

JUNE 2020: FATHER'S DAY ISSUE

Questa Del Rio News

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QUESTA AREA
GRADUATES

Pages 19

QUARANTINE QUISINE:
CARRYOUT AT THE
FOOD PANTRY!

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KIDS'
KORNER

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

Summer Season in the Carson National Forest Know Before You Go

By JAVONNE GOODMAN

Although this summer season will not be "business as usual," Carson National Forest employees are as committed as ever to providing services and products to visitors and preserving and protecting the public lands under their care. With circumstances constantly changing, the Carson National Forest will continue to work with local and state partners to support communities.

Based on the COVID-19 pandemic and current conditions on the ground, the Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests implemented Stage 2 fire restrictions in May to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire. Stage 2 adds additional restrictions to the earlier campfire ban, including:



Photo by Jim Cox www.jimcoxartworks.net

Fire crews have been busy putting out fires all over northern Taos County.

Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire.

Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is cleared of vegetation and flammable material.

Welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with open flame.

Driving off designated roads. Visitors may park in areas cleared of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway, or in designated parking areas.

Operating a chainsaw or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine between the hours of 10 am. and 6 pm. The restriction reduces the risk of

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Positive Thoughts

by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

What homemade food item did you invent, discover, or rediscover through these last couple of months being at home? I played around with gluten-free, cane sugar-free oatmeal cookies (with and without chocolate chips), a variety of ways to dress up chicken soup, and had fun making dahl from different beans, and dairy-free saag made with kale rather than spinach. How about you?

How is your garden prep going? June planting is in process, so have fun! Remember to plant flowers for the pollina-

tors and yourself. Asparagus grows along the acequia and we've been harvesting it since Mother's Day. Wild asparagus is the best! Wild spinach and lambsquarters are ready for foraging also.

I pray that no one you know has passed on from COVID-19 and wish you and your loved ones continued health and well-being. The virus has stopped humanity in its tracks, which has produced difficulties, but has also provided cleaner air, cleaner oceans, and a quieter environment almost everywhere. Nature is responding with joy. We have been offered a profound opportunity to get back in touch with those we love, with the sky, birds, and land, as well as ourselves.

June includes several days that call at-

tention to our shared global environment, including World Environment Day, plus days that highlight the oceans, the great outdoors, rainforests, and reefs. Many millions of years ago, much of the San Luis Valley and northern New Mexico were a combination of mega-volcanoes and inland seas. The environment has changed radically over the epochs, but those changes were not human-driven or created. COVID-19 has let us see our collective impact on the Earth. What an amazing gift and opportunity!

June also underscores our collective immaturity through remembering war (D-Day), child labor, and the refugees of the world. D-Day was a monumental

turning point in World War II. The forces of democracy and unity triumphed on the shores of Europe, and did so through the great cost of lives. We are still fighting this battle in many ways. Friends, investigate where the products you purchase come from and who is producing them. Child labor will end when there is no market supporting the use of children as slaves. And, refugees are the result of weather destabilization, racial persecution, war, famine, and more. Let us help one another. One day, it could be you or me that needs safety from harm.

Human beings don't change easily and our habitual ways of thinking and doing

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**VOTE IN THE JUNE 2ND
PRIMARY ELECTION!**

Questa Del Rio News

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To Inform, Inspire, Connect and Unite the Communities of Northern Taos County.
NUESTRO OBJETIVO
Es informar, inspirar, contactar, y unir a toda la comunidad del norte del condado de Taos.

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BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH
NOS PUEDEN CONTACTAR PARA INFORMACIÓN
ENVÍE ANTES DEL DÍA 15 DEL MES

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY JUNE, FEARLESS READERS!

We are proud to offer you this Father's Day issue. We hope that your favorite father will find joy (or would have found joy) in these pages. We would like to say Happy Father's Day and Happy Birthday to Virgil Martinez, whom we think is Questa's oldest father, who turned 100 on May 21. Stay tuned for our July issue for birthday photos!

We have some proud fathers out there, whose daughters have written for these pages. In May we featured stories from student correspondents from Questa High. We also had a letter to the editor last month requesting that we have a monthly feature written by and for kids — Ask and it is given! This month we have two wonderful contributions from 11-year-old writers for our first "Kids' Corner." We hope young people will share art and writing with us every month.

For June, we are also taking a close look at the fact that we are now in fire season and honoring our first responders. Please be safe and follow fire restrictions, not only to keep property, families, wildlands, and critters safe but also to keep firefighters at home and to protect needed resources on the front lines of the ongoing public health crisis.

Speaking of health crisis: the Chinese character for crisis also means opportunity. A crisis can also signify time to change direction. This time away from what we used to call normal has a silver lining. If it wasn't clear before, many of us have used this time to assess, or reassess our lives. It's always good to stop, take a good deep look at ourselves and our lives. It is not easy to get where we are going if we don't know where we are. And working with what we have right in front of us is the place to start.

Recently, I read a short essay by Werner Erhard, called What's So. It inspired me and more than that, it was helpful. I did not get permission to reprint it, so I will describe it and hope my perspective is also helpful for you.

What Mr. Erhard describes as What's So is the current condition, the situation, the facts — whatever is going on right now. You may have lost your job, you are spending time at home, there wasn't a graduation or a prom as planned, and that is "what's so." And then there is our story, judgement, or some interpretation that we add to it about what's so. For example, "I don't like this — I wish things were different — this doesn't meet my expectations — I would be happy if..." The more time we spend stuck in our story, the less aligned we are with what's so and the more dissatisfied we become. Fighting the "now" in hopes of restoring the past takes a lot of energy. You can fight the "now," but you cannot win. As far as I can tell, it is not possible to be happy if you choose to construct a sad or mad story about your current reality.

Erhard says, "What's so doesn't care what you think, feel, intend, or wish; it will not bend. You can be freaked out or driven over what's so, and it won't change what's so. If you're late for an appointment, getting freaked out about it won't have you arrive any earlier." Who can argue with that?

There is much to be said about accepting reality as it is and getting on with it. Sci-fi fans would say, "Resistance is futile." Individuals who have accomplished great things and show us what is possible work with what is real. And that is when leaders emerge to take charge of crisis situations. "The challenge is to spend as much time in what's so as you can... Notice when you're comparing what's so to some fantasy of how it should be..." Note Erhard's use of the word "should," a word that might best be eliminated from our vocabulary. Don't "should" yourself!

"Ask yourself what's so, and align with that... Life in what's so will bring you harmony, grace, and balance."

LOU McCALL

AND THE TEAM AT QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS

Questa Del Rio News

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or call 575-586-2149.

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THANK YOU TO OUR JUNE CONTRIBUTORS!

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JOURNALISM 101, PART 1 By LOU MCCALL

Ours is a community paper in almost every sense. We have a small part-time staff and we depend on “Citizen Reporters” to let us know what is going on in their communities. Individuals ask us to do a story on this or that and we ask them to write it for us! There are excellent writers here with wonderful stories to tell. We offer a great mentorship opportunity for anyone who would like to develop their writing skills or are interested in journalism. Some of our contributors are professional writers and we know that not everyone who writes for us is. To encourage your contributions, here are some submission guidelines and an overview of the publication process.

1. Many people tell us that they love our paper because it is “positive.” The mission of the Questa Del Rio News is “To inform, inspire, connect and unite the communities of northern Taos County.” Our mission may therefore prohibit us from publishing negative or divisive articles.
2. Journalistic writing is sometimes called reportage. It is important to

distinguish between fact and opinion. Journalism reports the facts and is not personal. Remaining objective is a challenge for any news source.

3. There is a difference between journalism and journals. A journal is personal and is not necessarily shared with the public. We want to encourage writers, especially young writers, to express themselves in their own voice, which may or may not be compatible with our mission. Our newspaper is not a blog. We think it’s awesome to see a new writer start their own blog or use existing social media platforms to share their uncut material.
4. The editor’s job is to make their writers look good. The professionals we work with understand and appreciate what we do. Writers, please edit your piece before sending it to us! We edit for facts, grammar, punctuation, offensive content, word count, and meaning. Initially I edit and format stories, and sometimes share them with others, such as our assistant editor, Sara Martinez, or an informal “editorial advisory board.” It then goes to our copy editor, Martha Shepp, who almost always improves the article in

some way. When Emily Wilde, our graphic designer, has finished laying it out, the final proof is shared with our proofing squad. Sometimes, even the printers catch a boo-boo!

5. In newspapers, space is queen. Getting the message across in as few words as possible is key. Every month it is a painful process to squeeze all of the material into a few pages. Sometimes it is my job to tell contributors that their stories have (in most cases) gotten bumped to the next month or sometimes not printed at all. In other cases the articles will be cut down to fit available space. We have word limits: 500-700 words is good for most articles, and even less is better.
6. Please send us a text file, such as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or a Pages file. Other suitable formats are .rtf or .txt. Please do not send a .pdf file, a screen shot, or other photo of the document. If you do not have access to these file formats, you can type your submission out in an email to us.
7. Please contact us way ahead of time if

JOURNALISM 101 cont'd on pg. 13

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Business Profile

FINE WESTERN WEAR
FOR FINE WESTERN FOLKS

By CYNTHIA NAJIM

“Swing your partner round and round,” shouts the caller at the barn dance. Can you hear the clapping and stomping? Think back to your last square dance. Like all partygoers, you were decked out in your finest boots, buckle, hat, jeans, and your favorite Western shirt. The night was full of promise. You were a tad serious but poised for fun. And you looked the part – the star in your own country movie!

Oh, how we love the Western shirt! The classic garment that will never go out of style. As with the perfect pair of boots, when we don that crisp plaid, our attitude shifts. We stand taller on our heels, put our shoulders back, and sport that lingering confident smile.

I remember shopping for my first Western shirt in the men’s department at the Hub Clothiers in Springfield IL, when I was in high school in the ’70s. Those shirts were all the rage. I was on a quest for the perfect acquisition. Buying a Western shirt felt like a passage.

To help keep the love affair alive, there is a Western wear tailor in Questa! Joan Young, under her new label Q Creations Clothing, is eager to add custom Western shirts not only to your wardrobe, but to all areas of your life experience – work, family, romance, recreation, travel, and nightlife. After all, the Western shirt is as versatile as it is good looking.

Joan has been sewing, painting, and crafting for decades. She attributes her skills to her mother, Phyllis Rougier. “I learned everything from my mother, who was creative, resourceful, and enjoyed working with her hands,” reminisces Joan. “She started making Western shirts for my dad and eventually the entire family back in the ’60s.”

“Funny,” she adds, “my business started in much the same way.” Joan made the first Western shirt for her granddaughter Annabelle Chavez, then five-and-a-half years old. Immediately after, the “me too” chorus from the rest of the family began. “I love doing it!” Joan beams. That was the inspiration to launch Q Creations Clothing – the Q of course stands for Questa.

What makes Joan’s Westerns shirts so unique is her impeccable eye for detail.



Photos by Cynthia Najim, Horses from Betsy Peirce

Q Creations Clothing founder Joan Young in action

She continually searches for a variety of fabrics, which she pairs for each shirt. Her creative finishes are the crowning touch – decorative stitching, snaps, buttons, and other embellishments. Well-made, each item is one-of-a-kind. “You won’t see yourself coming and going,” Joan proudly asserts.

She creates adorable shirts for children (\$50) and distinguished pieces for adults (\$75). All are unisex and follow standard sizes from small to 3XL. She can vary details on sleeves and hem and makes her own patterns. And she has been told that her turnaround time is quick.

Most recently, Joan has been using 100% cotton (including poplin, twill, and flannel), but enjoys working with other fabrics too (such as linen, wool, silk, and satin). When we met for our interview, she was wearing a rich, violet velveteen. Gorgeous! As a custom tailor, Joan can guide you through textile choices or will work with the material you have already purchased. If any follow-up service is needed, just let her know.

Currently, Joan’s premier offering is the Western shirt with matching bandana, if desired. She envisions expanding her line to include Western dresses and other apparel. “I would love to design for a wedding party,” she smiles, “I can do pretty much what anybody wants.” She can create company uniforms, stage apparel for entertainers, stand-out rodeo gear, and the picture-perfect ensemble for the school play. Fathers and sons, mothers and daughters – the possibilities are endless!

A selection of Q Creations Clothing Western shirts is on display at Taos Adobe Quilting on the plaza (102 Teresina Lane, Taos), where the fabric assortment



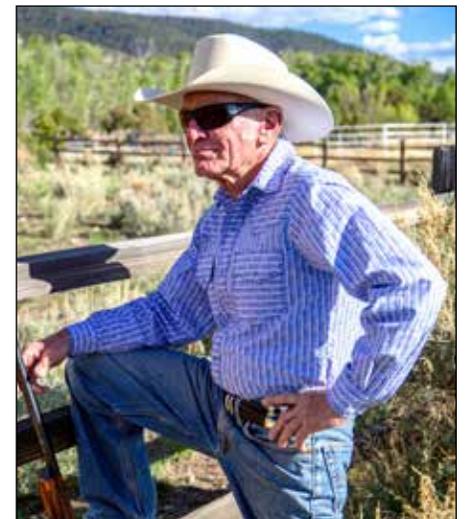
Suited up and rarin’ to go for adventure and fun. Juan Carlos Gonzales, Jr. – Cerro Firefighter-in-Training.



An officer and a gentleman who knows what he likes. Alfredo Romero – Fire Chief, Questa Volunteer Fire Department



Effortless elegance you can dress up or dress down. Robyn Black, Latir Volunteer Fire Department EMT/Firefighter



A comfortable fit for any activity on Father’s Day or every day! Regan Schwartz – Assistant Fire Chief, Latir Volunteer Fire Department



One handsomely stylish posse! From left to right, Betsy Peirce – President of Latir Volunteer Fire Department, Tango, Regan Schwartz – Latir Assistant Fire Chief, Johnny Ringo, Robyn Black – Latir EMT/Firefighter, Alfredo Romero – Questa Fire Chief, Juan Carlos Gonzales, Jr. – Cerro Firefighter-in-Training, Juan Carlos Gonzales, Sr. – Cerro Fire Chief

is drool-worthy.

To order your custom shirt, you can call Joan or order via her website. She offers free shipping in the US and personal delivery to local customers.

Her business tagline “Fine Western Wear for Fine Western Folks” is so apt. Joan, you are fine folk!



Photos by Cynthia Najim, shot on location in El Rito/Questa area. Thank you horse wrangler, Betsy Peirce.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DAD!

TO OUR DADDY, OUR HERO!!!

Not all heroes are out of movies or comic books like DC or Marvel. There are many heroes living in this world—doctors, nurses, police, firefighters, servicemen, and women. Our hero is our dad, Joshua Vallejos. He fought aggressive cancer for five months with intensive treatments. It all started when he found a lump on his neck. He went to Urgent Care and they sent him to the hospital to have an ultrasound. He received a call within a few days and the doctor told him it looked benign. She referred our dad to an ear, nose and throat specialist in Santa Fe who did a biopsy and ordered a CT scan.

Our dad got a call about a week later, telling us that he had cancer in his lymph node. His next step was to get a PET scan and was referred to the cancer center. He went back to see the ENT specialist after the PET scan and the doctor told him the worst news he probably has ever heard in his life; he told our dad that he had cancer in his lymph nodes and nasal area. He also scheduled my dad to get his adenoids removed from his nose, so they could test it to see what type of cancer it was.

We got the results back and our dad's cancer was Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma, a rare cancer in the United States. Our dad's next step was to see the cancer doctors, a medical oncologist,

and a radiation oncologist. Both doctors asked my dad if he had been out of the country because it is a rare form of cancer in the US. They also told him that they must kill this cancer before it spreads because it can spread to his bones and/or lungs. He would have to do three cycles of chemotherapy for five days, every 21 days, and then radiation five days a week for seven weeks with one chemo during radiation.

Our dad then had surgery to get a port placement for the chemotherapy treatments. He started chemo the next week on October 21. He spent two days at the cancer center and he brought a chemo pump home for the five days in between. The chemo medicine was Cisplatin and Docetaxel. Since it was new to him, he felt ok, so he came home, to be with us for my (Espi's) birthday. He ended up getting sick the day after and our mom, Vivian, took him to the emergency room. He had gotten really dehydrated from the chemo. Our dad started losing his hair that next week after chemo.

His next cycle of chemo was on November 12, but he stayed the whole week to get hydrated every day. He was really tired when he got home for about a week after. My dad had his bad days, but most of them were good. He took us out hunting, fishing, shed hunting, and just to chill in the mountains. He started to feel better, so he took us

deer hunting and we both harvested; that is because our dad is the best hunting guide!

On December 2 our dad went to get fitted for a radiation mask, which looks crazy cool and it can totally be his superhero mask! He started another round of chemo on December 3 for five days. Our dad was supposed to start radiation on December 23 but the radiologist/oncologist told him to spend Christmas with us. For Christmas, our grandma, Pauline, gave him an archangel statue. The angel is kneeling down, bowing his head with a sword in one hand and a shield in the other, and on the shield it says "Praise be to the Lord, my Rock who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle." Our dad is a warrior of God, because he turned to God during this battle in his life and he suffered with sickness, but never gave up on God.

