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Questa Del Rio News

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Join the feasibility meeting via Zoom on August 4 at 2pm.

Questa Recreation Assessment Plan – be a part of the public stakeholder discussions this month.

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BREAKING NEWS



Questa High School Coach Madrid is Back!

New at Roots & Wings Community School



Courtesy Photos

Roots and Wings student enjoys outdoor time with a journal during a wilderness trip.

By PEG BARTLETT

Roots & Wings Community School in Lama, NM, is excited to welcome its new director, Jon Orris. Jon hails from Colorado and is excited to work through the challenges and adventures of the upcoming school year.

Jon holds a B.A. in Recreation and Parks from Pennsylvania State University, and a M.A. in Elementary Education emphasizing place-based curriculum design from Prescott College. Jon was an

educator and administrator in the educational non-profit sector for 20 years before moving into Colorado Charter Schools and now to New Mexico.

Jon is an avid outdoor explorer, photographer, river runner, and fly fisherman, spending much of his free time in the desert southwest. Jon is excited to support and participate in the wilderness and project-based curriculum that RWCS offers.

RWCS is in its 21st year serving K-8 students in Taos County. As a public charter school, the enrollment system

is set up as a lottery. Any student is free to apply. RWCS teaches 50 students in three cohorts – K-2 learn together, grades 3-5 learn together and grades 6-8 learn together. This allows all abilities to thrive whether they perform above or below grade level. Special education students are included in the regular classroom and modifications are made as needed. Three classroom teachers, one director, one office assistant, one special ed teacher, a reading

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Adjusting to COVID: QHS New Welding Program

By SARA MARTINEZ

After years in the making, Questa High School is finally ready to start a Welding Program. We found an instructor. The equipment and the classroom are ready. But wait, we have one more obstacle – the COVID-19 pandemic.

Questa Independent Schools (QISD) along with its community partners are researching all the options available to make sure the new welding program will be ready to go this school year.

In 2014, Chevron announced it would close the Questa Mine permanently. This was a shock to the commu-

nity, as many local youth had relied on the mine as a solid career path. Shortly after, Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) was created and one of their key focuses was developing

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Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

Published Monthly by the
Questa Del Rio News
Publicación mensual por
EL FONDO PARA EL DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO DE QUESTA
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QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS
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Questa Del Rio News
DE LA COMUNIDAD DE QUESTA
FONDO PARA EL DESARROLLO DE QUESTA
PO Box 1072 • 1 Highway 38 • Questa, NM 87556 • (575) 586-2149

OUR MISSION

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

NUESTRO OBJETIVO

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

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PLEASE SEND ALL COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH
NOS PUEDEN CONTACTAR PARA INFORMACIÓN
ENVÍE ANTES DEL DÍA 15 DEL MES

news@questaedf.com

(575) 586-2149

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings, Friends,

Another year has gone by with another “Back to School” issue. Our theme became: “Back to School? – Really, Are You Sure??” No one knew whether students would be returning to school or not this fall. Either way, though, there are stories that need to be told... This issue of the newspaper was more challenging than most, and that is saying something.

When one article was ready, things changed with the state, other stories didn't happen and, well, it got complicated... If the school board voted yes on starting the school year with all virtual learning, we had one version of the article and if they voted no, we had another. Will there be a sports program? Do we print the schedules, or not? Will we meet our deadline? It was touch and go. It is surprising that only one newspaper staff member went to the emergency room with stress-related symptoms!

But that's the newspaper business: Hats off to our diligent education writer, Sara Martinez, who (pretty much single-handedly) pulled off the entire Education Section this month with mindful attention, patience, and professional skills. Thank you, Sara!

What is difficult is our concern for the future of the paper. Living with uncertainty seems to be the theme of 2020! Local newspapers have suffered in the last decades and COVID-19 has made it worse for all of us. Although some businesses continue to support our paper even though their own sales have plummeted, our ad sales have been greatly affected and we must find ways to make up for lost income. Getting this paper out every month is a result of the combined effort of many people, it is expensive to produce and a ton of work, most of it fun.

Our readers say that our community wouldn't be the same without *The Questa del Rio News*. We hear it is the best thing that has happened to the area since the Chevron Questa Mine closed and an idea took root: Questa had other things to offer besides molybdenum. Chevron has been good to the Questa area, both before and after the mine closed. Much as Questa and the surrounding communities suffered from the closure, the adage, “Something good will come of this” was true. “Every crisis is an opportunity.”

Since our first issue in February of 2018, we have grown from 12-pages and two part-time staff members to the newspaper you see today. With 32 pages, four part-time staff, a growing cadre of volunteer contributors, excellent monthly features, and a devoted readership. Our need now is to make this paper sustainable: getting more funding and selling more ads, so we can hire a part-time staffer to handle our increased workload.

Here's where you come in. We want to continue to offer the paper at no charge and would like to know that you value the paper. A small donation will communicate your support. Please take a minute out of your busy day and do that for us!

WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

LOU McCALL AND THE QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS

Want to help?

We love offering a free community newspaper and we hope to continue. Our paper isn't free to produce, though – dang! Advertising is the best way to show your support. You can buy greatly discounted ads with a one-year commitment. Anyone looking for philanthropic endeavors, please donate to us! We accept donations in a variety of ways:

- Make PayPal donations at <http://www.questanews.com/>. Scroll down to the yellow donate button and click it! Please make a monthly donation, even if it is only \$1.00. If you can spare \$3, \$5, \$10, or even \$50 or more monthly, that would keep our newspaper going.
- We love checks and money orders. Please make them out to QEDF, in the memo line, write “for newspaper” and mail it to QEDF, PO Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556
- Stop in and say hi at the Questa Visitor Center and drop off your donation. (Hours: 10 am - 3 pm Wednesday through Sunday during the summer) We are located in beautiful downtown Questa, at 1 Highway 38, just east of “the light” on the north side of the road.
- You can also help with in-kind donations in the form of volunteer hours.

Thank you for supporting your local newspaper!

OOPS!

For you astrology buffs, we apologize that we published the wrong horoscope for July! What you read was a repeat of the June column — sorry about that. The correct Esoteric Astrology column was especially interesting last month. What you missed was timely and relevant! Our astrologer, Charlene R. Johnson told us that COVID-19 has an astrology chart and described what the virus means to the world. “Corona Virus was announced to the world – just like a birth – December 31, 2019, its natal chart shows that purpose exists in everything.” It is a little late for this, but if you would like to read the July horoscope check it out here: <https://skydanceastrology.com/newsletter/>



Thanks, nice paper!!! I worked in graphic arts (dinosaur days) for many years and enjoy the attention to page layout and I can't help but proofread everything!!!

Enjoy your summer,

ALMA FLORES
EAGLE NEST, NM

Thank you to Betty Richter from the Questa community. Betty was the commander of Operation: Stop Dollar General. Thanks to her whistle blowing and tireless efforts they have been blocked, at least temporarily, from opening a store in literally her back yard. The Corporate Giant could not have been defeated without little Betty Richter, the David in this Goliath Story. We hope Betty has patted yourself on the back for a job well done. Thank you!

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF QUESTA

Dear Readers,

As you may recall we had a request from a grandma in May for a regular feature by, for and about young people. In June we ran our first segment called “Kids Corner.” We got feedback from young people that they did not like to be called “Kids” so in July we called it “Young People’s Page”, a working title... We asked our readers to give us a shout to NAME THAT SECTION!

We got one response, from our dear friend and Idea Guru, Ellen Wood. She suggested we call it “Sproutings” and we think that is a great name, especially given that the column was born in the springtime. So, unless someone has a

better idea, “Sproutings” it is!

If you are a young person, please send us your drawings, paintings, poems, essays, photographs, or whatever you have sprouted. One of our featured artists last month was Simon Coté who is only two. So, parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers and other older persons, please submit for them! Send to news@questaedf.com by the 15th of the month to be included in the next monthly edition. If submitting photographs or pictures of artwork or people, please see our July Issue, page 3: Journalism 101; Submitting Photographs.

LOU MCCALL,
EDITOR

THANK YOU TO OUR AUGUST CONTRIBUTORS!

PEG BARTLETT, LINN BAYNE, ALBERTA BOUYER, KATE BROWN, MARYANNA CLEMONS, CLAIRE COTÉ, PETE CRIDER, RALPH WALDO EMERSON, LIZ FOX, VERONICA GARCIA, AMALIA GONZALEZ, BOOBOO GONZALEZ, VANETTE HARRIS, DANIEL HERRERA, SAVANNAH HERRERA, JONATHAN HUTCHISON, GILLIAN JOYCE, ASHLEY KNUTSON, RACHEL KUC, CARRIE LEVEN, JEANNIE MASTERS, GAEA MCGAHEE, JON ORRIS, KAYLEE PIPER, MANDY STAPLETON PEGGY TRIGG, FRANK VENAGLIA, JR., SARA WHITE, TODD WYNWARD, CAROLINE YEZER, JEFF ZYLLAND

WE HAVE A WEBSITE!!!

QUESTANEWS.COM



Donations are always appreciated

Your donation helps pay for the newspaper printing, delivery and the layout, design and administrative costs of this valuable community resource.

Check out our new website and click the DONATE button!

www.questanews.com

You can also mail your check or money order with a note that it is for the newspaper, send to Questa Del Rio News, PO Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556.

Your donations are always most gratefully welcome and appreciated.

Thank you!

Questa Del Rio News
www.questanews.com

VOTE 2020

Q: IS IT TOO LATE TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

A: You still have time.

Q: HOW DO YOU REQUEST A MAIL-IN BALLOT?

A: You can register to vote AND request a mail-in ballot at the Taos County Courthouse at 105 Albright St, Suite D in Taos, 87571. You can call them and ask them to mail an application. 575-737-6400

Q: HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO VOTE BY MAIL?

