

JULY 2020: RED RIVER 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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Questa Del Rio News

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IN THIS ISSUE



Questeño, Virgil Martinez, turns 100!
He's seen the world change, but his sense of community, faith, and character has never changed.
Page 25

Sustainable Living: Recycle your plastic
Two co-supporting initiatives are repurposing used plastic and bottle caps. One is using the post-consumer plastics to construct a Questa shed, and the other is a fundraiser that collects plastic "Caps for Cancer".
Page 13

2020 Area Festivals are Transformed, Canceled, Reimagined - Neo Rio, Music from Angel Fire, the Questa Creative Council's Studio Tour.
Pages 14-15

Questa High 2020 Graduates awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarships.
Page 18

Celebrating Red River:
Enchanted Eats spotlights the Sundance Restaurant on Red River's High Street.
Page 10



Volunteer of the Month, Tim Colver,
has helped shape Red River through his philanthropy.
Page 7

The Red River Miner weekly newspaper connects the community; founders Fritz and Kerry preserve the town's history.
Page 5

BREAKING NEWS

Dollar General Voted Down at the Village Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd. The Village of Questa voted NOT to allow Dollar General to open a store in Questa. Look for a complete article in the upcoming August issue of the *Questa Del Rio News*.

The RTD Blue Bus 310 to Red River is back! More on page 30.

#BlackLivesMatter in New Mexico



Photo by Michael Cox www.mikecoxphotography.co

Hundreds of peaceful demonstrators gathered at the corner of Kit Carson Road and Paseo del Pueblo in Taos on June 3, to protest the murder of George Floyd in solidarity with #blacklivesmatter.

By CAROLINE YEZER

In Boston on June 10, a statue of Columbus lost its head. No one knows who decapitated the explorer, but activists tied the destruction to increasing public outrage at the continued legacies of slavery and violent colonization in the U.S. Nowhere is this outrage more evident than at the intersection between the Black Lives Matter movement and larger movements for racial justice in the U.S. Polls show that the majority

of Americans of every race now largely support #BlackLivesMatter protesters, and recognize that racial injustice exists. As shocking cellphone videos of police killing black citizens are now a daily sight for all Americans, it is natural that we discuss how we got to this point.

Some may wonder what #BlackLivesMatter has to do with northern New Mexico. After all, our population of black citizens is small. We have few black Taoseños settling here and few black tourists. If there is an atmosphere

of discrimination in Taos, we need to talk about how to change it. But perhaps the local size of the black population makes no difference compared to the ethical call to protect people who are being unjustly treated. George Floyd's murder by policemen who knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes while he gasped for air and begged for his life was so horrific that it demands a response from every corner of the U.S., and beyond. In fact, the glob-

#BLACKLIVESMATTER continued page 28

Red River Celebrates Its 125th Birthday! 1895-2020

The Town of Red River turns 125 years old on July 3rd! To honor this historic event, *Questa Del Rio News* is dedicating this issue to Red River. The Town is planning an official birthday party later this year, stay tuned!

Red River began celebrating the 4th of July with a parade in 1948 and has not

missed a year since the tradition began. The New Mexico Department of Transportation initially granted a parade permit, only to revoke it, the last week of June.

As of press time, there is no word from the Town of Red River or the Chamber of Commerce regarding July 4th celebrations. There were plans for family fun at Bran-

denburg Park and the Red River Community House. Any celebration will be posted on their events calendar. Visit <https://redriver.org/events/calendar/2020/07> or call (575) 754-2277. However you choose to celebrate, please remember to be safe, respectful, and observe COVID-19 precautions.

Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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OUR MISSION

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

NUUESTRO OBJETIVO

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

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NOS PUEDEN CONTACTAR PARA INFORMACIÓN
ENVÍE ANTES DEL DÍA 15 DEL MES

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Here we are, months into what history will remember as *The Pandemic*. Although some businesspeople and politicians have decided it is over, scientists and doctors do not agree. As some have had enough of staying home, being out of work, wearing masks, and doing without goods and services they deem necessary, it really isn't up to them. Humankind in its arrogance has been brought down, not by nuclear war or terrorists, but by a force of nature – a microscopic one at that.

At the same time that COVID-19 assaults us on every level, other truths are bursting onto the scene. Politics continues to unfold as a petty soap opera of bad actors with disastrous consequences. In this election year we can shape a bright future. Dishonesty, violence, and racism are preventable social ills. Talking about injustice isn't enough, it is time for action. Even our polarized politicians agree that there is a problem. Let's hope our public servants (elected officials) will put aside their differences to make meaningful change with the best interests of their constituents at heart. Please remember to vote.

Current events bring to mind Godfrey Reggio's films, the *Qatsi Trilogy*; interpretations of Hopi prophecies about our world out of balance. Anyone paying attention has to see that our world is out of balance. If the fate of the physical world does not concern you: global warming, countless species going extinct, and extreme weather patterns; at least consider the countless beings whose lives are hopelessly out of balance. In trying to make sense of the craziness of this world, people are suffering from record suicides, substance abuse, domestic violence, not to mention mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Many of our social problems are caused by poverty, inequality, and injustice, which most of our police are neither equipped nor trained to cope with. Being exposed to racism can lead to feelings of helplessness. Suicide attempts by black youth rose by 73% from 1991 to 2017. It's confusing to live in a land that promises freedom and justice for all, when one experiences the "American Dream" as only for the privileged few. On the world stage, our country – once acknowledged as the most powerful nation on earth – is now seen as hypocritical and corrupt.

I keep hearing, "When things get back to normal..." It now seems laughable that 21st-century America (or the world) could ever have been described as normal! What is normal about being messed up? In the race to be more beautiful, grab more stuff, and win more wars, we seem obsessed with all things selfish and superficial.

In the face of real-life catastrophes such as what we face now, reassessing our priorities is mandatory if we are to cope effectively. This is a good time to notice what works and what doesn't. We need to do what feels right, and not just what we have always done. Being shut down has been good for those whose lives or livelihoods have not been taken from them. The families of COVID-19 patients or healthcare workers may not have had the luxury of philosophizing about these changing times. Working without protective gear, enough medical supplies, and exposure to infection is stressful. These frontline workers are in high gear and probably don't have the luxury of reflection that some of us find indispensable to our physical and mental well-being.

Love and compassion must prevail in these challenging times. Loving all beings and taking care of one another is a survival mechanism that has proven effective over the millennia. We should try it, truly. We are all in this together. Let both our words and actions demonstrate that.



Our community is filled with wonderful writers who have shared their stories with us and enriched our newspaper. While some are professional journalists, many are not and do not have experience writing for publication. We love seeing our writers blossom and improve their writing skills. We offer this series both as an educational resource to our emerging writers and also to improve how we work with our citizen reporters, who we appreciate very much. Enjoy!

JOURNALISM 101-Part 2

Submitting Photographs for Publication

Every month as we prepare the *Questa del Rio News*, we receive photos from many sources, unfortunately, many cannot be used due to poor quality. It takes time to track down higher resolution photos. Images that are too small do not print well; they become blurry or pixelated (jagged edges) when sized for printing. A higher resolution and width size will always get better results. Your camera comes with information on how to adjust these settings, or you can search online for how to take better photos for print publications.

1. Higher resolution photo images are sharper because they contain more detail and definition. Cellphone photos can be of exceptional quality, especially if taken in high resolution. Click on the HDR icon to increase the resolution of the photo. HDR stands for high dynamic range (most

people think it means high definition resolution, which works for us). When sending a photo from your phone choose "actual size" or the "large" option.

2. We ask that you send us photos that are a large file size, larger than 1 MB.
3. In general, your images should have a resolution of 150 to 300 dots per inch (dpi) for print media. Digital cameras generally create images with a resolution of 72. We can accept photos with a resolution of 72 only if the width is large, at least 10 inches. If your photo is at a 72 resolution and you crop and reduce the size to two inches wide, and then email it to us, the image we receive can be less than 60 KB and the size of a postage stamp.
4. These tiny low resolution photos may work for a website or Facebook page, because those resolution and file formats requirements are different - they can be much smaller and need to be so the files can load quicker. However, if you send us tiny photos (including those that you copied from a website or Facebook page), we cannot use them in the newspaper!
5. A bad photo will look even worse in the newspaper. People think that technical skill can transform a bad photo into a good one. Not true! Please send us the best and largest resolution photos you can.

6. If you are sending photos from your phone, rather than text them, please email them if possible to news@questaedf.com.

GUIDELINES FOR TAKING BETTER PHOTOGRAPHS

1. When taking a picture, make sure all subjects are well lit, with light illuminating them from the front or side. If someone is standing in front of a window or other light source, or the sun is behind the person, the face will be in shadow and the body will appear as a dark shape, which will not be a good photo. And remember, dark photos will become darker and grainier in newsprint.
2. When using a flash, be sure to keep some distance between you and your subject so there is no distortion from too much light.
3. If your subject is moving, your photo will be blurry or out of focus. Take a couple of extra shots, to be sure. In fact, it's always good to shoot more than once, since this will give you options for choosing the very best photos.
4. Pay attention to the background behind your subjects; you don't want a photo of a telephone pole growing out of someone's head!
5. Hold your camera evenly; crooked horizon lines need extra work on our end to straighten.

6. Avoid large groups. The individuals will be so small they will be hard to see, and each individual will then need to be identified. Photograph smaller groups if possible.
7. The closer you are to your subjects, the better.
8. Please do not print out your photo on your home printer and submit a copy. Paper copies do not reproduce well. If you need to submit a printed photo, please do not send photos smaller than wallet-size.
9. Always provide a brief caption of what is happening in each photo and identify all the individuals, from left to right. We like photos of people!
10. All photos need a photo credit. When submitting a photo, always let us know who took it. Photo by _____.
11. Photos submitted to the newspaper may be used on our website, Facebook page, in marketing materials, or for advertising. Thank you for sending your photos!

If you are unsure about sizing your photos or have other questions, please let us know at news@questaedf.com or call (575) 586-2149.

Let us know if you have any questions. Stay tuned next month for JOURNALISM 101, Part 3, Ethics and Journalistic Integrity!

Sharon Torres Joins *Questa del Rio News* Team

By LYNN SKALL

Please welcome Sharon Torres to the *Questa Del Rio News* team as our Advertising Sales Representative. This is one of the most important jobs at the newspaper; it is the sales of your paid advertising that makes this community newspaper possible!

Sharon has sales experience in a variety of areas, which made her a good candidate for this position. She worked for 2-½ years at an Allstate Insurance agency in Las Cruces, generating sales through her professional tenacity of making between 85-125 cold calls per day to potential clients, with great success. She also has retail and customer service experience. Sharon graduated from Oñate High School and attended Dona Ana Community College in Las Cruces, NM.

Two years ago, Sharon and her husband Marcos Vigil, with their daughter Cattaleya, moved to Questa to be near her husband's family. Marcos' great-grandfather Elvido and Marco's father Adrian Vigil were both raised in Questa, and live here still. Sharon has studied agriculture and is raising goats, pigs, sheep, and chickens. She also has a garden on the family properties.

Sharon is enthusiastic about her new ties to Questa, "I love being in the mountains and having a farm here! I'm excited about my new position and can't wait to meet everyone." Sharon will be contacting you to say hello and to share information about advertising in the paper. To request advertising space, please email Sharon at Questa-DelRioNewsAds@gmail.com, or leave a message at (575) 586-2149 at the QEDF Office.



Photo by Heidi Velasquez

Welcome Ad Sales Representative Sharon Torres, to *Questa Del Rio News* and to the community!

THANK YOU TO OUR JULY CONTRIBUTORS!

JUDY BARNES, LINDA BETZ, TIM AND SIBYL COLLVER, JANIE CORINNE, CLAIRE COTÉ, OLIVIA COTÉ, SLOAN COVINGTON, MIKE COX, PETER CRIDER, FRITZ DAVIS, RYAN EUSTICE, MARY FLORES, BERT HARCLERODE, DANIEL HERRERA, BECKY HOLLANDER, RACHEL KUC, LAURIE GRAHAM LAMBERT, JOAN MACDONALD, BUD MARTINEZ, JIM NAGLE, THIAGO PADILLA, CYNTHIA RAE, MALAQUIAS RAE, RED RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, KERRY SHEPHERD, SHARON TORRES, PEGGY TRIGG, AMY VIALPANDO REED WEIMER, TODD WYNWARD

SPOTLIGHT ON LODGING



4K RIVER RANCH
By MARTHA SHEPP

Red River's still got some 1800s history in them there hills and valleys. On the west end of Red River along the highway, there is a hand-wrought rustic cabin, right in the middle of a 17-acre private RV and camping park. The Orin Mallette Cabin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places Inventory in 1984 as a "heritage building." Built around 1895, it is a reminder of Red River City's past as a real mining boom town. Plans for the historic cabin include creating a commons area, with games and refreshments, but it needs some shoring up and TLC before it can become a gathering spot.

Orin Mallette operated a brick kiln on this property for the growing town, in addition to his blacksmithing, farming, and mining activities. The property has changed hands many times. It was sold to L. S. Lewis in 1936, who established a tourist resort there. In the 1950s the Luce family bought it, sold it to the Hafleys in 1994, and last spring Randall and Paulette Kiker purchased it and changed the name to the 4K River Ranch.

Since buying the property, Paulette and Randall have been updating the infrastructure. The Ranch has a new office with an expanded reception area, seating, and supplies for necessities like toothpaste, ice, fish bait, propane, RV supplies, and groceries. They also sell totally fun items like wall décor, mugs, T-shirts, and games.

4K River Ranch camping and lodging is in a beautiful, peaceful setting, with the Red River running through the middle of the campground. Tall pines shelter rustic cabins, a forest hillside, a stocked fishing pond (it's really a small lake!) with picturesque wildlife, trees, and vistas. One can also fish in the Red River with a fishing license. There are two footbridges and one car bridge that take you to cabins and tent sites on the other side of the river. The layout of the 17-acre campus allows visitors ample room to feel nestled into nature while enjoying excellent RV camping and also offers many nice places to stroll.

Around the lake are 25 beautiful RV spots; all have received electrical upgrades to handle the higher amperages that modern rigs now require. WiFi is provided in these select spots, too. All hookups include electric, water, and



Courtesy photos provided by 4K River Ranch

Camping along the trout pond at the 4K River Ranch in Red River. 1501 W. Main Street, Red River NM 87558

sewer. There are 80 total RV sites, 14 tent sites (no hookups), five one-bedroom apartments, and five rustic cabins, originally built in the 1940s. Necessities like bathrooms, showers, and laundry facilities are easily accessible. Tons of sand and gravel and substantial landscaping efforts have been in the works and renovation of the apartments continues.

Paulette and Randall are not new to business ownership in Red River – their store in the heart of town, Frye's Old Town and The Jewelry Lady, is one of Red River's oldest and largest stores, established in 1959. Paulette first moved to Red River in 1989 from the plains of Kansas to become the Chamber of Commerce Director. A self-proclaimed "ski bum," she fell in love with the mountains and the authenticity of the "real" Red River.

Randall, originally from Texas, also moved to the area in 1989, and started his construction business. He keeps busy with Kiker Construction, building for satisfied homeowners in the valley. Frye's was their first joint overhaul/renovation job in 2007 and that property continues to improve – with the addition of "Turquessa," the 1950s turquoise truck, full of flower arrangements, at 100 West Main.

4K River Ranch is located an easy mile from the center of town, where the Kikers also rent out 4K View, the property over the store, and 4K River View, a new duplex between the store and



Courtesy photos provided by 4K River Ranch

Five newly updated apartments feature retro fireplace, sitting area, small fully-stocked kitchen area with fridge, stove, and microwave. Laminate floors throughout, TV and WiFi; small outdoor shared porch, shared firepits, camping in forest allowed, as well as use of fishing pond. Sleeps either 2 or 4 people (1 K or 2 Q beds). Rates start at \$125.

River Ranch. Both the store and RV sites are family and pet-friendly! Campers receive 10% off at the mothership store.

Keep 4K River Ranch in mind for winter camping, too. Previously, the Ranch was a summer-only proposition. Randall Kiker has winterproofed the sites around the trout pond, and last

winter and early spring saw a handful of intrepid RVers at those sites, enjoying all that Red River offers by way of winter fun.

Find them at www.4kredriver.com, on [@Facebook/4K River Ranch NM](https://www.facebook.com/4KRiverRanchNM), or [@riverranchnm](https://www.instagram.com/riverranchnm). Office hours are 9 am to 5 pm. Drop by or call (575) 754-2293.



Business Profile

RED RIVER MINER: FAR MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

By CYNTHIA NAJIM

Founded on May 20, 1993 by husband and wife team Fritz Davis and Kerry Shepherd, the *Red River Miner* has faithfully fueled community connection and prosperity, pride of history, tourism, and dreams.

A spoke of this inspiring wheel of success is its longevity. Since 1895, the town of Red River has seen seven newspapers come and – sometimes quickly, go. The *Red River Miner* is the eighth and longest lasting newspaper, marking its 28th year this spring.

In Red River's colorful history as a mining town, past publishers weren't so fortunate. As Fritz recounts, "Back in 1897, the *Red River Mining News*, one of three newspapers at the time, had to close because the publisher was poisoned and died under mysterious circumstances." True tales from the Wild West!