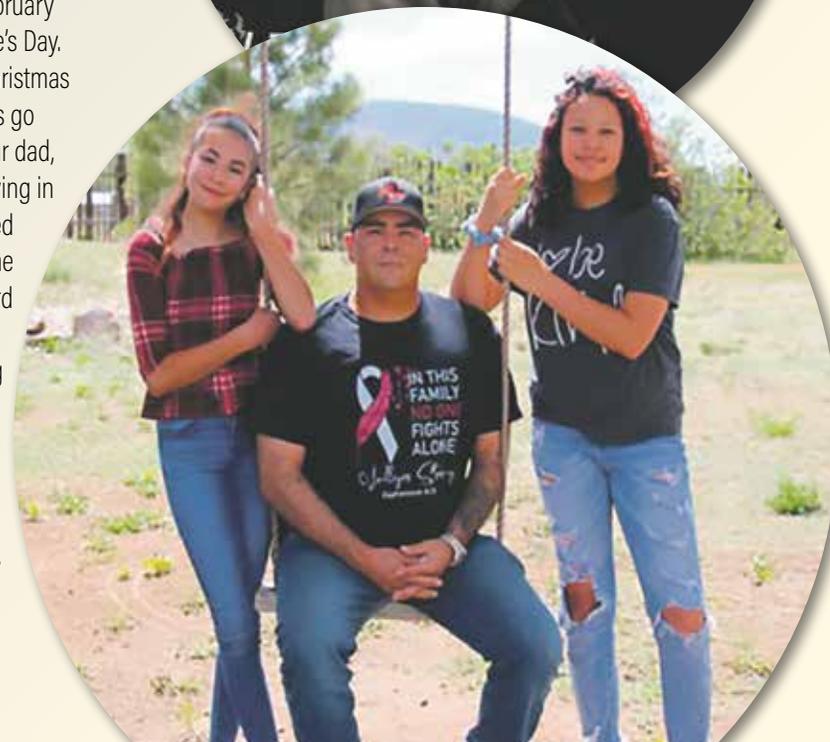
He started his first radiation treatment on December 26 for seven weeks Monday thru Friday, and his last treatment was on February 14th, Happy Valentine's Day. For a week during Christmas break, our mom let us go to Santa Fe to visit our dad, where they were staying in a camper. We watched movies and spent time with him. It was a hard time for all of us. My dad did not like being away from home.

He also got a feeding tube on

February 4 because he was too sick to eat and had lost a lot of weight. We hardly saw our dad for that seven weeks. Our mom would come home on weekends to be with us, but during the weekdays our grandmas would take turns staying with us. He is done with treatments and on his way to recovery! Our dad had another PET scan on May 5 and he went back on May 11 for the results. He got the results and he is CANCER-FREE and can stay home with us forever. We would like to thank all the staff, nurses, volunteers, and doctors at Christus St. Vincent Cancer Center for being the best while our dad was in treatment.

WE LOVE YOU DADDY, HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

MARLENA & ESPERANZA
XOXO



Advertorial: Paid for by the Vallejos family.



Thank you to all who attended May's Qesta Business Entrepreneurial Network (QBEN) on-line Zoom meeting, and thank you to Malaquias Rael and Cynthia Rael-Vigil for hosting the meeting.

Participants at the QBEN meeting shared their experiences working through the pandemic and expressed how their businesses are faring; most businesses are "making it." Some have received financial support grants through the COVID-19 stimulus funding. The Economic Injury Loan Disaster (EILD) funding/loans are no longer available, except for farmers and agricultural growers.

The Payroll Protection Program is still offering funds; apply through your regional bank. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>

If you are ineligible for regular Unemployment Insurance, apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); this covers those who are self-employed. <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/597>

The Taos Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is available to help businesses through this tough time, including help with applications for funding opportunities. Contact Anwar Kaelin at (575) 737-6219, or go to <http://www.nmsbdc.org/taos.aspx>

The Qesta Economic Development Fund presented plans to advertise and market Qesta beginning in the Spring of 2021. QEDF applied for a grant for \$15,000

in matching funds from the State to be a part of their "New Mexico True" campaign.

Locally, QEDF will be helping businesses audit and enhance their websites and improve the quality of their on-line presence within Google's search and travel products. If your business would like to be included in the website review, contact Lynn Skall at QEDF (see email below). Look for a promotional brochure late this summer to be produced and distributed regionally to complement these efforts.

QEDF is partnering with the University of New Mexico, Qesta Independent School District, Los Alamos National Laboratories, and the LOR Foundation to establish dual-credit high school trades "apprenticeship readiness" and welding class beginning in the fall.

Look for the downtown lamppost ban-

ners to be changed this month to our new local history pictorials; each banner will tell a story. Thank you to the Qesta Creative Council and the Village of Qesta!

Please join us for our next QBEN meeting, to be held via Zoom on-line on Wednesday, June 17, at 6:00pm; here is the link to participate in the meeting by video, and the phone number for call-in only: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82539162654>, or call 346 248 7799; meeting ID 825 3916 2654.

An email reminder will be sent about the meeting; if you are not receiving the email invitations, please send an email to Lynn Skall to be added to the list. Also share any topics you'd like to see addressed. Stay safe.

*Lynn Skall, Director
Qesta Economic Development Fund
Lynn@QestaEDF.com
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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photo by Cynthia Najim

New life in the wild herds north of Costilla. More of the beauty that surrounds us.

Send us your photos of "on the scene" newsworthy events
OR just a pretty shot for our "Photo of the Month".
e-mail news@questaedf.com (don't forget to include a caption and your name)

Over 160,000 New Mexico Households Not Yet Invited to Participate in Census

By JOSE VIRAMONTES

The suspension of field operations by the US Census Bureau in response to COVID-19 has left nearly 18 percent of New Mexico without the ability to easily participate in the 2020 Census. This has resulted in artificially lower-than-average response rates, and poses yet another burden for our state to overcome for a complete count.

"New Mexico is shouldering a disproportionate share of the national burden when it comes to the impact that COVID-19 has had on the census," said Olivia Padilla-Jackson, Department of Finance and Administration Cabinet Secretary and Chair of the State Complete Count Commission. "When you consider that so many New Mexicans haven't even received an invitation to participate, it's no surprise we lag in responses."

As of mid-April, 37 percent of New Mexico households had responded to the census, compared to a national average of 48 percent. Due to COVID-19, the US Census Bureau suspended all field operations just four days after they began. This included efforts by census workers to hand-deliver forms to households without standard addresses or who receive their mail at P.O. boxes. Nationwide, only five percent of the population fall into this category, but in New Mexico 17.8 percent of all households rely on a hand-delivered form. Only Alaska, West Virginia, and Wyoming have a higher percentage.

"Nationwide, there is a direct relationship between low response rates and

areas that should have – but weren't able to – receive a hand-delivered packet," said state demographer Robert Rhatigan. NM counties where hand delivery is not a major consideration are responding at or above the national average. Bernalillo, Chavez, and Los Alamos counties all have participation rates over 45 percent. Conversely, Catron, Mora, and Rio Arriba counties have response rates of six percent or less, almost entirely reliant on hand-delivered forms.

Responding online or by phone without a unique Census ID is not an ideal option for some, as it can be difficult, especially for households with a non-city style address.

"If you have received your invitation, take your census as soon as possible," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. "If you haven't received anything from the Census Bureau...respond as soon as possible once you receive the form. We will ensure, all together, New Mexico is counted."

The US Census Bureau recently announced that they plan to resume field operations on June 1, 2020. The 164,000 New Mexico households who are supposed to receive a hand-delivered census form should receive that packet no later than July 9, 2020. Until census field operations officially resumes, self-response rates for New Mexico will remain artificially low.

The decennial Census helps determine allocation of billions of dollars in federal funding. Each New Mexico resident not counted results in a loss of thousands of dollars per resident, per year.



TAOS MAGIC MOUNTAIN
AND JULIE TERRELL

By DONNA MITCHELL-MONIAK

"The world can change in five minutes," Julie Terrell said. The question is, "What can I do to bring benefit in times of change?"

Every one of our interviews about volunteers has revealed that faith in the wealth of human potential is based on truth. Some articles in this paper, although filtered through the experiences of one person, have been about individuals and groups and endeavors where many people work together, such as the Food Pantry, or the Library or the volunteer first responders. Occasionally, a vision arises from recognizing a need, knowing that human potential exists, and somehow orchestrating the vision into manifestation. The St. Anthony's Church restoration project is a good example. Each month regular people are highlighted in these articles. They, like everyone else, have busy lives and obstacles to overcome, yet they find time or make time to be involved in that which is bigger: the well-being of others.

Taos Mountain Magic, "the heart-child" of Julie Terrell, is a group of women who sew, cut fabric, and deliver masks in response to COVID-19. It is a combination of vision, potential, and get-it-in-motion action.

Taos Mountain Magic was sparked from the Facebook group page, Taos & Vicinity Coronavirus Action. People kept posting, "What can I do?" Many of us were asking the same question, as everything was changing daily in February and March. Julie kept reading, "We really need masks." These pleas were posted by Holy Cross Hospital staff, first responders, staff at the rehab facility, and eldercare workers.

Julie shared posts on the TMM Facebook page about the need to bring back skills that once were common. Comments include, "My grandmother and mother sewed but I didn't keep it up." Or, "My daughter is learning how to sew from her grandmother." We see a similar uptake regarding gardening, or hands-on home repair, or basic car maintenance.

"I do not sew," Julie was clear about that, but envisioned those who did sew coming together with those with other skills because people wanted to help. Facebook was employed as the initial

reach-out. "Who can sew and wants to sew masks? Who has fabric to donate? Who would like to cut fabric to patterns? Who can help with phone calls and deliveries?" Julie makes it sound easy in the retelling. Masks are made, given away, delivered to organizations and individuals, and continue to be produced by a core group of people. It is a lot of work. As of May 13, in six weeks, a committed group of people had clocked in about 2000 hours in the project. Thank you to everyone who is involved in mask-making through Taos Mountain Magic!

If you want to help, Taos Mountain Magic needs more volunteers. They currently have about 40 people who sew and cut fabric. Out of that group, about half are fully involved; and a handful sew daily. More people are needed, especially as the Taos area slowly reopens and current volunteers go back to work. Delivery people are needed, as well. Julie acknowledged that volunteers have to get on with their lives and may not continue to be available. She said that she and the organization are in this for the long haul.

In addition to the mask-makers and delivery crew, many community members have stepped up to help launch the volunteer effort. The TMM webpage was created by Kristen Anne Harbor. Katie Thomas offered use of her store, Moxie Mixed Media, at 204 Paseo Del Pueblo Norte in Taos, as a drop-off site for material and for organizing deliveries.

Taos Mountain Magic prioritized needs for masks, starting with the hospital, first responders, and nursing home staff. With those needs filled, the list expanded to other groups within Taos that were interacting with the public, as well as the county and its small towns. Individual needs are also being met. If you need a mask, go to the Taos Mountain Magic site, www.taosmountainmagic.com to order one.

Some of the volunteers feel guilty and wish they could sew faster. But, "we all do what we can do." To all volunteers out there, thank you for doing so much! "It's not just about making masks," Julie said. "It's about positive happiness through serving the community whenever possible."

In that regard, Taos Mountain Magic expanded its sights to an additional focus of each month. In April, TMM coordinated with Sin Fronteras in Taos to provide Easter treat bags for 60 children. "We can be more than one thing," Julie said. The focus in May was the Navajo Nation and the people in Gallup, New Mexico, so hard hit by COVID-19. TMM coordinated with Operation Bandana, a non-profit group



Phot by E. Wilde

Julie Terrell

in Santa Fe, to fill a truck going to Gallup with dry goods, diapers, and necessities. The same group sent 100 yards of fabric donated by the state of New Mexico to Taos Mountain Magic for immediate mask-making. June's project will be mini-herb gardens planted in old milk jugs. Contact TMM through their website if you have herb seeds, potting soil, or water or milk jugs to donate.

Like almost every Volunteer of the Month, Julie said, "Volunteering has given me more than I have given. As human beings, we need to feel useful, like we're giving and doing something. I am humbled being part of the puzzle."

Julie and her husband Preston came to the Taos area four years ago to see examples of Earthship building. She was "a west coast girl," her husband was a former Green Beret who served in Vietnam. Julie suffered from fibromyalgia and found that during their trip to New Mexico, her chronic pain and fatigue eased, likely due to our drier climate and altitude. When back in Seattle, the couple looked at each other and had the same thought, "Hmm, what do we want? How do we want to live

the rest of our lives?" They moved to the El Rito/Latir area in May of 2018 with the intention of building an off-grid home with gardens and chickens. They will make the adobe bricks themselves which will be combined with cob construction for the house.

Now more than ever, your neighbors and community need you. In whatever way that you would like to give time, or expertise, drive and deliver, donate goods or services, myriad organizations need more volunteers. Please, friends, help out in any way you can!

Links:

Taos Mountain Magic website:

<http://www.taosmountainmagic.com/>

Taos Mountain Magic Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/taosoperationmasksandmoremountainmagicmasksandmore/>

Taos & Vicinity Coronavirus Action

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TaosVicinityCoronavirusAction>

Moxie Mixed Media

<https://www.facebook.com/MMMTNM>

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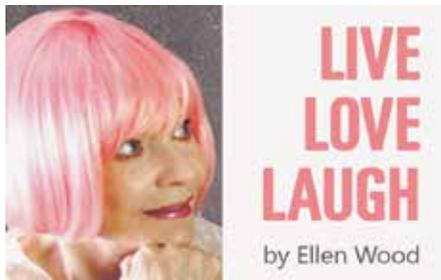
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A Simple Cure for the Blues



In one way or another, almost everyone is being hit hard by COVID-19. Yesterday I sat here feeling somewhat blue, thinking about how this pandemic is crushing lives – taking the lives of some and taking the livelihoods of others. It took my business, and I was wishing this sorrow would just disappear.

And then I remembered one of the most important habits I had been practicing before this damndemic became a crisis: do something good for someone every day.

It's amazing how it can take my mind off my predicament when I have

the task of doing something good for someone each day. When that little voice inside my head starts complaining, that's my reminder: wake up. I'm supposed to do something good for someone and I haven't done anything yet today. So I give my mind the job of finding what I should do and that complaining voice stops.

Try it. It can be just a simple thing – not anything major like mowing your neighbor's lawn. (Heh heh. Gotta keep a sense of humor.) Holding the door open for someone would normally count, but it's hard to do that and stay six feet away.

It can be mindfully feeding the birds or making a phone call to check in with a lonely person or mentally sending Love and Light to someone who needs healing. You can brighten someone's day by paying them a compliment; or brighten your own day by biting your tongue instead of gossiping.

Or just think of a few of your blessings and say, Thank you, thank you, thank you to All That Is or no one at all.

When you're thinking of what you can do to be kind to someone, remember to be good to yourself. Our very nature is loving, kind, and joyful, but if you're like me, you sometimes get weighed down with self-judgment and fear and that's when you just need a little TLC. So pamper yourself. Tell the family you're unavailable for one hour; then go take a long bubble bath or go to your man cave and tinker around.

Since June is the month in which we celebrate Father's Day, I'll tell you about something good that my father used to do for my mother. Daddy was aware that Mom was very intelligent, but physically and emotionally fragile.

Being an old-country guy from Czechoslovakia, my father felt housework was for women – but whenever

Mom was in the hospital when we were little, he would wash clothes in the cellar where the washer and rinsing tubs were, put them through the wringer, and then hang the clothes outside on the line. And here's the kicker: he did that at night so the neighbors wouldn't see him hanging up laundry – women's work!

That was his way and I respected that about him. Daddy showed love for his family by doing something that needed to be done, even though he didn't want to do it. But he did it his way. We all have our own way of doing something good for someone – we just need to remind ourselves to do it every day.

Happy Father's Day to every Daddy out there.

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

Un remedio simple contra la tristeza

Por ELLEN WOOD

De una forma o de otra, casi todo el mundo está siendo afectado por COVID-19. Ayer me sentaba aquí sintiéndome un poco triste, pensando cómo esta pandemia está destrozando vidas—quitándoles la vida a algunos y la forma de ganársela a otros. Se ha llevado mi negocio, y deseaba tanto que esta tristeza desapareciera.

Y entonces recordé uno de los hábitos más importantes que había practicado antes de que esta mala pandemia se convirtiera en una crisis: hacer algo bueno por alguien todos los días.

Es sorprendente cómo dejo de pensar en mis propios problemas cuando tengo la tarea de hacer algo bueno por alguien cada día. Cuando esa vocecita dentro de mi cabeza comienza a quejarse, es un recordatorio para mí: despierta. Se supone que debo hacer algo bueno por alguien y todavía no he hecho nada hoy. Entonces

le doy a mi mente el trabajo de encontrar lo que debo hacer y la voz rezongona deja de escucharse.

Inténtalo. Puede ser algo simple—no tan monumental como cortar el césped al vecino. (Je, je. Tengo que mantener el sentido del humor.) Abrirle la puerta a alguien cuenta normalmente, pero es difícil hacerlo y permanecer a seis pies de distancia.

Puedes alimentar a consciencia a los pájaros o hacer una llamada para saber cómo se encuentra una persona solitaria o enviar mentalmente Amor y Luz a alguien que necesita curación. Puedes alegrarle el día a alguien haciéndole un cumplido, o alegrar tu propio día morditiéndote la lengua en lugar de chismorrear.