A: Longer than you think, get started on it now!

Q: HOW CAN I REGISTER ONLINE?

A: YES <https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/>

Questa Del Rio News



JULY COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

By LYNN SKALL

During this new era of Zoom meetings and online events, it's even easier to participate in meetings – there's no travel time involved since you can join right from your living room! On July 15, the Questa Business Entrepreneur Network (QBEN) held its monthly meeting with another robust agenda.

The July QBEN community conversation included presentations about the upcoming Questa Area Recreational Assessment and stakeholder meetings; input was requested regarding the development of a North Central Regional Transit District Park-and-Ride program near the Visitor Center, and the establishment of a Village Lodging Tax. The Questa Creative Council introduced a new website for artists to replace the Questa Studio Tour website, and announced an online Art Auction to be held August 15-16.

QBEN MEETING

Day: Wednesday, August 16

Time: 6:00 pm,

Location: ZOOM

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

Dial in by phone:

(346) 248-7799;

Meeting ID: 825 3916 2654

Contact: Cynthia Rael-Vigil

(575) 779-9249 or

cynthiaraelvigil@yahoo.com



Courtesy Photo

Rock climbing in the Questa area is a growing sport, one of many outdoor activities that will be included in the Recreation Assessment Plan. A climber takes on the Questa Dome, located in the Latir Wilderness area of the Carson National Forest.

Questa Recreation Assessment and Stakeholder Meetings

Ashley Korenblat, of Utah's Public Lands Solutions, who has been hired by the Questa Economic Development Fund, described their plans to inventory, evaluate, and make recommendations on recreational and cultural "assets" in the Questa area. "The role of PLS," Korenblat explained, "is to help identify those resources and make recommendations on how they can be leveraged to contribute to the long-term quality of life and economic development in Questa. In addition to visitors coming to Questa to enjoy the natural resources, it is common today for businesses to move to locations with great outdoor

recreation, and for new residents, who can now work from home, to choose communities because of these cultural and outdoor experiences." Korenblat will be convening community stakeholder meetings in August to collect information and to hear your ideas and suggestions; look for more to come.

Questa Village

Lodging Tax

The second topic introduced for community feedback was the proposal to establish a Questa Lodging Tax. Chairman Malaquias Rael explained that, "It is common for communities like ours to collect up to a 5% lodging tax on the fees paid by overnight guests; these funds would be used to help promote Questa and area lodging options." The tax would be collected from hotels, motels, Airbnb, vacation rentals, overnight resorts, and RV Parks. As no lodging businesses were in attendance at the QBEN Meeting, a specific invitation will be extended to the lodgers to attend a separate Zoom meeting to begin this discussion. Join the meeting and share your ideas.

THE LODGING TAX FEASIBILITY MEETING

Day: Tuesday, August 4

Time: 2pm

Location: ZOOM

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83677571570?pwd=emFKUFUvandJdTUyTEM0RmhaT3ZYZz09>

Dial in by phone: (346) 248-7799

Meeting ID: 836 7757 1570

Passcode: 829625

Questa Creative Council Artists Website and Online Art Auction

The Questa Creative Council showcased their website, www.northern-newmexicoartists.com, which features over 40 artists from the northern New

Mexico region. Peggy Trigg, QCC coordinator and local artist, proudly led the group on a virtual tour of the website, created by Dan Frank Digital Design of Questa. Each artist is featured on their own descriptive "Profile Page," complete with a bio, photos of their work, and how to be in touch with them or purchase their work. Unfortunately, this year you won't be able to visit the artists as part of the Questa Studio Tour, which won't be held due to the pandemic. Instead, the QCC has created this alternative website, and will offer a 36-hour online artist auction on August 15 and 16. (This website also replaces the previous Questa Studio Art Tour website.) Visit the site to meet the artists and learn more about the inaugural Art Auction!

RTD Transfer Station/Park-and-Ride at Questa Visitor Center

Malaquias Rael, Chairman of the QEDF and a Questa business owner, presented two issues that need the community's input. RTD has proposed to redevelop the parking lot at the Questa Visitor Center this summer into a park-and-ride lot; the RTD red and blue bus routes would use it as a transfer center. The buses don't operate on weekends, and RTD would invest in landscaping the area, so the Questa Farmers Market and other weekend events can make use of the paved parking, and co-exist in this renovated central location. To receive a copy of the design plans, to learn more, and to share your opinion about this proposition, email lynn@QuestaEDF.com.

ANYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THESE MEETINGS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION.

Questa Visitor Center Open For The Summer

By LYNN SKALL

Please visit the Questa Visitor Center! We are now open for the summer and offer a wide range of services. Margo Cardenas is our QVC staff member, and will be happy to assist you and our guests.

The Visitor Center displays brochures on area retail, restaurants, services, history, and the arts community. Please

make sure we have your brochures! We provide information and make recommendations for area attractions, recreation, dining, lodging, etc. Maps are available for the state of New Mexico, the Enchanted Circle, hiking, the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, U.S. Forest Service, and more.

