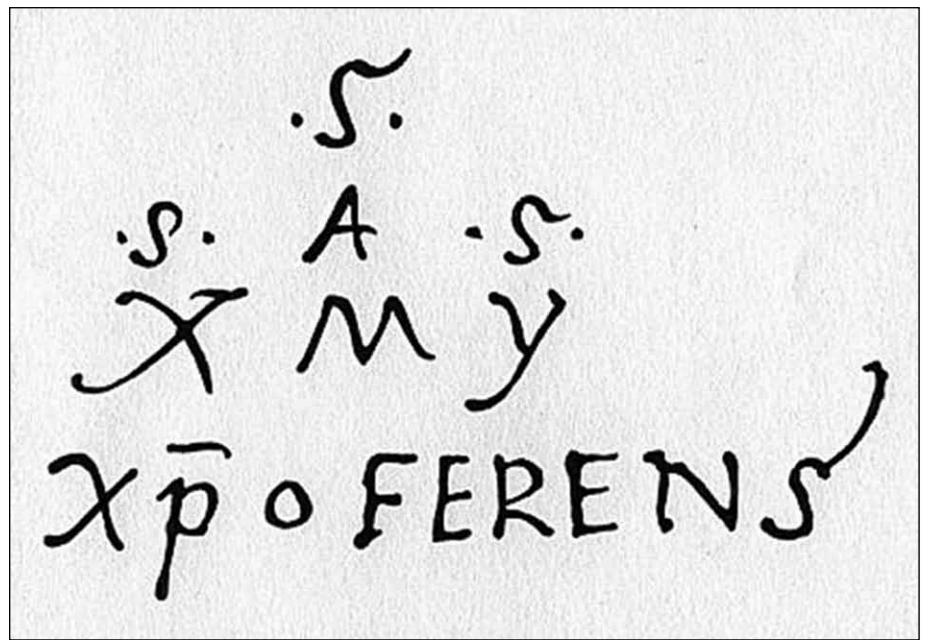
Stanley Hordes' 2008 book, *To the Ends of the Earth – A History of New Mexico's Crypto-Jews*, was one of the first publications that investigated the presence of Crypto or Hidden Jews in New Mexico. The following year, the University of New Mexico Press published Cary Herz' book, *New Mexico Crypto-*

Jews, which detailed her search for the descendants of the Sephardic Jews who had fled the Inquisition in Spain and ultimately settled in New Mexico and Colorado. Both publications provided compelling evidence that indeed there have been Crypto-Jews in New Mexico since Don Juan de Oñate's arrival in 1520, in spite of criticism from some historians. Since publication, additional solid historical and medical research has backed much of Hordes' claims.

In 2001, biological evidence was discovered of the Sephardic Jewish presence in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. A study of women's breast cancer in Catholic women living in communities in the San Luis Valley and northern New Mexico uncovered a genetic mutation that causes a virulent form of the cancer specific to Jewish women from Spain and other parts of Europe. The gene that causes this form of cancer is an ancient one, originating with Hebrew tribes in Palestine over 2,000 years ago. Across the centuries, the mutation spread and multiplied within Jewish populations who migrated to Europe from Palestine. This specific genetic marker is not found in other cultural groups. The discovery of the gene mutation in women in northern New Mexico provides incontrovertible proof their ancestral DNA lineage is Jewish, as well as ancient.

The very first Jewish individual known to have stepped foot in New Spain was Luis de Torres, Christopher Columbus' interpreter on the first voyage. Interestingly, he is also believed to be the first European to taste tobacco when the Natives offered the lit leaf to the visitors. De Torres was quite the educated man—fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Arabic and Latin, he worked as a Hebrew interpreter in Murcia Province in Spain, where a large Jewish population resided. When Columbus hired him on, he was well aware that de Torres was Jewish. However, just the day before the voyage set sail on August 2, 1492, Columbus' navigator also became a *converso*. They were not the only Jewish crew members on board—Columbus' personal ship doctor as well as other crew members had hastily become *conversos* before sailing. It was a timely departure for the men.

The very day after the Niña, Pinta, and Santa María set sail, an edict expelling all Jews from Spain was signed into law by King Ferdinand and Queen



The signature of Christopher Columbus, also known by his Spanish name, Cristobal Colón, c. 1493

Isabela. The timing of Columbus' departure was no coincidence. From prior experience, Jewish families knew the edict would pave the way for large-scale persecution of entire communities. Large numbers of Jewish populations were forced to either flee to other countries or agree to baptism into the Catholic faith. And even after baptism, there was no guarantee charges would not be brought against them as a Jew practicing Mosaic Law in secret. Families and businesses fled across the mountains to the safety of France, while others crossed the Mediterranean to the Italian peninsula and beyond to Constantinople. The Asian-Europe crossroads location of Constantinople meant cultures blended far more easily, and Jewish families who migrated there often thrived over the next few centuries.

Given the anti-Jewish climate of Spain, we shouldn't be too surprised there were several *conversos* on board during Columbus' voyages, in search of a life without fear of religious persecution. ¡Salsipuedes! – get out if you can! Other Jewish individuals and *conversos* made their way to the New World on Columbus' subsequent voyages as well as with other explorers during the next several decades. These Crypto-Jew voyagers established communities initially in Cuba, and other islands, then westward to the Mexican coast and beyond.

Historians now believe *conversos* accompanied Hernán Cortés on his voyage to the Americas in 1520 - likely propelled by the 1492

edict. The virulent anti-Jewish sentiment compelled more and more Jews to flee Spain and Portugal to the New World. Over the next 100 years, Jewish communities established themselves in cities across the Mexican peninsula, with some families openly known as Jewish, while others as Crypto-Jews. Records indicate that by the early 1600's, as many as 2,000 *conversos* had settled in Mexico City, Veracruz, Guadalajara, Puebla, and Guatemala City.

But the 1492 edict was not the first time Jews had been persecuted or expelled from Spain. Under King John I, one hundred years earlier, the widespread anti-Jewish riots of 1391 led to massacres and/or mass conversions. Many Jewish families and businesses had no choice but to flee to safer territory. A number of them landed in Genoa and Venice (the nation of Italy didn't exist at the time), establishing merchant trade communities that ultimately thrived. Interestingly it was during the anti-Jewish riots of 1391 that Columbus' grandparents also migrated to Genoa to begin a new life there.

Which leads us now to the question of whether or not Columbus was a Crypto-Jew. Lots of speculation surrounds this question. I have to admit that initially I scoffed at the idea that Columbus was Jewish. After doing further research though, my thinking has shifted. There is some pretty compelling evidence to support the proposal that Columbus was indeed a Crypto-Jew.

Within the Sephardic communities of Genoa, well into Columbus'

time, Spanish was the language of home as well as business. Curiously, Columbus' native language was Spanish instead of Italian, and throughout his lifetime in Genoa and beyond, he was known as Cristobal Colón, a Spanish name. It was his native fluency in Spanish which likely opened doors to Ferdinand and Isabella that Columbus would not have had as a foreigner speaking Italiano.

Interestingly, it was Jewish men of means in Genoa and Spain who were the main financiers of Columbus' voyages, NOT the Spanish Crown. *Converso* merchants Luis de Santangel, Gabriel Sánchez, and Rabbi Isaac Arámbanel used personal funds to support Columbus' first voyage. Approval from the Spanish Crown offered permission and protection, as well as potential rewards, but not much in the way of funding. Columbus had to look for other sources of capital and his Jewish connections in Genoa paid off.

Columbus chose to employ a Jewish navigation system developed by Abraham Zacuto to guide his ships on their voyage into the unknown. The calendar he kept calculated years using the Jewish calendar rather than the Julian calendar which was developed by

the Romans and still in widespread use at the time. Questions surface around these choices, considering Columbus was supposed to be a Catholic explorer.

The ship's logs that Columbus kept were written in Ladino, a Jewish version of Spanish. His writings repeatedly mention Jerusalem, Zion and the Torah (rather than El Biblio or the Bible). Many entries praise Old Testament patriarchs such as Moses, David, Abraham, Isaac and Sara—not your typical religious writings from a Christian/Catholic explorer. And contrary to later explorers, Columbus did not bring a Catholic priest with him on that initial voyage.

Additionally, as part of his last will and testament, Columbus requested that one-tenth of his income be given to the poor, as well as an anonymous dowry for poor girls be set up. Both of these provisions are considered characteristics of Jewish philanthropy, further suggesting Columbus was a Crypto-Jew.

Perhaps the strongest evidence of his Crypto-Jewish heritage may be found in the signature Columbus began using in his correspondence and letters during and after the 1492 voyage. The enigmatic signature, written from right to left,

consists of a triangle of dots and letters similar to those found in the Jewish cemeteries of Spain. And some Jewish historians claim that the composition of the signature is an arcane substitute for the Kaddish, or Jewish hymns/praises to God's name.

That concludes the first installment in our discussion about the Crypto-Jewish presence in the Americas. Hope you enjoyed this fascinating story! Stay tuned for Part II next month which will explore the *converso* migrations northward into New Mexico and Colorado!

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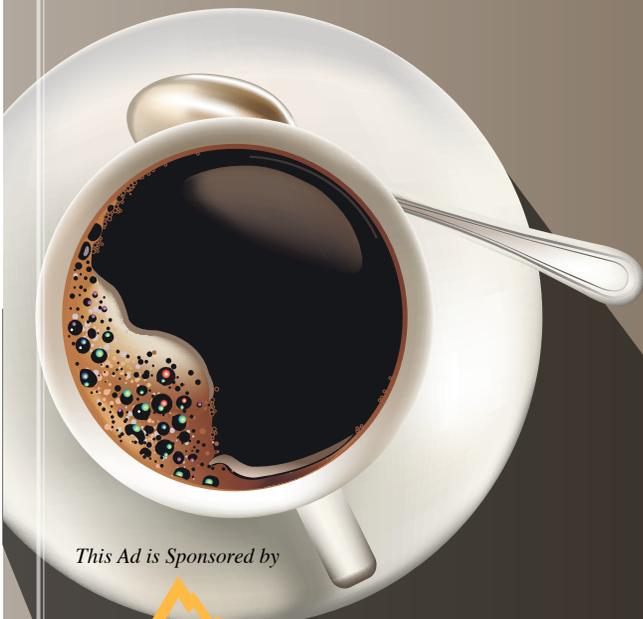
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Create a Ripple Effect in the World



**LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood

'Tis the season for giving, yes, but it's not just about giving tangible gifts to family members and friends. Those things rust or break, get used up, worn out, or donated to the thrift shop and that's the end of them. There's a more precious gift we can give!

Just emanate kindness and it will create a ripple effect in the world. Acts of love bless both the giver and the receiver, and often create a chain of good deeds as people pay it forward. Amelia Earhart once said, "No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves."