O simplemente piensa en algunas de tus bendiciones y di: Gracias, gracias, gracias a Todo lo que Existe o a nadie en absoluto.

Cuando pienses en lo que puedes

hacer para ser amable con alguien, acuérdate de ser bueno contigo mismo. Nuestra naturaleza es cariñosa, amable y alegre, pero si eres como yo, a veces te agobian la autocrítica y el miedo, y ahí es cuando solo necesitas un poco de cariño. Así que apapáchate. Dile a la familia que no estarás disponible durante una hora; entonces toma un largo baño de burbujas o vete a tu propia "cueva" y ponte a carpintear.

Como junio es el mes en que celebramos el Día del Padre, te contaré algo bueno que mi padre solía hacer por mi madre. Papá sabía que Mamá era muy inteligente, pero física y emocionalmente frágil.

Puesto que era un hombre ya grande de Checoslovaquia, mi padre sentía que las tareas domésticas eran para mujeres, pero cada vez que mamá estaba en el hospital cuando éramos pequeños, él lavaba la ropa en el sótano donde estaban la lavadora y las tinajas de lavado, las

pasaba por el escurridor, y luego colgaba la ropa afuera en la tendedera. Y aquí está el truco: lo hacía por la noche para que los vecinos no lo vieran colgando la ropa—¡un trabajo de mujeres!

Esta era su manera de hacer las cosas y yo lo respetaba por eso. Papá demostraba amor por su familia al hacer algo que debía hacerse, a pesar de que no quería hacerlo. Pero lo hacía a su manera. Todos tenemos nuestra propia manera de hacer algo bueno por alguien, solo necesitamos recordarnos el hacerlo todos los días.

¡Feliz Día del Padre para todos los Papás que están por aquí!

Ellen Wood de Questa es la galardonada autora de la serie de libros "The Secret Method for Growing Younger." Su sitio en la red es www.howtogrowyounger.com. Para ponerse en contacto con Ellen escribanle a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

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BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

SYMBOLS IN THE SNOW

As I look out my kitchen window at the mountains above us, there appears a wonderful sight – a dove that returns every spring as the snow is melting. A very distinct image of a white dove at the top of the mountain, wings in full flight, headed skyward, soaring to the heavens. As spring moves along, the dove will begin to get smaller and smaller and finally disappear until another spring thaw comes around. This beautiful symbol has been on the mountain every year except for a few snowless winters.

Then as we drive south toward Questa on Highway 522, there on a mountain to the southeast appears another image made by the artistry of the melting snow. This too is a figure of a very large bird with wings outstretched to the sky, giving me the impression of the phoenix rising.

The white dove is symbolic of new beginnings, peace, love, and prosperity. The Bible tells us Noah sent out a dove knowing the dove would always return, which it did with an olive branch in her mouth, a sign of land and receding waters. To the Egyptians, the dove was a symbol of quiet innocence. To the Chinese it was a symbol of peace and long life. To the Greeks and Romans, doves represented love and devotion, and care for the family. In Muslim lore, a dove murmured the words of God into the ear of Muhammed. The dove is associated with Spirit and sighting a dove is a reminder to reconnect with the spiritual aspect of our lives.

The phoenix rising symbolizes renewal and resurrection — rebirth. The legend of the phoenix, a mythical bird with fiery plumage is that it can live several hundred years and dies by burst-

“Doves call you to regain your serenity. The dove reminds you to take a deep breath and release all your tensions and stress.”

— *A Dove’s Love*

ing into flames. This mythical, magical creature builds its own funeral nest, and ignites it with a single clap of its wings. After death a young and powerful phoenix rises from the ashes and flies away. In Chinese culture, the sighting of the phoenix is a sign that a new era is beginning.

While I am normally not a devout subscriber to symbolism, these two bird images have stayed with me and certain feelings have arisen in me regarding their meanings. These symbols appear to us after winter is over and new life is beginning. The trees wake up, presenting new leaves and blossoms for fruit; the grass and plants rise above the ground reaching for the sky.

We all have been like something hidden by winter’s snow and as our lives are changing, much like the melting snow, we are forming new life and a new way of being – new beginnings.

It is important to have faith and trust. Perhaps these symbols appear to remind us of the power of trust and faith – that all is passing, and a new beginning will make itself known. Having faith and trust does not mean we won’t have pain or challenges, but it can relieve us from the deep emotional wounds of worry and mistrust.

I know in my heart of hearts that we are not alone. There are unseen forces, a greater wisdom if you will, that is watching over this play of life. Perhaps these symbols appear to us to remind us of that very thing.



Photo by Cynthia Najim

Flag Mountain, south of Questa with the Phoenix Rising symbol in the snow.



Photo by Barbara Tracy

Virsylvania Peak with the symbol of the White Dove in the snow.

Dear Neighbors:

Times are tough. But life can be sweet if we help each other - neighbor to neighbor. For our part, during June NorthStar will donate 5% of every car or truck repair to the North Central Food Pantry in Questa in honor of St. Joseph, Patron Saint of fathers.



Estimados Vecinos:

Los tiempos son difíciles. Pero la vida puede ser dulce si nos ayudarnos unos a otros, vecino a vecino. Por nuestra parte, durante junio, NorthStar donará el 5% de cada reparación de automóvil o camion a North Central Food Pantry en Questa en honor a San José, Patrono de los padres.

Malaquias (JR) Rael & the guys at NorthStar



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QUARANTINE “QUISINE”



BACON CHEESE JALAPEÑO QUICK BREAD

12-14 slices bacon
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon baking powder
2 tablespoons sugar
4 oz. cream cheese at room temperature
2 cups shredded cheese: mix your favorite cheeses such as Monterey Jack and cheddar
2 diced jalapeños (seeds removed)
2 thinly sliced scallions (optional)
1 egg
1-1/2 cups whole milk
1 tablespoon melted butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9" x 5" (or 6") loaf pan.

Cook bacon until nice and crisp. Remove from pan and place on paper towel or paper sack to remove excess grease. Allow the bacon to cool and then crumble it.

Whisk the flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar together in a small bowl. Set aside.

Mix the cream cheese, shredded cheese(s), jalapeños, scallions, and bacon in a large bowl until evenly combined.

Add your flour mixture to the cheese mixture along with the egg, milk, and melted butter. Mix just until combined, do not overmix.

Add to your greased loaf pan and bake for 45-50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out mostly dry.



STORING CITRUS

During quarantine it is good to stock up on groceries and for longer storage some things need special attention. Even though it is nice to have a pretty bowl of lemons, limes, oranges and grapefruit on the table or counter, you may want to store them in a way that they will last longer.

WHOLE CITRUS: Keeps for weeks in an airtight container or ziplock bag in the fridge.

SLICED CITRUS: Should last a week — double duty in plastic wrap and airtight container.

FROZEN CITRUS: Put them whole into a freezer bag, squeeze out as much air as possible, seal tightly and they can last several months. Let them sit for about 15 minutes in cold water to thaw. If you squeezed too much lemon or lime juice for a recipe, you can freeze it, too. Lemonade season is upon us!



SUPER EASY BREAD

A lot of people are baking now, with time at home. Try this recipe! It is very easy and takes the work out of homemade bread!

3 cups all-purpose flour (try sprouted wheat flour!)
1 -1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp granulated sugar
1/2 tsp dry yeast
1 -1/2 cup warm water

In a large mixing bowl, stir together flour, sugar, salt, and yeast. Add water and stir just until incorporated. Do not overmix! The dough will be shaggy.

Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and let sit on the counter at room temperature for 8 to 24 hours. The dough will rise and have lots of air bubbles.

The next day, lightly flour a piece of parchment paper. Place dough onto paper. With floured hands, shape into a ball. Cover with plastic wrap. (Don't forget to take off the plastic when you put it in the oven!)

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Adjust rack to lower position. Place Dutch oven inside. Preheat for 30 minutes.

When oven is ready, carefully place the parchment paper with dough inside the Dutch oven. Cover with Dutch oven lid and bake for 30 minutes. Remove lid and bake 7 to 10 minutes more or until the top is golden brown, and has cracks.

Carefully remove Dutch oven from oven. Remove parchment paper with bread and place on a wooden cutting board. Let cool completely before cutting.

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CARRY-OUT:
NORTH CENTRAL NEW
MEXICO FOOD PANTRY!

By LOU MCCALL

Usually our Food Section centers on local restaurant reviews. Not all our neighbors have the luxury of dining out, especially now with the pandemic, unemployment, and health concerns, so this month we will focus on an essential source of groceries for many North Central New Mexico's families, our local Food Pantry.

A few weeks ago the North Central New Mexico Food Pantry was distributing food to about 130 families every two weeks. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, that number has steadily risen. On Friday, May 8, the Food Pantry delivered food curbside to 303 recipients, and it is likely that number will continue to rise.

Like many essential workers, Food Pantry employees and their family of volunteers are stretched thin, as is the pantry's budget. They depend upon food and revenue from many sources: private donations, USDA commodities, and grant funding (thank you to every individual, business, and organization that has helped them out!); these monthly deliveries of commodities are passed on to their clients. They are usually able to buy food when their inventory gets low, supplement-

ing their shelves with groceries, when other sources have not provided staples like beans, rice, pasta, and meat.

Because the USDA has also been working overtime to share commodities with others hard hit by the pandemic, the Food Pantry has been scrambling to meet demand. Last month the Pantry purchased \$5000 worth of food, much of it from Questa Center Supermarket at a seriously discounted price. The supermarket also donated, free of charge, much more food, including countless boxes of tortillas. Thank you and God bless you, Esther and the entire Questa Market family!

In the past, the Food Pantry has distributed approximately 300 pounds of beans which volunteers picked up in Alamosa, Colorado. This month they needed 500 lbs and the price of beans had gone up more than \$11 for each 50-lb bag! Volunteers generously paid for the extra 200 lbs of beans. Thank you, volunteers!

While we are on the subject of beans – they are an important part of the Pantry's food packages. When commodities failed to provide beans and the price of the Colorado beans went through the roof, Jeannie Masters, President of the Food Pantry sprang into action. She solicited donations and talked to Questa Mayor Mark Gallegos, who immediately offered fields with water rights to plant beans to feed the local population. The land belongs to the Chevron Corporation and was available to be farmed. Unfortunately, said Masters, the

FOOD PANTRY cont'd on pg. 11



1.



2.



3.



4.

Photos by Robyn Black

1. Kate Cisneros with volunteers Gary Coggins and Lawrence Cisneros in the background. 2. What abundance! The shelves are stocked at Questa's North Central New Mexico Food Pantry. 3. Boxes of beautiful groceries, delivered curbside at the Food Pantry. 4. Food Pantry volunteer Preston Terrell, with boxes of potatoes and bananas.

FOOD PANTRY cont'd from page 10

problem is in the local labor force: who can plant, water, tend, and harvest the bean crop? The Food Pantry is completely dependent on volunteers, most of whom are retired and could not possibly work any harder. If any local farmers want to grow beans and donate them, there is a place for your harvest – please remember the Food Pantry!

The Food Pantry works many days throughout the month, not just on the two Friday distribution days. On distribution weeks, Thursdays are a big day, with trucks to unload and much to do to prepare. On some Thursdays Questa EMS on-duty crew, if available, will help unload the truck. New volunteers Laurie and Larry Archuleta paid two of their strong, young employees to help carry boxes of groceries. Larry says, “These kids need to learn to give back...” During the school year students from Questa High’s Community Service Class are often on board, being rewarded with boxes of food to take home to their families. It is this kind of generosity and devotion, not only from volunteers, but from community members and even politicians that has made the Food Pantry (like many regional non-profits) a successful and essential part of living in our community.

On the Tuesday that I spoke with Kate Cisneros, Vice President of the Food Pantry, she was on her way to meet volunteers to take oatmeal, beans, and rice from 50-lb bags and divide them into 2-lb portions to give to families. The usual crew includes our longest serving volunteer Lawrence Cisneros, Preston Tyrell, Nancy Parker, Robyn Black, Steve Pherigo, Chuck Kroon, Linda Betz, Kathy Wing, Deb Reilly, and Mary Ann Sanchez, and Steve Sanchez (stay tuned for future Volunteer of the Month articles for when we corner some of these folks). We apologize if we forgot any names, please let us know if we did, so we can acknowledge them next month!

Nancy Parker, Food Pantry board member and one of their hardest workers, often brings sack lunches for the group. Kate describes her crew as one big family. She also acknowledged Evelyn and Gary Coggins, who are both very involved and are described as “regular worker bees!” The Food Pantry, besides stepping up the numbers of people in need of food, and having less food available, has also had to cope with fewer available volunteers. Kate’s right-hand helper, Tammy Arvilla, as well as Connie Orr and Perscilla Jett have taken a break from the Pantry to observe social distance protocols, and they have been greatly missed.

The Pantry is proud of their volun-

teers, who are reliable and have specific jobs, leaving Kate and Jeannie free to manage their side of the operation; Jeannie handles the finances and paperwork, Kate takes care of “the back,” keeping the facility clean and operational, and managing the volunteers. Jeannie and Kate work together to do the ordering. Steve Sanchez and Chuck Kroon take care of maintenance, from changing the locks to fixing the plumbing. Tammy Arvilla has planted and maintained flower beds at the facility along with assisting in every part of the operation.

All of these volunteers are tired and could use a break. In many cases, they are not physically able to lift and carry boxes of groceries – they need strong backs! If anyone is young and able-bodied and would like to join them and take a load off (literally), please step up! The group hopes that young people looking for community service opportunities will keep the Food Pantry in mind. Kate says that God put us all here to work together for a reason and it is a tremendous blessing for everyone, not just the recipients of the food. They all laugh and have a good time. There are also rules, chief among these is NO GOSSIP! It is and always has been a positive, productive atmosphere.

Kate says that shelves are stocked with just about enough food to get them

through mid-June along with their commodities shipment. They are low on cash right now and need funding to pay for essential goods. Kate, along with co-founder Jeannie ask for your prayers and money.

Besides volunteers, the Food Pantry is blessed to have many donors. Living Word Ministries has consistently donated funds and Pastor Peter Martinez has recently become a volunteer and adds to the already bright atmosphere. Food Pantry Treasurer Joan MacDonald encourages everyone to visit their website if they would like to make contributions online. <https://www.ncfpquesta.com>. If paying by PayPal, there is the option to make a monthly donation, even if it is just \$1 per month. The Food Pantry also welcomes donations in the form of cash at the Food Pantry. Checks and money orders can be mailed to them at North Central Food Pantry, P.O. Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. Email them at wrmesquire2@gmail.com if you have any questions. The Food Pantry distributes food on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 11 am – 2 pm. Please join them at 140 Embargo Road in Questa, up the big hill, and next door to Ancianos Senior Center. Call (575) 586-0486 for more information.

“Safety First”: Words to (Literally) Live By — Part 2

By CYNTHIA NAJIM
MEMBER, LATIR
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Spring is the season of blossoms and
beauty, of preparing the fields,
and our needed house duties.*

*Beautiful days beckon us outdoors to hike,
work in the garden,
and get back on that bike.*

*Spring into Summer brings quick changes
in weather –*

*from calm, gentle mornings to strong
winds and storm pressure.*

*To ensure the best outcome for ALL
our endeavors,*

*“Safety First” can avert any emer-
gency measures.*

Warm weather opens the gates to a flurry of activity. Many undertakings will be routine, as we do them every year. Yet don't be lulled into safety complacency. Let's approach projects and outings with fresh eyes and awareness.

Safety needs to be a central consideration in all preparation and execution. Emergencies can usually be avoided with careful planning and conservative action.

Let's start at HOME:

- When organizing the garage, shed, and even kitchen cleaning supplies, follow these easy steps:
- Make sure all liquids, chemicals, and paints are well-sealed to avoid

leaks and spills.

- Clearly label the contents on all containers – especially flammable, poisonous, and other hazardous materials. Not only will that protect family members, it will help emergency responders identify the possible source of a critical situation.
- Before disposing of any potentially hazardous material, read the disposal instructions on the container. If you don't see any, contact the manufacturer or related government agency to ask. Hazardous materials include propane, which must be handled with care and correctly discarded. Local volunteer fire departments have been called to put out fires from the disposal of camping size propane tanks in dumpsters. That's one of many 911 calls that could have been avoided.
- PLEASE keep all toxic materials away from and out of the reach of children, pets, and animals who follow their curiosity and noses. That also applies when you are working in the yard, for instance, and leave the can of gasoline out to refill the mower. Secure the cap and put the container beyond their reach.
- Properly operate and store chainsaws, power tools, sharp objects, and other implements. Wear essential protective gear such as gloves, safety glasses, and face shield. Make sure the environmental conditions are conducive before using. And keep all tools out of reach of children, pets, and animals.
- Be on the lookout for venomous spiders and snakes which have been

nesting over the winter. As you move about, you may disturb their secure space. If you are bitten by any poisonous creature – black widow, brown recluse, rattlesnake, etc. – take immediate action!

- Communicate. Tell a family member, neighbor, or nearby friend what you are going to do and where you will be working. Many of us are lone operators and don't think to tell someone about our “routine” afternoon project. However, doing so is important and could save your life. Whether plowing the field or working on your roof, inform someone when you'll be starting and approximately when you'll be finished. And let them know once you're done.