A small gift shop in the Visitor Center features books by local authors, artwork, Questa souvenirs, and notecards.

Handmade cotton masks, made by Cerro local, Joan MacDonald, are available for sale, along with disposable masks.

All COVID-19 state protocols are in place - all staff and visitors must wear masks. A maximum of 2 people are allowed in the QVC with a staff member at any one time, and we sanitize after each visitor. Operations are continually evaluated and are subject to change at any time.

QUESTA VISITORS CENTER

Open: Wednesday - Sunday
(Closed Monday and Tuesday)

Hours: 10 am - 3 pm

Location: Highway 38, just east of the Questa stoplight.

Contact: (575) 586-2149



Business Profile

UNDERSTATED EXCELLENCE IN PRODUCTS AND SERVICE

By CYNTHIA NAJIM

CarQuesta Auto Parts fills a unique and important groove in our community and beyond, and they do so with excellence. I emphasize “understated” because the 6,000-square-foot building’s modest façade belies the hustle and pulse of the hoppin’ operation inside.

Founded in a small shop in 1989 by entrepreneurs Malaquias and Lucy Rael, CarQuesta began with a limited selection of auto parts. Back then, the independently owned subsidiary shared the store with its rapidly growing parent, Questa Lumber and Hardware. Once the hardware enterprise moved to their new and current location in 2012, CarQuesta had room to breathe and expand. And boy, did they!

Martin Rael, the founders’ grandson, started working at CarQuesta in 2004. Two years later he was promoted to manager. Even though Martin says that Lucy is still the “Big Boss,” the business has blossomed under his dedicated leadership and continues to boom.

Today CarQuesta has three departments: Auto Parts, Small Engine Repairs, and Small Equipment Rentals. Auto Parts remains the company’s largest and most profitable division. Carquest brand products have been their mainstay from the beginning, but they also sell Interstate brand batteries for cars, ATVs, and UTVs; and since June, DieHard brand batteries as well.

When I asked Martin what might surprise people about their merchandise, he lit up saying, “We carry RV and camper supplies - including toilet parts, sinks, and related accessories - and welding equipment and materials too!”

While the pandemic has moderately affected the supply chain delivery, at any given moment CarQuesta stocks \$300,000 worth of inventory, consisting of at least 200 different product lines. There is something for everyone! They even supply auto parts to two shops in Red River.

For those who prefer to shop from home, go to <https://shop.advanceautoparts.com/>. Use the store locator to find CarQuesta. From there, you can enter your vehicle information and start browsing. You can pay for the parts or merchandise online and pick your items



Photo by Cynthia Najim

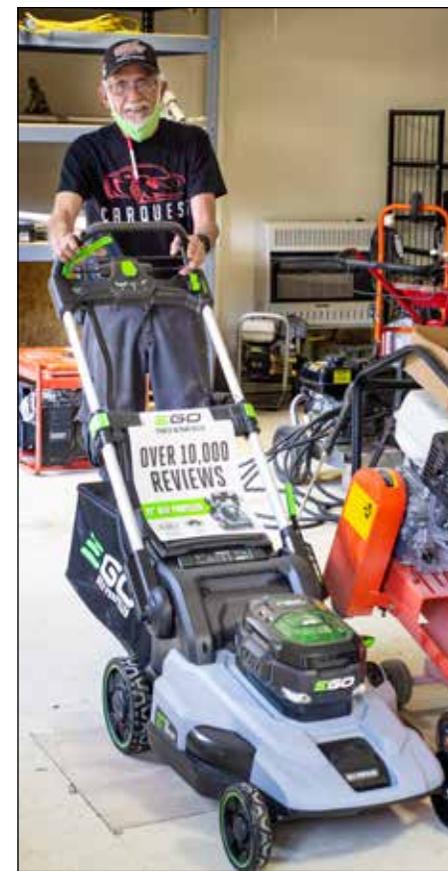


Photo by Cynthia Najim

**You
Need it?
We
Rent it.**

**Ask us about our
TOOL RENTALS.**

Photos by Cynthia Najim

Equipment Rental: Check out CarQuesta’s small equipment rentals. True customer convenience!

up at the store. Advance Auto Parts is a worldwide franchise with hundreds of product offerings.

CarQuesta’s Small Engine Repairs shop opened in the back of the store in 2015, to the delight of many customers. The two-man repair team fixes Briggs & Stratton engines, Craftsman lawn mowers, wood splitters, and more. No hand-held equipment, please. Depending on the job, their turnaround on repairs is on either the same day they receive the item, or the next. Needed parts typically arrive overnight.

The biggest challenge can be sourcing parts for older and specialty equipment, which is common in this area. Loyal customer Domingo Gallegos, owner of G-4 Excavation, tells it straight: “Martin is our go-to guy here in Questa. He’s very knowledgeable of the product lines and he’s quick. He can find anything!”