A wealth of information, Fritz is a history buff and town treasure for his passion and knowledge. These stories and the Red River Historical Society's vast collection of antique photographs directly feed the fascination and wonder of tourists young and old. Since its inception, the *Red River Miner* has dedicated the back cover to a slice of history, proudly sharing the mining settlement's rugged past and its ongoing appreciation of these roots.

Love is another spoke of this ever turning wheel. Not only between Kerry and Fritz, but also their unwavering devotion to the community and the paper. When you consider that the *Red River Miner* is a weekly publication, love has to be present! Working nonstop with your spouse is only for a rare few. Beyond that, there is the constant responsibility of conceptualizing, funding, researching, writing, editing, laying out, printing, and delivering an engaging issue EVERY week. No easy feat, not even for seasoned journalists.

When I asked if they ever missed an issue, they simultaneously declared, "No, but we came close!" When the landmark Hondo fire in 1996 forced the evacuation of Red River, they hurriedly packed up their publishing equipment. Kerry relocated to a friend's house on Bobcat

Pass to keep working, while Fritz stayed in town to photograph the action. For these dedicated publishers, the show must go on.

Hailing from Kansas, Kerry and Fritz are indeed a cohesive and dynamic duo, each with a varied career path. Kerry taught Spanish and French early on, and later became a stained-glass artist, selling her beautiful wares in shows across the country. Fritz was (and is) an avid musician, performer, photographer, and writer. Throughout their 45 years together, they have supported each other every step of the way. Fritz helped sell Kerry's stained-glass creations and Kerry



Photo Courtesy of Red River Historical Society

The very first issue of the *Red River Miner*, May 20, 1993.

was a roadie and sound tech for Fritz's lively gigs.

Like many who settle in Red River, Kerry and Fritz were return vacationers. After enjoying frequent visits year after year, in 1989 they decided to make Red River their home. They immediately immersed themselves in the community. In early 1993, both got involved with the newspaper at the time, *The Red River Ranger*, which folded after six issues. Kerry helped with advertising and layout, and both wrote columns. Fritz continued to perform, and Kerry became the Red River Library Director, a position she just retired from last fall, after 27 years of service.

Today at the *Red River Miner*, editor and historian Fritz is the front-of-the-house persona, while publisher Kerry steers the ship from behind the scenes.

Perhaps the most critical component of their success is loyalty – to and from advertisers, contributors, and the community – both local and afar.



Photo by Kerry Shepherd

Red River Miner editor Fritz Davis immersed in story.

Publications can't survive without funding. Local businesses have loyally supported the *Red*

River Miner from the very beginning. As Fritz states, "Our advertisers' ongoing support and faith in us is something we are profoundly grateful for. So many businesses have come and gone, but the support for the paper remains steady."

Contributors can often be a mixed bag. This newspaper is now blessed with three quality, reliable, and very

popular regulars. Seasoned journalist Alyce Lindberg Densow writes "Headin' West (in a Wheelbarrow)" and has done so since the very first edition. Syndicated columnist Slim Randles writes "Home Country," and Ann Huskinson shares scrumptious recipes in "Food for Thought."

The true soul of Red River is the community, as Kerry and Fritz convey in story after story. "In Red River we take care of each other no matter what!" In the case of the *Red River Miner*, their loyal readership includes residents, tourists, and families who have been vacationing in Red River for generations. Over the years they have even had subscribers in Brazil, Canada, China, England, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru, Romania, and the United Arab Emirates.

"When you can't be there yourself, the *Red River Miner* keeps you posted on all things Red River," exudes one appreciative subscriber.

Hearty pioneers Kerry and Fritz have witnessed a lot during their 31 years in Red River. Etched in their memory, amongst many other events: The massive snowfall in the Spring of 1989 of 86 inches (over 7 feet!) in three days. The Memorial Day weekend when the town was flooded with 30,000 bikers. And now COVID-19, which puts the fate of this year's 72nd Annual 4th of July Parade in jeopardy.

When I asked the pair about Red River's 125th anniversary, they said, "We are very proud of the strength and resilience of this tiny town. We hope more people come to explore all that Red River offers." I, for one, will be doing just that!

The Red River Miner

Kerry Shepherd,

Publisher and Advertising – (575) 779-7192

Fritz Davis, Editor – (575) 770-2231

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GROWING AND DIVERSIFYING
THE QUESTA ECONOMY
AFTER COVID-19

By LYNN SKALL, DIRECTOR

Questa is a one-traffic-light town, with the village center long ago established around this intersection where two state highways converge. The traffic light has always been one sure way to get people to stop in Questa, but it wasn't doing a very good job of getting them to stay, or spend money in town. For most people, visits were a "pass-through."

The mission of the *Questa Del Rio News* is to grow and diversify the Questa economy; one approach is to generate more revenue by growing our visitor economy – increasing the number of people who visit Questa.

During this time of mask-wearing and partial re-openings, there continues to be apprehension and uncertainty about travel, so the goal of increasing Questa's "tourism" seems like a long shot for achieving greater gross receipt taxes. However, there is pent-up demand for travel, so now is the time to create awareness that Questa's wilderness areas, National Monument, and attractions are open, safe, and places where physical distancing comes as naturally as the presence of piñon pines and prickly pear cactus.

The New Mexico Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Jen Schroer, reports that "a lot of the research that we are seeing right now is that people will want to travel closer to home," and that we'll see more New Mexico "stay-cations."

As Questa area businesses reopen, they are strongly encouraged to follow the specific guidelines in the State's *COVID-Safe Practices for Individuals and Employers Handbook*, found online at www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/guide/5937/. As we get back to business safely, Questa is ideally positioned to welcome visitors who want to find places close to home, yet "off the beaten path."

Chris Backe, who writes WorthyGo.com, a blog about off-the-beaten-path travel, says "the conditions are perfect for a summer road trip. The roads are clear, gas is at a great price, and as places reopen, they'll be ready for you. Also,

it's easy to maintain social distancing."

QEDF has several projects in the works that promote Questa as a stay-cation / vacation destination. We are partnering with the NM Department of Tourism to participate in their "New Mexico True" advertising campaign, beginning later this year. The State's marketing aims to target the same types of visitors that Questa is seeking.

- Increasing the percentage of overnight visits and decrease the percentage of "pass-through" visits
- Increasing visitation to outdoor recreational attractions and cultural activities

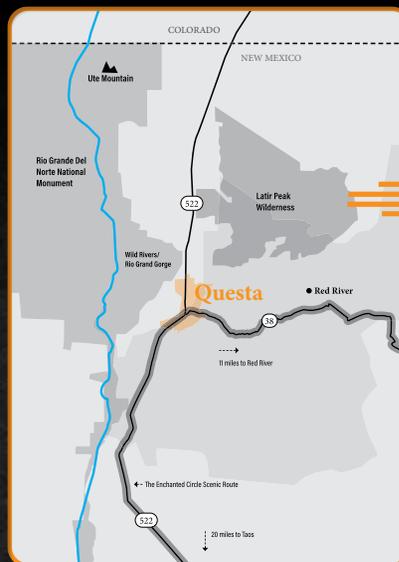
Questa's ad in *Discover Taos 2020 Summer Guide*, out this month, is appealing to these visitors by inviting them to come experience our wide open spaces, uncrowded adventures, and discover surprisingly unexpected enchantment "off the beaten path."

In conjunction with the NM Tourism Department, QEDF is currently

Adventure out to
Questa

On the Enchanted Circle, Off the beaten path.

Questa's untapped rivers and wide-open wilderness areas is where anglers and adventurers go to get away. It's the unspoiled stop on the Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway that inspires artists and is surprisingly unexpected. Your home away from home is a cozy cabin, Airbnb, riverfront RV spot or secluded campsite. The "Welcome!" at family-owned shops and restaurants is genuine, and the cultural heritage is real. Adventure out to Questa, it's where you'll find true enchantment off the beaten path.



Questa is
NEW MEXICO True

This ad sponsored by Chevron
Environmental Management Company.

Questa is advertising to in-state residents who are looking to get away for adventure, while staying close to home after COVID-19. This full-page ad appears in the *Discover Taos Magazine 2020 Summer Guide*. Thank you to Chevron for their generous sponsorship that made this ad possible.

conducting a free online Google review of Questa's tourism and hospitality-related businesses to measure how effectively they show up on Google maps, and in searches for travel, dining, lodging, and attractions. QEDF is reaching out to consumer-facing Questa shops and restaurants this month to help them "verify" their business on Google, to enhance the quality and content of the photos showing up during searches, and to ensure that the information that appears is accurate, appealing, and a good representation of Questa and their business. Now that we have the green light to re-open, we want Questa businesses to be found!

Additional Questa marketing includes the operation of the Questa Visitor Center, through the fall. It is located close to the northeast corner of the village center, just down Hwy. 38 from the stoplight. We'll welcome guests and provide information that gives them even more to discover during their

stay in Questa.

We are also developing a Village of Questa brochure, an Area Fishing Guide, rack cards, online banner advertising, an ad in the *New Mexico True Annual Adventure Guide* (January 2021), and generating additional visibility throughout the state via video posts, online articles, ads, and social media.

With a focus on marketing and advertising that reaches in-state residents feeling ready to get away while staying close to home, QEDF is promoting Questa as just the place travelers are looking for on their first outing after COVID-19. We're letting them know we're here, it's safe, and all they have to do is set their GPS to locate our one traffic light that will act as their navigating beacon, telling them they have arrived, that this is their stop, and where they will find what's real in Questa.



TIM COLLVER

By DONNA MITCHELL-MONIAK

Mountains and mountaineering: check. Historical sites and explorations: check. Collaboration with others to accomplish goals: check. Building community in Red River: check.

Speaking with Volunteer of the Month Tim Collver of Red River, I sensed a person dedicated to the natural world and preserving it, to the importance of history as a vital and vibrant instructor in the present, and of a humble yet outgoing person who has made his way through mountains and life.

Tim is a person with a sense of a bigger picture ever since his youth. For example, his grandfather had Alzheimer's disease, so Tim's family ran the home care facility at his grandfather's home. "We started it due to the poor treatment he received in nursing homes... my mother wanted something better." Participation in his grandfather's care and being present with other elders was a demonstration of the benefit to everyone in the equation. One result was that when Tim became an Eagle Scout, he initiated a service in his Oklahoma community to connect youth groups with Alzheimer's patients "whose families rarely or never visited."

Tim's life has included world travel and exploring mountains from a young age. His mom assessed possible homes for exchange students in the Tulsa area. Placing foreign students appropriately earned his mother travel credits for her and her family. As a result, Tim was hiking 14ers, doing glacier rescue in Washington State, and hiking the highest mountain in Mexico, *Pico de Orizaba*, in his youth. He was exposed to a wide variety of cultures and history, which have been a big part of Tim's life and interests ever since.

Another formative and sustained influence upon Tim has been the Boy Scouts. As Tim grew from Cubs and dens to Eagle Scout, his involvement grew from community projects to working at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron ("wild place" in Spanish). Through the Boy Scouts, the people came together who would become mentors, friends, fellow musicians, or nature lovers and remain part of Tim's



Photo By Fritz Davis

July's Volunteer of the Month, Tim Collver, working with others for the benefit of the Red River community.

life. Many have been involved in various volunteer or service projects, including those in Red River, such as the town's first food pantry, which began with pre-packaged trail food donated from Philmont Scout Ranch.

Now the food pantry is run by an excellent crew at Faith Mountain Fellowship Church. The Red River Bluegrass Festival began with Tim calling on musician friends from around the country and inviting them to Red River to offer their music and fun. Since then, the Southwest Pickers Association took up the management of the Festival. Tim sometimes helps out with technical and sound equipment. He also continues to host a weekly acoustic jam session in town.

Tim has served on the board of directors of the Red River Historical Society and has been president for the last year or so. He has gotten the well-deserved reputation as being very dynamic. He is involved in multiple aspects of the goings-on in Red River, which can probably be said of a handful of people in that mountain town. Their collective creativity is what keeps people coming back to Red River. We hope to highlight other Red River volunteers in future articles. (The *Questa Del Rio News* is always looking for nominees for the Volunteer of the Month!)

Tim has a degree in geography. He explained that geography is a combination of culture, history, people, location, and importance. Tim has had an interest in not only exploring the world – its cultures and history, but also to directly

experience them. He does this through what is called "historical interpretation," wherein a person lives for a period of time in a culture; it is NOT dressing up for a few hours at a historical site and then going home to running water and electricity; this is immersion history. He has embodied and interpreted a gold prospector from 1850, a homesteader of 1907, and a logger of 1914. Each immersion was sparked by and modeled on the history of the area. Living that history first-hand is one of the reasons why he and his wife settled in Red River. By the way, she is/was a history teacher. One can see also why the Historical Society and Tim are a good fit. (See related story on page 25)

Like all the volunteers featured in our Volunteer of the Month column, Tim wears many hats: ranger, musician, outdoor trainer, explorer of land and history. He, like other volunteers, talks about the people who have influenced him, fostered him, and supported him: his mother and father, colleagues and mentors, and his wife, Sibyl Collver.

Tim, like all of our featured volunteers, spoke from the joy of working with others, of doing things that benefit others and the community, and added that more help is always needed. With

every endeavor, Tim spoke of "great support from community members." In other words, together good things get done. People like Sara Saint Hogan and Linda Saint, Fritz Davis, Kerry Shepherd, Tori, Vicki and John Fisher, and Mike Ritterhouse are just a few. This short list illustrates the collaboration and creative processes that build community.

Topophilia is a Greek word. It means deep connection to or love (*philia*) of a place (*topo*). Tim said that he's had that feeling in many places, but has settled in Red River because of *topophilia* more than any other reason. He has felt a connection to the land, the mountains, the streams and rivers, and the people since his very first winter visit.

My friends, your community needs you. Volunteer opportunities abound: from reading to the elderly, becoming a volunteer firefighter, or helping out at the local food pantry, library, museum, or historical society. If you have an interest, more than likely your interest is shared by others and your presence would be greatly needed and appreciated.

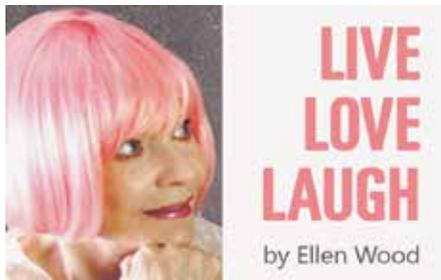
If you have a suggestion for Volunteer of the Month, send it to the newspaper with your reasons why you nominate that person.

Cerro Vista Farm
Fresh Produce and Flowers

Farm Stand Open
June 24th—September 30th
198 Lower Buena Vista Road
Cerro

Wednesdays - 3 pm to 6 pm

Ever Try to Microwave Fish?



Probably not, since this is Taos County. If you even have a microwave, it probably came with your house or apartment and you use it as a timer. No judgment – Taos is known for being health-conscious. Me, too (most of the time), but I *did* try to heat up fish in the microwave once. Exploded all over the place.

Now... ever feel your life is like that? Me, too. So, I ask, “Anyone else looking for inner peace?” Maybe you’re feeling the pinch of economic distress – or instead of a pinch, it’s a powerful punch to your gut.

Nothing’s normal now – not even things unrelated to COVID-19. Today a

big, fat, in-your-face problem disturbed my inner peace. Actually, more than one problem, but the point is that I’ve been kind of a mess.

So, the first thing I did was pray. A couple weeks ago a friend gave me a nine-day Surrender Novena and I haven’t finished the nine days yet. I’d get past Day 4 and then skip a day and have to start all over again, so today I’m only up to Day 6.

The Surrender Novena says to let go of my problems and stop trying to resolve them myself. Most of all, it says to quit worrying. Instead, I should get out of the way so Jesus can go to work on my behalf.

Yes, I still have a sticky note on my counter that says: “Holy Spirit, you be in charge of my thoughts and actions today,” and I say that too throughout the day. Believe me, I’d be stark raving ready-for-the-loony-bin if I didn’t have My Guys (including St. Joseph, my main go-to guy) helping me out. Of course,

then my mind wants to know why they’re all men – what about the Blessed Mother? Oy!

The second thing I did was call my oldest daughter and tell her my big story. Sure enough, she calmed me down, cheered me up, and had me laughing. Next, I emailed some of my closest friends and asked them to pray for a family member who was just taken to the hospital in an ambulance. One of my spiritual teachers, Donna Mitchell-Moniak, wrote back to say prayers were on the way, but that I should breathe! Funny how she knew I had been holding my breath.

Although I had calmed down considerably after pawing off my problems to My Guys, talking with my daughter and pawing off some of the praying to others, I decided to take Donna’s advice and do some deep breathing.

If you’re stressed out during these trying times, you might want to try deep breathing for quick relief. Since stress

is the number one aging factor, deep breathing is great for youthfulness, too.

Here’s a good way to do it:

1. Lie down on the floor on your back (it’s okay to sit or stand, if you prefer).
2. Put your hand on your tummy. Inhale and fill your tummy with air and feel your hand rise as you take a good, deep breath. Then exhale completely and feel your hand lower. Try to extend the length of your exhale a little bit and with the exhale, release and let go.
3. When you’re inhaling, tell yourself that love and joy are coming into your body. Feel your cells waking up. Then exhale love and joy out to everyone. Do this for one minute and watch it change your world.