Before you hit the HIKING TRAIL:

Northern New Mexico's raw beauty and expansive lands attract hikers from all over the world. Many of us here are experienced hiking enthusiasts. Even if you've been walking these mountains your entire life, please exercise caution and plan your outing. Let's avoid the need to call Search & Rescue.

- Check the weather forecast – in advance and on the day. This season brings rapid climatic changes, often with unforeseen winds, electrical storms, and flash floods. Be flexible. Be willing to cancel or reschedule your hike if unfavorable conditions roll in. And if you've already started, cut your hike short and turn back. Don't fall prey to the belief that you are invincible. The forces of nature always rule!

- Take the appropriate provisions: proper footwear, rain gear, cold weather gear, head cover, sunscreen, walking stick, flashlight, knife, map, compass, plenty of water, healthy snacks, and your fully charged cell phone. Prepare for extremes. Hypothermia and heat stroke can be fatal.
- The Buddy System is always best! However, if you're going out on your own, communicate to someone nearby which trail/where you'll be hiking, the time you are leaving and your approximate return. Let that person know once you are back. And if you plan to camp overnight, cite the campgrounds or place you're targeting. Wild Rivers, for instance, has several camping spots. Be specific when possible.
- Consider these methods in advance to help track your whereabouts: 1) Traditional – tie colorful markers on branches and brush to mark your path; and 2) Digital – before leaving home, set up Location Sharing on your cell phone. You can then give a friend access to your Location using this app, which works on 4G or Wifi. There are also free apps like Map My Walk for your cell phone. They work with GPS where available and can help you find your way. While you can't fully rely on cell service out on the trail, it's best to have your phone with you. If you do get lost or disoriented, don't panic. Stay calm.

Warm weather also heralds changes in wildlife behaviors. Be prepared for any wildlife encounter.

Local Veterans Group Building Memorial Park in Taos

By MATT COGORNO

When driving on the main road through Taos, you might see a portion of land is being transformed from open fields to a Living Veterans Memorial Garden dedicated to past, present, and future Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. This dedication will be the first of its kind in Taos.

Not Forgotten Outreach, Inc. (NFO) is the local nonprofit spearheading the project. NFO is dedicated to providing therapeutic, recreational, and farming activities to military veterans, military families, and Gold Star Families in Taos County. In 2018, NFO received a grant

from the LOR Foundation, allowing them to acquire 28 acres of agricultural land directly off Paseo Del Pueblo Norte in Taos, the main thoroughfare. Today the land is in a Conservation Easement, meant to preserve the land for historical and agricultural use, rather than allowing it to be developed for business or residential use. The land, also known as “Corral No. 5,” was owned by Chet Mitchell and his family prior to NFO, and was historically used for ranching.

With the opportunity provided through the LOR Foundation grant, NFO has spent the last two years restoring the land and running programs for military families and veterans on the

property. Their AmeriCorps program, VetCorps, has been conducted on the land, hosting 21 veterans and military family members yearly in agricultural training, along with teaching techniques on military-to-civilian transfer. NFO has also hosted community events on their farm, including the Taos Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and the NFO Family Fall Festival, featuring Taos's only pumpkin patch!

The vision of the Living Veterans Memorial Garden has multiple components. First is to develop and maintain a Memorial Park in honor of all



NEW MEMORIAL PARK cont'd on pg. 13

Fishing And My Father

By TONER MITCHELL

One would think my fishing addiction would be at least partially hereditary, which turns out to be true insofar as my father's family fell in love with New Mexico upon first laying eyes on the mountains around the Moreno Valley. My grandfather and his sons couldn't get enough of fishing those creeks: the Cimarron, Rio Chiquito, and Pot Creek, by worm, spinner, or fly.

By sons, I mean my two uncles. As for my father, Tony Mitchell, my grandmother told me he preferred to stay at home with his head buried in the engineworks of the family station wagon. In truth, he had a different thing with mountains. He liked them under snow, didn't care about their melted form, or how many trout they would sustain. Like my parents did with me, his parents required him to attend college back east, and he chose the school in the wintriest and most mountainous area he could find. His objective, of course, was skiing.

Fast forward a decade, and he found himself back in New Mexico, a partner in my grandfather's law firm with a new Taos ski mountain as his client. My skiing father wouldn't be the one to teach me how to fish. That would have been my grandfather's job if the timing had worked out, though in a way – specifically the day of his funeral and my fascination at the scatter of fishing gear around in his bedroom – my grandfather is the progenitor of my fishing.



Photo by Toner Mitchell

"There's nothing better than being outside with your dad!" Says Toner Mitchell, shown here with his father, the late Tony Mitchell.

Which was probably for the best. Though a gorgeous skier, my father was ugly at teaching it. Not that I and my siblings didn't learn anything. We did, but the experience of doing so was more like boot camp than a thrilling outdoor adventure. Dad seemed to view teaching us as a prison sentence, and when his impatience got the best of him, he'd often take us down one of Taos Ski Valley's famously steep runs. Our cheeks were always wet by the time we reached the bottom, partly from sliding on our faces the whole time, but mostly from tears.

If Dad had caught the family fishing gene, I might not have become a fisherman, which scares me to this day. I shudder at the thought of him yelling at my casting mistakes like some stereotypical nun with a ruler in her fist.

Basically, he would have been like me when, after Dad's failing lungs reduced his skiing to a mere fraction, he asked me to take him fishing. I was a guide at the time, and teaching people fishing was something I was good at. But not when it came to my father. Though he was no less proficient than a million of my previous clients, I showed him neither patience nor respect.

Somehow I'd forgotten that it was he who had stoked my fishing career throughout my most critical moments – a horsepack trip to Yellowstone Park at age 13, and a brand new Sage fly rod for my high school graduation present. On one cold Montana day, he forgot his raincoat and I literally wagged my finger at him. I scolded him about his poor circulation, as though he wasn't infinitely

more aware than I was that this specific condition would likely be the death of him, as indeed it turned out to be.

I don't know why it's so difficult to teach a student you love deeply, but I suspect it has to do with each person's different definition of sharing. The teacher wants to share a passion, which the student, through incompetence, seemingly refuses to accept. The teacher, of course, takes it personally regardless of how the student actually feels. Once slapped out of it – for me it was the realization that, in addition to my father, neither my wife nor my son seemed enthused about my teaching style – the teacher remembers that sharing is not just about what you're doing, but who you're doing it with and in what spirit.

Things changed for the best when I began hiring guides to teach my dad, which allowed me to revel in his success and take pictures of the fish he caught. I learned that my wife simply doesn't like fishing, and that's okay. And my son fishes better when he's focused on the river and not the quality of his drift, on the time we're having and not my voice.

For the record, the time eventually came when skiing came easy to me and I became a powder hound like Dad... when winter clouds rolled in at bedtime, and I wasn't surprised the following morning when he came in to wake me.

"We got dumped on last night," was how he might have put it, the smell of bacon already filling the house. "Get your stuff and let's go."

NEW MEMORIAL PARK cont'd from page 12

past, present, and future US veterans. Secondly, the garden will be a place for veterans, their families, and the public to remember, reflect, and contemplate the sacrifices of these individuals. Lastly, it serves as an educational venue. The memorial garden will create a space for the entire community to access local lands and honor those who have served. NFO has designed the garden to be a sustainable park by including innovative eco-friendly technologies such as solar power, native plantings, and paved ADA-compliant walking paths.

Enthusiasm for the project is high. Don Peters, Executive Director of NFO, explained, "Conserving the land will serve as homage to past Taos County veterans who helped keep the

agrarian culture alive in our community. Keeping land in Taos dedicated to open space and agriculture, as opposed to developed into more residential and business space, is crucial to preserve the historic way of life in Taos." Peters, along with NFO staff, will be organizing and implementing the project.

Collaboration is a key component for the project's success. The project is a coalition of the Taos Pueblo, Town of Taos, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3259, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Taos Chapter #12, and NFO. NFO will be hosting community workdays and looking for volunteers to help the progress of the Living Veterans Memorial Garden, when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. NFO will keep the public posted through their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NotForgottenOutreach/

Not Forgotten Outreach, Inc, is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit dedicated to motivating military, veterans & their families, and Gold Star Families of fallen heroes to participate in recreational, therapeutic, and/or farming activities to inspire the healing process.

NFO creates opportunities to improve relationships and build comradery, while at the same time bolstering mindfulness and greater wellbeing. NFO served 3,698 military families from New Mexico in 2018.

In addition to our numerous programs, we provide disabled veterans and Gold Star Families information about and referrals to the Veteran Administration and other recreational and therapeutic sport activities.

Matt Cogorno studied environmental and agricultural studies at the University of California, Berkeley before serving in AmeriCorps NCCC where he connected with NFO. Matt has served as NFO's Program Director since October 2019.

JOURNALISM 101 cont'd from page 3

you plan to share something with us. Our published deadline is the 12th of the month prior to publication, and the earlier the better. The sooner we see it, the more likely we can fit it in.

- We currently have a part-time paid position for an ad salesperson and the goal for the paper is to earn enough revenue to pay staff writers, and eventually contributors. If you are interested in learning about how a newspaper works, think about joining our team selling ads! Contact Lynn@questaedf.com for more details.
- Thank you to everyone who makes this newspaper what it is, your community newspaper!

Next month we will continue with JOURNALISM 101, Part 2 - Photography.

As The Worm Turns – Low Effort, High Reward Worm Composting

By JONATHAN HUTCHISON

Put your pitchforks back in the shed. No more back-breaking labor turning your compost pile to keep the innards “hot.” Let a few thousand “red wiggler” earthworms do it for you! They gladly work 24/7 in return for room and board and they breed right on the job!

In vermi-composting, worms turn food scraps and garden waste into nutrient-rich, soil-building, odorless, organic fertilizer for houseplants and gardens. Sam McCarthy, of Santa Fe’s Creative Organic Recycling says, “Compared to other compost methods, composting with red worms requires the least labor, water, and time to complete, with nutrient levels twice those of standard compost.”

Worms, like birds, have gizzards that grind the material they ingest, producing nutrients and minerals ideally suited to plant uptake. Their “castings” (feces) provide enzymes and bacteria that promote seed germination, root development, and healthy growth. According to The Tasteful Garden website, “Castings are our richest natural fertilizer. A tablespoon feeds a potted plant for more than two months.”

Worm castings contain 50% more humus than topsoil, plus higher concentrations of minerals essential for plant growth; nitrates, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, calcium, manganese, copper, zinc, cobalt, borax, iron, carbon, and nitrogen. These persist six times longer than potting soil and, being water-soluble, are immediately available to the plant without burning, unlike animal manure and chemical fertilizers that must break down in the soil before plants can absorb them.

As organic matter moves through the alimentary canal of the earthworm, a thin layer of oil coats the castings. This layer erodes slowly, so the nutrients remain available over time, like sustained-release medication. Bacteria in the alimentary canal transform organic waste into deodorized and pH-neutralized fertilizer. When pH levels in soil are too high (or low), plants can’t absorb nutrients. Castings, neutral at pH7, buffer plants against these extremes, aiding absorption. They transfer these helpful bacteria to the soil, promoting microbiological activity, at levels much higher than the organic matter that the worm ingests.

Worm castings also extract toxins



Photos by Jonathan Hutchison

Busy worm farmworkers pose in rich worm castings

and harmful fungi and bacteria from the soil, helping to fight off plant diseases, including root rot. They sequester the heavy metals in organic waste, preventing plants from absorbing too much of these compounds, and releasing them as needed. The humic acid in worm castings stimulates plant growth and develops microflora populations in the soil.

Castings retain water by forming mineral clusters that withstand water erosion and compaction. Like tiny sponges, castings hold 2 to 3 times their weight in water until needed. The pellet-like physical structure of castings keeps them from compacting like dirt. The resulting looser soil allows oxygen to get to the roots. Commercial castings are convenient and provide instant gratification, but there’s something to be said for patiently tending your little friends as they produce their own “house brand,” disposing of your kitchen and garden waste, without fossil fuels for packaging or transportation. Besides, it’s fun.

Vermi-composting works inside or outside. According to McCarthy, a properly constructed and maintained outside bin, constructed with lumber or hay bales, insulates the worms from excess heat and cold, allowing year-round composting.

An indoor bin can be fashioned

from a plastic tub or you can purchase a pre-fab “Worm Farm.” With its 16” x 16” footprint, my odorless worm farm tucks neatly away in a corner. Stackable plastic trays allow composting to proceed uninterrupted as each tray fills. Screens on the bottoms of the trays let the worms migrate upward in search of fresh food while their comrades polish off what remains below. When lower trays are fully composted, they are emptied and placed on top of the stack.

My worm farm features a spigot to drain the nutrient-rich “worm tea” percolating down through the compost. This liquid fertilizer is applied straight to outdoor plants or diluted for indoor feeding. Finished castings can be mixed with water and applied as a foliar spray to control insects.

The worms live and work in a “bedding,” a 2:1 mixture of “browns” (dry leaves, straw, coconut coir, peat moss, or shredded paper) and “greens” (kitchen scraps and fresh plant matter). The bedding must be kept moist, to prevent the worms from dehydrating. Regular feeding and the addition of new bedding promote the health of the worm colony, or “clow.” This takes about 10 minutes a week.

For a supply of red wigglers and a guide to outdoor vermi-composting



Commercially available “Worm Farm” with modest 16” footprint fits nearly every home

(“Do It With Worms”), contact Sam McCarthy; Phone: (505) 310-3971, email: sfcompost@yahoo.com. Sam recommends the book, *Worms Eat My Garbage* by Mary Appelhoff. Thanks to Sam and to the websites of Simple Grow <https://www.simplegrowsoil.com/> and The Tasteful Garden, <https://www.tastefulgarden.com/Worm-Castings-d114.htm> for the information presented here.

Editor’s Note: There was a local source in Questa to purchase worms from Andrew Chavez but his family is no longer selling worms! It was so great to purchase them at Questa Center Supermarket and Questa Lumber and Hardware. If anyone wants to grow worms commercially, there is a market here!

Red Wiggler Fun Facts:

- Red worms live one to two years.
- Worms are hermaphroditic, with both male and female parts, but it still takes two worms to reproduce. They trade sperm, then each lays an egg case the size of a grain of rice. In about three weeks, 2-3 baby worms emerge, from ¼ to ½ inch in length, with the appearance of transparent filaments.
- The “wormlets” mature in 8-10 weeks and start laying their own egg cases.
- Each day, a worm will eat more than half its own body weight.
- A worm breathes through its skin, which must be kept moist. If the skin dries out, the worm suffocates and dies. There are roughly 1000 worms to a pound.

Starting a Garden in the High Desert of Northern New Mexico

By MIGUEL SANTISTEVAN

Farming, gardening, and local food are increasingly popular, especially now as we experience the effects of COVID-19 and hear news of the pandemic's effects on our food system. From meat processing plants being shut down, milk being wasted, chickens and other livestock being killed, and fresh vegetables being plowed under, it is clear that our current food system is not resilient, adaptable, or sustainable. The good news is that a concerned citizenship is now more aware and many are taking responsibility for their food supply, turning to the ground beneath their feet to grow their own food.

As someone who has been actively practicing and studying agriculture and permaculture for over 25 years, I have come across every kind of agricultural practice imaginable. With the availability of information over the Internet, agriculture information overload could become an issue for the beginner. The good news is that agriculture is actually very simple, and people practicing it will likely realize that it comes naturally. Much of the intelligence needed to farm and garden is already in their bodies (as opposed to their minds). All of us come from many agricultural traditions, though generations removed.

In northern New Mexico, we still have thriving agricultural traditions with miles upon miles of acequia irrigation channels flowing, acres upon acres of pasture and cultivated fields, and a population who still knows how to cook meals and process the harvest. Newcomers are attracted to this region because of the scenery and culture that has been maintained by land-based people for centuries. People fit right in by helping with acequias and caring for the land and water.

For someone who wants to start farming and gardening in northern New Mexico, it is important to realize the character and limitations of our environment in producing food. We live in a high desert mountainous area with limited water resources. Our native soils are typically alkaline and thinly developed when compared to the intensively managed soils in our acequia-irrigated floodplain. These facts should not be discouraging; there is incredible abundance in the desert. It is just a matter of synchronizing our efforts to the rhythms and capabilities of our surroundings. In the effort of connecting ourselves



Photo by Miguel Santistevan

Miguel takes a selfie with his Sol Feliz Farm in the background.

with agriculture, we can look to three important aspects of success: soils, seeds, and water.

Soil is incredible; it is the skin of the Mother Earth. In the dawning days of civilization, before the advent of the plow and earth-moving technology, the soils were self-maintaining and abundant with the successional stages of native vegetation available to early peoples for management and harvesting. As agriculture started to develop, plowing and working soils became a focus of our relationship to the land. It is important to remember that vegetation and even domestication of our agricultural crops is very old compared to the relatively recent development of agricultural soil management. Crops know how to find what they need in the soil and the important thing is to maintain the soil as a system rather than just a patch of dirt that is augmented with nutrients from the store.

In recent times past, our agricultural soils were augmented with manure from our animals and the mulch that was left at the bottom of the woodpile. With this

in mind, we too can augment our soils with organic matter that can be composted from food and scraps that were not used. We can cut weeds and grass to help with a compost operation that can augment our soils. We can observe the slope and aspect of the soil and look for sweet spots indicated by lush native vegetation and use that as a place to start our gardening efforts. In an encouraging and interesting twist to agricultural understanding, it has been found that crops that struggle against drought, insects, and seemingly deficient soils are actually more nutritious than their over-watered, over-fertilized counterparts.