I know the people up here near

the top of New Mexico and there is so much kindness and caring and affection for one another. If you're not experiencing the love and kindness I'm talking about, try being the first to give it. When I receive a genuine smile while out and about in Questa, I notice the lift it gives me. It encourages me to give smiles first. Watching others catch a smile brings even more joy and the day soon becomes rich with that joy of simple giving.

It's important to do good things for others, including volunteering in community projects, but it's equally important to be good to yourself. The Golden Rule—basically stating that we treat others as we wish to be treated—is one of the common elements among many religions. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself" but we often forget the part.

And sometimes it's a good thing that we do forget that second part. If people treated their neighbor as they treated themselves, they might be kicked out of the neighborhood. Many people I

know are harder on themselves than they are on others. So, I'm inviting us to up-level the way we treat ourselves. No doubt it will ripple out to our neighborhood.

Love is often an action first, then a feeling. You love yourself by taking actions in the direction of your wellbeing. And as you take the action – by praying and meditating, by watching your thoughts, by taking care of your mind, body and spirit – you become endowed with the feeling of love. That's when you become comfortable and peaceful in your own skin. And that's when you can allow your powerful presence to radiate toward other people in your life

and the whole of humanity.

Our very nature is loving, kind and joyful. Connecting to our heart and loving ourselves restores us to our original nature where we freely and unconditionally give and receive love. Tapping into the joy of the heart has the ability to heal the sorrow of the mind and body. True joy is an integral part of the heart that isn't dependent on circumstance. With care and nurturing, we can tap into this joy and allow it to flow... all year long. Happy Holidays!

Ellen Wood of Questa is an award-winning author, columnist and inspirational speaker. Contact her at ellen@ellenwoodspeaks.com.

Crea una Onda en el Mundo

Es la temporada de dar, sí, pero no sólo para dar regalos materiales a los familiares y amigos. Esas cosas se oxidan o se rompen, se acaban, se hacen viejos o se donan a una tienda segunda y con eso se acaban. ¡Hay un regalo más precioso que podemos dar!

Pueden emanar la amabilidad y crear ondulaciones en el mundo. Actos de amor bendigan al que da y al que recibe, y frecuentemente crean una serie de actos buenos cuando las personas los pasan adelante.

Amelia Earhart una vez dijo, "Ni un solo acto bueno se termina con si mismo. Un acto de compasión sigue otro. El mejor trabajo que hace la compasión es hacer que otros también sean compasivos."

Conozco al la gente de aquí en el norte de Nuevo México, y hay tanta bondad, compasión y cariño uno para el otro. Si no sienten el amor y bondad de que estoy hablando, haga el esfuerzo de ser el primero en darlo. Cuando yo recibo una sonrisa genuina mientras salgo por Questa, me fijo en la sensación que me da. Me anima dar sonrisas primero. Viendo a otros capturar una sonrisa me trae más felicidad y el día pronto se hace rico con la felicidad de compartir algo simple.

Es importante hacer el bien a otros, incluyendo trabajar como voluntario en proyectos para la comunidad, pero es tan importante ser bueno con uno mismo. La regla de oro—básicamente dice que tratemos a otros como nosotros queremos ser tratados—es uno de los elementos que tienen muchas religiones en común.

Jesús dijo, "Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo." Pero frecuentemente se nos olvida la parte "como a ti mismo".

Y a veces es bueno que no olvidemos la segunda parte. Si tratáramos al vecino como a nosotros mismos, tal vez los echaran de la vecindad. Muchas personas que conozco son mas duros con si mismos que con otros. De modo que, los estoy invitando que mejoremos en como nos tratemos. Sin duda va a producir ondulaciones en la vecindad.

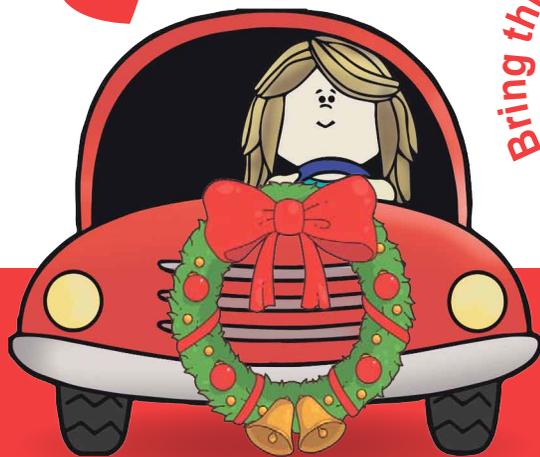
El amor es frecuentemente una acción primero, luego un sentimiento.

Te amas cuando tomas acciones en la dirección de tu bienestar. Y cuando tomas la acción—sea rezando y meditando, cuidando los pensamientos, teniendo cuidado de la mente, el cuerpo y el espíritu—te vuelves dotado con el sentimiento de amor. Entonces es cuando estás cómodo y en paz en tu piel. Y entonces permites tu presencia poderosa impregnar a otras personas en tu vida y a toda humanidad.

Nuestra naturaleza es amable, bondadosa, y alegre. Conectando a nuestro corazón y amándonos nos pone en contacto con nuestra naturaleza original donde libremente y sin condiciones damos y recibimos el amor. Poniéndonos en contacto con la alegría del corazón tiene la habilidad para sanar el dolor de la mente y del cuerpo. La verdadera alegría es una parte integral del corazón que no depende en la circunstancia. Con cuidado y crianza, podemos aprovecharnos a esta alegría y permitir que fluya. . . el año entero.

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Age, Appearance, and Beauty – The Face in the Mirror

By NAOMI WOODSPRING

My recently published book, *Baby Boomers, Age and Beauty* begins with this anecdote:

My dinner companion looked up from her plate and questioned why I was researching and writing a book on aging and beauty. *"I'm just aging. I don't think much about it,"* she said in a challenging tone. She went on to declare that she never thought about her appearance and rarely looked in the mirror...she preferred to be, look, and age 'naturally'.

I suspect that my dinner companion was unaware of the richness of her declaration and the number of choices, preferences, and judgements embedded in making her claim. In brief, she has chosen a particular identity to present to the world – the 'natural look' with a preference for grey, well-cut and styled hair, obviously cared-for-skin, and fashionable glasses. Her judgement extended to the assumption that researching appearance, age, and beauty was trivial...so, why study beauty?

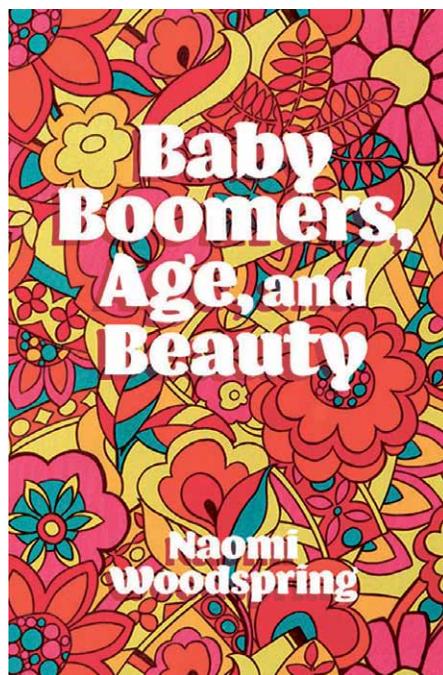
My dinner companion is not alone in her presumption. There is little research that explores aging appearance and the possibility that ordinary older people could be beautiful. Yet self-presentation is an essential aspect of our identity. The choices we make as we get ourselves ready to go out into the world to be seen and see others is no small matter – it is the stuff of us. For most of us, there is no age limit to the desire to be seen by others and the decisions we make in front of the mirror – a glance or a studied moment – convey to the world, this is me, grey-haired or dyed, a spot of lipstick or not, a comb-over or a shaved head – all choices that convey our sense of self.

Our embodied appearance is not gendered; it is human, though perspectives may differ. During the course of my research, the experience of being seen/visible was important to both women and men. In a curious and surprising twist, most women told me they noticed other older women and not necessarily from a competitive perspective. Older women saw each other, acknowledged each other, admired each other. On the other hand, it was the men who expressed a sadness when they stated they felt invisible.

And then there is the physicality of beautiful – the visual experience of beauty, the sight of beauty is pleasurable. At the heart of my research was the



Eva: Barbara Ciurej and Lindsey Lochman



Author's new book, available at bookstores and online.

question, "Can old people be beautiful?" For the most part, the vast majority of both women and men agreed they saw beauty in some aging faces. Not the beauty of the exotic other staring off into the middle distance or the polished gleam of celebrity but beauty in the faces of some ordinary older people.

So, I return to the question – why research appearance, beauty, and age? It is an essential aspect of our humanity. As we move through the trajectory of our lifespan, from babyhood to old, that embodied reflection of who we are and how we appear to ourselves and others is part of the rich story of our species. There is evidence from prehistory that we painted ourselves for our gods and others. Highly polished metal reflecting devices were all the rage in ancient Egypt and were used in antiquity throughout the Mediterranean civilizations. Had Narcissus lived he might



Patti Smith Photo in the Creative Commons

have been an old man staring at his own reflection in the pool. Self-presentation looms large in our human history and beautification of the self is an important and abiding aspect of that.

As I spoke with people about age and beauty, they told me stories of their grandmothers' careful preparation for church or family gatherings, the arrival of Vogue magazines in the bush to be poured over by three generations of women, or an encounter with a beautiful older stranger whose memory stayed with them. My own grandfather was quite the dandy and would not

have dreamed of going out to face the world without ensuring he was well put together. Through the interviews, as people described beautiful older faces to me, their eyes lit up with enthusiasm and pleasure. Age, appearance, and beauty are essential aspects of our human inheritance. Why would we not want to know about age, appearance, and beauty?

Dr. Naomi Woodspring can be contacted through naomiwoodspring.com (Originally published online: <https://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/abs/10.1108/978-1-78743-824-820181009>)

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Must try Recipes for the Holidays

HATCH GREEN CHILE APPLE PIE

This is a pie you absolutely have to serve with vanilla ice cream, as it tempers the heat brought by the green chile. Don't omit it!

INGREDIENTS

For the crust:

3/4 cup lightly packed grated Cheddar
2/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons cold butter, cubed
1 egg yolk + pinch of salt

For the filling:

5 cups peeled and thickly sliced
Granny Smith apples
1/3 cup chopped roasted Hatch green chiles,
medium hot (or mild if you can't take the heat!)
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon allspice
1/4 cup cornstarch

For the streusel:

1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup pine nuts (pecans or any nuts are good)
1/4 cup brown sugar
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

INSTRUCTIONS

For the crust: Mix cheese, salt, and flour with your hands in a medium sized bowl. Cut in butter, still using your hands, until the dough becomes pliable and stays in a ball when you squeeze it together. Shape into a disc and chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Preheat your oven to 425°F. Remove crust from fridge and pat into a 9-inch pie plate, make it a uniform 1/4 inch crust. Prick all over with a fork and bake for 18 minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven. Beat egg yolk with pinch of salt, then brush this glaze onto baked crust. Place back in oven for 2 minutes until set.