Ellen Wood of Questa is the award-winning author of the series of books, The Secret Method for Growing Younger.

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ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

¿Alguna vez cocinaste pescado en el microondas?

Por ELLEN WOOD

Probablemente no, pues este es el condado de Taos. Incluso si tienes un microondas, probablemente venga con tu casa o tu departamento y lo uses como reloj o para medir el tiempo de cocinar los alimentos. No te critico—se sabe que en Taos todos nos preocupamos por la salud. Yo también (la mayoría de las veces) pero en una ocasión intenté calentar pescado en el microondas. Explotó, desparramándose por toda la cocina.

Ahora... ¿alguna vez has sentido que tu vida es así? Yo también. Entonces, pregunto: “¿Alguien más está buscando la paz interior?” Tal vez sientas una pizca de angustia económica, o en lugar de una pizca, un fuerte golpe en el estómago.

Nada es normal ahora, ni siquiera las cosas que no están relacionadas con el Covid-19. Hoy, un problema grande, fuerte e imposible de ignorar perturbó mi paz interior. En realidad, había más de un problema, pero el caso es que sentía que todo era un desastre.

Entonces, lo primero que hice fue rezar. Un amigo me dio una Novena de la Entrega hace un par de semanas y aún

no he terminado los nueve días. Pasé el día 4 y luego me salté un día y tuve que empezar de nuevo, así que hoy solo estoy en el sexto día.

La Novena de la Entrega dice que ponga a un lado mis problemas y deje de intentar resolverlos yo misma. Sobre todo, dice que deje de preocuparme. En cambio, debo quitarme del medio para que Jesús pueda trabajar en mi nombre.

Sí, todavía tengo una nota adhesiva en mi mostrador que dice: “Espíritu Santo, tú estarás a cargo de mis pensamientos y acciones hoy,” y lo digo también durante todo el día. Créeme, me sentiría medio loca y trastornada si no tuviera a Mis Chicos (incluido San José, el gran amigo al que recurro siempre) ayudándome. Por supuesto, ahora mi mente quiere saber por qué son todos hombres—¿y la Santísima Madre? ¡Oy!

Lo segundo que hice fue llamar a mi hija mayor y contarle mi tremenda historia. En efecto, ella me calmó, me animó y me hizo reír. Luego, les envié un correo electrónico a algunos de mis amigos más cercanos y les pedí que oraran por un miembro de la familia a quien acababan de llevar al hospital en ambulancia. Una de mis maestras espirituales, Donna

Mitchell-Moniak, me escribió para decir que las oraciones estaban en camino, ¡pero que debía respirar! Es curioso cómo ella sabía que yo había estado conteniendo la respiración.

Aunque me había calmado considerablemente después de dejar mis problemas en manos de Mis Chicos, hablar con mi hija y beneficiarme de las oraciones de los demás, decidí seguir el consejo de Donna y respirar profundamente.

Si sientes estrés durante estos tiempos difíciles, puedes intentar respirar profundamente para obtener un alivio rápido. Dado que el estrés es el factor de envejecimiento número uno, la respiración profunda también es excelente para conservar la juventud.

Aquí hay una buena manera de hacerlo:

1. Acuéstate en el piso boca arriba (también puedes sentarte o permanecer de pie, si lo prefieres).
2. Ponte la mano en el estómago. Inhala y llena el estómago con aire y siente cómo la mano se te levanta mientras respiras profundamente. Luego exhala completamente y siente cómo la mano va bajando. Intenta extender

un poco el tiempo en que exhalas, y con la exhalación del aire, deja ir tus preocupaciones.

3. Cuando inhales, dite a ti mismo que el Amor y la Alegría están llegando a tu cuerpo. Siente cómo tus células van despertando. Luego exhala Amor y Alegría para todos. Hazlo durante un minuto y mira cómo cambia tu mundo.

Ellen Wood de Questa es la autoragalaronada de la serie de libros “The Secret Method for Growing Younger.”

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Traducido por Teresa Dovalpage

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BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

SING A SONG

There is a sweet song from decades ago called *Sing, Sing a Song* by the Carpenters. For those who remember the song, these lyrics may resonate with you again or for the first time, or spark a memory. I find the song to be good guidance for all of us; to take time during our days to sing a song, any song, even if you make it up. Singing our own song may be whatever makes our own hearts sing and may not even be vocal. We can also hum and whistle to bring music into our lives. Perhaps we sing while we are cleaning our house, taking a walk, building something, inventing something, pursuing our artistic talents, cooking...

When I was studying at the School of Natural Medicine in Gold Hill, a small village above Boulder, Colorado, I was invited to a weekly gathering for the local residents called "A Sing." When I arrived, I was warmly welcomed and handed a small wooden instrument for keeping rhythm. I found a cushion on the floor and joined in. Musicians brought their instruments, and so the music began. Most of the music was familiar, so I sang along and kept time with my wooden instrument.

This weekly gathering played an important role in my life. I was under a great deal of stress with hands on training in natural medicine. The studies evolved from historical and hypothetical cases on paper and in discussions to meeting *real people with real problems*. Real people! Real problems! This was daunting – it was the real thing and they were looking to me for help! Each day we were practicing our medicine under

supervision of our instructor and it was exciting as well as very stressful. Each night I would lay in bed mulling over each case and wondering if I was seeing, hearing and advising all that was possible. Along with a lack of sleep, my stress meter was over the top. However, after this wonderful evening of singing I was elevated to a happier and more enlivened yet relaxed state of being. My situation may not have been as intense as the times we are encountering here and now, but at the time they were my core focus and the relief was so very welcomed.

Since we continue practicing protective measures and social distancing at this time, gatherings of that nature may not be possible right now. However, we as individuals can bring the same quality of lightness to our daily lives by simply singing to ourselves; "sing, sing out loud, sing out strong," as the song says. I find this to be an amazing uplifting experience and one that does indeed bring

a smile. There are any number of ways to express ourselves, so do what truly makes your heart sing at least once a day. You will find your world will be much more peaceful. Here are the words:

*Sing, sing a song
Sing out loud – Sing out strong
Sing of good things, not bad
Sing of happy, not sad.
Sing, sing a song,
Make it simple to last your
whole life long.
Don't worry that it's not good enough
For anyone else to hear
Sing, sing a song.*

Even in these times of challenge, we can find respite, a place of relief, if we allow ourselves to be expressive in ways that put our minds and hearts to rest. This is good for the body, the mind, and the spirit. Happy singing, everyone!

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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.



SUNDANCE RESTAURANT
By ROBYN BLACK

We're back! Now that things have started to open up, it's time to get out and about (safely)*. Since we are showcasing Red River this month, we thought we would start with the Sundance, a popular Mexican restaurant. As of press time, they are open at 50% capacity and are asking all you patrons to wear masks when you come in. Of course, when you go in, you can't tell the diners have masks because, well, heck! they are dining! The staff is doing a stellar job of keeping restaurant-goers safe. They keep everything sanitized, and are ready for their customers. We made reservations and ventured out into this new world. We braved the crowds in Red River on a Saturday evening just as things started opening up. We witnessed what a great job the Sundance was doing.

Sundance has a long and interesting history. In 1972, John and Linda Hoag moved to New Mexico from Vienna, Virginia. They worked at Mountain Mama's restaurant at the ski area for two years and from there they ran the cafeteria at the Chalet at the ski area for another year. In 1974 they bought the Sundance and the Hoags have kept it open ever since. For the first five years it was a lodge and a restaurant. Slowly they eliminated the lodge rooms and increased the size of the restaurant, which will now seat 110 people at full capacity.

John and Linda's two daughters, Sara and Jenny, grew up working at the Sundance, starting as dishwashers when they were just kids. Sara and her ex-husband Bruno Nora moved back to Red River in 2010 to partner with her parents to run Sundance. The younger daughter, Jenny Hawkes, moved to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and pitches in to help at the restaurant when she comes to visit. John and Linda have two grandchildren who also work at the restaurant – truly a family affair!

The Sundance has a comfortable and homey ambiance. We were seated across from their wonderful fireplace. My husband Steve had the #3 com-

ination dinner – cheese with an onion enchilada, a beef enchilada, and a beef taco served with rice and beans: a great combo, he enjoyed it! I had the shrimp quesadilla, filled with spinach, cheese, and some huge shrimp, with sour cream, guacamole, lettuce, and tomato on the side. We finished with yummy sopapillas. Jackie, our waitress, was outstanding, even though she was slammed with many tables; she was totally attentive to each and every one of her customers. What a gem she is!

The Sundance is a popular stop for all our visitors from Texas and beyond and I can see why. The prices are in line with the rest of the restaurants in Red River and if you are not ravenous and can't finish everything, the quantity of food is enough to take some home. Sara Nora says, "At Sundance we strive to have high-quality Mexican food with fresh ingredients and friendly service."

You can find Sundance at 401 E. High Street, Red River, NM 87558 (one block behind and parallel to Main St.)

*Their website is:
www.sundancerestaurant.com.*

*Phone is (575) 754-2971
and reservations are recommended. Hours of
operation are 5-9 pm every night.
As the state guidelines change, they will
continue to adjust their capacity.*

*Note to our readers: Please continue to use safe practices when you are out and about – don't forget your masks and hand sanitizer. I am disappointed to see so many people entering businesses all over Taos County without proper precautions to keep others and themselves safe and healthy.



QBEN ADDRESSES COVID-19
BUSINESS RESOURCES
By LYNN SKALL

The Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network Zoom meeting, held June 17, featured panelists from the New Mexico Economic Development Department, the Small Business Development Center in Taos, and a representative from the 2020 Census. The meeting ended with a community discussion about local cellular service.

Peter Mitchell, Region 2 Representative with the NM EDD, presented programs available from the State to assist businesses and our community during COVID-19:

- **COVID-19 Business Loan Guarantee:** NM EDD can guarantee loans of up to 80% of the principal, with a maximum of \$50,000.
- **LEDA (Local Economic Development Act) 0% Interest Loans:** Available for qualified manufacturers who use these funds for land, buildings, and infrastructure.
- **The Outdoor Equity Fund Grant** supports New Mexico's outdoor recreation economy, providing funding to enable all NM youth equitable access to the outdoors. Applications are now being accepted.

For more information about these programs, contact Peter Mitchell, Region 2 Representative, and Deputy Director Outdoor Recreation, New Mexico Economic Development Department, Peter.Mitchell@state.nm.us, (505) 570-7796, www.GoNM.Biz

Anwar Kaelin, Director of the SBDC, highlighted the re-opening and amended financial resources available through the Small Business Administration:

- **Emergency Injury Disaster Loans and Advances (EIDL) program** has been re-opened, available to all businesses that have not previously applied. Grants up to \$1,000 per employee do not have to be repaid; this lasts as long as the funding is available.
- **The Payroll Protection Program** has extended its forgiveness terms and payback schedule, plus increased the percentage of funds that can be used for non-payroll expenses.

- **SBDC Webinars/Training Events:** The online library of free webinars on the SBDC website helps businesses apply for these loans, provides information on shifting to more online business, marketing, how to become a government contractor, and so much more.

The SBDC provides confidential, no-cost business consulting and business training to entrepreneurs and small businesses. For additional information or to set up an appointment, contact director Anwar Kaelin, Small Business Development Center at UNM Taos, anwar@unm.edu, (575) 737-6219, www.NMSBDC.org

Lindsey Bain, Co-Coordinator for the Taos County Census Complete Count Committee updated us with the information that all households will receive a 12-digit Census ID code in a Census packet that will be delivered through the mail or dropped off (without human contact) on households' doorsteps. The Census ID is needed to respond to the Census, which can be completed safely, and in less than 10 minutes online (www.2020census.gov), toll-free by phone (1-844-330-2020), or by mail. Look for banners and yard signs for partnerships with the fire department, Questa Library, and the Food Pantry. Let's get everyone counted!

Contact Lindsey Pfaff Bain at lindsey@taoschamber.com, (575) 779-6865, www.TaosChamber.com

In addition, a discussion on cell service in northern Taos County was initiated by Malaquias Rael, Chairman of the QEDF Board of Directors, with ownership interest in several Questa businesses. He expressed concern about the cellular service in northern Taos County, saying it is more important now than ever before - our community is lagging behind in connectivity. To attract new businesses and residents who want to work remotely, reliable and strong cell service is critical to Questa's future. A campaign to secure 4G or 5G service is being explored, with ideas that include applying for an infrastructure grant, installing additional towers, and working with government partnerships.

**Join the Community Conversation at the Next QBEN Meeting:
Wednesday, July 15, 6 pm
(3rd Wednesday of the month)**

The Census will Help Fuel New Mexico's Economic Recovery

By RYAN T. EUSTICE

It's a distressing time to be a local business. As we're all navigating this public health crisis, we're figuring out how to balance our family time, our jobs, our new at-home routines, and sustaining our economy. And, just like you, we're all worried about the future of New Mexico.

Amidst all of this uncertainty, it's hard to focus on anything other than COVID-19. But, there is something worth giving some of our attention to: the 2020 Census.

As we prepare to start the long journey towards economic recovery, business owners and patrons alike can take a collective step to ensure the health of our economy just by filling out the 2020 Census. It's a simple step, but it's one we desperately need right now. Each of our responses bring resources to New Mexico for an entire decade. That's 10 years of supporting small businesses, 10 years of tuition programs for two- and four-year colleges, and 10 years of Head Start to springboard the education of our

next generation of chefs, entrepreneurs, and welders.

The census is a simple count of everyone in the United States that helps determine how federal funding and congressional representation are distributed within the U.S. This federal funding supports our schools, roads, community health programs, and public safety. Where there are more people, there are more needs for resources and representation.

With that weight, we agree that the 2020 Census matters to everyone in New Mexico, and we need everyone in our state to be counted. However, 43% of New Mexico is considered hard to count – the highest percentage in the U.S. This is, in part, because we are a highly rural state, with many low-income households and low statewide internet access.

Additionally, 17.8 % of our state's residents can only respond once they've received a hand-delivered form, and due to COVID-19, that activity has been delayed. If you are one of these households, don't worry! You haven't missed your chance to participate. You should receive

your form soon from a visiting Census Bureau worker.

While there are various barriers for New Mexico's residents to participate in the census, it is incredibly important that we accurately count everyone. An accurate count in the census enables small companies like us to make data-driven business decisions about potential customers, the products and services we buy, and the best locations to open a new office or store. Simply put, our participation in the census can help fuel and sustain New Mexico's economy for the next decade.

From the 2010 Census, New Mexico's small businesses received over \$14 million in loans every year which have allowed us to sustain our local developments and spur economic growth. It is estimated that the 2020 Census count will bring \$115,337,795 in small business development to New Mexico – but only if everyone is counted.

"At a time where many of us feel helpless in facing these tremendous problems," Ernie C'debaca, President of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber Of

Commerce, wrote in a recent OpEd, "the census is the one area where we have individual control."

While we are all treading through a new and uncharted way of life with restricted access to businesses and limited contact with our friends and loved ones, our participation in the census can make us feel a little more certain about the future of our communities.

The census can be completed online, over the phone, or by mail. So while we all remain at home to keep the state of New Mexico healthy, you can also keep businesses healthy by taking 10 minutes to count everyone in your household.

Getting through this public health emergency will take solidarity, patience, and forward thinking. If we can all work to ensure an accurate census count, we guarantee our state has the federal funding that will stimulate business growth in years to come.

Complete the census as soon as you receive your invitation or form from the U.S. Census Bureau. New Mexico's children, adults, and businesses depend on it.



WHO ARE THESE MASKED MEN?

Can you guess?

Put the letter in the box on each NorthStar guy. Then bring this in and get 2 fridge magnets.

- A. Lucas Lovato – steers you to the best fix for your car
- B. Rodney Cordova – brakes into song for Red Riverites
- C. Malaquias (JR) Rael – keeps on truckin' between NorthStar and the hardware store
- D. Sundance Stadler – never tires of talking about tires

Think NorthStar when you need car or truck repairs, tires or an oil change.

Happy Anniversary, Red Riverites!

575-586-0561 • 2460 State Road 522, Questa NM
www.northstarautorepair.net



The Importance of Recreation and Aiming for Sustainability

By TONER MITCHELL

“No one has room to complain if they aren’t helping to make changes.”

So says Sloan Covington, owner of Red River Angler & Sport, a full-service fly shop and guide service that also sells conventional fishing, camping, and climbing gear. “We live in a small community, and I feel everyone must do their part to contribute at whatever scope they are able.”

In his third year serving on the Red River Town Council, Covington practices what he preaches, as he spearheads the town’s fish stocking and tourism marketing programs, along with other initiatives. He is also vice president of Trout Unlimited’s Enchanted Circle Chapter, whose many accomplishments include contributing to the restoration of the Red River through Questa. And he is only 34 years old.

Sloan is a native of Austin, and like many Red River residents, he developed his love of Red River through a long tradition of fleeing the hot Texas summers for the cool New Mexican mountains and their trout-filled streams. After graduating from Texas A&M with a degree in finance, he moved to Red River permanently in 2009. He opened his outdoors business four years ago.