When starting a garden, the likely most important thing for success could be identifying locally adapted seed. They will not only be familiar with their surroundings but the fact that it was obtained locally can be an indication of its past success and current adaptability. In our high elevation region, the crops that work best are also crops that can sustain us over winter months. Frost and drought-tolerant legumes like fava beans (habas), peas (alberjón), and lentils are

not necessarily the kind of crops that make a lot of money at farmers' markets but will produce in our challenging environment. Potatoes and other root crops are also hardy. And heritage grains like winter wheat, rye, quinoa, and buckwheat can produce a lot of food in a small area with little water or soil augmentation. If locally adapted seeds cannot be found, any open-pollinated seed can become local after a few generations of saving seed.

Many of us are lucky enough to have access to acequias for irrigation. We know that an acequia is not like a faucet: the agricultural system it is connected to still has to have some resilience against drought. So, water availability can be an issue, but the good news is that many people don't understand the capability of their crops and often water too much. Many crops on the acequias can thrive with one irrigation per week. If demands on the water are too great, water can potentially be stored on-site for future use. Water can also be gathered and used from our rooftops, roads, and sidewalks for gardening and for fruit trees, with some ingenious design and understanding of natural water flows. And uneven land can be terraced or otherwise contoured to gather water during storms in areas that can also be used to build soils.

In starting a garden, the most important thing is to just go for it! The only mistake is inactivity. Almost any seeds can thrive with attention. This attention includes providing water (but not too much), cultivating with a hoe to aerate and mound soil around your crops, and learning about the plants' individual patterns and habits. For example, wilted crops in the heat of the day need to be checked in the evening to see if they are still wilted. A wilted plant may be a sign of an adaptation for dealing with heat – not necessarily an indication of water stress. When in doubt, wait and do less, having confidence in the wisdom of the crops themselves to figure it out. As the crops learn, so too will the beginning gardener, and if the seeds from the harvest are saved for the next year, then the relationship can continue to grow stronger for generations!

Miguel Santistevan is a farmer, educator, and family man from Taos, New Mexico. He has degrees and certifications in agriculture and has contributed many presentations, articles, and radio shows for acequia and agricultural consciousness. Some of his work can be accessed from his website: solfelizfarm.wordpress.com.

Firefighting and Fires: A Closer Look

By CYNTHIA NAJIM
MEMBER, LATIR VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Wildland fires and fire prevention are front and center during this critical period of high winds, low humidity, and increasing temperatures. The vegetation (what we call “fuel”) in our fields, valleys, and on mountain slopes is another risk factor. The fuel is ripe and ready for fire. A ditch fire, campfire, live cigarette, or lightning strike can trigger a widespread disaster. To date this fire season, in April and May, all six wildland fires that occurred in our area could have resulted in greater destruction AND could have been prevented.

Often in life, when we get comfortable and set in our ways, we become shortsighted. We tend to think mainly of ourselves. (Disaster won't happen to me, right?) In fact, we can become downright stubborn – digging in our heels about what we think we can do (or have the right to) and closing ourselves off to broader perspectives and to the wellbeing of others.

Before I joined the fire department last year, whenever there was a fire or other emergency, I quietly said a prayer for all involved and was grateful that “someone out there” would respond and take care of the situation. I had NO idea of what was involved beyond courage, commitment, and selfless service.

Volunteer firefighters and other emergency first responders make an enormous investment every day, being on call 24/7. Education and training are ongoing – to fully prepare for whatever danger awaits and to function as a well-oiled machine with crew members and other departments when on the scene. As fellow Latir Volunteer Firefighter Robyn Black remarked, “Some people think we just go out, grab a hose, and start spraying.”

Strict protocols mandated by national organizations must be adhered to. These policies and regulations cover chain of command, communication, safety and escape strategies, on-scene tactical procedures, vehicles and equipment (acquisition, requirements, maintenance, deployment), uniforms and personal protective equipment, insurance, funding, training frequency and hours, and much, much more. If we were to deep dive into any of these categories, we'd find layer upon layer of guidelines to be followed and officially documented. This means LOTS of paperwork, especially for fire department chiefs. And all of this must be addressed outside of normal working hours.

What sees us through the challenges is that we love what we do. We are here to serve our communities and to help keep you safe in all situations. In return, I am enlisting you to think twice (or more) before you act. Think of your neighbors



Photo by Ariana Quintana, Latir Volunteer Fire Department

Dicey conditions at the Ute Creek Fire in Amalia on May 2: see related story on page 16.

who, perhaps like you, invested their entire life savings in their property. Think of our precious wildlife. Making informed and sound decisions can prevent unnecessary tragedy, loss, and even death.

In Rio Arriba County last month, scores of firefighters and vehicles were called out for days to fight a fire that was purposefully started on one property owner's small parcel. The changing winds ignited an inferno which quickly grew out of control, climbing and cascading over a rugged ridge, and burning nearly 450 acres of another landowner's beloved, forested property – private land which borders an Apache reservation.

Fred Patton, former 3-time Fire Chief

Fire Season Essentials

Given the unseasonably dry and high-risk conditions, Fire Bans we're announced in mid-May by Taos County, NM State Forestry Service, and US Forest Service for Carson National Forest.

Be vigilant and proactive. Situational awareness can save lives. If you see or smell smoke, call 911.

Stay abreast of fire restrictions in your area.

Burn Permits are required by law to burn on your property. Contact Taos County and/or your local fire department to apply for a permit and to check conditions BEFORE you burn.

Taos County Fire Department Office (575) 737-6469

Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova at mike.cordova@taoscounty.org or (575) 779-3447

<https://www.facebook.com/taoscountyfireandems/>
<http://taoscounty.org/200/Fire-EMS>

with the National Park Service and current member of Latir Volunteer Fire Department summarizes, “We've seen horrific fires in neighboring states. In 1996, we experienced it here in Lama. With parched fuels and weather conditions like we have now, entire communities, homes, schools, and businesses have been destroyed. Lives, including those of firefighters, have been lost. Wind-driven fires can and do grow quickly beyond the resources and capabilities of responding departments. All it takes is one small mistake, one ‘Oh no!’ moment.”

Disaster can happen to anyone at any time. Let's be cautious before taking action.

Wind-Driven Fires Out of Control

By C. JIM COX

The first weekend in May set the tone for many spring fires fueled by strong winds in northern Taos County. Fire crews were called out on three consecutive days, when intentional fires that got out of hand, starting with the ditch fire on Friday, May 1 in Costilla, off Poleo Road, burning 3.7 acres.

The next day, on Saturday, May 2, according to Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova, 10 acres burned in Amalia and was wind-driven onto the Ute Creek Horse Ranch. The Ute Creek Fire could very easily have become a full-blown forest fire. The property owner who started the fire had acquired a burn permit, although the day he decided to burn was designated a “No Burn Day.” A common mistake is believing that a fire has been put completely out, which was the case with this fire. The live embers left unattended restarted the fire, and with spring winds it quickly became out of control.



Photos by Jim Cox www.jimcoxartworks.net

The first weekend in May set the tone for many spring fires fueled by strong winds, especially in the Costilla/Amalia area. Fire crews were called out on three consecutive days, when intentional fires got out of hand. Fire crews have been busy putting out fires all over northern Taos County.

The call out to the Ute Creek Fire was made to nine departments, with 60 firefighters and 24 fire apparatus (trucks). The departments fighting the fire were: Costilla, Costilla County Fire Dept. from Colorado, La Lama, Questa, Cerro, Latir, and Amalia Fire Departments. The US Forest Service and the Red River Fire Chasers were also present.

After the fire spread to Ute Creek

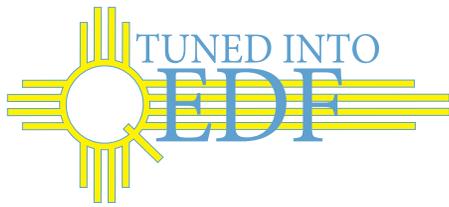
Horse Ranch, the winds swirled around and allowed the firefighters to control the fire. They were blessed, because these were not straight-line winds traveling from west to east. The fires could have gone into the mountain forests and it would have been a real disaster.

The following day, on Sunday May 3, firefighters were again called to the Garcia Fire that started along the road to Rio Costilla Park and Valle Vidal. The Amalia Fire Department quickly stopped forward progress of the fire. The fire was kept to a half acre, miraculous under recent dry, windy conditions. The crew count was 32 firefighters and 16 apparatus, from six departments: Questa Fire, Cerro Fire, La Lama Fire, Latir, Costilla, and the Amalia Fire Departments. The crew flushed out the fire before it jumped the Rio Castillo and up the side of the canyon into the evergreens. Great job!

Chief Cordova reminds us that anyone who wants to burn must have a permit and needs to notify the fire de-

partment when they will start the burn. Those who burn without a permit are subject to a fine of \$300. Frequently there are days that are designated “No Burn Days,” when conditions are extreme. When someone with a permit calls to tell the fire department they are starting their burn, the dispatcher (575) 758-3361 will let them know if it is allowed on that day. Due to dry conditions, high winds and warmer temperatures on May 13, the State of New Mexico imposed fire restrictions on all state lands. These include no burning and no campfires. Camp stoves with precautions are permitted in some areas. People can check on the Taos County website or the Taos County Fire and EMS Facebook page for further updates and more information.

The work by the fire departments and all the firefighters, coordinated by Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova, is exceptional; they should all be congratulated for the heroic work they have accomplished. Thank you, first responders!



SHOP LOCAL,
ESPECIALLY NOW!
By LYNN SKALL

A friend of mine said, "I wish I didn't have to order from Am*z*n." I asked him why he felt that he had to, – was something or somebody forcing him? We have most of what we need right here locally in the Questa area. I acknowledged that "times are harder" since the onset of COVID-19, and asked him to think about this: before ordering on-line, make the effort and take the time to first look in our community and buy what you need right here, from people and businesses that we know, and make the concerted effort to keep money circulating in our local economy.

THINK "INSIDE" THE BOX. The retailers that are open are providing a wid-

er selection of items during COVID-19 to make up for shortages elsewhere. Be sure to check out what area stores have and what they've added; stop by or give them a quick call to learn more; don't make any assumptions about what they may or may not carry.

LOOK BEYOND CURRENT INVENTORY. If you don't see what you need, ask the retailer if they can special order it for you. Just because they don't have it in stock or don't usually carry that particular item doesn't mean they can't get it for you just as quickly as you could get it by ordering it yourself. The retailer will appreciate that you gave them the opportunity to help you out.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT. When the shops you used to frequent are temporarily closed, contact the owner or general manager to purchase what you would typically buy from them. In most cases they'll be happy to meet you, or open for you, to accommodate your request and sell you just what you need.

USE YOUR CONNECTIONS. We are fortunate to live in a small and

well-connected community. Ask your friends and family who they know that could get you what you're looking for, or who they can suggest you contact that might know where to find it. People are glad to hear from you and eager to help each other - give them a call – it's a great excuse for some social "coexistence," rather than the less personal social "distance" we've been practicing.

BUY GIFT CERTIFICATES AND GIFT CARDS. Instead of buying a present, buy a gift certificate to your favorite Village restaurant or retailer, or for a handmade work of art from a local artisan. Think of how unique it would be to receive a gift certificate for a guided fishing excursion, a massage, or yoga class for later. Even a gas card is something everyone can use!

You can further support your local businesses by buying gift certificates now for use later; buy them for yourself or for others. When you stop by and pick up your next restaurant to-go order, pick up some gift certificates, too. This gives the establishment an infusion of extra cash

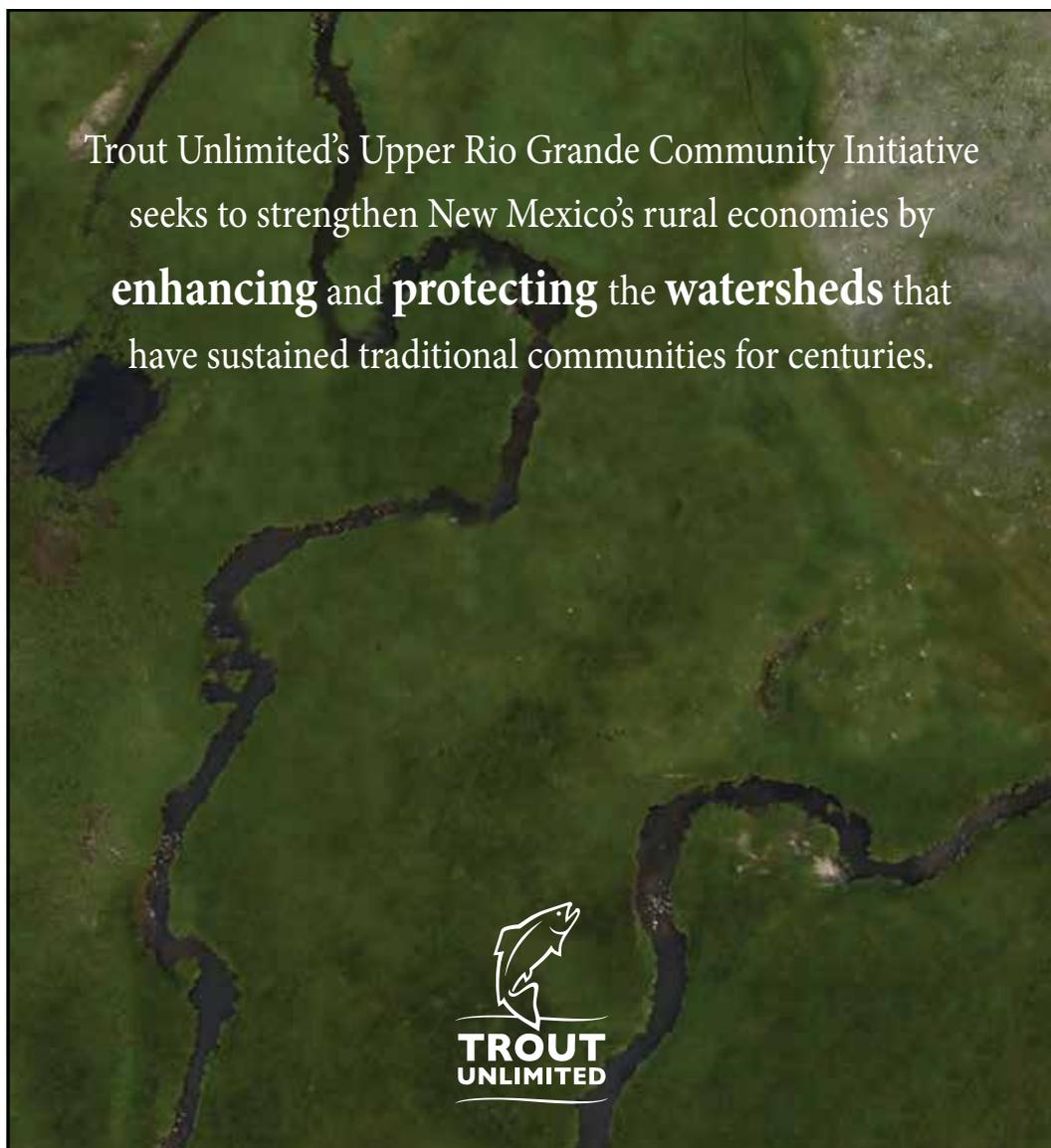
now, while making your next purchase with them that much easier, since you won't need cash or a credit card.

SEARCH GOOGLE FOR QUESTA PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. Take a quick moment before you finalize any on-line orders, to input a search for what you need in Questa. You will be surprised at what comes up and how much you can find in our local area. Think of how much it helps our environment by purchasing what you need locally; it eliminates excess packaging and shipping. It also helps keep jobs local and keeps our workforce employed.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT WE HAVE RIGHT HERE. Put on your mask, adhere to COVID-19 compliance mandates, and make your purchases from our local retail shops, area restaurants, and community services. My friend has come to realize that you don't have to succumb to Am*z*n Fever. You can actually find what you need right here, and that it's far more beneficial to support our neighbors who own businesses in our own community

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



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



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





By CARLA ARCHULETA

What can we say about a year like no other? Questa Independent Schools, like most schools around the world, went through many changes. During the school year, we welcomed back staff and students but also lost students and staff to other schools. We had three superintendents and saw two new school board members elected. Rio Costilla Southwest Learning Academy was closed due to concerns over mold issues, and finally, all the schools were closed due to COVID-19 concerns! In nine short weeks we went virtual with e-learning replacing our traditional classrooms and the Senior Class of 2020 graduated in unprecedented form.

During the closure, education continued for our district students. Here are

some of the successes:

Every student who needed one received a device for e-learning.

Paper packets were created for families upon request.

Families got internet access, whether at home or at one of the hotspots in our communities.

Teachers created lessons, made hundreds of phone calls, emails, text messages, and utilized online platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Edgenuity, and I Ready to ensure students were safe and healthy and that they continued to learn from home.

Our cafeteria staff, educational assistants, bus drivers, and other staff members helped pack breakfast and lunch meals and delivered them to district youth under 18 during the entire closure.