Another longtime grateful client,

Manager Martin Rael serving customers on all fronts.

Leroy Romero, owner of Romero’s Excavation, exclaims, “Martin pulls rabbits out of the hat for me!”

The fastest growing division is Small Equipment Rentals, which started in 2018. The decision to rent equipment by the day was brilliant and fills a big void. Customers come from Taos and even Espanola to rent from nearly 100 different items, such as cement mixers, earth compactors, Dingos, power washers, jaw pullers, air compressors, generators, drain snakes, rototillers, trenchers, shop vacs, and more. Plus, CarQuesta services and maintains the equipment. While you can make your reservation over the phone, you might want to go into their new rental showroom to view the equipment on hand and see the complete inventory list.

Gallegos, also a regular rental customer, added, “Renting vs. buying is a huge convenience and cost-saver. It saves me on maintenance too.”

CarQuesta truly is a remarkable operation. With only four full-time employees and two summer staff, their reputation for outstanding service is well deserved. A skillful multitasker, Martin manages the business, liaises with vendors, works

Employee Robert Espinoza shows off their new equipment rental showroom.

the counter, fields calls, sources parts, repairs/services equipment, and when able, tackles the ever-growing piles of paperwork.

Martin’s team members are capable and very loyal: Robert Espinoza (an employee of 7 years) handles equipment repairs, servicing, rentals, and anything else that is needed. Robert’s niece Naomi Garcia (6 years as an employee) supports the front of the store, phones, and merchandise pricing and location. Matthew Mandonado (5 years with CarQuesta), a customer service whiz, mans the counter, aided by summer help John Martinez and Wyatt Coutu.

They all agree; working with Martin is the best! As Naomi shares, “Martin is the reason I’m here and stay. He’s an amazing boss! He does anything for anyone because he believes that sometimes people just need a break.” An enduring quality of the Rael family.

Bravo, CarQuesta! Keep up the great work.

CarQuesta
2420 State Road 522, Questa NM 87556
Tel: (575) 586-0419
Hours: M-F: 8-5 | Sat: 9-2

LOOKING FOR A REWARDING, LONG-TERM CAREER?

CarQuesta is eager to hire a reliable new team member. If you are on time, committed, kind, and willing to learn the business and new skills, then you might be just the person they are looking for to join the CarQuesta family. Ask for an application at the front counter.

2020 Census Update: Taos County Struggles to Catch Up



By GILLIAN JOYCE

The Census Bureau needs to count us exactly where our homes are located in order to ensure that our villages, neighborhoods, school districts, water and sanitation districts, and other relevant areas get the services and funding they need. The Census Bureau cannot deliver packets to our postal boxes. They must hand-deliver census packets to the homes of all of us who rely on our post office for mail delivery.

Nationally, just 4% of American rely on post office boxes, compared to 20% of New Mexicans and 79% of Taos County. This census hand-delivery process began in northern New Mexico the same week we initially had to shut down in response to COVID-19, and it did not resume for over six weeks. As our state began opening up again, census workers were able to get on the ground. We have received word from the Census Bureau that packets have been delivered to all Taos County households.

Anecdotally, we know that some households were missed, or packets left on doorsteps may have blown away in

heavy winds, or other unknown factors that lead to some of us not receiving a packet.

If you would like to avoid being visited by a census worker, the best course of action is to respond online or by phone using the 12-digit code in your census packet, or by mail using the paper form in your packet. If you did not receive a form or code, you can still respond online or by phone using your physical address. Response is not a guarantee you will not be visited, but it is your best chance.

If you responded online or by phone without a code and received a packet from the Census Bureau, please respond again using the code or form. The reason we want to prioritize response using a 12-digit code or form is because it is easier for the Bureau to process code-based responses (connected to the geolocations of our residences) than to process physical addresses. Thankfully, it is easy for the Bureau to scrub duplicates.

While it may not be our fault we are so far behind, it is our burden to work toward catching up with the rest of the

According to the latest numbers from the George Washington University Institute of Public Policy, for every New Mexican counted in the Census, roughly \$5,000 comes into our communities for these services each year for a decade.

nation. Census data is used in the funding formulas for 316 federal programs – programs that touch our lives every day. Highways, schools and school programs, hospitals and health clinics, fire departments and police departments, Medicare, Medicaid, WIC – these are just a handful of the 316 programs using census data to determine how much money comes into our community. And the nature of New Mexico's small economy and large public sector means we are more reliant on federal funding to keep our communities vital than most other states in the nation. We are simultaneously among the hardest to count areas of the country and among the most reliant on a full count.

Respond now online at [my2020Census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or call (844) 330-2020 for English and (844) 468-2020 for Spanish.