“The natural beauty of this town combined with friendly locals is what makes it special for everyone. Life is pretty good when you can commute across town by bike along a small mountain stream.”

Although he and his guides do most of their work on the Rio Costilla, his favorite place to guide is his town’s namesake stream. He loves that the Red River requires physical strength to fish well, and lots of technical ability to negotiate its small size and prevalence of streamside brush and trees. His clients might be rewarded with a Grand Slam (brown trout, rainbow, brook, and Rio Grande cutthroat), an achievement that’s impossible on almost any other New Mexico stream. Covington enjoys getting clients into tougher sections of river that require slowing down, not just reading the water, but the entire environment.

As northern New Mexico’s economy continues to diversify in a more



Sloan Covington, ice fishing on Cabresto Lake with his dog, Carson.

Photo by Reed Weimer



Float Tube - Casting to risers on Middle Fork Lake.

Photo by Reed Weimer

tourism-based direction, Covington acknowledges the looming challenge of promoting recreation in a responsible, sustainable way, particularly regarding the increase in Utility Terrain Vehicle or UTV use around Red River.

“We make a living off visitors and locals recreating in public lands around us. However, the increased use and traffic comes with its downsides. We want to scream from the mountaintop about how great it is here, but at the same time some get upset when there are other cars at the trailhead or other anglers wading through our favorite fishing spots.”

“COVID-19 has been interesting, balancing between wanting to be open 100% and shutting down, needing to protect our economy, but not at the expense of the safety of our local population, particularly as we see more visitors from areas with fewer restrictions.”

According to Covington, one silver lining of the COVID crisis has been learning in stark terms what happens when towns like his have no tourism, how it affects sales tax, lodgers taxes, and other important revenue streams.

“Although an extreme circumstance, this has caused me to explore how else towns like ours can keep our people employed without tourism. If you know the answer to that, let me know! At the same time, I see a threat in too many people visiting our region and falling in love with it. We need to be prepared for the traffic we all say we want.”

To tackle such challenges, it appears that a meeting of minds, of regional community leaders like Sloan Covington, is more than necessary. Covington feels that connections between Enchanted Circle communities, particularly Red River and Questa, run deep. Questa comprises much of Red River’s work force and provides many goods and services his town needs. He sees the two towns as symbiotic partners needing each other to survive. The proposed Questa-to-Red-River trail exemplifies this relationship.

“Each community has something special to offer the other. By growing the relationship, we all benefit. High tides raise all ships, right?”

Caps for Cancer Project Continues



Photo by Lou McCall

After you repurpose your plastic bottles for the Questa Shed Project, donate the caps to **Caps for Cancer!** The caps are recycled and the proceeds are donated to a hospital in Coahuila, Mexico as a fundraiser for cancer treatments.

By LOU MCCALL

The *Caps for Cancer* project will continue to collect plastic bottle caps, keeping them out of the landfill, yay! Recent changes in Taos County's recycling efforts are that plastic is no longer recycled, except by private recycling contractors. This is a wonderful opportunity to recycle what little plastic we can. All plastic caps are accepted, they ask that the caps be clean and if they have a paper label or liner, please remove them. The caps are shipped to Texas and are then delivered to Coahuila, Mexico, where they are donated to a hospital as a fundraiser for cancer treatments.

Nonviolence Works Questa Youth Mentorship Program wrapped up their involvement with the *Caps for Cancer* campaign in March. The community has pulled together to make a positive impact for individuals suffering from cancer.

The project that began with Nonviolence Works Questa Youth Mentorship Program and the *Questa Del Rio News* now sponsors the program. The Questa Center Supermarket will continue their generous hosting as the primary drop-off collection point in our community. Thank you to everyone who has supported the program, with special thanks to Kit Carson Electric Co-op for donating money toward shipping costs.

If there are agencies, businesses, youth groups, or individuals who would like to continue to collect plastic caps or donate money for postage and shipping, please contact us at news@questaedf.com.

The Questa Shed Project Uses Re-Purposed Plastic

By TODD WYNWARD

The Questa Shed Project is a collaboration between RYNO (Rewire Yourself New Opportunities, founded by Daniel Herrera), TiLT (Taos Initiative for Life Together, founded by Todd Wynward), architect Doug Eichelberger, and Plastic-Free Taos, with Megan White. The inspiration stems from several coinciding issues: the practical need to build necessary and inexpensive structures, the need for diverse cultures to work in common cause, and a desire to find an alternative use for plastic due to the elimination of plastic recycling in Taos County.

Project instigator Daniel Herrera has chosen his family property as the building site for the shed. Daniel's vision is to turn the dilapidated trailer park into RYNO, a house of hope and healing for men in transition from incarceration or addiction. The site is located at the top of the trailer park located behind the now closed *Movies*

at Home building, 100 yards north of the Questa Chevron.

TiLT, located in downtown Taos, held a workshop on June 10 entitled "Building with Repurposed Plastic." During the training led by architect Doug Eichelberger, ten participants constructed two 5 x 4 x 1' wire baskets, jammed full of all types of clean, smashed plastic. Each of these baskets, which were to become sections of wall, was stuffed with about a dozen large trash bags full of post-consumer plastic – tubs, bottles, bags, sheets, packing, etc.

Two days later, on June 12, a convoy brought the constructed wall panels to Questa: dozens of bags of plastic and other construction materials, such as lumber and wire fencing panels. A dozen volunteers began assembling the shed, a 10 x 12' structure designed by Doug Eichelberger, featuring foot-thick walls, a rubble trench foundation, and a sloped pro-panel roof. This design, simple but elegant, is meant to be a

countywide demonstration project, an inspiration for others to emulate by creating their own DIY projects at their locations, turning waste into valuable construction material.

Much of the plastic was sourced from members of Plastic-Free Taos. Project leaders are looking for trustworthy sources of clean, crushed recycled plastic. Remove caps from all bottles, please, and save them for the Caps for Cancer Project (see related story on this page). To contribute, or for more information, please contact Daniel Herrera at dansautohondo@gmail.com or (575) 224-7386.

For information about other TiLT workshops, contact Todd Wynward, at tiltcoordinator@gmail.com, (575) 770-8681, or learn more about us at taostilt.org.

Todd Wynward, Founder and Executive Director of TiLT, is the author of the book *Rewilding the Way: Break Free to Follow An Untamed God*.



Photo by Daniel Herrera

The Questa Shed Project is constructing a shed using walls filled with compressed post-consumer plastic as a demonstration project in Questa.



Photo by Daniel Herrera

Volunteers turn a dilapidated trailer park into RYNO, a house of hope and healing for men in transition from incarceration or addiction.

Music from Angel Fire Cancels 2020 Festival Season

By BERT HARCLERODE

The “Music from Angel Fire” music series has cancelled its annual summer festival due to COVID-19. For 36 years Music from Angel Fire has enhanced the quality of life in the Enchanted Circle region with its three-weekend 11-concert August music festival. The programs touch the hearts of more than 2,500 northern New Mexico youth with in-school Concerts for Youth and Music Residency Workshops featuring young artist ensembles and musicians who hail from some of the most prestigious music schools, including the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Juilliard School in New York City. The extraordinary Main Stage Concerts reach more



than 2,300 patrons as they perform at northern New Mexico venues in Angel Fire, Taos, Las Vegas, and Raton.

“Everyone associated with Music from Angel Fire is saddened to think of a summer without music, not just in northern New Mexico, but in communities throughout the world. The decision to cancel the 2020 Festival was not easy,” said Music from Angel Fire President James Brown. “Throughout the spring, everyone looked at how there might be a reduced festival. But finally, as we came

to understand the importance of social distancing, there was no other option.”

“It is with deep sadness that we have decided to cancel the 2020 MFAF season. It is a heartbreaking decision and one that we didn’t enter into lightly,” said Co-Artistic Director Tara Helen O’Connor. “We want to keep our beloved audience and patrons safe and healthy and for this reason, we cannot meet in the Land of Enchantment this summer. We all look forward to the wonderful time we have there playing fantastic music, morning dog hikes, and the evening dinners. We look forward to the time when we can all do this together again.”

“We’re optimistic that COVID19 will be successfully controlled in advance

of the 2021 Festival,” said Executive Director Bert Harclerode. “Many musical festivals have been canceled, including Tanglewood on the east coast and the Hollywood Bowl in California. We’re all at a loss for words in a global situation none of us could have predicted, one that has affected large and small not-for-profit organizations.” Plans for the August 13-29, 2021 Festival are underway and will be announced in early 2021.

Music from Angel Fire is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts - ARTWORKS, New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, local businesses, and individual contributions. For additional information, call (575) 377-3233.

NeoRio 2020: Reflection, Response, and Transformation

By CLAIRE COTÉ

Everyone and everything is shifting. Haltings we did not think possible have occurred. Countless closures and migrations to online platforms are taking place. We are all affected.

As the curator of the annual NeoRio community celebration and environmental art event (and director of its non-profit, LEAP – Land, Experience, and Art of Place), I am faced with the challenge of reinventing this multi-faceted, outdoor gathering, to adapt it to present circumstances.

NeoRio* is a venue for innovative art, experimental thinking, education, and exchange. For the past eleven years, artists, participants, and collaborators have enjoyed thought-provoking art installations at Wild Rivers Recreation Area, on the rim of the Rio Grande gorge, along with a farm-to-table feast, music, poetry, and artist talks at sunset. Each year, we’ve tried to create a kind of alchemy with this confluence of art, environment, and community, in its celebration of each year’s fascinating theme.

Now things must change.

NeoRio is in the process of rethinking and evolving, developing new and deepening existing collaborations, while also holding true to the core values of the event: connection to land, water, culture, and place.

As this process of reinvention unfolds, I find the journey guided by cu-



Photo by Tim Long

A group photo of the first NeoRio in 2009 at Wild Rivers at sunset, around the traditional campfire.

riosity. Questions are surfacing: some of them general and applicable to much of life now: What opportunities are present in this time of uncertainty and how can we cultivate them? How do we remain strong, present, and healthy and allow this challenging time to propel growth and positive change? How can we experience community and connection without being physically together?

Other questions are very specific to the NeoRio event: No outdoor venue? No in-person art installations? No community feast? How can NeoRio best serve people and place?

NeoRio features a different theme every year around which the explorations revolve. Themes of past years have

included Wilderness, Light, Seeds, Pollination, Roots, and Elements, to name a few. Selecting each year’s theme is a challenging, but also a rich and interesting process. The theme for NeoRio this year was decided in February, before COVID-19’s effects were felt. Its deeper relevance and timeliness became apparent a month later, as New Mexico, the U.S., and the world began to shut down and “shelter in place.”

The theme for NeoRio 2020 is “Home.” We cannot imagine a more fitting theme.

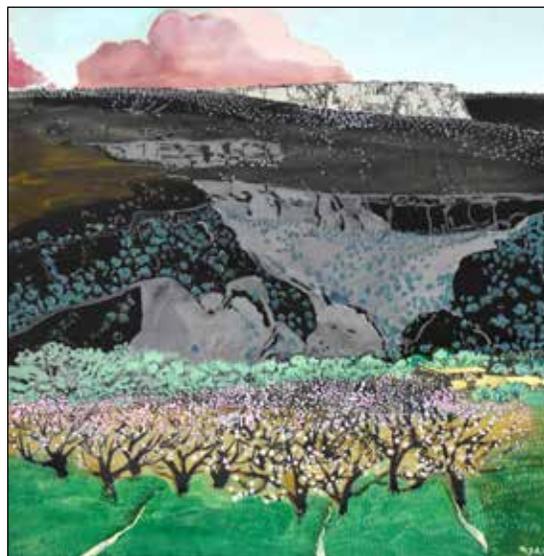
We do not know what the future has in store for us. We do know that “leaning into” the challenges we’re facing is the right thing to do.

As the original NeoRio event date of Saturday, September 19 approaches, look for updates about how you might participate in NeoRio 2020: Home. We want you to be a part of it!

Have ideas? Want to know more or make a donation? Go to LEAPsite.org or call (575) 224-9066!

**NeoRio began in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management’s Taos field office, as a Public Lands Day event. It has evolved in collaboration with local nonprofit organizations Localogy and the Questa Creative Council. It is the result of many collaborations with a variety of artists, mentors, organizations and many generous volunteers, funders, and sponsors.*

QCC Launches Online Artist Initiatives



Courtesy Photos

Pottery by artist Kathy Morsell (left), mixed media painting by Monique Belitz (center), and stained glass window by Marcus Rael (right).



QUESTA LOCAL ARTISTS KEEP
KEEPIN' ON!

A MESSAGE FROM THE
QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL

Despite COVID-19, northern New Mexico artists keep making their art. Getting art appreciators in the loop without face-to-face gatherings like the annual Questa Studio Art Tour, normally held in August is... well, tricky.

We feel strongly about promoting and encouraging the arts in our area despite recent COVID-19 restriction. Our mission also has a component of economic health for our community, which certainly includes helping out artists, so we've gotten inventive and have come up with initiatives to help promote and foster the arts and our artists.

1. Profile pages on the newly re-vamped Questa Studio Tour website at <https://questaartstour.com> or northernnewmexicoartists.com. This goes beyond artists' descriptions of past Studio Tours with listings of more than 50 artists or art-related businesses and their links, and 26 informative artist profile pages (and growing) with all sorts of information about the artists, their work, creative

processes, studios, and links to shop for their art online.

Although the website was initially created several years ago to feature Questa Studio Tour artists, it is now open to all artists not only in our immediate area but as a collection place for all northern New Mexico artists. We hope to not only reach our loyal followers of past tours, but also reach out to anyone looking for artists and their work in northern New Mexico.

So, artists~ Thank you for joining us in our commitment to showcase you! If you haven't yet joined with your own Artist Profile page or if you know someone who would like to join, please let us know. (use the email below) The more artists we have, the more it helps us all! This is a FREE website to join. It is funded through a grant from NM Arts.

2. A promotional video highlighting local artists. We are currently producing a 2-4 minute snapshot of our lovely area and the artist/artwork that can be found here. We will heavily market this.

3. Online Art Auction August 15-16. On the same days the 2020 Questa Studio Tour would have been held, we will host a marketed online auction. You can join in as an artist, or watch and bid on artwork. Artists: you need not have been part of earlier Studio Tours. And it's FREE to join. The basics:

- **July 15 deadline** — Confirm with Peggy Trigg that you want to be included in the auction; appli-

cation materials will be sent to you to fill out

- **August 1 deadline** — Complete materials, including detailed auction sheet and 1-2 pieces of artwork to be in the auction
- **July 15-August 15** — Marketing campaign
- **August 15-16** — Live, online auction
- **By August 30** — Payments to artists of sold work (minus 20% auction fee) and return of all unsold work.

With these new initiatives, you can still "visit" the studios, get to know the artists, explore the art, and buy! Participate from the comfort of your own home, so that the momentum and economic opportunities that the annual Questa Studio Arts Tour offers to our local artists will not be lost!

Come to the auction - go to the website and bid, **Saturday Aug. 15 - Sunday Aug. 16**, and while you're at it, you can read the artist profile pages to get to know your local artists' fascinating stories of how they came to be in

Questa and why they create art. **And you can also purchase art from Questa area artists.**

Thank you and have a wonderful summer!
Your Questa Creative Council

QCC is a dynamic group of local creative thinkers, artists, cooks, and "doers" from the Questa area. The purpose of the nonprofit organization is to act as an arts council through community collaborations and events for Questa and surrounding communities.

In addition to visual arts, music, and traditional and contemporary crafts, QCC also encompasses performing and literary arts, culinary arts, local culture, history, and interdisciplinary education outreach with an eye to "placemaking" in and around our unique village.

AUGUST 15-16 ONLINE AUCTION

Mark your calendars! Tune in to our planned live art auction on the two days the tour would have been held, August 15 and 16. Go to our website (questaartstour.com) and you'll see how to "do" the auction.

QCC – Strengthening community through arts, culture, history, and education

Happy 125th Birthday, Red River: 1895-2020

By FRITZ DAVIS

Reprinted with permission from
The Red River Miner

When a young Kit Carson first saw the Red River area in the early 1830s, it is said that he'd never seen so many beaver. The beaver and ponds were gone by 1895 but the rich soil that remained was perfect for growing crops. In spring of 1895, a family from San Luis, Colorado settled on the banks of the Rio Colorado – Spanish for “colored” or “red” river. The Mallette family migrated years before from New York and Ohio, seeking a good life in the American West. They found it. It was not agriculture or beaver pelts that brought people streaming into the remote valley in that spring of 1895. As early as 1870, miners from nearby Elizabethtown in the Moreno Valley came looking for any trace of “color” in the streams and along the riverbank. Their efforts were futile, but 25 years later new exploration found promising results.

By summer of '95, the little valley was buzzing with rainbow chasers seeking pots of gold. In addition to rumors of “promising assays” and “new finds,” Western newspapers fueled the frenzy with reports of railroads coming in. Land speculators made truth a rare commodity. Red River was a tale of two cities – a swamp laying in the middle of town, and an emerging business community. Victorian architecture typical of gold camps developed east on both sides of Bitter Creek. At the other end of the swamp was a colony of cabins at the mouth of Mallette Canyon. By 1897, population estimates ranged from 1,500 from *The Pueblo Chieftain* newspaper to 3,000, a boomer's estimate by the *Red River Mining News*, one of three papers in town. The hopes and dreams of hard rock miners were desperate longings for success. The dreamers moved on, some to the Klondike, leaving cabins and contents behind.