Our custodial staff cleaned and disinfected all school buildings in the first few weeks of the closure to ensure they would be safe in case school would reopen.

Our business office functioned as usual; no one missed a paycheck.

Teachers, staff, and board members worked together weekly on various committees to continue to make plans and improvements for next school year.

Most importantly, we ended the school year with all of our staff members and students safe from COVID-19. This would not have been possible without the leadership of Governor Lujan Grisham, the New Mexico Public Education Department, Kit Carson Telecom, Plan B Networks, The Vigil Group, administrators, staff, students, parents/guardians, community members, and board members. While there are many things we might have changed, we know that we are fully capable and ready to meet the challenge.

There were many school-related activities that our students missed out on this year and we grieve for opportunities lost and memories not made. Prom, track and field, baseball, the state cheer competition, senior walk with the pre-K graduates, and the athletic banquet – to name a few. We also had success at bringing some of the ceremonies to our students virtually, such as the National

Honor Society Induction Ceremony and 6th-grade promotion.

Of course, we always end the school year with the biggest event of all, graduation. This year, a special board meeting was held on May 15 in order to accept the graduating class. School Board members were presented with the class of 2020 to confirm that 26 students had met the criteria to receive their High School Diploma. A graduation ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 13 at 10 am. Depending on the public health orders at the time, there will either be a virtual ceremony or a modified live in-person ceremony. Visit the school website for up-to-date information on graduation. <https://qisd-nm.schoolloop.com/> or stay tuned to the Questa Del Rio News Facebook page.

Since we have nothing to compare this school year to, we appreciate what we accomplished together and hope that we continue to move forward innovating our classrooms, whether we are back in the classroom next school year or continue virtually. Have a safe and restful summer!

Honor Society Induction Ceremony Zooms in New Members

By SARA MARTINEZ

On Saturday, May 9, the Kiowa Chapter of the National Honor Society at Questa Jr.-Sr. High School held its annual induction ceremony via Zoom. We gathered virtually to celebrate the accomplishments of the 34 students who earned membership into the Honor Society this 2019-2020 school year, and especially for the 13 new inductees. Students, along with their families, listened virtually to student and faculty speeches as well as receiving their pins and certificates of membership.

According to the National Honor Society, “The purpose of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools (NHS) is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools.” The first criteria for induction into the Honor Society is that they earn a 3.5 grade point average for two semesters in a row with no Cs. In addition to grades, teachers and staff must agree that these students also have strong character that shows qualities of scholarship, service, citizenship, and leadership.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is

the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” When our world is flipped upside-down, as it is now, we look to the most educated in our society to give us an understanding of what we must do to stay safe. Similarly, other students look to these high-achieving students as a benchmark. Are they doing their assignments? Because if these students aren’t working, then others will assume that they don’t need to, either.

During a normal school year NHS students volunteer their time to help our community in many ways. Since the school closure due to COVID-19, some members are essential workers in food service and grocery/household goods stores. They still manage to stay on top of their school assignments and continue to build that foundation for their future.

Honor Society students are some of the strongest to graduate from Questa High School. Not because they have earned high marks, but because they want to do good work, they want to help, and they want to be educated so that they can contribute to our society. For this reason and many others, I want to thank these students for giving it their best.



National Junior Honor Society

- *Melissa Andrianos, 7th
- Joaquin Arellano, 8th
- *Alexis Brown, 7th
- Josiah Chavez, 9th
- Amalia Gonzalez, 8th
- *Alyana Leon, 7th
- *Sophia Martinez, 7th
- Kaylee Piper, 8th
- Karina Rael, 9th
- Nathaniel Rael, 8th
- *Antonio Romero, 8th
- *Ricardo Sanchez, 8th
- *Aliyah Santistevan, 7th

National Honor Society

- Clarissa Arellano, 12th
- *Joesyra Bailon, 12th
- Santana Cintas, 11th
- Christina Cisneros, 12th
- Raven Cisneros, 12th
- *Gabrielle Danis, 12th
- Ivy Flores, 12th
- *Ellisa Garcia, 12th
- *Angelica Lovato, 10th
- Aalyiah Martinez, 11th
- Elizabeth Martinez, 11th
- Janae Martinez, 12th
- *Leah Martinez, 10th
- Sonia Martinez, 12th
- Amber Ortega, 12th
- Arianna Ortega, 12th
- Kiana Passino, 12th
- Honorio Justin Rael, 11th
- Isabelle Rael, 12th
- *Annaliese Rivera, 10th
- Julianna Sandoval, 12th

New inductees are marked with an asterisk.

Class of 2020 Questa Area Graduates



AIDAN MACDONALD



ANASTACIA GONZALEZ



CHERISE TRUJILLO



JULIAN TRUJILLO



MIKAELA ROMERO



NADIA MACDONALD



SEAN FLORY



JADEN ORTEGA



JOSHUA WALTZ

TAOS ACADEMY
Sean Flory
Anastacia Gonzalez
Aiden MacDonald
Nadia MacDonald
Mikaela Romero
Cherise Trujillo
Joshua Waltz

HOMESCHOOL
Jaden Ortega

**VISTA GRANDE
HIGH SCHOOL**
Julian Trujillo

Nadia MacDonald will be attending UNM in the fall and beginning a pre-med program through the combined BA/MD.

Aidan MacDonald will be attending UNM, exploring his options and drinking a lot of coffee.

Mikaela Romero: I will be attending UNM Albuquerque to pursue a career in nursing. I plan on becoming a Neonatal Nurse.

Cherise Trujillo: I plan on attending Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque to study radiologic technology. This is something I have wanted to study since I was a sophomore. After earning my associates in radiologic technology from CNM, I plan on transferring to the University of New Mexico to finish my Bachelor's degree.

Joshua Waltz: I plan on attending UNM Albuquerque. I will also enroll in the Air Force ROTC program to begin my military career. I don't quite know what I will major in, but I will figure it out along the way.

Jaden Ortega will be attending a Bible college in Texas this fall. In the future, he would like to work in the media industry.

FUTURE PLANS

Sean Flory: I will be attending UNM main campus in Albuquerque to study microbiology. Since it is a broad field, I plan on using the first bit of my time there to investigate which particular section I want to focus on.

Anastacia Gonzalez: I plan on attending Colorado Springs School of Massage for my first year. From there I will transfer to Fort Lewis in Durango, Colorado to finish a bachelor's degree in biochemistry, so that I can be accepted into a chiropractic school somewhere here in the US. I plan on traveling whenever I can while I am young, depending on where the road takes me.

Good News for Families of School Children with SNAP Benefits

By **KIMBERLY RITTERHOUSE,**
RED RIVER VALLEY
CHARTER SCHOOL

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) and the Human Services Division (HSD) has collaborated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture

(USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for the P-EBT program that received approximately \$97 million for over 245,000 low-income students. They are working with HSD and school superintendents to get this information out quickly to families across New Mexico. Families currently on SNAP (Food

Stamps) benefits will see additional funds on their current EBT account by the end of May. HSD will disburse these funds. Families of students that were receiving free and reduced lunch or attend a Community Eligibility School (CEP) or Provision 2 school where all students eat free, will receive a P-EBT benefit card in

the mail. HSD will mail the P-EBT cards to the student addresses reported to PED via STARS in early June. Red River Valley Charter School, as well as the Questa Independent School District, are CEP (Community Eligible Program) schools and parents can expect this funding toward the end of May.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR 2020 SENIOR CLASS

And To Our Two Scholarship Recipients!

IVY FLORES

ISABELLE RAEI

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Veggie Venders Needed

Kids K O R N E R

WALK TO THE SUNRISE By TULSI SHAW, AGE 11

This morning is quiet and still. Icy fingers wrap me in their cold grasp, and I wiggle to the bottom of my sleeping bag, hugging my knees to my chest. I feel like the Swallowtail caterpillars back at home, wrapped in a silky cocoon of blankets. I hear someone get up, and the sound of the tent door opening. It's Papa. I want to stay in bed, but I love our time together. I yawn and quietly emerge out of my sleeping bag, careful not to wake my mama and baby brother.



Photo by Jenny K=Sue Kostecki-Shaw

Happy Father's Day! Tulsi Shaw and her Papa Patrick.

Outside, the sun climbs to perch atop Lama Mountain, illuminating the valley below. The sage is a mysterious sea of silver, the horizon a pale pink ocean liner AND bound for a far off shore. Papa is waiting for me. Hand in hand we walk up the trail. Peppered throughout the mountain are many tents, yet none show any signs of life. It seems as though all the world is still slumbering, all except us.

The air smells like a fresh-baked apple pie tinged with the slight sting of salt. The sky is tangerine orange, the scrub oak a deep, rich red, painting the mountain crimson. Papa smiles at me and I smile back, squeezing his warm hand tighter. Papa is the sort of person whose hands are always warm and he smells like simmering spices: the earthy aroma of anise, the spice of ginger, and the sweetness of cinnamon. When we are together, I feel safe like nothing can harm me.

We hear the long, low chime of the breakfast bell. I look up into Papa's blue eyes and he looks back into mine. My tummy rumbles. I'm hungry. We turn around and walk back towards camp where a warm breakfast awaits us.

HO-HO-KUS PANDEMIC By BELLA STAM, AGE 11



Photo by Jennie Stam

Junior journalist Bella Stam lives in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey and her grandmother lives in the Questa area. The name of her town is from an Indian word and is thought to mean "red cedar."

One of the things that I have learned while being in this pandemic is that I should appreciate my friends while I am able to see them every day. Before social distancing, I hung out with them in school, at after-school activities, and when they came over. Now, I only see them for a couple of minutes and from across the street. I think that my relationship with my family that I live with is getting stronger. I see them every day, all day because I live with them. Also, we are making many memories that we will hold on to for years and years. We are making up so many things to do and getting so many things done. If we weren't stuck inside, we probably wouldn't even get to do any of the things that we needed to do, because we would have had something else to do all day.

Something that scares me is that we might have to be in this pandemic for maybe even another year. I really want it to be over because I want to hug and laugh with my friends again. Also, I want to get back to my sports and seeing my extended family more often. We are baking and cooking so much more than normal. Basically every meal is made from scratch. I, personally, have been baking so many things. Every day I find a new recipe and make it. I have made crepes, pancakes, granola bars, muffins, cookies, brownies, and much more. We have also learned how to play a lot of fun games, from card games to dodgeball. We are working out a lot every day, doing a 30-day workout challenge, and also just workouts for fun. We are going on lots and lots of bike rides, walks, and hikes. When things go back to normal, I think that I will miss having as much free time as I have now. While I miss my old life, being able to see my friends every day, I am also kind of glad that we are in this pandemic because I am getting so many things done and being so creative.

QISD Honor Roll 2019-2020 Third Quarter

Questa High School

Principal's Roll

Arellano, Clarissa
Bailon, Joesyra
Cisneros, Christina
Danis, Gabrielle
Flores, Ivy
Lovato, Angelica
Martinez, Aalyiah
Martinez, Sonia
Martinez, Leah
McKenney, Kiley
Ortega, Arianna
Passino, Kiana
Rael, Honorio
Rael, Isabelle
Rael, Karina
Sandoval, Julianna

Honor Roll

Abeyta, Marissa
Archuleta, Lorenzo
Cardenas, Anika
Chavez, Josiah
Cintas, Jaydyn
Cintas, Santana
Cisneros, Raven
Garcia, Ellisa
Gonzales, Juan
Griego, Mariah
LaCome, Danielle
Lovato, Mya
Mandonado, Josiah
Martinez, Elizabeth
Martinez, Janae
McKenney, Emma
Ortega, Amber
Rivera, Annaliese
Rodriguez, Daniel

Merit Roll

Chavez, Anjelica
Molina, Monica
Quintana, Nataniel
Rivera, Ethan
Rodriguez, Ikhiro

Questa Junior High School

Principal's Roll

Piper, Kaylee
Rael, Nathaniel

Honor Roll

Andrianos, Melissa
Arellano, Joaquin
Brown, Alexis
Cardenas, Kamryn
Caraveo, Diego
Cisneros, Faith
Gomez, Gerald
Gonzalez, Alianna
Gonzalez, Amalia
Leon, Alyana

Martinez, Liliana
Ortega, Isaac
Rael, Ashlynn
Rivera, Martin
Romero, Antonio
Sanchez, Ricardo
Santistevan, Aliyah
Vigil Martinez, Destinee

Merit Roll

Gomez, Esteban C.

Alta Vista Intermediate School

Principal's Roll

Caraveo, Nicole
Dominguez, Janae
Dominguez, Maliyah
Henderson, Ezekiel
Hurtado, Skye
Lovato, Alyse
Medina, Ariana
Ortega, Jocelyne
Ortega, Mariana
Padilla, Thiago
Roybal III, Larry
Santistevan, Donny
Vialpando, Isaac

Honor Roll

Archuleta, Amber
Arellano, Ryan
Cisneros, Analea
Cisneros, Lukas
Cordova, Kaylei
Gallegos, Matthew
Gonzales, Micah
Hernandez, Estrella
Hernandez, Hector
Hernandez, Jeremiah
Hernandez, Serenity
Martinez, Marivel
Martinez, Olivia
Medina, Joshlyn
Ortega, Delena
Ortega, Diego
Ortiz, Sierra
Piper, Aaliyah
Rael, Dedrick
Rael, Hailey
Rael, Luke
Rael, Noah
Ramirez, Lexianna
Sanchez Jr., Matthew
Segura, Areyu
Smith, Remington
Smith, Sophia
Vallejos, Dominic
Vallejos, Isaiah
Vialpando, Zachary
Vigil Martinez, Matthew
Watts, Cheri

Merit Roll

Archuleta, Nataliya
Brown, Porfirio

Cordova, Hayley
Haltermann, Tristan
Hernandez, Winter
Hurtado, Ronnie
Leon Jr., Ricardo
Trujillo, Indika

Alta Vista Elementary School

Principal's Roll

Arellano, Mariah
Cabanas, Alice
Cardenas, Patrick
Cisneros, Josiah
Dominguez, Mateo
Fernandez, Nelson
Gallegos, Donovan
Garcia, Michael
Haltermann, LilyAnn
McKenney, Ashley
Ortega, Jacob
Ortega, Jeremiah
Roybal, Lucia
Vigil, Lyanna

Honor Roll

Casaus, Damian
Chavez, Analeyah
Cisneros, Alya
Cisneros, Aubrey
Fernandez, Caridad
Fernandez, Dante
Lovato, Albert
Lovato, Bella'Elizabeth
Martinez, Annalia
Martinez, Evanie
Martinez, Gracie
Michael, Joshua
Martinez, Liam
Mondragon, Xzavier

Ortega, Bradley
Ortega, Drake
Padilla, Mia
Rael, Adrienne
Rael, Alexia
Rael, Jaylee
Salas III, Agustin
Santistevan, Joel
Trujillo, Mya

Vigil Flores, Maria-Mercedes

Vigil Rael, Andres
Young, Giana
Young, Abigail

Merit Roll

Gallegos, Izyk James
Gonzales, Brenda
Hurtado, Makayla
Lovato, Sofia
Lovato, Xavier
Medina, Valentina
Trujillo, Nikkita
Vigil, Ericka

Teens Spotlight Alcohol Advertising in Taos



By JANIE CORRINE & MARIA GONZALEZ

QUESTION: What can happen when 10 teenagers get together to take a close look at alcohol advertising in Taos?

ANSWER: A lot!

It started last year when Taos Alive Youth Coalition member teen participant, Amy Lewis and Taos Alive staff members Alana Lee and Cassidy Richison took a close look at alcohol advertising at 26 restaurants, bars, gas stations, and liquor stores along the Paseo del Pueblo in Taos. It was eye-opening, for sure! Amy and Alana converted the photos they took from this environmen-

tal survey into a slideshow. The result is a dramatic display of alcohol-branded neon signs, umbrellas, sandwich boards, wall signs, and more.

On April 8th, Amy presented the slideshow to members of the Active 8, the Vida del Norte Drug Free Youth Coalition from the Questa area. The group has been very active (hence the name!) in raising awareness and preventing substance abuse in our local communities. Amy, who had never met the other teens, conducted the online training like a pro and together the group became more enlightened about the extent of alcohol advertising right here in their own backyard.

One of Amy's insights from doing the overview of advertising was her realization of the effect that alcohol advertising has on youth. "When we don't notice the number of signs, we're not aware. It's desensitizing us. It becomes a norm."

The Active 8 Questa teens agreed. They spoke about alcohol-branded items in their homes and other ways they are exposed to alcohol advertising without

being aware of it. Amy noted, "The content is getting into your head anyway, and you can't address it until you really notice it."

One teen stated that "to sell alcohol it's made to look fun and glamorous. It's never acknowledged that it could be dangerous."

By the end of the power-packed hour, these teens had some clear ideas about changes they wanted to create, stating "it is more important to have a healthy community than successful alcohol companies."

They want to see the community open up the conversation about the acceptance of alcohol use and advertising. They believe community members "could be coached" to get used to a lower level of each.

Their take-home resolve was to "create a community mindset that makes it harder for these messages to get to people. All over town, we could reduce alcohol signage."