For the filling: In a large bowl, toss apples, green chiles, and lemon juice together. In another bowl, mix dry ingredients, then add them to apples and chiles and toss until thoroughly coated.

For the streusel: In a small bowl, mix flour, pine nuts, and brown sugar. Add melted butter and toss together until crumbly.

Turn oven down to 400°F. Pour filling into pre-baked crust, then top with streusel. Bake for 10 minutes, then turn the oven down to 375°F and bake for 30-40 minutes more until filling is bubbling and streusel is well-browned.

CARAMEL APPLE-PEAR COBBLER WITH OATMEAL MUFFIN CRUST

INGREDIENTS

3 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced (about 1 1/2 pounds)* (if using canned pie filling, see substitution below)
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/4 cup butter
3 large pears, peeled and sliced (about 1 1/2 pounds)
Garnish: toasted pecan halves
Oatmeal Muffin Batter** (recipe follows)

1. Combine first 3 ingredients in a large bowl, stirring to coat apples.
2. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add apple mixture; bring to a boil, and cook, stirring often, 10 minutes. Add pears to skillet, and cook, stirring often, 5 minutes. Spoon hot fruit mixture into a lightly greased 10-inch (8-cup) deep-dish pie plate or shallow 2-quart baking dish. Spoon Oatmeal Muffin Batter evenly over fruit mixture.
3. Bake at 425° for 20 to 25 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Garnish, if desired.

*2 (21-ounce) cans apple pie filling can be substituted for apples and pears. Omit brown sugar and flour. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add pie filling, and bring to a boil; remove from heat. Proceed with recipe as directed.

**OATMEAL MUFFIN BATTER

Yield
Makes about 2-1/2 cups

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup uncooked regular oats
1/2 cup chopped dates
1/4 cup sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup milk
3 tablespoons butter, melted
1 large egg, lightly beaten

1. Combine flour and next 5 ingredients in a large mixing bowl; make a well in center of mixture. Stir together milk, melted butter, and lightly beaten egg; add to dry ingredients, and stir just until moistened. Add to top of cobbler or make as muffins, below:
2. Oatmeal Muffins: Spoon Oatmeal Muffin Batter evenly into lightly greased muffin pans, filling two-thirds full. Bake at 425° for 15 minutes. Makes 10 muffins

ORANGE SWEET POTATO PIE WITH ROSEMARY CORNMEAL PIE CRUST

ROSEMARY-CORNMEAL CRUST INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup plain white cornmeal
1/4 cup powdered sugar
2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
1/4 teaspoon salt 1/2 cup cold butter, cut into pieces
1/4 cup very cold water

ORANGE SWEET POTATO FILLING INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes
3 large eggs
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1 cup evaporated milk
3 tablespoons butter, melted
2 teaspoons orange zest
1 tablespoon fresh orange juice
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1. Prepare Crust: Whisk together first 5 ingredients in a medium bowl until well blended. Cut butter into flour mixture with a pastry blender or fork until mixture resembles small peas and is crumbly.
2. Sprinkle cold water, 1 Tbsp. at a time, over surface of mixture in bowl; stir with a fork until dry ingredients are moistened. Place dough on a plastic wrap-lined flat surface, and shape into a disc. Wrap in plastic wrap, and chill 30 minutes.
3. Unwrap dough, and roll between 2 new sheets of lightly floured plastic wrap into a 12-inch circle. Fit into a 9-inch pie plate. Fold edges under, and crimp. Chill 30 minutes.
4. Preheat oven to 400°. Bake crust 20 minutes, shielding edges with aluminum foil to prevent excessive browning. Cool completely on a wire rack (about 1 hour).
5. Meanwhile, prepare Filling: Bake sweet potatoes at 400° on a baking sheet 50 to 55 minutes or until tender. Let stand 5 minutes. Cut potatoes in half lengthwise; scoop out pulp into a bowl. Mash pulp. Discard skins.
6. Whisk together eggs and granulated sugar until well blended. Add milk, next 6 ingredients, and sweet potato pulp, stirring until blended. Pour mixture into Rosemary-Cornmeal Crust.
7. Bake at 400° for 20 minutes. Reduce heat to 325°, and bake 20 to 25 minutes or until center is set. Let cool completely on a wire rack (about 1 hour).

IN A HURRY???

1. Substitute 1/2 (15-oz.) package refrigerated pie crusts for cornmeal crust ingredients.
2. Unroll on a lightly floured surface.
3. Sprinkle with 1 Tbsp. plain white cornmeal and 2 tsp. chopped fresh rosemary.
4. Lightly roll cornmeal and rosemary into crust.
5. Fit into a 9-inch pie plate according to package directions. Fold edges under; crimp.

HOLIDAY CRANBERRY FRUIT SALAD

This recipe is a great hit with little kids, get them to help you peel and chop and they will be making it for you soon! You can adjust the amounts and types of fruit below, it is always delicious.

1 bag fresh or frozen whole cranberries
1/2 cup natural sugar (try coconut sugar, yum!)
1 large ripe pineapple
4 large Granny Smith apples
6 tangerines, mandarins or cuties (substitute oranges, if necessary)

1. Cook cranberries following the directions on the bag, using 1/2 the sugar called for. Let cool. Meanwhile:
2. Peel, core, chop pineapple into small bite size chunks
3. Core the apples, chop into small bite size chunks (do not peel)
4. Peel and separate the tangerines and cut each section into 2-3 pieces.
5. When the cranberries have cooled to room temperature, add the fruit and refrigerate.

Serve with turkey to replace canned cranberry sauce.

* You can substitute 2 cans of drained, chopped unsweetened pineapple. If so, use the pineapple juice to cook the cranberries.





Photo by Emily Wilde

Wildcat's Wow!

By ROBYN BLACK

The Wildcat's Den, a family owned restaurant in Questa, is our longest running restaurant and a Questa landmark for a reason! In June 1980 the LaFore family started this iconic place and it has been booming continuously ever since. Jake LaFore took over the business over 14 years ago, keeping things consistently good. The menu has pretty much stayed the same since 1980 when a tostada cost 35 cents. Much to everyone's delight, a few delicious additions have been made over the years, including the addition of the whimsical

cookie jars. If there is anyone in Questa who doesn't know Wildcat's Den or hasn't eaten there, I would be totally surprised!

The Wildcat's Den has a strong place on Trip Advisor; #1 in Questa and in the top 20 in Taos County, with great reviews from travelers just passing through Questa or making a special trip down from Red River during ski season for a killer burger.

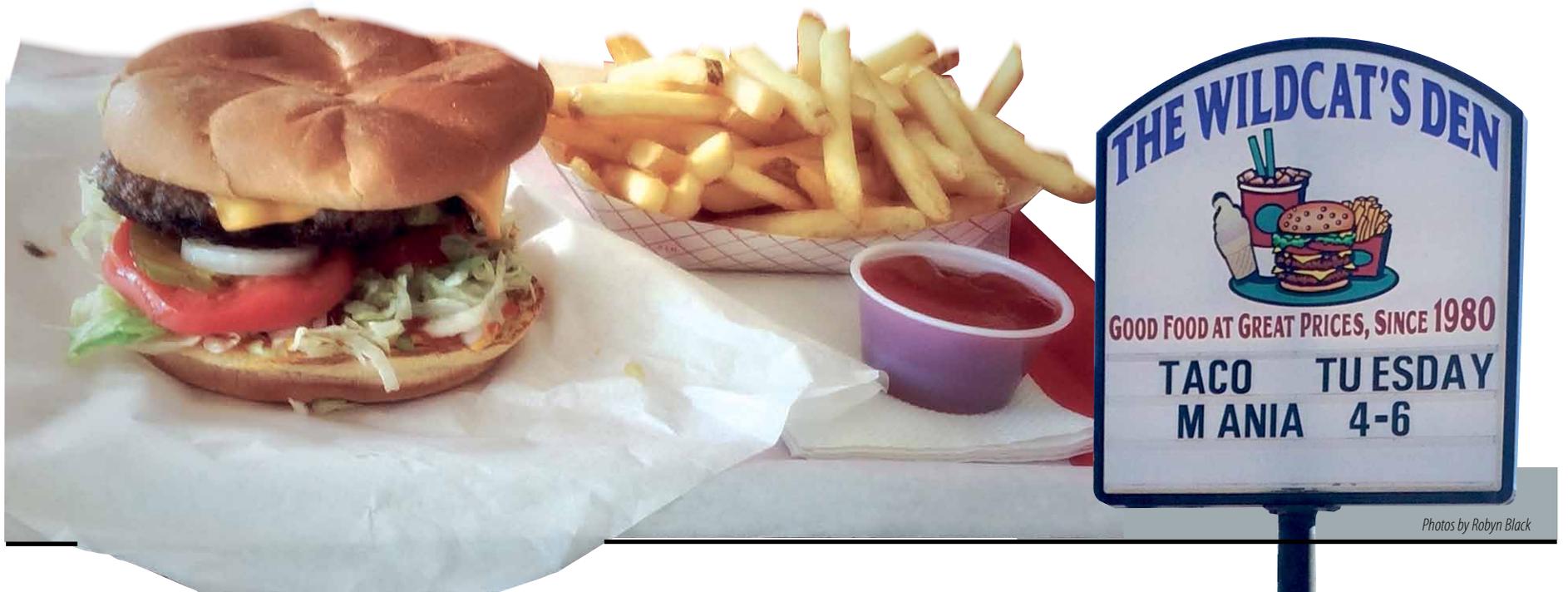
Side up to the counter to the "Order Here" sign, be patient, then go to the other end of the counter to pick up your food. The food, ah, the food, it is fresh, made to order and always delicious. Can I just men-

tion the salsa here? It has got to be the best anywhere around, always fresh and always a treat for the taste buds (not to mention a treat for whatever you put it on). I can see those tacos dancing with delight!

The menu is extensive, something for everyone. The Bobcat Burger, fries and a drink for \$6.95 is really a deal...fresh burgers made to order...go wild, add cheese and green chile...mmm...chicken strips and rolled taquitos are some local favorites too. Questa will soon be the world headquarters for Frito Pies and theirs are the best! Vegetarian? No problem; delicious salads, quesadillas, bean burritos and so much more. On some lucky winter days, Jake will have yummy, hot soup available as a lunch special. On Tuesdays everyone can score big time with Taco Tuesdays, half price tacos from 4-6 pm, what could make a Tuesday better?

Besides the food, Jake has a generous and charitable spirit: every year he raffles off a huge Christmas stocking filled to the brim with toys and goodies. All the profits from the raffle go to a worthy cause like families in need. One year he was able to help two families from the raffle. Everyone should stop by and buy a raffle ticket, you will be helping a good cause this Christmas and you can grab some great food while you are there! The drawing for the winner of the stocking will be December 22nd. Spread the word for a chance at the amazing Christmas stocking, for just a buck a ticket; you might win. More important, you will be helping a worthy cause!