As early as 1905, Albuquerque papers and magazines began referring to Red River as a trout fishing paradise and an escape from the summer heat. Anglers and vacationers came, renting abandoned miner cabins and horses to rides for spectacular vistas. Red River City embraced a new way to survive, providing hospitality and summer recreation to flatland and desert visitors. The future was in progress.



Photo Courtesy of the Red River Historical Society

Early photo of what is now the 4K River Ranch, fisher folks in the 1940s.



Photo Courtesy of the Red River Historical Society

The Mallette Brothers were early settlers in Red River. This is a photo of the Mallette hayfield.

RED RIVER CITY - STILL ALIVE

The Red River Good Roads Association was organized in May of 1914 to petition the U.S. Forest Service for a new road through Bobcat Pass. The road from the Moreno Valley most likely started as a deer path which was widened over time by wagons and buckboards. It was extremely steep, requiring wagons to tie a heavy log to the back to act as brakes. Sometimes that worked, sometimes it didn't. By 1915, the Good Roads citizens were effective. The Forest Service surveyed for the purpose of building a new “modern” road. Named the Questa-Elizabethtown Road, work began in spring of 1915 at a cost of \$17,000. It opened in 1917. The road was a success: autos filled with “Texicans”

and *Sooners* descended into the valley to escape the summer heat. While many old buildings and cabins were left standing, new structures appeared. The cabins of Grandview Camp were built in the '20s, as were those of the Oldham brothers' Tall Pine Lodge and the Young family ranch.

At the other end of town, on the edge of the swamp, a hardware store at the mouth of Mallette Canyon became Three Canyon Camp, owned by the Cashion family. W.A. Johnson's Pioneer Lodge began operating and had a stable to give visitors memorable tours on horseback. The Lewis family bought a ranch and built cabins on the river west of town. The Riverside Lodge was on the east edge of the cabins built by the swamp, as was Rio Colorado Lodge. Growth continued

through the 1930s. Abandoned cabins were purchased by “Summer Folks,” who only spent the cool months in town. A Kansas coal miner built his wife a sandwich shop before constructing a dance hall for himself and the local gamblers. The Monte Vista Lodge looked like a grand hunting lodge and had a dining room.

The Black Mountain Playhouse was built as a dance hall and the infamous Long John Dunn of Taos ran the gambling. Dan Zehna's Silver Spruce Tavern opened in 1939. A winter ski hill was built in Pioneer Canyon with the help of a Raton business group. It opened and closed on the same day – December 7, 1941. Soon scrap drives for the war effort saw old mines stripped of metal. The 1942 opening of the Red River Community House provided a bright spot as a place to worship and socialize for teetotalers and bridge players. “City” disappeared from the town's name as WWII ended. The post-war Baby Boom saw Red River riding the winds of change for the next 40 years.

IN THESE CHANGING TIMES

The 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s were a grand time in the valley. A big pay-to-fish trout lake was built near the Playhouse. A multi-level structure called Terrace Towers Lodge sprang up where the road to Questa took a turn. A souvenir store featuring the products of a Woodward, Oklahoma western-wear maker did brisk business. Tourist shops and cafes popped up. A short recession in 1953 slowed commercial growth, but not for long. There was enough support in town that St. Edwin's Catholic Church opened in 1955, the first purpose-built church in Red River.

An Oklahoma paint manufacturer built a movie theater and the SEB Motel on the edge of the swamp near the river, but it was only occupied in summer, so he built a ski area to attract winter guests. The doors of the Red River Ski Area opened in 1959. He soon sold the motel to a German couple, owners of an Alpine Lodge in Aspen. Businesses with a European ski flair were built. A tale of two cities continued – alpine versus old west. Skiing became “the thing.” A recreational tubing slope became Powder Puff Ski Area, with the first snowmaking guns in the state. A new Main Street was built through the swamp and a modern highway over



Photo Courtesy of the Red River Historical Society

The opening of the Red River Community House in 1942



Photo Courtesy of the Red River Historical Society

Black Copper stamp mill.

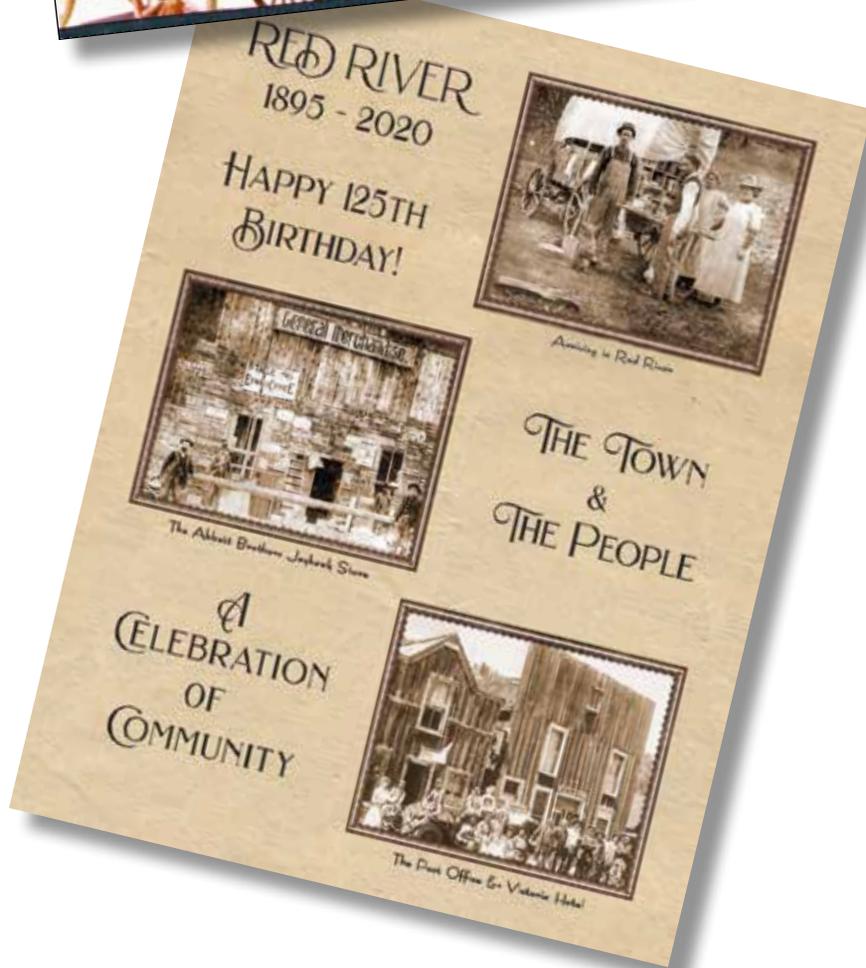


Photo Courtesy of the Red River Historical Society

Musicians Amy LaVere and Will Sexton at Red River Folk Festival at Aspencade 2018.

Bobcat Pass opened in 1965 (or 1966?).

Old buildings were demolished, and modern structures appeared. Souvenir shops, clothing stores, and an indoor swimming pool were exciting developments. Condominiums, townhouses, and lodges like the Arrowhead, Edelweiss, and Eisenhut were built within walking distance of the chair

lift. The Claim Jumper A-frames were directly across the street from the chair lift. An old west "movie set," complete with a bank robbery and shootout became a tourist attraction, along with restaurants. There was excited talk of "A New Aspen" as the 1970s came to an end. Townhouses were built and the ambitious Lifts West condos opened in '79, adding

a Main Street building with shops and a restaurant a year later, just in time for the savings & loan scandal that rocked the country. The bottom fell out of the oil business with a slow recovery through the 1980s and '90s. Businesses changed hands and there was a small-home building boom.

A forest fire caused evacuation of the

town in 1996. By the New Millennium, things were poppin.' An elementary charter school opened its doors and a Conference Center was built for conventions, reunions, weddings, and community functions. Live music, outdoor shows, festivals, and special events grew in popularity. The year 2020 dawned with enthusiasm.

Questa High School Class of 2020 Scholarship Recipients

Chevron Questa Scholarships – Our two scholarship winners are Kiana Passino and Christina Cisneros. The recipients will receive an initial award of \$2,000, and each subsequent year, if annual enrollment and a cumulative GPA of 2.5 is maintained, they will receive an additional \$1,000 per year for a maximum of \$5,000 over four years.

Carl Bloom and Abran Montoya Scholarship for Questa Seniors

The selected award recipients are as follows:

- 1st Award (MacBook Air laptop and \$500): Clarissa Arellano
- 2nd Award (\$500): Amber Ortega
- 3rd Award (\$250): Kiana Passino

Clarissa Arellano will be attending UNM to major in biology to become a physician's assistant in pediatrics.

- UNM Bridges to Success Scholarship \$1200
- Carl Bloom and Abran Montoya Scholarship \$500 and a MacBook Air Laptop

Joesyra Bailon will be attending UNM Taos for business administration and management.

- Mariachi Questa Scholarship \$150

Christina Cisneros will be attending Adams State University to pursue a degree in forestry.

- Adams State University Grizzly Partnership Scholarship valued at \$3,200
- Adams State University Presidential Scholarship valued at \$3,000
- Chevron Questa Scholarship up to \$5,000

Gabrielle Danis will be attending New Mexico Highlands University to study nursing.

- NMHU Dean's Scholarship
- NM Legislative Lottery Scholarship

Janae Martinez will be attending Dona Ana Community College (DACC) in Las Cruces, NM, where she will pursue a career as a Medical Assistant.

- NM Lottery Scholarship \$580
- DACC Academic Scholarship \$888
- Mariachi Questa - \$400

Amber Ortega will be attending college in the fall, and majoring in nursing.

- Carl Bloom and Abran Montoya Scholarship for Questa Seniors \$250
- Ariana Ortega** will be attending Luna Community College to major in allied health. She will then transfer with the intent of getting her bachelors of science in radiologic technology.
- LANL John & Marti Browne Leadership Scholarship \$10,000

Kianna Passino will be attending Adams State University to pursue a nursing degree, specializing in labor & delivery, with a minor in psychology.

- Adams State University Grizzly Partnership Scholarship valued at \$3,200
- Adams State University Presidential Scholarship valued at \$3,000
- Chevron Questa Scholarship up to \$5,000
- Carl Bloom and Abran Montoya Scholarship \$250
- Cerro VFW Post 9516 Scholarship \$250

Isabelle Rael will be attending New Mexico Highlands University to pursue a degree in Social Work.

- LANL Bronze Scholarship \$6000
- Taos Community Foundation - First Generation Scholarship
- Holy Cross Auxiliary Scholarship
- Centinel Bank Scholarship
- NMHU Dean's Scholarship
- Mariachi Questa Scholarship \$400
- Questa Credit Union Scholarship

Malachi Romero

- Mariachi Questa Scholarship \$150

Julianna Sandoval is attending UNM in the fall and is studying Management Information Systems.

- Bridges to Success Scholarship
- Veteran Educational Benefits \$1,200 a month
- Mariachi Questa Scholarship \$150



CLARISSA ARELLANO



JOESYRA BAILON



CHRISTINA CISNEROS



GABRIELLE DANIS



JANAE MARTINEZ



AMBER ORTEGA



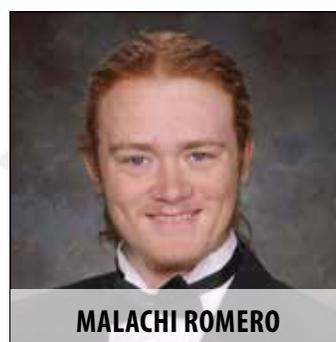
ARIANA ORTEGA



KIANNA PASSINO



ISABELLE RAEI



MALACHI ROMERO



JULIANNA SANDOVAL



By SUPERINTENDENT
CARLA ARCHULETA

I know it's summertime and you are all making the best of the summer months during a difficult time, but I wanted to share some major staff updates and thoughts about the next school year at Questa Independent School District (QISD).

First, I want to thank Connie Martinez for 26 years of service to the district. The majority of that time she taught the youngest students in Kindergarten. Students and staff have appreciated all the years she devoted to QISD. As a colleague she has made our jobs easier and as a teacher she has set students on a course for success. Congratulations Connie, on your retirement!

Next, I want to thank both Cathy Gallegos and Martha Sanchez for their leadership as building principals this

past school year. To Mrs. Gallegos, for the quality of work she gave to students as principal of the high school and for the courage to take the reins as interim superintendent during one of the most difficult transitional points this school year. To Ms. Sanchez, she made every hour of every day count progressively with students, staff, and as an administrative leader at Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate School. Unfortunately, neither of these astonishing women will be returning to QISD next school year, but we thank them for their time in the district.

As last year's principals venture on, I'd like to welcome two individuals from our district who will move into new leadership roles. Maria Cintas will be the Pre K-12 Principal. Assisting her as Lead Teacher at Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate Schools is Kimber MacDonald. Mrs. MacDonald will also continue as exceptional programs coordinator. They are ready to start full force on July 1, 2020 and I'm eager to work with them.

I am humbled to share that I have accepted the position of District Superintendent. I cannot tell you how content that makes me feel. My love for QISD students was instant. Our students have

so much to offer and they are the heart and soul of our district. I also look forward to working with our multi-talented staff as I know they will continue to apply their expertise and love for students. For this and many other reasons, I am thankful to be coming back next year to QISD.

We are working side by side with the New Mexico Public Education Department for a plan to keep students and families as safe as possible during the pandemic. As the initial shock of being quarantined has worn off, we are committed to creating a plan that will include a much more structured approach to student learning. Many of the unknown issues we were initially faced with have been resolved and we are comfortable moving forward with a comprehensive educational plan.

Our staff and school board are committed to serving all of our community's students. We want to encourage students who live in our district and have left to attend other schools to return to our district. Please reach out to any of our educational leaders and board members to share your reasons for leaving and suggestions to improve the chances of you returning. For too long, there has been a

Questa Independent School District online registration is now open for the 2020-21 school year. Please visit our school website to complete the process for your children. <https://qisd-nm.schoolloop.com/> May everyone have a great summer! Take care, be safe, and live life through social distancing.

rift in our community related to education and we hope that QISD can once again be a shining example of working together to educate our students.

Finally, in regard to a fair and equal education, QISD is dedicated to implementing and maintaining a multicultural approach to learning. We must ensure that ALL students feel safe, valued, and fully supported in our schools so that they graduate to be college- and career-ready. We will improve how we meet the standards set forth by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the New Mexico Indian Education Act, Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, and the Hispanic Education Act. We invite any community partners who would like to help enrich our students' lives to reach out to either myself or Mrs. Cintas.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Class at Questa High School

By LINDSAY MAPES

On Tuesday, June 2, the Questa Independent School District Board of Directors considered a pilot class that might be offered this August at Questa High School, called *Entrepreneurship and Innovation*. For several months, school board member Juan Cisneros has been working to make this class a reality.

"I think this class could offer opportunities to create more business owners in Questa. Classes like this are our future for our rural community, we need more

entrepreneurs, we need to prepare the next generation to be leaders and stakeholders in our community" said Juan.

The Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) got behind the class early on to fund curriculum, class materials, and instructor expenses. "We would like to see our children start businesses here in Questa. This class will give them a head start by preparing them," said Malaquias Rael, board president of the QEDF. "Entrepreneurship is not a natural talent. It needs to be taught and understood. We are excited to see the

first students who finish this course start their own businesses," he added.

The innovative curriculum for the course is from the Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative that has been incorporated into schools and universities throughout the country. According to their website, they teach people how to think like an entrepreneur: to shift perspectives, expose opportunities, ignite ambition, and foster critical thinking.

The class will be taught by the former Economic Development Director for the QEDF, Lindsay Mapes. She says she

hopes to incorporate a "pitch contest" as a capstone project at the end of the pilot class in December. Students could "pitch" their creative ideas and business concepts, with cash prizes going to the top ideas, as voted on by the community.

While the course is on its way to becoming a reality, it must first make it through the final Public Education Department requirements and secure the remaining funding. We are hopeful that the process will be finalized soon to offer this class in August – it would be a great asset for our students.

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- Healthy You
- Healthy Family
- Healthy Community
- SHOP LOCAL

Please wear your masks. Thank you!

Vendors Welcome

In Praise and Support of Libraries, Especially our Own!

By LINDA BETZ, FRIEND OF THE
QUESTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The New Mexico legislature must rewrite the state's budget because of our new economic reality. Recovery from the shutdown requires that budgetary considerations be strategic. Though much will be cut, we should increase funding to help those most impacted and vulnerable.

Public libraries, especially in rural areas, are on the front lines providing crucial internet services, economic development assistance, and educational opportunity. During the pandemic shutdown, for example, the Questa Public Library continued to provide free internet access and made computers available by appointment for patrons to use. We helped patrons apply for unemployment benefits, file tax returns, and check the status of their stimulus payment. Many who came to us were not accustomed to using the computer or internet, and had to learn during the shutdown. We were glad the library could help. The library also delivered curbside book requests and held a drive-by book giveaway in

conjunction with Alta Vista Elementary School. We are actively promoting the 2020 Census and creatively serving Questa and the surrounding communities in northern Taos County.