In realizing that the high saturation of alcohol advertising in our visual

environment has a desensitizing effect, the two youth groups propose to make a project of their findings. Their goal is to find ways to bring to light how advertising methods found in everyday places like restaurants, gas stations, and stores have a negative effect on youth. Although youth are the most vulnerable and possibly the target of this advertising, it affects everyone. The group hopes to work on policies to protect people from the false notion that alcohol consumption is a healthy and normal activity for them, their families, and their communities.

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LOCAL AUTHOR LAUNCHES NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

By LOU MCCALL

Jenny Sue Kostecki Shaw lives north of Questa in El Rito, with her husband Patrick, their children Tulsi and Narayan Blue, their dog Shanti, goats, ducks, and chickens. Jenny Sue is the author and illustrator of many books and her new one about Papa is out just in time to celebrate Father's Day.

Papa Brings Me The World is about a father whose work allows him to travel the world, bringing his daughter, Lulu not only treasures like coins, but also stories, inspiring her to be an explorer herself. Anyone reading this book to their kids or grandchildren may want to have a map of the world or a globe nearby. This book offers an opportunity to explore and understand diversity and world cultures, as well as excellent lessons in geography.

Jenny Sue's own father was a world traveler and always brought her treasures. She loved his stories the most, though, and she became a world traveler herself. It was inevitable that she would come to write her own stories. Jennie Sue studied illustration at the Kansas City Art Institute. She went on to study at the Illustration Academy, a professional program featuring classes and mentoring by some of the best illustrators in the field. She worked as an illustrator for Hallmark for seven years and then as a freelance illustrator, doing all kinds of children's illustration.

Jenny Sue and Patrick have been in New Mexico since 2002. As is often the case when arriving in New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment has a transformative effect on people and their lives. Maybe it is the big sky or the

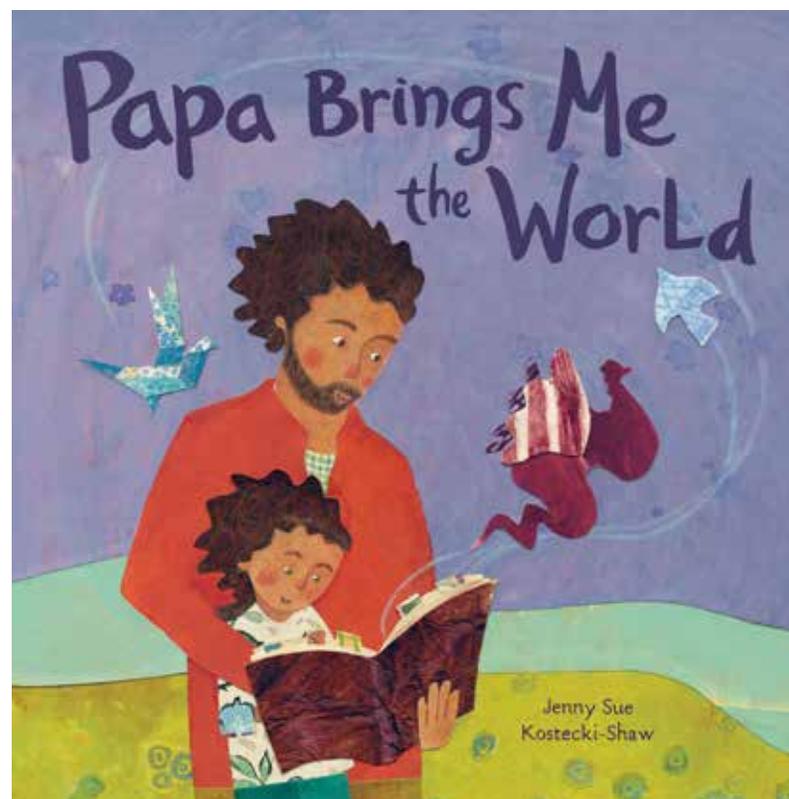


Courtesy Photo

The Shaw Family exploring the world, shown here at the Grand Canyon. Tulsi, Jenny Sue, Narayan, Blue, Patrick and Shanti.

slower pace, or the expansiveness of the landscape that changes one's perspective. Jenny Sue says that letting go of things that don't matter helped them create the life they wanted. Their return to the land allowed them to look at life in a different way, a sacred way.

Since 2007 Jenny Sue has focussed her efforts on her own children's books. She and Patrick collaborated on a book called *Chai Pilgrimage*, a beautiful, engaging, and informative book about Chai, the Indian spiced tea so popular the world over. The couple learned all about the culture of chai during their 4-month journey through India. The Oxford American Dictionary defines chai as "Indian tea, especially when made by boiling the tea leaves with milk, sugar, and cardamom." Jenny Sue and



Courtesy Photo

Out just in time for Father's Day, *Papa Brings Me the World* by local author and illustrator Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw. Available wherever books are sold and at the Questa Public Library.

Independent bookstores need our support

now more than ever. If you would like to purchase a book online, please consider www.bookshop.org.

Bookshop is an online bookstore with a mission to financially support local, independent bookstores. When placing your order, you can name a local, indie bookstore to receive a portion of the sales. If you don't name a specific store, they will find one for you!

Patrick's description of chai is much broader; their book gives a thorough perspective on a huge topic, with information about the ingredients, recipes, and a glimpse into what sipping chai in India is like.

Jenny Sue's other books include the award-winning title: *Luna & Me: The True Story of a Girl Who Lived in a Tree to Save a Forest*. I loved the book and the movie, *Life in Luna*, about Julia

Butterfly who lived in one of the world's oldest and largest trees for 738 days. She saved the 1500-year-old California redwood from the lumber industry. Julia's story was too inspiring not to be shared with children, and Jenny Sue has turned it into an amazing message for young minds.

Same, Same but Different is a story of two little boys who are pen pals and live a world apart. This story shows that even though their worlds may look very different, they have a lot to share and are very much alike. This book has won numerous awards and honors from all over the world.

Jenny Sue's book *My Travelin' Eye* is about a little girl named – wait, her name is Jenny Sue! Could this be autobiographical? Read it and see. All of Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw's work, besides being delightful, colorful children's stories, touch on large themes and important lessons for little ones to learn and assimilate into their young lives. There are other books, and so much to explore at <http://jennysuekosteckishaw.com/>

The Questa Library Honors Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw!

By SHARON NICHOLSON,
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The Questa Library community proudly supports Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw! It is our pleasure to have Jenny

Sue and her lovely family as part of our library. We are thrilled to welcome her newest book, *Papa Brings Me the World*, just in time for Father's Day! Jenny has been an important supporter, advisor, and essential volunteer. She has read

to our children, presented a "how to write a book" program for our Summer Reading Program, and encouraged her own children to participate in our Fun Fridays. Jenny's books are part of our children's collection and are often

checked out... and always enjoyed. Be sure to check out a book by Jenny Sue today! See page 23 for more about her new book and learn more at <http://jennysuekosteckishaw.com/>

Our Library is Essential And At Your Service!

By MARGARET LEJUSTE

Even during this time of social distancing and sheltering in place, libraries remain essential for a robust society. The Questa Public Library is no exception. It continues to offer necessary services to Questa and the residents of surrounding communities in northern Taos County and southern Colorado. While the sign states the library is closed, Library Director Sharon Nicholson is busy working creatively to provide alternative solutions for residents.

CURBSIDE PICKUP: Patrons can go to www.questalibrary.org and hit the "Search the Library" tag on the banner at the top of the page for the online catalog. After choosing the titles you want, simply call the library at (575) 586-2023 or send an email to library@villageofquesta.org with your request. Sharon will gather your selections, check out the materials, and call you to schedule a time and date for pickup.

WIFI AVAILABILITY: WIFI is available in the parking lot at no charge daily from 5 am to 10 pm. Patrons are requested to remain in their cars. If they wish to exit their vehicles, they are responsible for maintaining a six-foot social distance from others. With additional public health decrees, a mask may also be necessary. .

COMPUTER ACCESS: Patrons wishing to use a library computer to file for unemployment, fill out the 2020 Census, or do some other essential task may call the library and schedule an appointment to use a computer inside the building. Time will be limited.

BOOK CART: A selection of used books and other materials donated to the Friends of the Questa Public Library will be offered free for the taking on a cart rolled outside of the library building, weather permitting.

2020 SUMMER READING PROGRAM: Unfortunately, will not be offering the summer reading program this year in its usual format. However, plans are underway to create a reading log program to offer incentives for children to keep up their reading during the school break.

Our Governor has recently allowed libraries to open on the same basis as retail establishments. We have notified our Mayor and Village Council of our plans to do so. It will be awhile until the door will be unlocked and we will be back to "business as usual." Even then, it will probably be "business a little different." But change can be good! You are welcome to call us at 586-2023 to find out about the current plan.

The Questa Public Library continues to function in spite of the restrictions in place necessary to keep us all safe. Please take advantage of its current options to ensure everyone continues to enjoy a pleasant and rewarding experience. Support your QPL!

WE HAVE A WEBSITE!!!

QUESTANEWS.COM

We have made it easier for you to show your support by adding a way to donate online. You make things possible. Thank you!



KEEP IT UP TAOS! PHYSICAL DISTANCING IS WORKING.

By following health guidelines to stay six feet apart and wearing a mask when you leave the house, you are helping stop the spread of the dangerous coronavirus in Northern New Mexico, and preventing a large outbreak that could overwhelm our healthcare system.

STAY SOCIALLY CONNECTED

We must stay apart during the coronavirus spread, but only physically. Stay socially connected with your family, friends, colleagues and classmates through online tools, by picking up the phone, or even mailing letters. Strong relationships and personal connections will help us all get through this difficult time together.

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT?

- Nutritious food
- Safe shelter
- Internet connections
- Personal protection, including masks
- Diapers and childcare
- Business advice
- Mental and emotional support

Visit ecmutualaidhub.org for information
Call 575-205-0045
Email info@ecmutualaidhub.org

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Make a donation
- Volunteer
- Use your specialized skills
- Coach a business
- Mentor a child
- Drive and deliver goods

Visit ecmutualaidhub.org to volunteer
Call 575-205-0045
Email volunteer@ecmutualaidhub.org

WORKING TOGETHER FOR NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

The Enchanted Circle Mutual Aid Hub is helping purchase and distribute food, connecting schoolkids to the Internet for e-learning, coaching businesses through the economic turmoil, raising money for those in need, and connecting people with resources that can help ease their burdens right now.

This is a project of the Taos Community Foundation and the LOR Foundation. This community project came from the guidance of the Enchanted Circle - COAD.

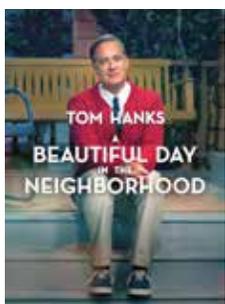


A group of businesses, governments, nonprofits, faith-based and community leaders have formed the Enchanted Circle Community Organizations Active in Disaster to support the challenges our community faces and help fulfill the unmet needs. Current members of the EC-COAD include: Cheri Lyon, Pastor at El Pueblito United Methodist Church/Shared Table; David Elliot, Education and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with Holy Cross Medical Center; Luis Reyes, CEO of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Inc.; Lisa O'Brien, Foundation Director of Taos Community Foundation; David Norden, CEO of Taos Ski Valley Inc.; and Susan Cady, Executive Director of the Taos County Chamber of Commerce. Kristina Ortez, Executive Director, Taos Land Trust, Rasa Lila O'Donnell, Taos Whole Health, Rick Bellis, Town Manager, Town of Taos, and Brent Jaramillo, County Manager, Taos County, and , Manager of the Town of Taos.



JUNE MOVIE REVIEW
By MICHAEL YOUNG

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD



I am of the age to have missed the *Mister Rogers Neighborhood* television show. Although there was an earlier version of the show that started in 1962, *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood* did not air until 1968, when I was in high school and well past watching “kids TV.” The series went on, however for 31 more seasons, ending in 2001.

It appears that the loss is definitely mine. *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* is a movie about Fred Rogers, but it is not really biographical in the conventional sense. Instead, this movie is about the effect that the man had on other people, and specifically a cynical writer for *Esquire* magazine. The movie is based on a true story. In the film, the writer, Lloyd Vogel, is assigned the job of writing a 400-word fluff piece on Mr. Rogers that is to be part of an *Esquire* issue on modern American heroes. Vogel, resisting the assignment, soon discovers that there is much more to the man than he – or maybe anyone who doesn’t know the man – can possibly understand. Instead of the short fluff piece, he ends up composing a 10,000-word essay that is one of the best pieces the writer ever created. More importantly, Rogers changes Vogel’s life in significant ways that Vogel never understood was possible, and becomes lifelong friends with Rogers.

And so this movie is more about the life of Vogel than it is of Fred Rogers. But it is clearly about the almost super-

natural effect that Rogers had on other peoples’ lives. One can only say that his impact was profound. As he explores the man, Vogel finds there is absolutely no difference between the man on the TV screen and the man sitting on the sofa answering his questions. Try as much as Vogel could to get “beneath” the facade, there was only another layer of what he had already seen – there was no facade! The cynical writer was used to seeing humanity’s dark side, and so was totally unprepared to find someone who was actually more interested in empathizing with the interviewer than in responding to his queries.

But this is a movie review – not a review of Fred Rogers life – as if that could be done. So how does the movie achieve this amazing empathic response?

For one thing, Tom Hanks is cast as Mr. Rogers. As one critic wrote, it was “America’s Hero playing America’s Saint.” If there is anyone who could credibly play the character, it would have to be Tom Hanks – the same man who gave us such meaningful characters as *Forrest Gump* (Oscar winner), Chuck Nolan (*Cast Away* - Oscar nominee), and *Captain Miller* (*Saving Private Ryan* - Oscar nominee). If any actor can fall back on a reservoir of human goodness, then it has to be Mr. Hanks.

Secondly, the movie is structured like an episode from the TV show. Mr. Rogers (Hanks), starts the movie by taking off his street shoes and sport coat, and putting on his sneakers and his cardigan button sweater. And he sings the theme song, “A Beautiful Day in This Neighborhood.” He then approaches a “picture board” where he opens windows exposing pictures of characters in the show; one of whom is Mr. Vogel. That introduces today’s story. In the middle of the movie there is a dream sequence, where the characters are transported to a fantasy world, much like the characters in the show. Transitions between scenes are managed as in the TV show, with displays of miniature buildings, vehicles, and people all moving around from one location to another. And, of course, the movie ends with Mr. Rogers changing his shoes and sweater, putting closure on the movie.

This was a very effective movie and I will be very surprised if viewers aren’t brought to tears, even if you did not grow up with the TV show. After watching the movie, it is even more difficult to deny the truth that Fred Rogers might be the most honest TV image of a man ever created. That might very well make you cry. (A surprising 4 Stars!)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO cont’d from page 1

an accidental fire started by mechanical equipment during the hottest, driest part of the day. Fuelwood permit holders may still collect wood as long as the chainsaws are off by 10 am.

Stage 2 fire restrictions will impact the way visitors can recreate in the forest. The developed campgrounds that were closed under a regional closure order are likely to be reopened at some point over the summer based on available resources, public health guidance, and safety considerations.

While the Carson National Forest offers year-round recreation opportunities and welcomes visitors, this year it is very important to remind everyone to recreate responsibly. Please follow Leave No Trace principals, including “pack it in, pack it out,” follow public health guidelines, and always be considerate of others.

When it comes to customer service, the Forest Service is – like everyone else – adapting to the times and using

As the Carson National Forest prepares for the 2020 fire season and the traditionally tourist-heavy summer months, our primary focus continues to be the health and safety of employees and the public.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS cont’d from page 1

things can be the hardest to transform. Yet, in watching a six-month old child become a one-year old, we witness almost daily newness. Crawling becomes climbing, which becomes stepping, which becomes walking, which then becomes independence. Sounds become babble, babble becomes attempts at words, and words become the range of communication. Each newness was born from the newness before it. Humanity is in the undeniable position of evaluating the old, while – like the infant – being undeterred in going forward. The old wasn’t working well anyway with greed, war, bigotry, cruelty, and inequity still being human conditions which affect everything – animals, trees, the oceans and rivers – the entire planet. Maybe you are praying for humanity: that we go forward into a future that is healthier and kinder. Maybe you,

KNOW BEFORE
YOU GO

Fire restrictions are in place to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire

- Recreate responsibly and always be considerate of others
- Pack it in, pack it out!
- Visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/main/carson for the latest information

technology to connect with the public. Community members who rely on fuelwood off the forest are still able to purchase permits through a new process starting June 1. You can find more information about the process and instructions for purchasing fuelwood permits on the Carson National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/carson/fuelwood or see the May 15 post on the Questa Del Rio News Facebook page.

like me, are adding your prayers and meditations to those of people from every tradition. Mother Earth has stopped us through Coronavirus like a loving parent stops a child from running into the street.

Your newness is interconnected with the whole of humanity, so what transformations of thoughts or activities are you implementing in your life that support the world and humanity right now? Like an infant, what newness or capacity have you discovered in yourself through these challenging times?

The power of a smile is championed in June. Smile through your mask. Your eyes light up and everyone can see that! Father’s Day, the Summer Solstice, going fishing, picnicking, and random acts of goodness and light remind us that goodness is in everyone. Share it, dance it, bike it, but most importantly: be it. Big smile. Happy summer!

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THIS COMMUNITY.