During Lent, Jake makes sure there are plenty of options for everyone. Soon the Wildcat's Den will be celebrating 40 years here in Questa and Jake promises to make it special for all his loyal customers whom he is so grateful for. Wildcat's Den hours are Monday through Friday 11-6 and Saturday 11-4. They will be closed December 24-26 and New Year's Day. You can call in your order to: (575) 586-1119 and pick it up at 2457 NM-522 in Questa.



Photos by Robyn Black

QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL 2018 RECAP

Questa Creative Council was honored to contribute to the upswelling of community events and activities in Questa in 2018, our first full year as a collaborative non-profit group. Thank you for volunteering, attending, supporting, and contributing to the Questa Creative Council's events and projects this past year!

The combined activities and projects drew roughly 875 participants to enjoy Questa in 2018. About 550 of these folks were from outside the village. These visitors sought cafés and lodging, bought gas and coffee, discovered our National Monument, and learned about the unique heritage of our area. Many promised to return with family and friends.

The Questa Creative Council could not have achieved any of this without their much-appreciated members who donated their time and/or funds. **A holiday party will be held at La Sala on Saturday Dec. 8th from 2 to 5 pm to offer our heartfelt thank-you to all 50+ members who made this first year possible.**

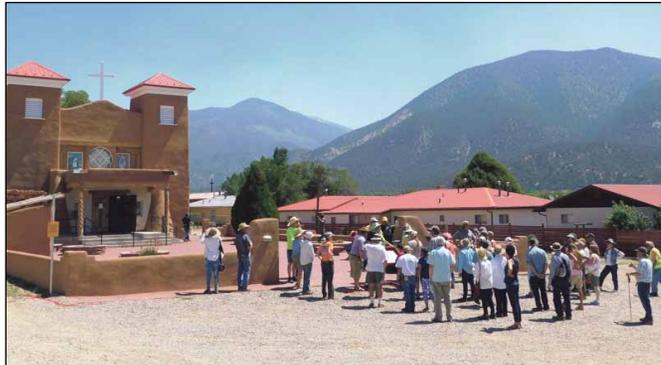
If you're not yet a member, come on down and join! We'll have membership materials available. For as little as \$10, you can support projects like:

- **Questa History & Community Trail**
- **NeoRio contemporary art and feast on the rim of the gorge**
- **Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival**
- **Questa Studio Arts Tour**
- **Questa Chamber Music Series**

We always appreciate more volunteers to join the team to fill a variety of roles; from clerical work to helping with individual events. If you would like to actively strengthen our community through a focus on arts and culture, please reach out. You can use the "Contact Us" feature on QuestaCreative.org. Or, stop in and visit with Co-Chair, Roger Harrington, at the Art Questa Studio and Gallery on the south end of the Village. A "Join" feature on the website also makes donating easy and fast. If you were planning year-end charitable contributions, why not enjoy the same non-profit tax deductions and keep those dollars in our community?

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, QUESTA HISTORY WALK

The Questa History & Community Trail was introduced to the community for National Trails Day on June 2, 2018. Questa's own Flavio Cisneros led over 50 people on this first guided walk. Half of those attending were from Questa and the rest came from further afield. The feedback that participants gave will provide input for planning the final signs. Members on this project team are seeking to fund the creation of long-lasting metal frameworks and sturdy posts. The National Park Service is still working with the QCC's team, the Village, and members of St. Anthony's Parish to plan the trail development. Some of this future work will be physical trail building, and some of it roadway marking. Flavio led a second walk on the opening day of the Questa Studio Arts Tour and all 10 attendees were non-locals, and they enjoyed learning more about Questa. More info: questatrail.org



GATHERING MEMORY: OBJECT, PHOTO AND STORY WORKSHOP

The Questa History & Community Trail project also hosted this community event at the VFW Hall on July 8th, led by native son (and nationally-recognized historian) Estevan Rael-Galvez, with over 90 persons attending. Over half of those in attendance were from Questa. They participated by bringing photos and mementoes that brought forward a host of shared stories. There is ongoing participation in sharing Questa stories, by working with the LEAP team to record your memories and scan your photos to post on the QuestaStories.org website.



QUESTA CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

The first in this 3-part series of classical music concerts was held on Saturday, September 1st. Taos cellist Rebecca Caron, violinist Andrea Gore, and Questeña pianist Martha Shepp played works of Haydn, Glinka, Brahms, and Clara Schumann at the building under renovation which will host music and expressive arts, as well as a yoga studio: La Sala Questa, at 2331 Hwy 522. There were 20 in the audience in the small room that currently houses a beautiful grand piano, which will be in the larger space when renovation is complete. The second concert was on Thursday, November 29th and featured international virtuoso violinist Odin Rathnam, Canadian cellist Morag Northey, and local string player Suzanne Schwartz. A third concert is planned for early spring of 2019.



WILD RIVERS PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

The sublime beauty of our area was expressed by over 60 artists from all around the U.S. (even two from Canada!) who participated in the 3rd Annual Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival this past July 17-22. Artists painted within a 20-mile radius of Questa, attended instructional demonstrations at the Questa Youth Center, and created paintings of St. Anthony's Church for the special event, "Paint the Church" day. The 6-day festival ended with an Artist Quick draw event, a reception, and the display and sale of paintings at the Brass Rail Theater in Red River. The 221 participants and friends helped our economy by staying overnight and frequenting our shops and restaurants. www.wildriverspleinair.com



QUESTA STUDIO ARTS TOUR

The 3rd Annual Questa Studio Arts Tour, held on August 18th and 19th, had more participating artists this year, and drew at least 300 visitors to our beautiful area, who also stopped in Questa for food, coffee, and overnight lodgings. Two new artist hubs, in Sunshine Valley and El Rito expanded the offerings. Approximately one third of the visitors were from within a 15-mile radius of our town, and the other two-thirds were from New Mexico and surrounding states.



QCC Mission:

Questa Creative Council seeks to strengthen and sustain community enrichment and economic opportunities through arts, culture, history, and education.

QCC Vision:

We will enhance opportunities to build cooperation among artists, artisans, cultural creatives and community members. We will help build a beneficial future while nurturing, sustaining or reviving traditional and contemporary creative pursuits.



www.questacreative.org

NEO RIO: OUTDOOR CONTEMPORARY ART CELEBRATION

It was beautiful weather on Saturday, Sept. 15th, at Wild Rivers as over 250 people arrived to explore the theme "Roots ~ Raices!" at LEAP's 10th anniversary contemporary art celebration. Art installations included a "wall" of rooted willows, innovative backpack kits for "short adventures in place," and root words flapping in the breeze; hands-on activities were for all ages, notably a booth in homage to the lowly beet. Participants were captivated by impassioned young poets at the Poetry & Music Salon, a bountiful locally sourced (and served) feast, soulful tunes, and informative artist talks at dusk. Approximately one third of the visitors hailed from within a 15-mile radius of our village, and the other two-thirds were from New Mexico and surrounding states. www.LEAPsite.org



STREET BANNERS

This past fall, the QCC has partnered with the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) to develop banners that hang from street light poles in the Village. The subject of the first set exhibits the beautiful hand-painted retablos in St. Anthony's Historic Church. The other two sets of banners will display our local artists and craftsmen and a third set will show historic photos of our village. We hope the retablos will be up on lamp posts for all to see very soon.

WELCOME SIGNS

The QCC has partnered with the QEDF to develop 3 "Welcome to Questa" signs to be installed on the main roads as one drives into Questa. This past fall, the QCC solicited ideas and concepts from the public, and 37 entries were received, full of inventive designs. Once the QEDF board decides, the signs will go into fabrication mode.

Sneak Peak Plans for 2019

- WILD RIVERS PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL
July 16-21, 2019
- QUESTA STUDIO ARTS TOUR
August 17-18, 2019
- NEORIO
September 21, 2019

We're already hard at work applying for grants for the upcoming year. Along with local support, we will be applying for funding from the New Mexico Arts Division. We are also looking at fundraising, help from foundations and donations to help us keep going.

Wildcats CORNER

By SUPERINTENDENT
LEANNE SALAZAR

This month we would like to focus on Compassion.

Compassion begins with sympathy, which is seeing someone's pain. It is noticing a student who skins his knee or a friend who hurts her arm. It is being alert to a weary co-worker or a stranger who needs assistance. Compassion also includes empathy, which is feeling someone's pain. Once you notice an injury, empathy means you imagine how much it hurts. This creates a feeling of duty, responsibility, and sometimes urgency to help find a remedy.

During the month of December we would like to recognize our students, teachers and school organizations for their generous contributions to the community. Ms. Santistevan and her Community Service Class at Questa



Rio Costilla Learning Academy Culture Night, Celebrating Diversity and Understanding

Junior High recently donated firewood to a needy family (see related story, PAGE 20)). Our students are working to assist with a sock drive, and Ms. Leon and our Volleyball team made significant donations to locals to defer their costs with cancer treatments. We are a school who exemplifies compassion for others.

The Rio Costilla Learning Academy sponsored a great event; Culture Night, Celebrating Diversity and Understanding. So necessary during these troubled times!

Questa would like to welcome our

Winter coaches. Mr. Miguel H. Romero (Girls Basketball) and Mr. Daniel Gallegos (Boys Basketball) and we wish them the very best this season. Our Fall sports were great fun and our athletes showed their Wildcat Pride. Sports is a great way to show teamwork, school pride, and personal development skills.

Our transportation and student services departments are happy to announce the arrival of our new handicap accessible bus (see story below). We are so excited to have a bus that can accommodate all of our students for all trips!! Questa Independent Schools believes



Photo by Vanessa Garcia

Red Ribbon Week at Questa High.

that every child is at the center of our every decision!

Currently, we are looking for committee members to head our 2019 SB9 election committee to help maintain our SB9 funds.

New Activity Bus for Schools

By LEANNE SALAZAR

The Questa Independent School District is happy to announce the purchase of a new activity bus. This bus is equipped to transport ALL students, including our students with disabilities who need special accommodations. The district utilized existing SB9 funds to purchase the bus and we are all very excited that our school district can finally meet the transportation needs of every student!

Our students are excited, too. They are relieved that we will not have to cancel trips due to the inability to find outside bus vendors who can accommodate our students' needs. The school board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor of the purchase and they've supported this months-long mission to see the project completed. The Questa Schools supports the needs of students and encourages the participation of all of

our students in both school and community activities.

Students with disabilities should be transported in the same manner as their non-disabled peers unless an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team has determined otherwise. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) does not require Local Education Agencies (LEA) to transport students with disabilities in separate vehicles, isolated from their peers. A student with a disability should always be in the least restricted environment, including transportation arrangements, unless the IEP team determines transportation is required that will assist a student with a disability. The IEP team also determines if the student will benefit from special education and related services and documents the need in the student's IEP. Questa is happy to finally be able to provide these services in-house.