Last month I was delivering the *Questa Del Rio News* to the Questa Public Library. I met a young woman and her son, who were using the free internet in the library parking lot. She explained that she was visiting the area and hoped to relocate here. She was most impressed with the local library's resources and stated that it played a large role in her decision to move here.

Because of our visible location along State Highway 522 on the north end of the village, our library acts as an information center for visitors, a welcome center for new residents, a connection hub for many volunteer organizations, and, of course, a media center for our multi-generational community. Pre-pandemic, it was not unusual on an average afternoon to find most of the computer stations occupied and a busy circulation desk. And, now, as before, there are often a few people using the wifi at the outdoor tables or in their cars during

daylight hours. Yes, our library is busy even when the doors are closed!

But all libraries need financial help. Rural librarians do collection development, facility management, program curriculum, social work, bookkeeping, grant writing, mandatory state reporting, advertising, early childhood education, tech support and computer education, fundraising, and book shelving. Plus, they sweep the floor and shovel the snow. Most are paid between \$8.50-12.00/hr. Many are overworked and need help. Employing people in libraries and paying them a living wage is a winning proposition for our state.

The 2020 legislative session was not kind to public libraries. General Obligation Bond money, which helps libraries with expenses for materials, was cut 25% this year from 2018 levels. Senate Finance Committee Chair Senator John Arthur Smith, along with vice-chair Senator George Munoz and Senator Steven Neville, made this cut.

The library community requested a \$1.1 million increase for State Grants in Aid (SGA), money public libraries can use for operating expenses or materials.

This would have funded libraries at \$1 per capita state-wide. Last year SGA was funded at \$.47 per capita. The national average is about \$3.50. It was raised in New Mexico to \$.57 per capita.

The New Mexico Rural Library Endowment was signed into existence by Governor Lujan-Grisham in 2019. The endowment will help support 51 rural libraries and provide grants to towns that want to establish libraries. The goal is \$50 million in endowment which will sustain rural libraries in perpetuity, as the permanent fund does for education.

During each of the last two legislative sessions, \$10 million in appropriations to the endowment were cut, presently leaving it with \$3 million, not nearly enough to sustain these vulnerable institutions or give an economic boost to rural New Mexico. Along with the U.S. Post Office, public libraries remain essential for a robust community. During the special legislative session in June, I hope the elected officials recognized that more funding for libraries, not cuts, will strengthen us.

July

By LAURIE GRAHAM LAMBERT
OF RED RIVER

I sit outside my beloved cabin, coffee mug beside me, journal in my lap, as I fan away an onslaught of flies.

"No place is perfect," I tell myself, and maybe the more difficult parts are what fortify us. "I won't abandon you because of a few annoyances and you won't abandon me because of mine." That pretty much sums up genuine love. We release all illusion of perfection and celebrate every glorious quirk. At last, we see the object of our love as perfectly imperfect.

So it is with the flies. They demand my attention with maddening persistence, but I know a secret. Come eve-

ning time, the flycatchers will skim across the river like aerial acrobats to feed on the bounty. It will be a show of all shows, and I will once again rejoice at every perfect imperfection of this place. And it wouldn't happen without the flies.

We hammered out this wee cabin with a baby on my back, a toddler at our feet, and our stoic dog overseeing the mayhem. Home was a travel trailer, with all five of us stuffed into the 28-foot tube of dirty diapers. That's when I realized the significant difference between building a cabin and having a cabin built. I haven't experienced the latter, but the former is extremely trying. I never fully appreciated the enormous sacrifice my husband so

freely granted for the sake of my dream until one day, several years after we'd finished, our younger son perceptively noted, "Mama, if you'd have loved the ocean, he'd have built you a boat."

I treasure that line. It jolts me to the reminder of what true love really means. Despite everything, Brian found ways to embrace the rigors of my own perfect imperfections. He shooed away the flies, so to speak, and focused on the grander picture.

Now the trailer has long been sold, the dog's ashes are buried beneath a fir tree, and our sons are on the cusp of manhood. As I fan away the flies and swill my coffee, I realize this: never more

deeply have I loved the one who worked alongside me to make this dream come true, and never more deeply will I ever love any place on earth. Even for the parts that aren't easy, and maybe because of the parts that aren't easy.

The two are inextricably bound.

I've come to see that sometimes the things that needle us also bring us astounding joy.

Life is like that.

Sometimes we get even more of the good stuff than we bargained for, especially if we greet the world with arms flung wide open, ready to welcome every perfect imperfection.

Yes, even the flies.

NAME THAT COLUMN! In May a grandmother requested a section by, for, and about kids. Voila, it happened in the very next issue and we continue to showcase art and writing by young people in our July issue. We are asking you to send us your ideas for a name for this section. Some young people did not want to call it Kids' Corner because they preferred not to be called kids. And we are hoping to feature submissions by teens, as well as children. Parents suggested Youth Corner and then there are some people who are tired of the word youth...

Everyone has an opinion! At one point we decided to call it Young People's Page, which was called "terrible." by some of our newspaper staff... what to do? If you have a good idea for a name if you are a young person with creativity to share, or if you would like to submit something for future issues, let us know! If you would like to include your writing or artwork in the paper send us your contribution, news@questaedf.com ! To be included in the August issue, please send it to us by July 12th.

A Growing Time

By SHARON NICHOLSON,
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

While we have been staying at home (or locked in at the library), life has been going on around us. The trees and flowers have leafed and blossomed, vegetables at Cerro Vista Farm have been growing and maturing, the children keep getting taller, and some of us badly need haircuts.

To keep the library growing for you, we have been ordering and receiving the most amazing books: the children's books are the most fun! Both non-fiction and fiction books are ready for our younger (and older!) crowd to enjoy. Our favorite local author, Jenny Sue Kostecki, invited me to attend the online Ezra Jack Keats Awards ceremony recently. Mr. Keats was the award-winning author of *The Snowy Day* and a big believer in diversity in his books for children.

The authors and illustrators who won the award captivated me. I just had to order them all! One of my favorites is *One Fox...a Counting Book Thriller*. Can you imagine an easy book thriller? It is indeed a thriller, but not too scary for the little person in your life. In addition, *Layla's Happiness* is so big and wonderful, you will love it! *Lawrence in the Fall* is about a fox father and son adventure into the forest that you might find unforgetta-

ble. The sage advice of a youngster in *Small in the City* will open your eyes to the differences between living here and living in a big city. You can join Daisy in either Spanish or English as she and her "Papi" zoom around in *My Papi has a Motorcycle*.

These treasures and many more very special new books are waiting for you at the library!



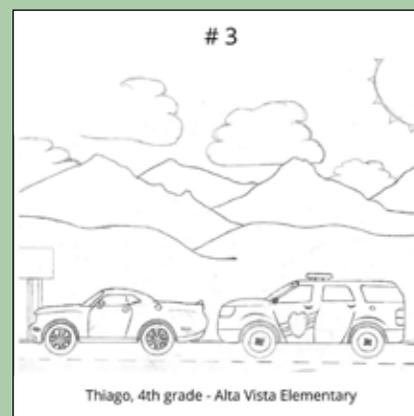
YOUNG PEOPLE'S COLUMN

(Formerly known as the Kids' Corner)



Photo by Claire Coté

"I Like Green" by 2-year-old Olivia Coté, acrylic on paper



Thiago, 4th grade - Alta Vista Elementary

The New Mexico State Police held a NMSP drawing contest and saw lots of creativity and talent from the young people who entered. The six finalists will appear in an upcoming NMSP coloring book, as well as on a t-shirt. This beautiful drawing is by a local student, Thiago Padilla, from Alta Vista Elementary School, he was a finalist for this contest. As of press time, it is believed that Thiago's entry may have won the contest, as most of the votes were in for his drawing.

Photo Courtesy of The New Mexico State Police

Questa Land Grant Association Seeking New Members

By MALAQUIAS RAE

La Merced de San Antonio Del Rio Colorado is seeking new members to its organization. One may ask what is *La Merced*? In 1842, citizens of this community formed an organization and petitioned the Mexican government for land to build a community here in Questa. The Mexican government approved the request of the approximately fifty families to settle here. This land grant allowed the citizens the opportunity to build homes, to farm, ranch, and to utilize the forest for their needs. The organization was disbanded six years later, when the U.S. government denied the *Merced* its status as a land grant. The decision came about with the *Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo* in 1848. Then came a surprise: about 165 years later, the New Mexico legis-

lature recognized the *San Antonio Del Rio Colorado Land Grant Association*. The association is now a sub-entity of the state. We have joined with other land grant organizations to advocate on behalf of their members. Currently the San Antonio is a landless land grant association. The lands we are living on were deeded to the people living here at the time or considered to be part of the Department of Interior and the U.S. forest system.

In 2014, the Chevron mine decided to shut down its mining operation in Questa. Subsequently, Chevron has begun the process of divesting itself of the properties it owns in and around the area. This divestment has created an opportunity for Questa's *San Antonio Land Grant Association* to acquire lands that were formerly in the land grant of 1842. We are currently in

discussions with Chevron officials as to which parcels may be available. We are hoping to acquire the lands available and use them for the benefit of the members and the community.

Our group is small and in need of members. Members will need to be descendants of the families that settled this community. Genealogical research has been provided to the group to help with the recruitment of new members. Many of the descendants of the original settlers still live in New Mexico. One does not have to live in Questa to be a member.

Now is the time to truly reestablish the oldest organization in Questa! If you are interested to know more about the *San Antonio Del Rio Colorado Land Grant Association*, please contact Malaquias Rael at (575) 779-0623 or Cynthia Rael-Vigil at (575) 779-9249.

POEM OF THE MONTH

MOths TO LIGHT

Thumping
Moths on ceiling
Circling the light
The warmth and glow
Attract them
To a certain wild delight

Awed
By all that brilliance
They are numb to any pain
That would warn them
Of a danger
They love it just the same.

Lou McCall



Class of 2020 Senior Parade

By MARY FLORES, MARIA GONZALEZ, RACHEL KUC

On May 30, the parade honoring our 2020 Questa High School seniors was a success. Organized and planned by Maria Gonzalez and Mary Flores, it was important to show these great young adults that the community cares for them and that they are not forgotten during this COVID-19 pandemic. These 2020 seniors, like so many others, lost out on the last months of the best times together that they will never get back. Graduation, Senior Night, and Prom are a special time in their lives that were replaced by the world of computerized virtual ceremonies that are not heartfelt or personal. "I commend the Class of 2020 from Questa High School for their hard work and commitment in getting their diplomas," said Mary Flores.

On this beautiful day in May, Highway 522 was filled with people all along the sides cheering and waving to the graduates



Photo by Amy Vialpando

Senior Parade: There may not have been a graduation ceremony but QHS Class of 2020 got a Senior Parade! Organized by Maria Gonzalez and Mary Flores, the parade was held on May 30th. Pictured above are George Rael and John Martinez who rode their horses among the floats.

as they paraded through Questa on their decorated vehicles. While they drove past

the stoplight near Rael's Market, their names were announced by Mr. Michael

Rael Sr., and recognized for their accomplishments. The smiles on their faces were priceless, giving us that vision of hope that these young men and women will do great things as they venture on their own journeys.

This community event was a collaboration between Questa Class of 2020 senior parents, Vida Del Norte Drug-Free Coalition, The Village of Questa, Questa and Cerro EMS, Taos County Sheriff's Office, Harvest Questa, Living Word Ministries, and other community members. Vida Del Norte Coalition thanks all who helped make this event possible.

The graduation parade was live-streamed, and the video is up on our website for those who could not see it in person. More photos and the video can be viewed online at vidadelnorte.com/2020-senior-album and also on our Facebook and Instagram pages ([facebook.com/vidadelnortecoalition](https://www.facebook.com/vidadelnortecoalition), [instagram.com/vidadelnorte](https://www.instagram.com/vidadelnorte)).

Vida Del Norte and Active8: A Busy Spring and Summer!



By MARIA GONZALEZ AND RACHEL KUC

The members of Active8, the youth volunteers with Vida Del Norte Coalition, have been staying busy lending a help-

ing hand in our community this spring. They have been helping out at the North Central New Mexico Food Pantry. One day they gave out close to 200 boxes of food! Some of the Active8 have also been working as youth interns at the Questa Farmers Market.

Active8 conducted a survey of our local alcohol establishments to determine the amount of alcohol advertising that our youth are exposed to on a daily basis. Much has been discovered. There were nine advertisements at one location, 11

at another, and 19 at the other establishment. We did not see any alcohol advertising anywhere other than the liquor establishments, which is a good thing. The reason for completing this project is to bring public awareness to the fact that people have become desensitized to how alcohol is perceived in our culture. Alcohol marketers have made alcohol look glamorous, fun, and entertaining, sending the message that people need alcohol to have fun.

Vida Del Norte's focus is to change

that mindset in our community. Starting with our youth, we hope to re-sensitize our children and adults to understand that some of the messaging that kids receive can have a negative effect on them. Vida Del Norte will be placing positive messages throughout the community that portray fun ways to live without alcohol or drugs. We will also be working with local establishments to address the amount of advertising on their premises. Our goal is to come up with a positive messaging solution for our community and youth.

Anti-Vaping/Anti-Underage Drinking PSA Contest!

By MARIA GONZALEZ AND RACHEL KUC

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

A PSA 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 are basically commercials with a positive message. They 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 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) entitled *Talk. They Hear You.* The youth in our community can help spread awareness about the dangers of underage drinking and vaping, show their commitment to an alcohol-free and vape-free lifestyle, and win prizes by entering a 30

to 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 2nd-prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$75, and the 3rd-prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$50. Clubs, school groups, and school teams are encouraged to enter.

All entries are due by August 31, 2020. Entries will be judged at the Vida Del Norte Coalition September Monthly Meeting. Please visit www.vidadelnorte.com for all rules and regulations to enter.



Udall, Heinrich, Luján Applaud Nearly \$3 Million DOT Grant for Low Emission Bus Program

U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and U.S. Representative Ben Ray Luján announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded a \$2,920,000 grant to the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) for the Low or No-Emission bus program, to replace gas-powered buses in its fleet with electric buses and their accompanying charging infrastructure.

The NCRTD serves residents of northern New Mexico across five counties, including those in over 70 rural communities and nine federally-recognized Tribes. NCRTD expects the adoption of these vehicles to save over \$1 million in fuel and maintenance costs across their life cycles compared with gas-powered buses, allowing NCRTD to redirect the savings towards other pressing transit issues.

“Reliable access to safe and affordable transportation is critical for all New Mexicans, especially for rural and Tribal

communities during this public health crisis,” said Udall, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. “Families across northern New Mexico rely on the freely accessible service that the North Central Regional Transit District provides to get the healthcare and essential services they need. This grant funding for low-emission buses will provide not only reliable transportation, but also transportation opportunities that are cost-effective and good for public health and the environment. This funding is a step in the right direction to ensure that all New Mexicans are able to travel to medical facilities and essential work facilities while also providing a reliable resource for sustainable transportation, once the pandemic subsides.”

“When we support low or no emission vehicle projects, we provide communities with much needed upgrades to their transportation infrastructure, promote cleaner air, and help expand rider access,” said Heinrich. “Investing

in cleaner transportation isn’t just about harnessing our innovative clean energy potential. It is about saving thousands of lives every year by reducing our reliance on asthma-inducing diesel vehicles. That is why I am proud to lead the effort on the Low or No Emission Bus Access Act to improve funding and the application process for state and local governments to modernize aging bus fleets. As we welcome this funding, I will keep fighting to improve our modes of public transportation for a cleaner, brighter future.”

“Transitioning our state’s public transportation to low and zero-emissions fleets doesn’t just protect our air, it makes economic sense too. These state-of-the-art buses will save the Northern Central Regional Transit District millions of dollars as they connect communities across northern New Mexico,” said Luján. “As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I’ll continue working to bring strong invest-

ments in green transportation and make New Mexico a leader in the fight against climate change.”

The Low or No Emission Grant program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses. It also provides monetary support for the acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

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



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



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



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



Short-term Rentals and Lodging: COVID-19-Safe Requirements & Best Practices

By LINDSAY MAPES

In this constantly evolving health and safety environment, it is challenging to stay informed on the state's emergency public health orders. As summer tourists from COVID-19 hotspots descend upon Questa, how do we welcome them while keeping ourselves, our families, and our guests safe?

Start by following the Governor's latest COVID Safe Practices (CSPs). Here are the latest CSPs that impact short-term rentals and those in the lodging industry (as of print date). <https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-safe-practices/>

Required for Accommodations, Including Short-term Rentals

- Adhere to maximum occupancy limits per the State's Public Health Order.
- Limit the allowance of multiple guests per room to "same households" only (individuals who live within the same place of residence).
- Utilize signage in front-of-house and back-of-house to communicate occupancy limits and health, hygiene and safety procedures.
- Provide information to guests on health, hygiene and safety procedures with guest check-in packets and/or through digital reservation confirmations.
- Private hot tubs and saunas are required to be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Remove self-serve refreshments such as water, ice, coffee, etc. Provide those services upon request.
- Comfort items and appliances such as coffee machines, irons, hair dryers, extra blankets, etc., may be provided for guests upon request. If requested, items must be cleaned per CDC or AHLA cleaning standards before provided to guests.
- Remove from rooms unnecessary items such as paper, pens, booklets, extra towels, decorative bedding, etc.
- Housekeeping shall only provide cleaning service during a guest's stay upon request by the guest.
- All bed linen and towels must be changed only after the guest has concluded their stay or upon guest request.
- In the event of a presumptive case of COVID-19, the property will adhere to guidelines outlined by the CDC

on disinfecting rooms of an infected individual.