CALL OR E-MAIL US FOR ADVERTISING RATES!
575-586-2258 • delriocoloradoads@gmail.com

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
JUNE 2020

PLUTO AND JUPITER

"It always seemed to me that I had to answer questions which fate posed to my forefathers, and which had not yet been answered, or as if I had to complete, or perhaps continue, things which previous ages left unfinished." Carl Jung

Much conversation centered on the early April conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto and its seeming impacts in the form of Coronavirus. This conjunction occurs three times this year, the second time being the end of this month in retrograde mode; the third time in November back to direct mode. In Esoteric Astrology, we consider retrogrades the most spiritual expression of the planets. When direct, planets must adhere to the precise meanings of the sign in which they occur as well as their own translations. When they go retrograde, a form which we often refer to as "is, but isn't," the door of opportunity opens wide. Not only are these two planets entering retrograde but so will four others by the end of the month.

Retrogrades are a time for deep pondering, meditating about decisions that can be enacted when the planets go direct. Pluto is the planetary ruler of Pisces, the Age we are leaving while Jupiter is the planetary ruler of Aquarius, the Age we are entering. This is the clash of the Ages, the clash of Titans. During this time of retrograde we are granted the opportunity to define what our new Age will look like, how it will differ from the last. It is a time to re-think, re-evaluate and re-create who it is that we as the species named Humanity, want to be as a Whole. The Age of Aquarius IS the Age of Humanity. The sign of Capricorn, which both planets are in, indicates initiation into our next stage of evolution. An initiation requires a life-threatening situation, otherwise why would we transform? This is a time of Transformation.

Everyone: We shift from the sign of communication into that of family

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: You may experience more emotion than usual.

Direction: The opportunities will be about family.

Soul Thought: The mind is a useful tool.

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: This is an energy you can work with.

Direction: Give voice to what you are feeling.

Soul Thought: A time to cohere then a time to release.

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: This month is near perfect for you.

Direction: Doesn't mean you won't create your own conflict.

Soul Thought: Is it from the outside?

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: Things will improve as the month goes on.

Direction: Challenges are how we grow.

Soul Thought: Improvements are times to take a breath and prepare for the next challenge.

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: You have a problem, that's true.

Direction: A great time to practice control of the emotions.

Soul Thought: When words can be weapons.

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: Purification may take on new meaning.

Direction: The house, the diet, the work schedule, the yard...

Soul Thought: This is what "Opportunity" means!

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: You've earned an easy month and it's here.

Direction: Enjoy something artistic, more than once.

Soul Thought: "I am seeking. I am striving. I am in it with all my heart." Vincent van Gogh.

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: The battle seems real; but it's short-lived.

Direction: Conflict is for the purpose of finding harmony.

Soul Thought: What is the Battle of the Senses?

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♁ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: You may be on the receiving end of a more emotional battle than what you are actually feeling.

Direction: A time to learn what is yours and what is theirs.

Soul Thought: "Spirituality begins when you decide you'll never stop trying." The Untethered Soul

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You are finally well out of the fray.

Direction: Now what will you do?

Soul Thought: There is only one answer.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: This may not be a battle, rather a relationship.

Direction: You can look down and see the big picture.

Soul Thought: What does it mean to receive the baton?

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: It's not about giving up.

Direction: It's about giving in for the greater good.

Soul Thought: What does it mean to pass the baton?

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 2020

Do you have an event to post on our Free Community Calendar? Tell us about it! news@questaedf.com. Due to the pandemic closures, please confirm events.

JUNE 1 8:00 AM - NOON, 1:00 - 4:30 PM

Carson National Forest starts sales of Fuelwood Permits, Questa Ranger District, 575.758.6231

JUNE 2 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

Primary Election., Questa Municipal Hall, Costilla Parish Hall and Amalia Community Center

JUNE 2 6:00 PM

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

JUNE 3 6:30 PM

Questa High Class of 2020, Live Stream Baccalaureate Service, sponsored by Living Word Ministries Please share Zoom Link with family and friends <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8123456789>

JUNE 7 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Questa Farmers Market at the Questa Visitor Center, (575) 224-2102.

JUNE 9 6:00 PM

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

JUNE 12 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486.

JUNE 14 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Questa Farmers Market at the Questa Visitor Center, (575) 224-2102.

JUNE 16 9:30 TO 10:30 AM

Serving Up A Father's Day Breakfast Living Word Ministries Join Us.

JUNE 16 6:00 PM

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

JUNE 17 6:00 PM

Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network (QBEN) meeting, via Zoom. All are welcome, for meeting link email lynn@questaedf.com.

JUNE 21 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Questa Farmers Market at the Questa Visitor Center, (575) 224-2102.

JUNE 23 6:00 PM

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

JUNE 24

Happy Third Birthday to Harvest Questa!

JUNE 26 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486.

JUNE 28 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Questa Farmers Market at the Questa Visitor Center, (575) 224-2102.

SPECIAL DAYS IN JUNE:

JUNE 1 Global Day of Parents, Reef Awareness Day

JUNE 3 World Bicycle Day

JUNE 5 World Environment Day

JUNE 6 We remember D-Day (WW II)

JUNE 7 World Food Safety Day (Thank you to those who process our food!) and Cancer Survivor's Day

JUNE 8 World Oceans Day and Best Friends Day

JUNE 12 World Day Against Child Labor

JUNE 13 Random Acts of Light Day

JUNE 14 New Mexico Day, Children's Day, and Flag Day

JUNE 15 Smile Power Day

JUNE 18 Picnic Day, World Tapas Day, and Go Fishing Day

JUNE 20 Summer Solstice and World Refugee Day

JUNE 21 Father's Day and Make Music Day

JUNE 22 World Rainforest Day

JUNE 24 International Fairy Day

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.



Scoot in a little, social distance has been reduced to 5' 10"

HELP WANTED

FOOD HANDLER: COOK, PACKER, DRIVER.

\$15.00/HR. Must pass background check. Starts June 1st, QUESTA SCHOOLS, Stacey Danis, 575-586-0421 EXT.1011, or sdanis@questa.k12.nm.us

WELDING INSTRUCTOR NEEDED

to teach hands-on classes at the new Questa High School Welding Lab. Classes will begin with the Fall 2020 school year, held on Fridays for 2-3 hours with max 10-12 students. Welding certification required; past welding instruction experience preferred. For more information, and to apply, contact Lynn Skall, Questa Economic Development Fund, 575-586-2149.

ADVERTISING SALES

For Questa Del Rio News. Base salary plus commission, part-time. Call 575-586-2149 or email lynn@questaedf.com

Questa Family Dollar is seeking

full-time and part-time cashiers. High school graduation or equivalent experience preferred. Prefer experience in retail. Ability to work flexible, full-time or part-time schedule to include days, evenings, weekends and holidays. Apply in person at Family Dollar in Questa.

Do You Have a Home Rehab Business?

The Questa Lodging Project is compiling a list of Questa-area GB-98 contractors, roofers, landscapers, electricians, plumbers, and handymen and women to rehabilitate homes in Questa. If you own a business in the Questa area, have a Questa business license, and fall into one of these categories, please call to get in our directory so we can send home rehab customers to you! 575-586-2258.

FOR SALE

Mariachi Questa is still selling chile!

They have red chile powder in medium and

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

Harvested to order Tipi Poles

and made to order tipi's. Put in your order for this season. Full sets, fresh harvest, peeled, de-nubbed, and dried. email for pricing jamwendygreen@gmail.com

We still have the solid oak regulation

pool table for sale! Cue sticks, balls, lights. Great condition. Previous owner: Ray Vinella. \$1500, call Lynn or Krissie at 586-0515.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Questa Creative Council Seeking Treasurer

The QCC has hired a bookkeeper and is still in need of a Treasurer. If you are comfortable with numbers and wish to support the arts, now's your opportunity to fill a specific need! Our Treasurer is the go-between who presents the Bookkeeper's budget reports to our Board and oversees the use of our bank accounts. Your smarts will add to the skills of our Executive Board. If you're interested or have questions, please email us at questacreativecouncil@gmail.com

Want to be a firefighter?

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, contact the fire department in your area. We are always looking for reliable recruits. Learn new skills, meet interesting people, and make a difference. It's a rewarding commitment that can also be fun.

NOTICES

WE ALL COUNT! Be sure to step up and be counted in the 2020 Census. See related story on page 6.

¡TODOS CONTAMOS! Asegúrate de dar un paso adelante para que te cuenten en el Censo 2020. Ver historias relacionadas en la página 6.

Cultural Energy Radio, KCEI 90.1 FM

Just so you folks know...you can listen to my recent commentaries Farming through the Seasons. Go to <http://www.culturalenergy.org/>. On the left click on "Listen to Archive On-Line" and scroll down for archival shows, April 2019, April 2020 and June 2020, enjoy! Lisa Fox

The North Central New Mexico Food

Pantry distributes food for anyone who needs it on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 11 AM to 2 PM. For emergency food assistance outside of the regular distribution times, please call Jeannie at 575-586-0486 or Kate at 575-586-1807 to arrange a visit to the food pantry for emergency boxes of food. The North Central New Mexico Food Pantry is located at 140 Embargo Rd., on top of the hill across the drive from the senior center.

PERSONALS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO VIRGIL MARTINEZ WHO TURNED 100 ON MAY 21, 2020!

Stay tuned for more in the next month's issue

Quote from Lisa for June

"What we do anywhere matters, but especially here. It matters very much. Mesas and mountains, rivers and trees, wind and rains are as sensitive to the actions and thoughts of humans as we are to their forces. They take into themselves what we give off and give it out again." — Edith Warner, In the Shadow of Los Alamos

'THANKS FOR BRINGING MY HORSE BACK!'

Says Judy Barnes of Melby Ranch.

NEED SOMETHING? HAVE SOMETHING?

Put it in the *Questa Del Rio News* Classifieds. Local paper for Local people. Call 575-586-2258 or email delriocoloradoads@gmail.com for advertising rates.

Questa Del Rio News' Poem of the Month by Morgan Farley

"When I bought mountain land in El Rito/Latir, I struggled to imagine how a person could 'own' such a pristine and powerful place. This poem came in answer, and over time I discovered the truth of it: that the land owned me."

HOW TO OWN LAND

Find a spot and sit there until the grass begins to nose between your thighs.

Climb to the top of a pine and drink the wind's green breath.

Track the creek through alder and scrub, trade speech for that cold sweet babble.

Gather sticks and spin them into fire. Watch the smoke spiral into darkness. Dream that the animals find you.

They weave your hair into warm cloth, string your teeth on necklaces, wrap your skin soft around their feet.

Wake to the silence of your own scattered bones. Watch them whiten in the sun.

When they have fallen to powder and blown away the land will be yours.

Morgan Farley is a writer, editor, and writing coach who helps women find their authentic voices. A former resident of the Questa area, she now lives in Santa Fe.

VIDEO PSA CONTEST!

- BE SMART -

An Anti-vaping, Anti-Underage Drinking Public Service Announcement Video.

General Information:

To celebrate the creative youth in our community, The Vida Del Norte Coalition is launching an Anti-Vaping / Anti-Underage Drinking PSA Contest! This Public Service Announcement contest will help to spread the message to "be smart" because youth using alcohol and vaping is dangerous to their health and development.

A PSA (Public Service Announcement) is a short informational clip that is meant to raise the audience's awareness about an important issue such as underage drinking or vaping. PSAs may include many types of video or audio content such as interviews, dramatizations, animations, text or images.

A good example of a PSA video is SAMHSA's Talk. They Hear You. "Father-Son" PSA about underage drinking which can be viewed on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cn9enF9awM4>

The youth in our community can help spread awareness about the dangers of underage drinking and vaping, show their commitment to an alcohol / vape free lifestyle and win prizes by entering a 30-90 second video to the Vida Del Norte Coalition PSA Contest.

All video submissions will be showcased on our webpage and social media pages. The grand prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$100! The second prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$75 and the third prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$50!

Clubs, school groups, and school teams are encouraged to submit!

DEADLINE: All entries are due by July 10, 2020.

Entries will be judged at the Vida Del Norte Coalition July Monthly Meeting. To submit an entry please use the official entry form.

ENTRY FORM:

Entry requirements:

- Submission must include at least three facts about the dangers of underage drinking / vaping.
- All entries should be original.
- Actors cannot portray any alcohol, drug or tobacco use in a positive light.
- No use of real tobacco or alcohol products.
- Video submissions must be produced, directed, and acted by youth.
- NO real drugs, cigarettes, or vaping devices are allowed.
- Video should be between 30-90 seconds.
- Videos must be uploaded to Youtube and submitted with the official entry form: <https://vidadelnorte.com/video-psa-entry-form/>

Maria Gonzalez
Vida Del Norte Program Coordinator
maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com
(575) 779-2260



**June QBEN Meeting
Wednesday, June 17
6:00 pm**

The Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network monthly meetings are free to attend and all Questa area businesses are welcome and encouraged to participate.

The purpose of QBEN is to act as a central hub of information, a place to share business ideas and resources, and to have a voice in helping to direct Questa's future.

JOIN VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON-LINE

Here is the link to join the meeting by video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82539162654>



Call-in only: 346-248-7799
Meeting ID 825 3916 2654

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



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Gathering at churches is currently against COVID-19 guidelines. Please contact churches directly for other possible options.

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH IN QUESTA

Father Andrew Ifele 586-0470
 Saturday 6:00 pm,
 Sunday 7:00 am in Spanish -11:00 am in English

MISSION CHURCHES:

Sagrado Corazon in Costillo - Sunday 9:00 am
 Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Cerro-
 2nd & 4th Saturdays 4:00 pm
 Santo Niño in Amalia- 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4:00

HARVEST QUESTA

Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales
 2558 Hwy 522
 Sunday 11:00 am- 12:30 pm
 Phone 575-770-5906
 Visit us online: HarvestQuesta.org

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez
 12 Llano Road
 Service: Sunday 10:30 am
 Nursery and Kids' Church at 10:30 am
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm
www.lwmsite.org
 586-1587

PATH OF LOVE

Teachings of Herman Rednick
 Sunday 7:30 am class and meditation
 586-1454, Hilece
 Sunday 10:00 am Alice Bailey Theosophy Study Group
 586-4641, Francis www.earthjourney.org

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
 Thursday at 4:00 pm Chenrezig
 Friday 8:00 am-Green Tara
gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com
www.earthjourney.org
 586-1454 or 586-1038

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

RED RIVER

CROSS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

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

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

North End of Silver Bell Trail
 Saturday 6:00 pm
 (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)
 Father Andrew Ifele 586-0470



QUESTA LODGING PROJECT CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR RENT

EMBARGO TRAILER FOR RENT

Available now. Cute and tidy trailer with remodeled bathroom and upgraded kitchen. Ideal for couple or individual. \$600 plus utilities, \$300 deposit. No pets, no smoking. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Long-term preferred.

QUESTA 2BED/1BATH APARTMENT FOR RENT

Approximately 900sf, this downtown apartment with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath is available July 1 for \$600/mo plus utilities. Located near Wildcat's Den, the owner lives next door. Seeking a 12-month lease. Clean and ready for a good tenant.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Questa Del Rio News



Have a voice in your town's future

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

VILLAGE OF QUESTA

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

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

Mark Gallegos,
 Mayor

mgallegos@villageofquesta.org

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

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

RED RIVER

<https://reddriver.org/>

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

Linda Calhoun,
 Mayor

mayor@reddriver.org

Georgiana Rael,
 Town Administrator
grael@reddriver.org

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

The Albuquerque Census Area Office is now open so residents in Northern New Mexico should expect to get their census packets soon!

ALL RESIDENTS, PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THE FORM AND GET IT IN!



AA MEETINGS

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

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

AA WORDS OF INSPIRATION for JUNE

LIVING IN THE NOW

First, we try living in the now just in order to stay sober—and it works. Once the idea has become a part of our thinking, we find that living life in 24-hour segments is an effective and satisfying way to handle many other matters as well.

—LIVING SOBER, pg. 7

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



KEITH D. JAMESON, D.D.S.
Questa Dental Center
 2451 Highway 522
 575-586-0259

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 Cell: (575) 770-8841
 Fax: (719) 672-4504
 utemountainranch.com

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 June 24th through September 30th
 Wednesdays 3 pm to 6 pm
 198 Lower Buena Vista Road
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 cerrovistafarm.com

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 Questa, NM 87556
 Phone: (575) 586-0414
 Fax: (575) 586-1916

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\$40 for 5'x10'
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 \$90 10'x20'

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Limited Space Available.
 MONTHLY ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.
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 575.779.1145 or
 DelRioColoradoADs@gmail.com

See article on pg. 4

Creations
 Fine Western Wear for Fine Western People
 Joan Young
 joanyoung49@gmail.com
 505.400.0248



RECENT SIGHTINGS IN TOWN

Western Tanagers are one of the most exquisite birds we can see on their spring and fall migrations!

Photo by Cynthia Najim

WHY SPAY AND NEUTER?

REDUCE SPRAWLING & NAUKING	REDUCE AGGRESSION
REDUCE REARING	INCREASE LIFESPAN UP TO 3-5 YEARS
LOWER RISK OF CANCERS	DECREASE OVERPOPULATION

FREE SPAY & NEUTER

PET CATS
 CALL: 505.466.1676
 ZIMMER FELINE FOUNDATION (TAOS)

DOG & CATS
 CALL: 505.753.0228
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 (575) 779-3723
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 Questa, New Mexico