We want to wish all of our families a safe and warm winter break!

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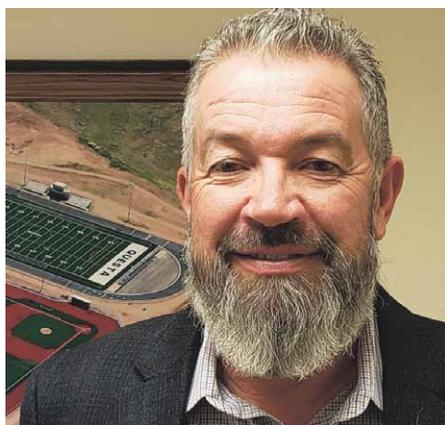


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Ladycat's New Basketball Coach

We would like to welcome our new girl's head Basketball Coach. Mr. Miguel H. Romero of Penasco is a retired police officer from the City of Las Vegas (Clark County) Police Department. The previously hired coach resigned at the last minute and cited personal reasons for his decision. The Questa schools re-opened the position and the committee reconvened to interview candidates and Mr. Romero was selected. He is excited, energized, and will commit himself to the team, bringing his passion and experience with the sport to the Wildcat team. Open gym began on November 13 for any Ladycats looking to get a jump start on conditioning. He hopes to de-



New Head Coach for the Questa Girl's Basketball Team, Miguel H. Romero.

velop and encourage the skills, discipline and love for the game this year.

Questa High Honor Students

PRINCIPAL ROLL

(4.00 & up GPA)

2018-2019 1st Quarter

7th Grade

NONE

8th Grade

Lund, Josiah

9th Grade

Bazan Granados, Kim
Gonzalez, Araceli
Lovato, Angelica
Martinez, Leah

10th Grade

NONE

11th Grade

Flores, Ivy
Rael, Isabelle

12th Grade

Garcia-Scott, Carolann

HONOR ROLL

(3.19 – 3.99 GPA)

2018-2019 1st Quarter

7th Grade

Arellano, Joaquin
Cisneros, Faith
Coutu-Ulch, Cybelle
Gomez, Gerald
Gonzalez, Amalia
Leon, Anton
McKenney, Ashton
Ortega, Isaac
Piper, Kaylee
Rael, Nathaniel
Ramirez, Juan Carlos
Rivera, Martin
Romero, Antonio
Sanchez, Ricardo
Tannahill, Shyanne
Vialpando, Jeremiah
Vigil Martinez, Destinee

8th Grade

Chavez, Josiah
Cisneros, Amaya
Gonzales, Juan
Gonzales, Marcus
Hernandez, Jennalee
Jackson, Cody
Rael, Karina
Salazar, David Paul
Trujillo, Alexis
Trujillo, Kalena

9th Grade

Rivera, Annaliese
LaCome, Danielle
Archuleta, Ashleigh

10th Grade

Cardenas, Anika
Cintas, Santana
Mandonado, Josiah
Martinez, Aaliyah
Martinez, Elizabeth
McKenney, Kiley
Rael, Honorio Justin
Ramirez, Mariah
Waltz, Zachary

11th Grade

Bailon, Joesyra
Chavez, Anjelica
Cisneros, Christina
Cisneros, Raven
Flory, Sean
Martinez, Janae
Martinez, Sonia
Ortega, Amber
Ortega, Arianna
Passino, Kiana
Rael, George
Sandoval, Julianna
Waltz, Joshua

12th Grade

Chavez, Mikayla
Mascarenas, Melissa
Padilla, Alexis

Romero, Miguel
Salazar, Jasmine
Torres, Dominic
Wilson, Preston

MERIT ROLL

(2.85 – 3.18 GPA)

2018-2019 1st Quarter

7th Grade

Caraveo, Diego
Gomez, Esteban
Martinez, Alexis
Watts, Isabella

8th Grade

Coutu-Ulch, Shelby
Irvine, Maverik
Martinez Jr., Jason
Martinez, Jordyn
Medina, Emelina
Sanchez, Matthew
Sandoval, Jose
Tafoya, Jesse

9th Grade

McKenney, Emma
Rael, Matthew
Gurule, Santiago
Mascarenas Martinez
Quintana Nataniel

10th Grade

Rodriguez, Ikhiro

11th Grade
Abeyta, Marissa
Danis, Gabrielle
Garcia, Ellisa
Gonzales, Carlos
Gonzalez, Anastacia
Hernandez, Gabriel

12th Grade

Aguilar, Linda
Cisneros, Sierra
Trujillo, Joaquin
Vialpando, Derek
Vigil, Enrique

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What's Up With Our Youth...

And Clues About How To Be There For Them

By JANIE CORINNE

Talking to our kids is one way to find out what they think, feel and experience, and perhaps that's the best way. We know how important it is to keep communication flowing!

On the big picture level, we have another way to look at what is happening in our kids' world. Every two years the New Mexico Department of Health participates in a nationwide survey to track just that – what are the middle and high school youth experiencing and what support systems do they have in their families and in the community.

In our state, the survey is called the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS). Vida del Norte Drug Free Coalition has recently reviewed the results of some of the questions from the Fall 2017 survey. Here are some of the data on alcohol and drug use.

YOUTH RISK AND RESILIENCY SURVEY RESPONSES

We see that our Questa area youth report similar and somewhat higher rates than the rest of Taos County. For alcohol and marijuana we are significantly higher.

Of great concern is that currently both drinking and binge drinking rates for Questa are significantly higher than for youth statewide. Forty percent of Questa High School students drank in the past 30 days, compared to 28% statewide. Almost one in five (18.8%) of Questa High Schoolers reported binge drinking in the past 30 days compared to just over one in ten (11.2%) statewide.

Many more of our high school youth are using marijuana than their peers in the rest of Taos County and the state. The current use rate in Questa is 26% higher than for all Taos County high school students and almost double the state rate of 27.9%.

Question: What about supports that our youth experience that are called “protective” factors? How do they relate to behavior?

We only have county data for these factors, but the students' answers tell us a lot.

High school youth in Taos County who said it was “NOT TRUE AT ALL” of these statements:

“When I am not home, a parent/

QUESTION: How many of our youth used alcohol and drugs in the 30 days prior to the survey?				
CURRENT USE (past 30 days)	2015 Questa HS	2017 Questa HS	2017 All Taos County HS	2017 All New Mexico HS
At least one drink of alcohol	43.4%	39.3%	36.8%	27.5%
Binge drinking (5 or more drinks on a single occasion for boys, 4 or more for girls)	36.0%	18.8%	15.0%	11.2%
Smoke cigarettes	17.7%	14.4%	14.8%	11.1%
Use marijuana	45.8%	54.0%	42.9%	27.9%
Use prescription drug (such as Oxy-Contin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax) not prescribed to you	9.9%	16.3%	13.4%	-
Painkillers to get high (or low!)	8.1%	4.5%	6.8%	6.6%

guardian knows where I am and who I am with”

“Outside home and school, an adult really cares about me.”

“In my home, a parent or other adult believes I will be a success.”

“In my school, there are clear rules about what students can and cannot do.”

“At my school, there is a teacher or some other adult who listens to me.”

were **MUCH MORE LIKELY** to do risky behaviors such as:

Smoke cigarettes

Drink and drive

Binge drink

Use painkillers to get high

Use cocaine

Clearly there is more we can do to support our youth!

Vida del Norte Coalition is addressing community conditions that contribute to use of alcohol and drugs by our young people. Everyone is welcome

to be part of this effort. You can learn more by contacting Vida Program Coordinator Maria Gonzalez, maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com, 575 779-2260.

Beginning on December 3rd, every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00am-11:00am the Vida Del Norte Coalition will be hosting Coffee and Conversation! Come by the Questa Youth Center, near

the library and join us!

If you are interested in learning about what we are doing or have ideas on how we can collaborate and work together to make our community a safer substance-free community by supporting our youth, come on by and enjoy a cup of Coffee or Tea with us, maybe even some occasional biscochitos!

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Reverend Father Andrew Ifele, Pastor of San Antonio del Rio Colorado Parish in Questa and All Its Missions

By JANA RAEL

Recently my husband, Marcus, and I sat down with Father Andrew to hear about his recent trip to the Holy Land.

JR: Father Andrew, thank you for letting us celebrate your birthday with you tonight. Before you tell us about your trip, let's start with your journey from Nigeria in Africa, to our small village in northern New Mexico. How did that occur?

FA: I come from a family of 10 children. I'm in the middle of 6 sons and 4 daughters. My parents were devout Catholics and would wake me every morning to go to Mass where I served as an altar boy. Not all my brothers and sisters would go, but I always did. As a result, while still in primary school, I told my parents that I wanted to be a priest.

JR: Where did you attend seminary?

FA: Seminary begins in high school and for several years after. I was ordained in 1989. After serving almost 20 years in Awoka, my home diocese, I requested to come to the United States in 2008, to study at the University of Detroit in Michigan where I received my Masters Degree in Religious Studies focused on learning about many different religions. This took two and a half years. While in school in Michigan, my mother died at home in Nigeria, but I was unable to return for her services. My father had already passed away before I came to the US.

JR: What brought you to New Mexico from Michigan?

FA: After completing my studies in Michigan, I wanted to learn more about



The Lord's Prayer in IGBO, Father Andrew's first language.

different cultures in America. I sent out letters of request to several dioceses around the country. There were already two priests from Nigeria serving in New Mexico. I received a reply letter from the Archbishop of Santa Fe and came in January 2011, making me the third. There are now a number of Nigerian priests serving in New Mexico. I was soon placed with Fr. Doug Mitchell in Los Lunas. He had once served in Questa. After six months there, I received my placement here in Questa in June 2011 after Fr. Dino Candelaria was transferred to Ranchos de Taos. So now I've been here over seven years.

JR: When you arrived, you found an empty church, the structure in need of extensive repair. The west wall had fallen several months before.

FA: Yes, Masses had been moved to the



And we thought our village was old!

Cerro church. I soon requested that we be allowed to hold mass in our Parish Center and that continued until the reconstruction and re-dedication of the Questa church in August 2016. I sincerely thank God and all the people in the Questa community and beyond who devotedly gave their time, treasures, and talents, working daily to see to the completion of our place of worship. It is a symbol of our unity and oneness. May God continue to reward you all. It is a memorable joy for me to have worked with you. My prayers for all.

JR: What is the best thing about your vocation as a priest?

FA: Service to God and His people gives me joy, for it is a call to serve. The people I serve have become my family.

JR: And the most difficult part?

FA: As a human being when things are not going well, it does not give joy.

JR: It would be remiss of me to not ask about the crisis in the Catholic Church of abuse by clergy.



At the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, a very holy place for Jews, so all males must wear a yamaka.

FA: Yes, this is an unfortunate situation that does not give joy to anyone. At time power of darkness raises its ugly head. The church does encounter problems sometimes. I ask that we put every clergy in our prayers and pray for the victims as well. God always brings something good out of difficult situations.