- For laundry: Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely; Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick; Do not shake dirty laundry; Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces; Remove gloves, and wash hands right away; For meetings or events, adhere to Mass Gathering limitation in the State's Public Health Order.
- Limit operations to remote work to the greatest extent possible.
- Arrange workplace to provide for 6 feet of distance between individuals wherever possible.
- Close common areas where personnel are likely to congregate or modify them to minimize contact.
- Provide for all meetings to take place remotely whenever possible.
- Utilize signage to communicate to customers to wear face coverings.
- Offer face coverings and gloves to customers.
- Ensure all employees have face coverings or masks and wear them in the workplace at all times when in the presence of others, except when eating, drinking or exercising, or unless otherwise advised by a health care provider.
- Screen employees and customers with a no-contact thermometer; individuals with a temperature reading above 100.4°F should be denied entry.
- Screen employees before they enter the workplace each day (verbally or with a written form or text). Send employees home who are experiencing the following COVID-19 symptoms related to COVID-19 and direct them to obtain free testing through the Department of Health.
 - Fever • Cough
 - Shortness of breath • Sore throat
 - Headache • Muscle pain • Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills • Loss of taste or smell
- Train all employees on daily cleaning and disinfecting protocol, hygiene, and respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs).
- Make handwashing, sanitizer, and other hygiene support available to employees. Note: the use of gloves is not a substitute for frequent handwashing.
- Maintain a schedule of stringent daily cleaning and sanitizing.
- Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch items such as doors and credit card terminals.
- Prohibit employees with known close contact to a person who has COVID-19 to return to work until authorized by the Department of Health.
- Minimize non-essential travel.

Best Practices for Accommodations, Including Short-term Rentals

- Install large plexiglass sneeze guards at reception desks wherever possible.
 - Arrange for contactless payment and receipt options to the greatest extent possible.
 - Arrange for mobile check-in and paperless check-out to the greatest extent possible.
 - Screen employees with a no-contact thermometer; individuals with a temperature reading above 100.4°F should be denied entry.
 - Pet-friendly properties should limit guests to keeping pets within private lodging areas only.
 - Develop a COVID-19 communication plan and provide a forum for answering employee questions and addressing concerns.
 - Appoint a COVID-Safe Practice leader or team to enact safe practices in the workplace.
 - Review employee leave policies and modify as needed to ensure compliance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
 - Consider assigning vulnerable workers duties that minimize their contact with customers and other employees (e.g., managing inventory rather than working as a cashier, managing administrative needs through telework).
 - To support contact tracing, retain a daily log for at least four weeks including the date, name, phone number of all customers and employees who enter the workplace.
 - Follow all heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) preventative maintenance as required by the manufacturer on prescribed schedules. When possible, consult with an HVAC engineer to improve ventilation and minimize the potential for worker exposure.
- While this list may seem overwhelming, it is not impossible. Lodgers from

all over New Mexico are implementing these standards. If you have questions or concerns about any of these requirements or need assistance in understanding them, the New Mexico Tourism Department has created a COVID-19 Task Force for Accommodations. You can reach the tourism office by calling (505) 827-7400 and requesting to speak with the COVID-19 Task Force on accommodations.

FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE JUNE 16, 2020

Business NM Safe Certified

New Mexico Safe Certified is an industry-led initiative that trains New Mexico businesses in COVID-Safe Practices (CSPs) to help ensure all of us — customers, employees, and families — remain safe as New Mexico reopens for business and recreation. NM Safe Certified wants businesses to know they are not alone, and customers to know they can feel confident about visiting businesses in a COVID-positive world.

NM Safe Certified also awards special recognition and benefits to New Mexico businesses that have completed the NM Safe Certified training program with free advertising in New Mexico Magazine digital. NM Safe Certified Benefits include:

- Recognition as a NM Safe Certified business
- Alignment with the visible NM Safe Certified brand
- Usage of the NM Safe Certified "seal" to promote your business
- Presence on the NMSafeCertified.org business directory
- Access to NM Safe Certified Resource Toolkit, which includes sample health questionnaires and liability waivers
- Receive the latest news about revisions and updates to the *All Together New Mexico: COVID-Safe Practices for Individuals and Employers*
- Participation in statewide peer learning communities to share best practices, troubleshoot common challenges, and access additional resources
- Admission to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Procurement Collective
- Tourism-related business who have their employees complete the NM Safe Certified training will receive a \$250 digital advertising credit per person up to \$2,000 from New Mexico Magazine. *Credit may be used toward the purchase of one-month digital media packages through January 31, 2021. Specific space requests are first come, first served and subject to availability.*

Virgil Martinez Turns 100

By BUD MARTINEZ

Virgil Martinez celebrated his 100th birthday with his family on May 21, at Questa Lodge. He was surprised as friends and family organized a parade to wish him a happy birthday.

Virgil was born May 21, 1920 in Questa, New Mexico to Marcelino and Alfreda Vialpando Martinez. He grew up in Questa with his brothers Marcelino, Jose, Federico, and Gomersindo.

He began his education at the Moly Mine School and then attended Allison James Middle School in Santa Fe. He graduated as valedictorian from Menaul High School in Albuquerque in 1938. Virgil continued his studies at Stanford University, the University of Arizona, and finally at the University of Denver, where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biology.

In 1941 Virgil married Ruth Rebecca Bazan from El Paso, Texas at El Buen Pastor Church in Questa, on August 24. They were married nearly 75 years and have four children - Yolanda, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Virgil Jr.; nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

During World War II, Virgil entered military service in February 1942, in the Army Air Corps. His degrees in biology came in handy; he was trained as a flight surgeon's assistant and was stationed overseas, primarily in Italy.

After the war, Virgil began his teaching career in Questa. Later he moved his family to Albuquerque, where he taught biology and general science at Albuquerque High School for over 30 years.

Upon retirement, Virgil and Ruth moved back to Questa, an area Virgil has said many times is the most beautiful



place he has ever seen! They bought the El Seville Restaurant and Sangre De Cristo Motel in 1974 and enjoyed providing service to the community for over 30 years. In 1978 he also bought the Questa Lodge, as Virgil was always looking for opportunities to share and promote the beauty of Questa and the surrounding area with others.

Living 100 years, he has seen the world transform in many ways, but Virgil's sense of community, faith, and moral character has never changed. He is still a blessing to those who know and love him.

Photo by Becky Hollander

Virgil celebrating his birthday with family (Bud, Yolanda, and Richard) at Questa Lodge. Not pictured is Virgil's daughter Becky Hollander, who took this picture.

Virgil and Ruth Martinez married in August 24, 1941 at El Buen Pastor Church in Questa, NM.

Courtesy Photos

Virgil during World War II military service in the Army Air Corps.



Joan MacDonald, Maskmaker Extraordinaire

By LOU MCCALL

Many area residents are decked out in colorful cotton masks, thanks to the efforts of one Cerro resident who wants to help keep our community safe. Because her daughter is a nurse in the intensive care unit of Holy Cross Hospital, Joan MacDonald started working with the hospital when they first began looking for mask patterns. The hospital then approved her pattern, and she began making and donating masks. When masks became mandatory protective



Courtesy Photos

Joan MacDonald's cotton masks come in a variety of colors and patterns and have a convenient secret filter pocket! Masks are sold at the Questa Center Supermarket.

equipment for the general public, she started selling them, at a minimal cost.

One reason Joan's design was chosen is because it has a clever filter pocket in which to insert a filter which will provide an extra layer of precaution. The washable cotton mask with elastic loops keeps the filter clean, so it does not have to be disposed of so often.

The masks are available in many beautiful colors and patterns. You can buy one for between \$5 and \$10. They are sold exclusively at the Questa Center

Supermarket. If you know anyone who needs a mask, you know where to send them! Questa Center Supermarket is located at 5 Supermarket Road, off the east side of Highway 522 in Questa and is open from 8 am to 7 pm, seven days a week. Like most retail establishments, they require everyone to wear a mask before entering the store. If you forget your mask, no problem! you can get one right as you come in the door!

"Everyone, stay safe and healthy," says Joan.



PAIN AND GLORY

By MICHAEL YOUNG

Pain and Glory is an intimate look inside the mind of writer-director, Pedro Almodovar. Probably Spain's premier filmmaker, Almodovar had an important role in cultivating the talents of Antonio Banderas and Penelope Cruz, both of whom star in this film.

Banderas plays the character Salvador Mallo, who is essentially Almodovar himself. Mallo is an accomplished movie director who hasn't made a movie in a while. He is exploring the meaning of life as an older man - much as Almodovar, who is now 71, has been doing. Banderas does a terrific job exposing the character flaws of a man navigating existential crises as he bounces between the requirements of dealing with both his pain and his glory.

Mallo's pain is rooted in the physical medical conditions which result in chronic pain. He is under a regimen of drugs to manage it. This pain is also emotional, because he is trying to reestablish what he once had - his glory in the eyes of his fans, the public, and his co-workers. He made several well-received movies decades earlier, and he is involved in efforts to resurrect his past achievements. One of those effort is a Q & A at a local theater after a screening of one of his movies from 30 years ago. As part of that Q & A, he decides to bring the actor Alberto Crespo, who played the main character in that movie, with him. A significant part of the movie is the reconnection of these two men as they prepare for the Q & A session. Mallo's pain leads him to reconsider Alberto in a new, and perhaps less critical light.

Things expected and not expected happen in the course of this dip into the past. An expected event was Mallo's experimentation with heroin, which not only relieves his intense pain, but also forces him to rethink his differences with Alberto. Mallo finds that he, too, is suffering from addictions to the past glories

of his career. As if there aren't enough threads in this drama already, there is an unexpected development in the appearance of Mallo's first true love, allowing him to explore yet another memory.

The movie's dramatic success is found in the weaving between these different threads as they wrap around his goals of controlling present pain and resurrecting past glory. A significant part of the film involves flashbacks to Mallo's youth where, as a young boy he discovers the essential creative forces that made him who he is. These scenes are all beautifully crafted, and we see how the young Mallo was sculpted into someone who loves reading, singing, and directing. We also witness a sexual awakening that reaches fruition only years later. (If you think Penelope Cruz becomes the lover of Banderas' character, think again. She is, instead, excellently developed as the young Mallo's mother.)

Pain and Glory is an international film, operating with a small budget, so it doesn't belabor special effects. Instead the focus is on the components of actually telling a story, what I call "above-the-line" skills, such as acting, directing, and writing. Banderas deserved the nomination for his performance and Cruz is terrific in her supporting role. But perhaps the best performance is Almodovar's, as both writer and director. He has delivered a multi-layered drama that weaves scenes from the past delicately around events of the present, all to establish an interesting and complex character that is flawed, like all of us, and is therefore glorious in his pain.

SPOILER ALERT: The last few minutes of this movie will likely determine your opinion of the whole film. Mallo (Almodovar?) had been told often that he should make another movie, and he never really accepts or rejects the suggestion. But at the end of the movie, we discover something important related to the flashbacks in the film. That discovery alters your understanding. Then, as if that wasn't enough, we see Mallo on the operating table about to undergo surgery that will hopefully correct his pain forever. As you try to digest that scene, remember the very first scene of the movie, where Mallo is floating motionless in a swimming pool. The camera moves in to focus on his chest... (4 Stars)

**THINK
POSITIVE**

QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS

Relocation of Red River's Historic Mallette Cabin



Red River Historical Society

By LOU MCCALL

As those in Red River probably know, the Red River Historical Society purchased the historic Mallette Cabin, which dates back to the town's mining days. It is believed to be what Tim Collver, president of the Historical Society, calls "the oldest standing year-round-lived-in cabin" in Red River. (There is also another Mallette Cabin, situated at the 4K River Ranch [see related story, page 4]).

The Historical Society's intention in buying the cabin is to preserve it, relocate it, show it off, and to put it to work. They hope to move the Mallette Cabin to the northeast end of town, close to the existing museum, The Little Red Schoolhouse - an ideal location to greet visitors as they drive in

via Bobcat Pass. Visitors will encounter the rich history of Red River immediately upon arrival.

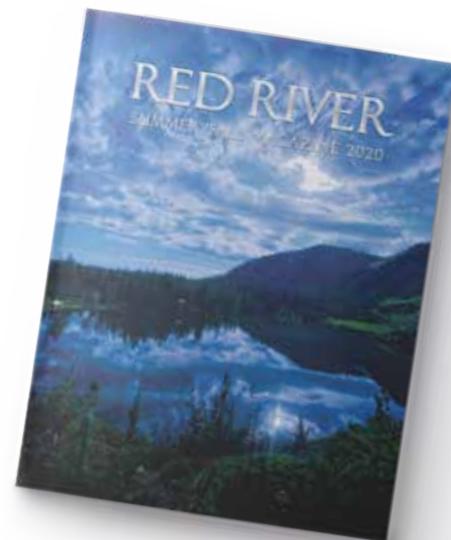
The Historical Society has many items to display, but the current museum is pretty full. The new cabin would provide a much needed additional exhibit area.

Items will most likely have their displays separated between the Schoolhouse or Mallette Cabin based upon local culture or historical significance.

In addition to the need for financial donations, the moving of the cabin will be a project requiring people, equipment, and tender loving care. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the Red River Historical Society through their Facebook page. (See related story on page 11.)

Red River Magazine

This season's beautiful activities guide for Red River is available now. Given the town's keen popularity and steady tourist draw, Kerry Shepherd and Fritz Davis printed their first summer vacation guide in 1994. Published by the *Red River Miner*, this seasonal publication - now a glossy magazine - comes out every summer, winter, and Mardi Gras. A source of recreation, special events, featuring local artisans, restaurants, and other town highlights, visitors and residents alike love it. The magazine stirs even more pride in the community for the unique and scenic spot they call home.



Red River Fire Department: A Valuable Resource for All

By CYNTHIA NAJIM

MEMBER, LATIR VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Red River is home to a vital operation of emergency responders and services: the Red River Fire Department and the Red River Fire Chasers, formerly called the Enchanted Circle Fire Chasers.

A longtime pillar of this petite town, the first fire station was a small wood frame structure built by volunteers in 1959. Today, on that same spot stands a spacious, two-story modern fire station which was constructed in 2010. This impressive facility houses a large classroom for trainings and community meetings, fire and rescue gear for all first responders, and three fire trucks - including the immense 100-foot aerial ladder truck, named Tower Ladder 1. Down the street at Town Hall is their sister station, home to the EMS operation, with three ALS (advanced life support) ambulances, and headquarters for Red River Dispatch.

The Red River Fire Department fulfills important services for the community and the broader geographic area. While 90% of their calls are EMS-related, they also respond to structure and wildland fires, motor vehicle accidents, and search-and-rescue needs. Red River is one of 18 fire departments from Colfax and Taos Counties that make up the Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Protection Association. One of the association's central functions is maintaining a Mutual Aid Plan. Under this plan, member departments share resources to ensure that an adequate workforce is dispatched to every emergency incident, regardless of size.

While the Red River Fire Department does have a few full-time and part-time paid staff, volunteers are its backbone. Recruitment and training are always a priority. Current Fire Chief Deke Willis says, "Volunteers can choose the areas of service they want to work in - EMS, fire, or the Ropes Rescue Team. Once they join, they are often eager to get involved in everything." Currently, their active roster includes 14 firefighters, 14 Ropes Rescue Team members, 15 EMS responders, and four support crew.

A career firefighter and licensed EMT-intermediate, Deke knows what it takes. He joined the department in 1985, learning as much as he could from his mentor Fire and EMS Chief Ron Burnham, who retired in October 2019. Having lived in Red River from



Photo by Cynthia Najim

Tower Ladder 1 - The king of the fleet.



Photo by Cynthia Najim

Aerial view of Red River



the age of four, Deke is well versed on the terrain, knowing nearly every nook and cranny of the mountains and valleys. Before assuming the helm at Red River, he was Fire Chief of Wheeler Peak.

With the high volume of families, adventure tourists, and bikers that annually visit Red River, it is fitting to have such well-equipped response teams for any emergency that may arise. Deke shared

the story of one recent call in June: Three tourists in their 20s were stranded atop a steep rocky outcrop in the rain. Astonishingly, they had cell service, and called 911. Given the hikers' difficult location, it took the rescue team two hours to reach them and four hours to get them down safely. Deke added, "At their elevation of 11,500 feet, hypothermia was already setting in. Without cell service, they wouldn't have made it through the night."

The Red River Fire Chasers are another valuable entity based in the valley. Similar to the well known Hot Shots, this elite team of 22 firefighters from around the Enchanted Circle is deployed to big fires in New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and other states.