Gillian Joyce Principal, Rio Chiquito
Research and Consulting
Programming Coordinator,
Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos
PO Box 624, El Prado, NM 87529
(505) 470-4080

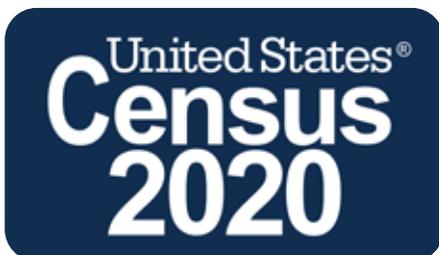
IS IT SAFE TO RESPOND TO THE CENSUS?

Your information is protected by law. It is against the law for any representative of the Census Bureau to disclose or publish any private information collected by the Census Bureau that identifies an individual or business, including to other agencies. Personal information collected by the Census Bureau cannot be used against respondents by any government agency or court. Every person with access to your data is sworn for life to protect your information and every census worker passes a stringent Federal background check. In terms of online responses, the Census Bureau is using more stringent cybersecurity standards than is the norm for the banking industry.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE RACE AND ETHNICITY QUESTIONS?

For some, the predetermined race and ethnicity categories provided by the Census Bureau are straightforward. For others they are not. In our region it can be particularly challenging for the legacy Hispano community, as well as our Hispanic community overall. Under the question regarding Hispanic identity, the form asks for origin data. If you do not identify with the predetermined options, please select the "Other Hispanic" option and write in how you do identify. Similarly under the race questions, some Hispanics can find an option that matches how they self-identify, but others cannot. Again, feel free to check the "Some Other Race" box and write in how you self-identify. Providing this information helps the Bureau and the world understand the way race and ethnicity are experienced by real people and helps move our conversations and policy forward in a meaningful way.

New Census Deadline Oct. 31, 2020



By GILLIAN JOYCE

COVID-19 has caused delays to the Census Bureau's timeline, but there is still plenty of time to count your household.

The 2020 Census takes the form

of 10 questions. It happens once every decade in an attempt to count everyone who lives in the U.S. It determines how more than \$800 billion in federal funds are distributed to communities across the U.S., including over \$7 billion per year right here in New Mexico.

This funding supports important things like roads, schools, healthcare, public safety, and other essential service programs. It also ensures that our state receives equal representation in Congress, the State Legislature, and in our local government. The questions are simple, your answers are protected, and

Did you know that just 1% of an undercount in New Mexico means a loss of \$780 million over the next ten years?

it takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Here's what you need to do:

Fill out your census as soon as the U.S. Census Bureau sends you your unique household code. If you have questions, visit 2020census.gov or call (844) 330-2020.

Count everyone in your household. This includes babies, children, and

anyone who is living and sleeping there most of the time. Encourage friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues to do the same.

Thank you for your dedicated work in your community and for shaping the future of the state by filling out the census. If you have additional questions please visit 2020census.gov



ENCHANTED
E A T S
BY ROBYN BLACK

CAPO'S CORNER IN RED RIVER:
FUN, FOOD, SPIRITS

First, let me say this was probably the most fun I have had interviewing one of our great Enchanted Circle restaurant owners! Frank Venaglia, Jr. is as engaging and charming as his restaurant, Capo's Corner. He's the kind of guy you wish was your friend and that's how he makes the restaurant feel.

Frank Jr. is the third generation of restaurateurs in his family. When his grandmother emigrated to the U.S. in the 1930s she opened a restaurant in Albuquerque. His father, Frank Sr., went into the restaurant business as well, only with a vengeance. I think Frank Jr. said his dad opened about 46 restaurants in a number of states. So, it goes to reason, restaurants and great food are in Frank Jr.'s blood.

Frank became a full-time resident of Red River in 1995, and opened Capo's Corner. He went to UNM, is an avid skier, biker (motorized and not), and seems to live life to the fullest while pulling off a great restaurant with delicious food and an amazing staff. Frank and his crew are abiding by all the Governor's rules, so you are assured a safe environment while dining. They have take-out and patio dining at this time. Frank said business is good, with only about a 20% decline from last year at this time.

Now for the food: Capo's has the best pizza around, not to mention all the other delicious Italian dishes. When we got take-out, we tried the spinach artichoke dip with bread for dipping, Lasagna Di Spinach, lushly filled with ricotta, spinach layered between lasagna noodles and topped with a lovely meatless marinara sauce, with a side salad. Since I am not a big eater, I ordered the "Kid's Portion" of eggplant with a side of fried zucchini, (the kids portions are so generous, I had leftovers). The eggplant was thinly sliced and breaded with meatless marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese...yum.

Capo's makes their sauces fresh daily, and it is evident by the depth of flavors. The food was fresh and held up quite well between Red River and El Rito. The menu is extensive – there is something



Courtesy photo

Frank Venaglia, Jr. in the kitchen showing off an assortment of pizzas.



Photo by Robyn Black

Try some delicious take-out or deck dining at Capo's Corner in Red River.

for everyone! and it was really hard to choose. A couple of weeks ago I ordered a veggie pizza to go and was not disappointed. It was what a pizza should be, perfect crust and just the right amount of toppings: too bad I had to share it at my house! We did not partake of the decadent desserts offered. I'll save that for next time!