JR: Tell us about your trip to the Holy Land. Did this bring joy?

FA: Yes, it was the fulfillment of a dream for me. We had an excellent tour guide from Palestine. I celebrated the Masses for our group of 28 every day in a different location. We visited Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall, Bethlehem, the River Jordan, the house where Mary lived, the cave where Jesus was born, the tomb where he was laid, and even a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We walked where Jesus walked.

Community Wide Support for Vida Del Norte

by JOHN ANTHONY ORTEGA
COUNCILMAN VILLAGE
OF QUESTA

It is time that the drug, alcohol, and crime problems in Questa and the surrounding communities be addressed. There are several steps to accomplish this, but the first step is prevention. I would like to ask and encourage community wide support for Vida Del Norte which is a coalition that is addressing the drug and alcohol problem in our community starting with the youth.

In 2017 the use of alcohol, marijuana, and prescription pills were higher amongst the students at Questa High

School than at the other Taos County Schools as well the at the statewide level. When I read those numbers, I was shocked. I always knew there was a problem in Questa, but never realized it is worse in our community than others. Through preventative measures, Vida Del Norte is looking to address these problems among our youth. They are our future and addressing the drug and alcohol problems in our community begins with them. The Mission Statement of Vida Del Norte is "To Unite Northern Taos County Communities in preventing and decreasing youth substance abuse."

In 2017 Vida Del Norte received a

Drug Free Communities Grant, which is funding the Coalition and a full-time employee, Maria Gonzales. The Coalition is seeking community wide support through twelve sectors, including Local Government, Businesses, Citizens, Media, Law Enforcement, the Faith Community, Public Health, and others. The Coalition also includes Youth Members who attend all Coalition meetings. The Village of Questa has already partnered with Vida Del Norte, allowing them to have offices and meetings at the Questa Youth Center.

I am a member of this Coalition and I would like to encourage all community members and businesses to support

this group and spread the word about its efforts. This is an issue that affects all members and all areas of our community and the Coalition needs community wide support. This is a great start and we hope the future is looking great when it comes to addressing this issue.

I see a bright future in our youth, and hopefully with the efforts of this Coalition they will have an addiction and abuse free lifestyle. With the efforts of the Vida Del Norte Coalition I hope the community will also reap the rewards of being addiction and abuse free. Thank you all for your support



MOVIE REVIEW

THE SHAPE OF WATER

by MICHAEL YOUNG

The Shape of Water, this year's Best Picture Oscar winner, will, just like water, take on whatever form and shape each viewer wants to see in it. The movie has a moving, fluid nature that defies easy categories.

The Internet Movie Database (IMDb), puts it in boxes labeled Adventure, Drama, and Fantasy and it has elements of all those. There is a plot-line involving Russian spies, and a scheme to steal an important 'asset'. The 'asset' in question isn't exactly human, at least from outward appearances and so it represents a creature of the imagination. Certainly, some of its deepest moments reflect heartfelt emotion tinged with tragedy.

But the movie could just as easily be called a work of science fiction, because

of its setting (a 1960's research lab) and similarities to other science fiction classics (like Creature from the Black Lagoon). There are moments that provoke laughter as you see buffoonish characters, bumbling their way through a scenario that could have come from the Carol Burnett Show. At times it could be considered a 'thriller'. As the trailers convey, it is also a romance, with non-gratuitous sex scenes.

The Shape of Water was the Oscar darling this year, receiving the most nominations (13), and winning the most awards (4). It was a balanced movie with quality attention lavished in all aspects of the movie craft.

The film is the brain-child of Guillermo del Toro, who wrote, directed, and produced the movie. He was nominated for the original screenplay and won the Oscar for directing it. Del Toro was nominated in 2006 for both writing and directing Pan's Labyrinth, a movie that shares traits with this one, including a fantastical creature, and surreal relationships. Del Toro has displayed his science fiction and fantasy roots in writing and directing the Hellboy series and the first two Pacific Rim movies. And he showed

how easily he can coax human sentiments out of non-human characters in his fabulous Hobbit movies. Shape of Water might be considered as the highest expression of his art form.

The vision of the writer and director is important, but without great actors, the message doesn't deliver. Casting Sally Hawkins in the leading role, as a mute and very sensitive janitor, Elisa Esposito, was a stroke of genius. She was nominated for leading actress and was previously nominated for her supporting role in Blue Jasmine (with Cate Blanchett). Although she normally plays supporting roles, here her facial expressions and body movements convey her strong acting abilities even though she has no real dialogue throughout the entire film.

It helps when the entire acting ensemble is of high quality since each actor plays off the others. Hawkins works with exceptional supporting actors, two of them also receiving Oscar nominations. Richard Jenkins plays her next-door neighbor, Giles, and the sympathetic narrator of the movie. Octavia Spencer plays Elisa's co-worker at the research laboratory - a perfect verbal counterweight for Elisa's silent expressions.

A great movie, though, isn't just in front of the camera. The movie received nominations for cinematography, film editing, costumes, and production design, winning the Oscar in the last category. The design evokes a 1960's science fiction setting, in combination with a feel from an early James Bond movie (think Thunderball). The camera work makes use of contrasting lights and darks with light sources reflecting off of metal surfaces. And the creature's costume does a perfect job of suggesting creepiness and beauty at the same time.

The Shape of Water also received nominations for sound editing, sound mixing, and original score. Because so much of the movie revolves in and around water, there were special challenges in rendering sounds that reflected that environment. Alexander Desplat's music is so 'liquid' that he certainly deserves the Oscar for original score.

The Shape of Water is a very big movie in a tight, compact package. It will puzzle you, confound you, and astound you, all at the same time. It takes the shape of whatever container you want to put it in and leaves you with a memorable experience.



QUESTA LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Rael's Market

We will read a book by Carlos Castenada. Members will select one of his books to read. There are several selections in the Taos Library.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Rael's Market

We will read a book by Paolo Coelho. Members will select one of his books to read. Our library has 3 of his books in the collection.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Rael's Market

We will read a book by Frank Waters. Members will select one of his books to read. Questa Library has several of his books in the collection. Taos Library has several as well.

We hope to see you at the next and future book club meetings. As always, if you have read some other book and want to share, please come and enjoy the exciting literary discussions.

Thanks, from the Questa Library!

GO Bonds do make a difference! Thank you for voting for GO Bonds! These bonds make so much possible for our library. They help us purchase books and DVDs for the library. Among other things, they cover our ebook consortium participation, Mango Language Program, equipment, and supplies. Here is a list of some of the materials we purchased recently with

2016 Go Bonds:

Cave of Bones by Anne Hillerman
The Western Star: A Longmire Mystery
Depth of Winter: A Longmire Mystery
Fear: Trump in the White House
Look Alive Twenty-Five by Janet Evanovich
Holy Ghost by John Sandford
Residue by Michael McGarrity
Dickensian (DVD)
Don't Worry He Won't Get Far (DVD)
The Catcher Was a Spy (DVD)
Won't You Be My Neighbor (DVD)

More? Yes! Check it out at the Questa Library.



Photo by Margaret Lejuste

Building Scarecrows at the Questa Library October 26, 2018. Four scarecrows guarded the Library for a couple of weeks. Not a crow in sight!

THREE FRIDAYS IN DECEMBER AT THE QUESTA LIBRARY

The Questa Library will have a maker space set up where kids (and adults) can make holiday cards and ornaments. All of the necessary supplies will be available: cards, paints, sparkles, envelopes, and decorations. All you need to bring is your imagination.

Oh, and what kind of event would it be without goodies to snack on? Kids and adults welcome!

Drop in between 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Dec. 7th, 14th and 21st.

But wait, there's more! Join us at the Village Tree Lighting at 4:30 on December 1st.

And Alumbra at the VFW Hall from 10-6pm on December 15th!

Questa Post Office Welcomes New Postmaster, Pat Brown



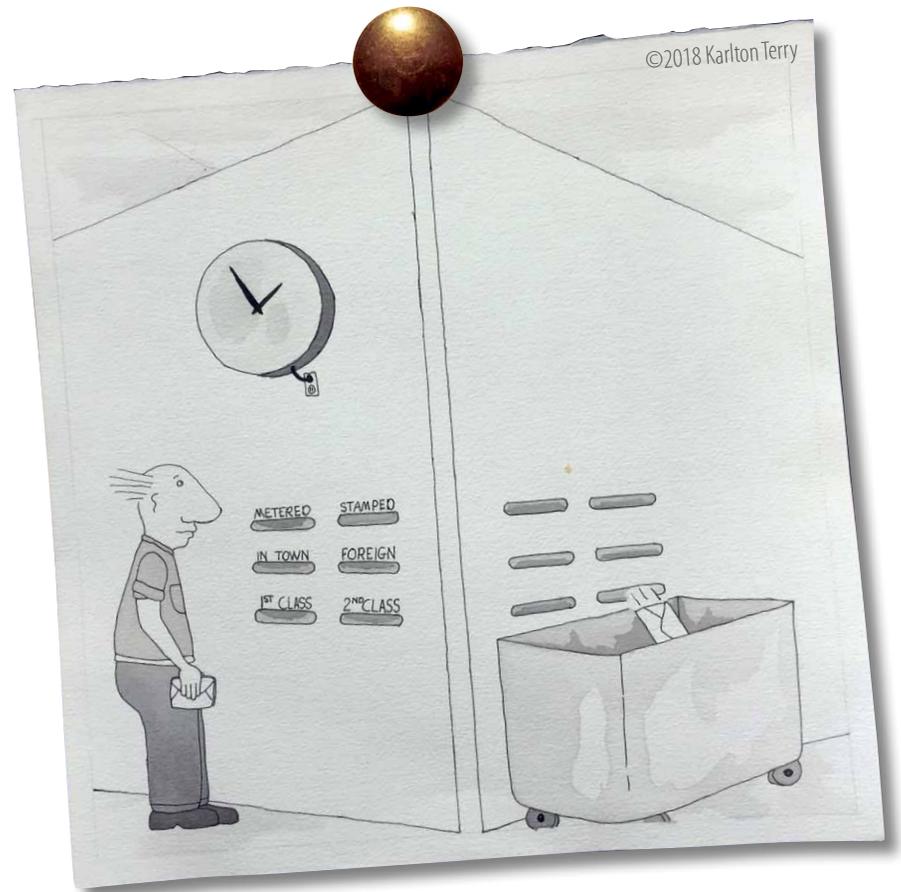
retired in 2014 after twenty years. He joined the USPS the following year and moved to Ruidoso Downs, another small town. Between his father's army career and his own career in the Air Force, Pat has lived in Germany for a total of 19 years. He figures he has moved every 2-3 years his whole life.

At the end of October, former postmaster of Ruidoso Downs, NM, Pat Brown, came to work at our local Questa post office. He and his wife Kim are thrilled, they love Questa and everything about it. When the opportunity came up, they googled Questa and were excited about checking out the area. When they came to visit they were not disappointed. They cruised the Enchanted Circle, which he describes as breathtaking. Their appreciation for the scenic beauty and the community here continue to grow.