During his 35 years as Red River Fire and EMS Chief, Ron Burnham was instrumental in forming the Fire Chasers. "We love our Sangre de Cristo mountains, but many wildfires occur in areas that you can't drive to. We recognized a need for an organized handcrew that had the skills, tools, and fitness level to hike into fires in remote mountainous locations. The Fire Chaser Crew was established to fill that need. Under Deke's leadership as Crew Superintendent, it has grown into a resource that is well respected for their professionalism and capabilities."

The Red River Fire Department also has a Fire Inspection Program and a Transfer Program. Fire Inspectors can be hired to conduct safety checks at local businesses to ensure electrical wiring and other fixtures are up to code and in good working order - an effective program for fire prevention. Red River's Transfer Program for patients who require specialized medical care is part of a network that provides transfer services from Holy Cross Hospital in Taos to regional specialty medical centers, delivering appropriate medical support throughout the trip. This program is an essential part of our medical system.

We are all fortunate to have these robust emergency services in our area, standing by and ready to serve. Thank you, Red River Fire Department, for all you do!

Red River Fire Department
(575) 754-6567

220 E. High St., Red River, NM 87558
<https://www.facebook.com/redriverfire/>

#BLACKLIVESMATTER cont'd from page 1

al outrage at his murder is palpable. This outrage moved hundreds of Taoseños on June 3 to stage a “die-in” at the intersection of Kit Carson and Paseo del Pueblo.

The beheading of Columbus might point to an even larger, yet local perspective offered by the Black Lives Matter movement: that we in the US are in the thralls of a new civil rights movement; a reckoning with both our past and current racism that includes the history of our region, right here at home.

Just a few days after Columbus lost his head in Boston, the statue of the conquistador Juan de Oñate was taken off its base near Alcalde, New Mexico. Like Columbus, Oñate is a polarizing figure. A 16th-century conquistador who claimed the New Mexico colony for the Spanish crown, some remem-

ber Oñate as an Hispanic hero. Yet he also killed native people in the Acoma Massacre, cut off the left feet of many as retribution, and enslaved others. When his statue disappeared, social media response was predictably divided: some blamed the “hippie” protesters that wanted to “rewrite” history and vilify the Spanish (and by extension, Hispanic descendents); others applauded the dethroning of an invader known for his cruel treatment of natives.

The Alcalde statue of Oñate was in fact NOT toppled by protesters, but was taken away by local officials who had decided to do so in advance of a protest to be held later that night. While the social media debates raged, however, another statue of Oñate outside the Albuquerque Museum was being pulled down. This time, however, the peaceful protest was surrounded by a militia group, and one protester was shot. This is our battle-

ground over who owns the past and how the past represents who we are today. The battles over Oñate memorials are part of Black Lives Matter, yet they are also about a wider civil rights reckoning that is at once local and also the story of our nation.

George Floyd’s murder has intensified the debate about historical figures and past injustices. Black Lives Matter catalyzed the current debate, but it is hardly new, and not limited to black versus white. In northern New Mexico, the Black Lives Matter movement can open discussions about the past and the present that reckon with past injustices and current forms of discrimination. These include not only how the legacy of the conquest affects us now, but also how new forms of colonization and gentrification – from Anglos and others – bring in new kinds of discrimination or replicate older ones.

Historians agree that the legacies of past injustices shape the world we live in. But post-conflict societies – groups and nations that have undergone intense conflicts such as dictatorships, civil wars and genocide – are not all equal. Research suggests that only by publicly acknowledging the past and making restitution for injustices can societies overcome those legacies of violence in the future. Coming to terms with our past and making amends for it builds more peaceful and resilient societies.

Are the diverse people of northern New Mexico ready to discuss our past discriminations and their legacies in the present? If we do not reckon with the ways that violence has shaped our lives today, we cannot hope to move forward into the multicultural, unified community we envision. It is time to engage in this conversation, because it is already here.

Positive Thoughts
by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

Waking up seems to be an effort for humanity. Yet, spiritual awakening should be easy, right? If waking up in the morning is analogous, then yes. Morning comes, the sun shines, and we wake up from sleep. Various spiritual traditions report that spiritual awakening is just that easy. Climb a mountain to get to hallowed ground, or make time for meditation? This requires effort and letting go of our own self-importance. Putting oneself in another's shoes requires an open heart and open-mindedness, putting oneself on the back burner. The experience of the burning bush, or a revelation, or empathy are like the sun rising in the morning waking us up. We all have that ability, inherent in our nature. We are no different than Moses or Jesus, St. Francis or Buddha.

COVID-19 put a temporary halt to life as we knew it. In doing so, the human struggle has been felt afresh. The greedy found new troughs to feed from. They lined up first for federal funds intended for the small businesses and sole proprietors being strangled by the economic pause throughout America. The rich pocketed hundreds of millions of dollars, leaving the coffers empty for mom-and-pop vendors. Yet, a few of the well-off business owners discovered their conscience and gave back the money. They implored others of similar financial ease to do the same. Those who were

truly greedy kept the funds never intended for them. Their karma is assured. But the ones who gave back the money apologized and stood for doing the right thing; they displayed an awakening. Their merit is assured as well.

As I write this in early June, the United States is in its second week of demonstrations regarding the death of George Floyd by suffocation under the knee of a police officer. The bystander video has been a revelation to many, but, unfortunately to people of color, it was all too familiar. The blessing from Mr. Floyd’s death is that those who are not oppressed are now feeling the truth of systemic injustice.

In cities large and small across America, the demonstrations have been for the most part respectful and non-destructive, with people wearing masks mindfully. The demonstrators are diverse in age, race, and social background. They represent the rainbow of the U.S. population and the diverse needs of us all. Underlying their slogans and signs is a necessary call to acknowledge. Acknowledge what? Everything. But the interesting thing about acknowledgment, even for you and me in our own lives, is that one small truth leads to the next; one precious moment of self-honesty seeds the next circumstance where the same self-honesty will be required. Respect generates respect like the ongoing ripples produced by a stone tossed in water. Disrespect creates ripples, too, but those go inward like poison. The ripples born of respect, courtesy, ethical choices, true moral character, and of being up-

standing always expand outward like the ripples in water.

Respect also generates ease of mind and emotions. One has done no harm so there is no negative boomerang effect. More important is that through courtesy and virtuous character, one has made the world a better place. How? By simply being good, kind, authentic, and caring. These qualities illustrate how easy awakening is: to simply be who you are: good by nature, open-hearted and open-minded, fair and just, up-standing, courteous, and respectful. If effort is required, it is that of not sliding into societally fostered selfishness and self-importance.

The only people who are not immigrants in the New World are the indigenous native peoples of North, Central, and South America. Black people were brought in slave ships chained by the neck, hands, and feet. Though the Latin-American community has also been persecuted for many decades in this hemisphere, that history has its karmic past as well. There is much to acknowledge, to address, to teach fully in school, to own up to, apologize for, and to forgive. Each of these are implicit steps toward awakening our history and an awakening for all people of the world.

July marks the birthday of the “great experiment” of the United States. Two-hundred-and-forty-four years ago the Declaration of Independence was read aloud in gathering places and on the steps of civic buildings. “All men (people) are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights.” With humanity,

it seems that good things take time, such as equality and rights – these ideas are fresh again in our minds.

July includes World UFO Day, World Chocolate Day, and Global Forgiveness Day. Both the United States and France celebrate their independence from monarchies in July. Nelson Mandela, who led the non-violent movement to end apartheid in South Africa, is remembered in July as well.

I hope your gardens are doing well!

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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!



ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
JULY 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: Family issues may have you feeling "all at sea."
Direction: Ride out the storm; clarity will come by month's end.
Soul Thought: "It's the set of the sails and not the gales that determine the way we go." Ella Wilcox

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: Some groundless sentiments heading your way.
Direction: Keep your own counsel clear.
Soul Thought: "We can like people into liking themselves." H.A. Overstreet

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: Another good month for study, communication, understanding.
Direction: Decide when/whether to be teacher or student.
Soul Thought: Education. Education. Education.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: If you haven't been on a spiritual path, now is the time.
Direction: Dream on it.
Soul Thought: Now there's a start!

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: It's a time for caregiving from the heart.
Direction: Is it just your mother?
Soul Thought: Or the whole human family?

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: You could set things afire on July 4.
Direction: Do you want to be the final straw?
Soul Thought: How much CAN break a camel's back?

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: A good time to invest in something solid.
Direction: Use that discernment you came here to learn about.
Soul Thought: Eeny, meeny, miney, moe?

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: Someone will blame you for their troubles.
Direction: Now is the time to take initiative for the non-blame game.
Soul Thought: The beginning of a whole new world.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ☉ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: You're caught in the middle of a battle between giants.
Direction: Stay calm and continue evolving.
Soul Thought: "Nothing can bring you peace but yourself." Ralph Waldo Emerson

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You're back in your strongest zone.
Direction: But you have opportunity to view it differently.
Soul Thought: "People become attached to their burdens sometimes more than the burdens are attached to them." George Bernard Shaw

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: It may not be your happy place, but it's opportunity.
Direction: Friends might help.
Soul Thought: What is the karma of excess?

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: The path is open and a little clearer now.
Direction: While others ponder, it could be decision-making time for you.
Soul Thought: The rewards of deep diving.

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

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 2020

JULY 1 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Questa Visitor Center opens for the summer, open daily Wednesday through Sunday. (575) 586-2149

JULY 1

Taos County Counts - Census Day!

JULY 3

Town of Red River 125th Birthday!

JULY 4

Happy Birthday to the United States!

JULY 5 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

JULY 6 - 12

LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS CENSUS WEEK Have you done your 2020 CENSUS? Please help your local First Responders by doing so; when you get counted, it ensures that First Responders receive the maximum Federal funding available to our community.

JULY 7 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.

JULY 10 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

JULY 12 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

JULY 14 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.

JULY 15

Deadline to register for QCC online auction, free of charge. (505) 974-5314. Visit questaartstour.com

JULY 15 6:00 PM

Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network Meeting via Zoom, email lynn@QuestaEDF.com for Zoom link. Everyone is welcome to join the community conversation.

JULY 19 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

JULY 21 6:00 PM

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

JULY 24 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Food for everyone at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486.

JULY 26 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

JULY 27 6:00 PM

QEDF Board Meeting, via Zoom, email lynn@QuestaEDF.com for Zoom link.

JULY 28 6:00 PM

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

JULY 29 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Questa Credit Union will be holding a sale of items left over from our remodel, doors, desk etc. (575) 586-0694.

AUGUST 1

Deadline for registered artists to complete QCC online auction. (505) 974-5314.

Mark Your Calendars! Questa Studio Tour Online Local Art Auction Aug. 15-16th! www.questaartstour.com

SPECIAL DAYS IN JULY:

- July 2** World UFO Day
- July 7** Global Forgiveness Day, World Chocolate Day
- July 12** Simplicity Day
- July 18** Nelson Mandela Day
- July 20** International Chess Day
- July 26** Parents Day
- July 27** Love is Kind Day
- July 29** International Tiger Day
- July 30** International Day of Friendship



HELP WANTED

QUESTA LUMBER & HARDWARE Seeks vendor to provide worms for fishing and gardening. Please call JR at 586-0414.

PART TIME VISITOR CENTER STAFF. Questa Visitor Information Center is hiring a part time summer position, 10am – 3pm several days per week (TBD), including weekends. Greet guests, make recommendations, give directions and distribute information about Questa area. Answer phones, sell merchandise, clean and organize the space. No experience necessary. Knowledge of Questa area preferred and a Spanish speaker would be great! Send email to: 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

Questa Credit Union will be holding a sale of items left over from our remodel, doors, desk etc. It will be on July 29th from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

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 tipis. 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 Del Rio News is looking for a volunteer staff photographer/photo editor along with a volunteer coordinator. Both positions would require a few hours a month of your time. Good communication skills and honoring of deadlines are essential. Contact us about joining our fun team! 575-586-2149 or news@questaedf.com.

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

NOTICES

LATIR FIRE DISTRICT RESIDENTS: If you have NOT received your copy of the Emergency Evacuation Plan by email from your Neighborhood Association, please let us know at latirfirejona@taosnet.com or leave a message at the LVFD at (575) 586.0645.

QCC ONLINE AUCTION AUGUST 15-16 Mark your calendars! Tune in to our planned live art auction on the two days the tour would have been held, August 15 and 16. Go to our website (www.questaartstour.com) and you'll see how to "do" the auction.

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 recent commentaries by Lisa Fox called, 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 May 2020, enjoy!

The North Central New Mexico Food Pantry distributes food to 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. To make a donation please visit <https://www.ncfpquesta.com/>

PERSONALS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO VIRGIL MARTINEZ WHO TURNED 100 ON MAY 21, 2020! See related story on page 25.

Love Notes from Lisa for July "What I tell you three times is true." –The Queen, Alice in Wonderland

Got Something? Need Something? Find it in the Questa Del Rio News Classifieds!

Call or email for our affordable rates!
QuestaDelRioNewsAds@gmail.com



QUESTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

JOB VACANCIES

- Elementary Teacher 2020-2021 School Year
- Secondary Science-Part time 2020-2021 School Year

Application Packet available at <http://qisd-nm.schoolloop.com> Application packet should include: Complete QISD Certified Application, Letter of Interest, Current Resume, (3) Three Employment or Education References (Include Current Names, Titles, Addresses and Phone Numbers), Transcripts from each crediting college or university,

Satisfactory Completion of Background Investigation
INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

Submit Applications to:

STACEY DANIS, Director of Human Resources
575-586-0421 EXT.1011

EMAIL sdanis@questa.k12.nm.us

Questa Independent School District
P.O. BOX 440, Questa, NM 87556



Happy Independence Day!



July QBEN Meeting
Wednesday, July 15
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).

Blue Bus Resumes Regular Red River Route and Others

On June 29, the NCRTD Blue Bus will resume regular routes on six routes which had been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

The routes include the **310 Red River, 255 Mountain Trail, 305 Taos Express, 400 Los Alamos, 280 Eldorado, and 260 La Cienega.**

The weekend 305 Taos Express requires reservations as seating is limited.

Requests must be made at least 24-hours in advance at 866-206-0754, ext 2.

The routes will operate fare-free until further notice.

Face coverings will continue to be mandatory in order to board the bus.

Also, seating will be limited due to social distancing and the

State order restricting groups to five or less.

The NCRTD continues to take aggressive measures to clean and disinfect passenger vehicles daily. Our top priorities are to continue service to the public, and to keep them and our employees healthy and safe. The District asks that anyone experiencing flu symptoms refrain from boarding our vehicles.

www.ncrtd.org



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

Let us know if you have a house, trailer,
apartment or other property to rent or if you
are looking for housing in the Questa area.
We can match you to the right
property or person!



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](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

IDENTIFYING FEAR

The chief activator of our defects
has been self-centered fear. . .

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE
TRADITIONS, p. 76

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



KEITH D. JAMESON, D.D.S.

Questa Dental Center

2451 Highway 522

575-586-0259

COMPOST • TOPSOIL • MULCH • GREENHOUSE & GARDEN CUSTOM SOIL BLENDS

UTE MOUNTAIN RANCH



DAVE WEST

Home: (719) 672-4404

Cell: (575) 770-8841

Fax: (719) 672-4504

utemountainranch.com

8377 County Rd B, Jaroso, CO 81138 • P.O. Box E, Jaroso, CO 81138



575-586-0561

NorthStar Tire & Auto



The guys at NorthStar give the best care for the car or truck you love!

Jay's Unique Thrift Shop

THIS AIN'T NO MUSEUM...THIS JUNK IS FOR SALE!



Jason Rice

(575) 779-3723

mtnrice@aol.com

Questa, New Mexico

CarQuesta Auto Parts 

hydraulic hoses and small engine repair

**You need it?
We rent it.**

2420 St. Hwy 522

Questa, NM 87556

575-586-0419/0418

QUESTA LUMBER & HARDWARE CO.



2349 NM HWY-522

Questa, NM 87556

Phone: (575) 586-0414

Fax: (575) 586-1916

Cerro Vista Farm

Fresh Produce and Flowers

June 24th through September 30th

Wednesdays 3 pm to 6 pm

198 Lower Buena Vista Road

See the farm online at:

cerrovistafarm.com

L&E Self Storage

\$40 for 5'x10'

\$60 10'x10'

\$90 10'x20'

(575) 586-0568 (575) 586-0695

32 Sagebrush Rd. (next to Questa High School)

Located in Questa!

Marvelous Mongrels & Mutts
Mmmm Grooming

Linda Hjortkjaer | 505-545-1508



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

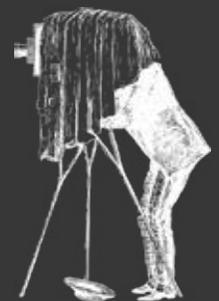
Photographer and writer, Judy Barnes, is founder and director of *Spirit of the Wild Horse*, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Their mission is for the preservation and protection of America's wild horses. Their goal is to bring awareness to the public for the need to reinstate federal protection, and provide sanctuary for the horses to live in freedom; without fear and harassment, for future generations to experience.

<https://spiritofthewildhorse.com/>

Photo by Judy Barnes

JudyBarnesPhotography.com

Think you can take
a good photo?
Prove it.



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