Frank tries to locally source what he can for the restaurant when it is available, and his ingredients are only the best and freshest available. Capo's also serves beer and wine. His focus is on spending more on his team and product, so you will be well taken care of by happy staff and satisfied by the best food you can get.

Frank is also community-minded.

When international kids were stuck in Red River as this pandemic started, he was one of the people who made sure those kids were fed on a regular basis.

One of the most memorable comments he made during our interview was, "I am my own competition." Which to me says he is only looking to offer Red River and their visitors the best dining experience possible. He also said, "It's the customers that make it great."

If you want some great take-out, or deck dining with lovely atmosphere, be sure to go to Capo's Corner in Red River, you will be so glad you did! A big

CAPO'S CORNER

Lunch: 11:30-2:00pm

Dinner: 5:00-9:00pm

Location: 110 Pioneer Road in Red River, NM 87558

TO-GO: (575) 754-6297

thank you to Frank for taking time from his busy schedule to sit down and share with us!

Capo's Corner is located at 110 Pioneer Road in Red River, NM 87558.

Their hours are 11:30

am – 2 pm for lunch and 5 - 9 pm for dinner. You can call in your to-go order to (575) 754-6297. Capo's menu can be found on their website: <http://www.caposredriver.com/>. You can also find them on Facebook.

Frank is always on the lookout for great staff, so keep that in mind if you are looking for a good job during these trying times.

BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

LISTEN TO HER VOICE

From early records of mankind (including the Bible) there is a clear separation between the feminine and masculine principles in presence and consciousness. We are not talking about the genders of man and woman, as all beings are endowed with traits of both the feminine principle and the masculine principle. The feminine can be thought of as the principle of inward movement, creativity, feeling, nurturing, and intuition – the heart. The masculine principle can be thought of as logical, analytical, and outwardly focused – the intellect. Brain science tells us that the left side of the brain is our analytical side, whereas the right side is the creative, nurturing side. When the feminine

and masculine principles are balanced, there is harmony between the heart and the intellect – compassionate intelligence and compassionate action.

If we take the Bible and look at the story of Adam and Eve in a symbolic way, we can view the masculine figure of Adam as the intellect or the mind and the feminine figure of Eve as intuition, feeling, or the heart. It would seem from the words in Genesis that the meaning of having Adam rule over Eve could signify that the intellect or mind would rule over the intuition, or heart.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve (think of them as head and heart) coexist in balanced equality, one supporting the other. There was no duality of “he” or “she,” – both existed as one in harmony.

As we look at the world today and the problems we are now walking through, we see it is a result of one-sidedness, dogma, fears, and social patterns of acceptance. The feminine principle

has been overshadowed. The world is deeply lacking in the feeling and intuition of the heart and is led by the intellectual mind and the aggressive nature of that consciousness – the mental faculties overriding the internal world of intuition, love, and compassion. Like the pendulum that has swung to one side and becomes stuck without swinging back, there has been a loss of balance and harmony. Clinging to the ideals of a one-sided masculine principle without the integration of the feminine has led to wars, fear, poverty, and corruption. Greed and wanting more have resulted in a world dedicated to worldly pleasures. The material plane is fraught with temptations that keep humans reaching for more and more and as this happens, we are taken further away from the inner world – the feminine principle of the heart and compassionate intelligence.

Many search for their intuitive side, the feminine principle of consciousness. The block has been the intellect, since

it is incapable of finding the intuition because intuition is a feeling, a knowing. Intellect does not feel; it thinks.

This disparity between these two sides of our consciousness is beginning to lessen and the feminine intuitive, interior world is beginning to awaken to its rightful place, integrated with the masculine. Once the feminine is where it should be, we can accept the world of the seen with the world of the unseen. This is the inner state wherein the gift of simply knowing, and trusting that knowing, is a guide to our actions with their essence of compassion, love, and gentleness.

It's time for us to recognize the inner world of our heartfelt intuition as a valuable reservoir of wisdom that can bring comfort and ease. It is helpful to take time each day to reflect on what is really true for each of us – not what we have been told, taught, read, or have previously believed in, but what our deepest heartfelt knowing is telling us now.

Positive Thoughts

by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

August 21 is Senior Citizens Day and the first week of August is National Senior Citizen Week. How about making a meal, helping out, or doing some cleaning for a senior neighbor or family member? Gloves and mask required! August also celebrates Purple Heart Day. Let us honor all who have served valiantly.

August includes Be Kind to Humankind Week. Please join us in celebrating Be Kind to Humankind every day! Current events hold a mirror up to America's long history of prejudice. America entered the new millennium with inequality powerfully woven into the fabric of society. People of color have a different life path than white people, and women's path is different from men's.