The Browns love small town life and that was one criterium for a move. Pat likes knowing his customers by name and being a part of the community. He was born in El Paso, TX and grew up in a military family. His dad was in the army and they spent most of Pat's childhood overseas. Pat himself joined the Air Force and

That is going to change, though. Pat and Kim are looking for a home to buy in Questa and they say they never want to move again. Well, never say never, but settling down sounds good to them right now. Pat loves his new job and is very impressed with all the postal service employees, especially Joann Cisneros and Paul Quintana at the Questa Post Office. "Every post office is unique and does things differently", says Brown. He praises Joann and Paul as being very knowledgeable and pleasant to work with, along with the other post office employees in the area. Besides the Questa Post Office, Pat oversees the Remote Offices in Amalia, Costilla, Cerro and San Cristobal and has nothing but great things to say about each location.

Pat wants to thank the Questa community for being so friendly and inviting. He says that he and his wife are so ready to not move! Next time you are in the Questa Post Office welcome Pat Brown to the community!



Questa Youth & Families Center is Open!

By NICHOLAS MAESTAS

The Youth and Families Center in Questa is now open to the public. Currently the Youth Center is open regular hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm. All are welcome to utilize the facility during these hours at no cost. The Village provides free Wi-Fi at both the Library and the Youth Center, so you can stay connected. Because of the holidays, there is the possibility that December

may have an abbreviated schedule, hours will be posted on the door at the Youth Center and hours will be back to normal in January. The Vida del Norte Coalition has their new office at the Youth Center. Thank you to the Coalition's Program Coordinator, Mrs. Maria Gonzalez who volunteers her time to open the facility to the public. Interested in using the Youth Center for your meeting or event? Contact the Administration office to reserve space today. Call 575-586-0694.



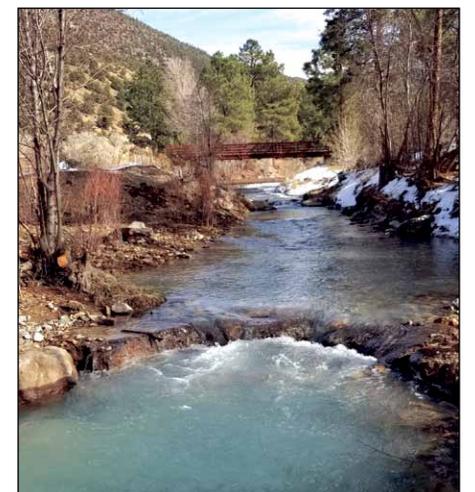
River Restoration Project

By NICHOLAS MAESTAS

The Village was awarded funding from the New Mexico Environment Department to rehabilitate the fish habitat and install a walking trail. The project along the Red River below Eagle Rock Lake is underway and expected to be completed mid-December. The project engineer's design added large rocks to create small waterfalls, smaller rock to raise the river bed and built out several benches along the river banks to allow the public to enjoy the river right from the river's edge. Vegetation overhanging the river was removed and a mix of native plant species were added along the banks.

Fly fisherman used to have a difficult time fishing in this stretch of the river, but with these improvements, "fisherman will have more space to easily back cast and traverse through the river," said Chris Phillips with Riverbend Engineering, LLC who's firm designed the project. The contractor hired to do the work is local and has completed several similar river restoration projects in northern New Mexico rivers. Andamo Sanchez Trucking and Excavation, Inc. has a team with experience and has worked

very quickly since being awarded the project. The project is on Village of Questa property, thanks to a recent 4.88 acre transfer from Chevron Mining to the Village. You can find the project area by parking at Eagle Rock Lake and walking down river along the trail from the foot bridge at Eagle Rock Lake. The fish will adjust to the improved habitat quickly which will make for fun fishing and lasting family memories. The Village of Questa is looking forward to many more stretches of the Red River to be restored in the coming years. Get your fishing poles ready!



View from the first rock structure (cross vane) down river from the foot bridge at Eagle Rock Lake.

NEW FACE QCU continued from Page 1

with chip debit cards, mobile app and online banking. Saving for retirement is something that most people put off believing that they cannot afford it. Questa Credit Union offers IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts) that can be opened with a low balance to help make your dream of retirement a reality. The Questa Credit Union also offer loans to help you with all of your needs from a good vehicle for getting to work to a roof over your head. There is no need to spend your hard-earned money driving to Taos for your financial needs when the Questa Credit Union is your local, member owned financial institution.

Questa Credit Union has recently remodeled their building to enhance the member's experience. There are private offices in which you can apply for a loan



Questa Credit Union volunteers and staff. Left to right- Back row: Jolton Lafore, Maurice Duran, Ron Cardenas, Gerald Cisneros, Malaquias Rael, Jr. Front row: Evangeline Leyba, Nadine Herrera, Debra Romero, Katherine Flory, Patricia Michael, Laurie Montoya Not pictured: Cruz Duran, Cynthia Rael-Vigil, Michelle Spears, Steven Rivera, Tina Cisneros.

Photo by Emily Wilde

GRAND RE-OPENING
SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH 2:00-4:00PM
 Join us for hot cocoa and doughnuts.
ENTER TO WIN one of many prizes
TAKE A TOUR. MEET SANTA!
 2433 Highway 522 in Questa,
 more info at questacreditunion.org
 or call (575) 586-0423

or speak with the credit councilor in private. Questa Credit Union will have a grand re-opening on Saturday December 8th from 2:00-4:00 pm. Please come by to get a cup of hot cocoa and a doughnut, enter to win one of many prizes and take a tour. There will also be a visit from Santa Claus for the little ones wanting to get a head start on their holidays. Come see us at 2433 Highway 522 in Questa, visit our website at questacreditunion.org or give us a call at (575) 586-0423.

WORKING FOR YOU: A COMMUNITY PAPER
 CALL OR EMAIL US FOR RATES!
 575.649.0831 or DelRioColoradoAds@gmail.com

Questa Junior High Community Service Class-A True Service to the Community!

Santana Santistevan's Community Service Class at Questa Junior High has had ongoing fundraising events to support local causes. In September, the class had a supply drive for the Taos Animal Shelter and collected lots of food, toys and other supplies. The month

of October, they decided to collect money to buy a load of firewood for a family in Questa. It took the whole month and part of November, but they finally collected the full amount. The wood was delivered in November to a local family to help them stay warm this winter.



Questa Junior High Community Service Class with firewood donated to a Questa family. From left to right: Jeremiah Vialpando, Joaquin Arellano, Amalia Gonzalez, Isaac Ortega and Martin Rivera. Photo: Santana Santistevan

2018
Alumbra de Questa
INDOOR/OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET!
Saturday, Dec. 15
10:00am - 6:00pm
 Come and enjoy unique holiday shopping, traditional foods of the season, Santa, Children's Activities and Festive Music!
QUESTA VFW
 2597 Hwy 522
 (at Sagebrush Rd)
VENDORS WANTED
 For more information contact Dina
 575-779-5803 or questaevents@gmail.com

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
For the month of December 2018



ARIES

Planet: Mercury
MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: Early in the month, you may feel awash with shifting senses and aspirations.

Direction: Dance with it until it stabilizes by mid-month.

Soul Thought: Aiming for the stars means the target may move.



TAURUS

Planet: Vulcan
APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: An initial tendency to hold back could shift to an urge to overspend.

Direction: Yes, Christmas is coming, but so are the consequences.

Soul Thought: What is true generosity?



GEMINI

Planet: Venus
MAY 20 – JUNE 20

Dynamic: Your usual sense of harmony may be disrupted with intense sensations, feelings.

Direction: For you, it's all good. Enjoy the month!

Soul Thought: It's not all in your mind after all.



CANCER

Planet: Neptune
JUNE 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: A mixed bag of challenges and blessings for you this month.

Direction: Work with both well and you will gain some important and deep-seated knowledge about yourself.

Soul Thought: "All perceptions are based on contrast." from "The Physics of Angels."



LEO

Planet: Sun
JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: Energetically, it's a good month for you.

Direction: A good time to dream AND to follow through on your dreams.

Soul Thought: Shorter days allows for more dreamtime, waking and sleeping.



VIRGO

Planet: Moon
AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: You begin and end the month focusing on your three-fold form.

Direction: As you journey, remember to occasionally look around.

Soul Thought: Full Moon on Black Friday; you know your job!



LIBRA

Planet: Uranus
SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: Some strange occurrences can get your mind going in different directions.

Direction: Be prepared to discern "different" from too far out.

Soul Thought: What is an altered state of consciousness?



SCORPIO

Planet: Mars
OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: You may be offered the chance to face a demon this month.

Direction: When it's your own demon, it's a great opportunity to grow.

Soul Thought: "I sometimes have a tendency to walk on the dark side." J.K. Rowling



SAGITTARIUS

Planet: Earth
NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: Communication may be tricky the first half of the month.

Direction: The spiritual diary could help you sort it out.

Soul Thought: Is it the Teacher?



CAPRICORN

Planet: Saturn
DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You are solid in your own skin.

Direction: Just don't become concretized.

Soul Thought: The world needs solid, not stuck.

URANUS RETROGRADE

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go."

— T.S. Eliot

In esoteric astrology, retrogrades are considered opportunities, a time of more possibilities than when a planet is direct. When Uranus goes retro, it can offer even more unexpected opportunities than other planets. It is also one of our more powerful planets on an esoteric level. Uranus was discovered in 1781 during a time of great social and political upheaval in the world, including the French and American revolutions. With this background during its discovery, astrologers of the day assigned it the qualities of upheaval, independence, eccentricity and magnetism. Even so, Uranus direct tends to want things to remain the same once known, to be at least somewhat predictable. It's all about smooth-running machines and the invention of automation meant to make life easier.

Uranus is retrograde all month. After the first few days it's the only retrograde planet in our skies. When it goes retrograde, the influence is even more unique, standing out like a log cabin or a houseboat among the ticky tacky houses of everyday, mundane life. Its love of science and originality can now incorporate the Mad Scientist and far-out philosophies. Invention of the previously unperceived becomes possible. Uranus also moves into Aries this month, where it will remain until March. Now we pair the sign of innovation and new beginnings with the planet of invention, science and leaping beyond the known. Uranus retro in Aries can mean starting a revolution, challenging the status quo or destroying old concepts to make way for the new.

Everyone: Take advantage of this month's unique opportunities to think for yourself, outside of the box!



AQUARIUS

Planet: Jupiter
JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: This is familiar energy for you, easy to fall into.

Direction: But now, express it in a new, higher manner.

Soul Thought: An abundance of aspiration.



PISCES

Planet: Pluto
FEB 18 – MARCH 20

Dynamic: This may feel like a serious time for you.

Direction: It's all good; find someone to help with the lighter side of things.

Soul Thought: "A time to weep and a time to laugh," Ecclesiastes 3:4

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.*

HOUSING WANTED

Housing Needed. We have a list of people and families that are seeking rooms or homes to rent; from retired people to teachers and nurses. If you have a room to rent or a home for rent in the Questa area, contact us to see if we have a good match. Lodging @ QuestaEDF.com 586-2258

FOR RENT

Rooms and Homes for Rent. Several homes or rooms for rent in the Questa area, short-term and long-term. For details on what is available, please email Lodging@QuestaEDF.com or call 586-2258.

3 BD/2BA. House in Questa for Rent. 2 car garage, fenced yard, \$1300 + utilities. Willing to offer trade in exchange for handyman work. 928-273-4811

3 BD/2BA House in Questa for Rent. 2 car garage, fenced in yard, \$1300 + utilities. Big living room, nice kitchen and bath. Laundry in unit. Wood and central gas heating. Owner is willing to trade some rent credit in exchange for auto mechanics and property maintenance/handyman work on this rental and others. 575-737-8689 or 928-273-4811 cell. Or email TeachingTinyTaos@gmail.com for pictures and more info.

HELP WANTED

QUESTA DEL RIO COLORADO NEWS is looking for an energetic, motivated advertising sales person. Experience and knowledge of area preferable. Monthly base salary, plus commission. Call 575.586.2149 or email Lindsay@quesaedf.com.

Help Wanted: Carpenter for turning a window into a door and building a small deck with stairs and a ramp. Call or text (575) 737-8689.

Help Wanted: Auto mechanic for older Carbureted engines. Toyota and Nissan pickups. Also need a torque converter swapped. Paying cash. Call or text (575) 737-8689.

Help Wanted: resident carpenter for work trade on vintage travel trailer. Needs pex water lines, interior sanding and staining, new flooring and finish carpentry. Live there for free while fixing the trailer. Call or text (575) 737-8689.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Questa Del Rio Colorado News could use your help to sustain our paper! Assistant Editor, Staff Writer, Calendar Coordinator, Staff Photographer and Subscription Manager —these are volunteer positions available right now. Very part-time (5-10 hours a month?). Possibility of

paid positions in the future. Please contribute your experience and talents and join our fun team. Support your local newspaper! Please email news@quesaedf.com

FOR SALE

KING TAMALES fresh made to order with love at Taos Pueblo. \$20 per dozen or \$12 per half dozen. Red chile pork, green chile chicken or vegan calabacitas. Also fruit empanadas and Pueblo Oven Bread. Delivery to Questa and Red River. Call Melanie or Jerald at 505.358.4985

Mariachi Questa will be selling Green Chile through December. They have medium, hot and extra-hot green chile. All bags are \$7 each. Contact any member of Mariachi Questa or call Santana Santistevan at 575-779-5601.

Eggs for sale, while they last. Thanks for shopping at Questa Farmers Market! I may have products available during winter with weekly delivery to Questa area. To order, call or text the Egg Lady (505) 660-7397.

Handcrafted cheeses, milk, cream, butter and meat products ~ available for order from local farm. Keep updated on our products and availability by following Moreno Valley Milk on Facebook, message us on Facebook or text (575) 449-9137.
Raw honey harvested in the Taos area, unfiltered and unheated. Available in raw, creamed (white), or cinnamon creamed, plus osha root honey and CBD honey. Comb available seasonally. Call Katee Kleiber for sizes and pricing, (806) 316-4450.

WANTED

Looking for hunting videos and photos for a film project. Call 779-0623

Wanted: Older house in Questa that is sitting empty. Hoping sellers will accept payments so that I may buy it in time and fix it up to make it a family home again. Call or text (575) 737-8689.

Wanted: French doors or nice double pane sliding glass. Call or text (575) 737-8689.

SERVICES

Acupuncture, Aroma and Sound Therapy — Ana Easter, Doctor of Oriental Medicine, R.N. Healing for the Body, Mind & Soul. 720.656.8783, isisblueana@gmail.com

NOTICES

The Vida Del Norte Coalition will NOT hold a December meeting. Instead they will hold a members' retreat. For more information, contact

Vida Program Coordinator Maria Gonzalez, maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com, 575 779-2260.

QUESTA VISITOR CENTER CLOSED FOR THE WINTER, SEE YOU NEXT SPRING!

North Central Food Pantry
Distribution Days, December 7, December 14 • 11am to 2pm

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER! PLEASE MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Send a donation of \$60 or more to the Questa Del Rio Colorado News and you will receive a gift subscription for you or a loved one. For a contribution of \$120 or more, we will send a subscription plus a "Questa; Find What's Real" T-Shirt. Send a check for any amount for the joy of giving.

Mail check and the address you would like to send the subscription to: QEDF*, PO Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556. Attention: Newspaper

If you would like to see Questa's own local paper continue, please send a generous donation. Community Supported Media!

*The Questa Economic Development Fund is a 501.c3 Non-Profit Organization.



QUESTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT JOB VACANCIES

- CDL Certified Activity Driver
- Educational Assistants

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

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

Submit Applications to:
Kathy Gonzales, Human Resources Specialist
Questa Independent School District
P.O. BOX 440
Questa, NM 87556



QUESTA JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2018

Nov 28	Wed	Mesa Vista	H	4:00PM	8th
Nov 30	Fri	Penasco	H	4:00PM	7th & 8th
Dec 3	Mon	Mora	A	1:00PM	7th & 8th
Dec 4	Tue	Escalante	H	4:00PM	7th & 8th
Dec 6	Thur	Escalante	A	4:00PM	7th & 8th
Dec 11	Tue	Mora	H	1:00PM	7th & 8th
Dec 14 & 15	Fri-Sat	Dist. Tournament	A	4:00PM	7th & 8th
Dec 18	Tues	Coronado	H	5:00PM	7th & 8th

Head Coach: Miguel Cardenas



QUESTA WILDCATS BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL • SCHEDULE 2018/2019

Nov 29	Thur	Taos Tournament	A	TBA	Varsity
Dec 4 - 8	Tues-Sat	Cowbell Tournament	A	TBA	Varsity
Dec 21	Fri	Questa V. Maxwell	A	5:00pm	V/JV
Jan 3-5, 2019	Thur-Fri-Sat	NRG Tournament	A	TBA	

Del Rio Colorado News
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**START IMMEDIATELY!
BASE SALARY PLUS COMMISSION
CALL 575.586.2149**



AA MEETINGS

Sundays 10-11:00 am
Open Meeting
Questa Youth Center

Mondays 7:00pm
Harvest Questa
2558 Highway 522

Tuesdays 7:00pm
Erik's Workshop
417 E. High St., Red River

Happy Holidays
from our family at
The Questa News to yours!

Yoga Sala Questa Fall Yoga Schedule

Tuesday, 9 – 10:30 am
Gentle Flow and Restore with Gaea

Wednesday, 10 - 11 am
Gentle Flow & Restore with Willow

Thursday, 10 - 11:30 am
Chair Yoga with Willow

Thursday afternoon, 5:30-7 pm
Flow/Deep Stretch with Gaea

December 22 5-6PM
Free Full Moon Community Yoga

First Class Free at OCHO!

8 Highway 38, Questa
Yogasalaquesta.org
Facebook: yogasalaquesta



TREE LIGHTING EVENT

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 1 • 4:30pm
Corner of NM 522 & NM 38

The Village of Questa invites you and your family to join our family as we light our Community Tree. Enjoy Holiday carols, pinon wood luminarias (traditional bon fire), hot chocolate and biscochitos for the evening's festivities.

Sponsored by the Village of Questa and area businesses.



QUESTA AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH IN QUESTA

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

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

MISSION CHURCHES:

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

HARVEST QUESTA

2558 Hwy 522
Sunday 11am- 12:30pm
Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales
Visit us online: HarvestQuesta.org
(575) 770-5906

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

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

PATH OF THE CHRIST

Mystic Christ-based teachings of Herman Rednick
Sunday 8am class and meditation
Sunday 11am Alice Bailey Study Group
gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com
586-1454 or 586-1038

QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 miles north of Questa on State Road 522
We are excited to offer Bible Class
at 9:30am on Sundays
Followed by worship at 10:15am
We pray you will join us!

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

Tibetan Buddhism
Tuesday 4pm- Chenrezig
Friday 7am-Green Tara
gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com
www.earthjourney.org
586-1454 or 586-1038

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

586-1947

RED RIVER

CROSS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (STANDING IN THE GAP)

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

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

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

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Edwin's- North End of Silver Bell Trail
2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30pm
Coffee, donuts and visiting starts at 10:00am



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 1

4:30PM Village Tree Lighting at the Village Center

DECEMBER 2

First Day of Hanukah

DECEMBER 3

3:30PM Questa Library Book Club, Rael's Market

8AM-4PM Clothes Drive & Taos Feeds Taos Applications, Harvest Questa

9AM-noon Taos Feeds Taos Applications in Costilla at RCCLA Office

DECEMBER 4

6:00 PM Questa School Board Meeting

DECEMBER 5

1:15-1:45PM BookMobile, San Cristobal Community Center
2:15-3:15PM BookMobile, Questa Post Office

DECEMBER 7

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

11AM-2PM Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry!

1-3PM Questa Library, make holiday stuff and eat snacks!

DECEMBER 8

2-4PM Questa Credit Union grand re-opening
2-5PM Questa Creative Council Celebrates its first year at LaSala

DECEMBER 11

6:00 PM Questa Village Council Meeting, Village Hall

DECEMBER 14

11AM-2PM Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry!

1-3PM Questa Library, make holiday stuff and eat snacks!

DECEMBER 15

10AM to 6PM Alumbra de Questa at the VFW Hall

DECEMBER 18

6:00 PM Questa School Board Meeting

DECEMBER 21

Winter Solstice, First Day of Winter, shortest day of the year

1-3PM Questa Library, make holiday stuff and eat snacks!

DECEMBER 22

5-6PM Free Full Moon Community Yoga Class at OCHO

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY!

DECEMBERS 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE!

Every Saturday During Ski Season 7-8:00 PM Torchlight Parade and Fireworks, Red River

For a complete list of December Events in Red River, go to <https://redriver.org/events/calendar/2018/12>

DECEMBER IS:

National Car Donation Month
AIDS Awareness Month

National Pear Month
Bingo's Birthday Month

National Drunk & Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month

National Human Rights Month

National Tie Month

National Write A Business Plan Month

Operation Santa Paws (Dec. 1-24)

Root Vegetables and Exotic Fruits Month

Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Spiritual Literacy Month

Universal Human Rights Month

Worldwide Food Service Safety Month



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www.questa-happypaws.com



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Council 11696 Questa, New Mexico

Worthy Grand Knight Jonathan Cisneros
(575-613-6730) drew1288@aol.com

Deputy Grand Night Michael, Rael, Jr.
(575-770-4994) mikeyrjr@hotmail.com

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