Black lives matter because all lives matter. Black lives depict a gruesome ethos in this country. If America can see the horrors and the systemic debasing of human beings with dark-colored skin, then surely it will acknowledge the deceit and violence to the Native Americans and Latinos during the same 4-500 years. That type of recognition would be regenerative and transformative and could produce a revolution of mind and conscience that could usher America into a Golden Age. May America be an expression of equanimity.

August is also Wellness Month. While



Photo by E. Wilde

Alex Romero and Simone Sarrieu enjoying the Questa Farmers Market. Summer 2019

we're still sorting out COVID-19 and its cultural, economic, and societal effects, let's also think about wellness. Getting outside in nature is highly recommended. In addition to hiking, fishing, and gardening, consider walking barefoot when possible. Granted this harsh, stony, and prickly environment does not provide much soft grass to wiggle your toes in, but streams and gardens are perfect for taking your shoes off.

Besides the coolness of grass and water, connecting back to the electromagnetic currents that are constant in the ground can be very... well, grounding. All living beings on Earth have evolved in relationship to these electrical currents. And, until

the 1960s introduced the use of synthetic, rubber, and plastic for the soles of footwear, every human being was grounded electromagnetically in daily relationship with the earth resonance.

Don't underestimate the power of these natural wavelengths. Disconnection from them results in dis-ease. The science behind this is substantial, as is the trajectory of human diseases, many with inflammation as a root cause. One primary response by the body when divorced from these natural currents is inflammation; and its increase as a health scourge has corresponded with the decrease of leather for the soles of footwear, replacing them with synthetic rubber-soled shoes and

sneakers. So, all of you who still wear cowboy boots with leather soles, keep wearing them! And look around you. My guess is that you are slimmer and in better health than your friends or family members who wear non-leather-soled footwear. I'm on the lookout for leather-soled shoes. In the meantime, I walk barefoot and sit with my feet in the little patch of grass under a shade tree that has become a favorite spot for reading or just being quiet with nature. For those interested in learning more, there is a wonderful, free documentary on YouTube called The Earthing Movie: The Remarkable Science of Grounding. <https://youtu.be/44ddtR0XDVU>

“Life, surprise me!”



That's my new prayer. No crappy surprises, please. This pandemic was enough.

“Kick me off the cliff, Life. So I can soar!”

Wouldn't that feel good? Just letting go, relaxing, floating along without a care in the world. A gentle wind as mattress and pillow.

Yeah, that's what I say today, but tomorrow I'll probably go right back to

trying to control everything. Not that it always works out the way I want it to. Seldom does.

Often, I've been tenaciously turning the wheel north and Life would keep turning me south.

Okay, so it's time to try something different. Instead of setting goals and visualizing something I'd really, really want and working doggedly toward the outcome (which doesn't always materialize), maybe I'll try a new tactic. “Life, surprise me!”

But wait a minute! What kind of surprise do I really, really want anyway? What would make me happy? I contemplate that and a few things come to mind.

- Excellent health. Hmm, except for

my sore arm, I already have that.

- A united United States.
- A good, soaking rain.
- Me, standing outside, head up, mouth slightly open in the pouring rain.
- A happy death when the time comes.
- Maybe... being reborn as my daughter's dog. Her dog has such a good life.
- Having my hair turn white. Because of Covid-19 lockdown, I haven't gone to the hairdresser for many months and my brown roots are growing in. I love being a blonde! Darn it!! At 83 my roots should be white by now; instead, they're dark brown – not dark, chocolatey or mahogany brown – more like dusty, dull, mouse poop

brown. My dad got white hair, overnight, when he was 52 and I was 17; my mother got beautiful white hair in her early 60s. No doubt I caused hers, too, but if it was really genes, she didn't pass them on to me.

- Maybe... having my real hair turn pink.
- Maybe...
...and then it hits me. Life is not about making lists of what I want. As John Lennon said, “Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans.” So, go ahead Life, surprise me!

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

Vive Ama Rie

Por ELLEN WOOD
“¡VIDA, SORPRÉNDEME!”

Esta es mi nueva oración. Nada de sorpresas desagradables, por favor. Esta pandemia ha sido suficiente.

“Empújame por el acantilado, vida. ¡Para poder volar!”

¿No se sentiría bien? Nomás dejándome llevar, relajándome, flotando sin preocuparme por nada en el mundo. Un viento suave como colchón y almohada.

Sí, eso es lo que digo hoy, pero mañana probablemente volveré a tratar de controlarlo todo. No es que siempre funcione como yo quiero. Rara vez lo hace.

A menudo he estado girando tenazmente la rueda hacia el norte y La Vida me la volvía a girar hacia el sur.

Bien, entonces es hora de probar algo diferente. En lugar de establecer objetivos y visualizar algo que quiero de verdad y trabajar obstinadamente para lograr un resultado (que no siempre se materializa), tal vez intente una nueva táctica. “¡Vida, sorpréndeme!”

Pero ¡espera un momento! ¿Qué tipo de sorpresa quiero realmente? ¿Qué me haría feliz? Al pensar en esto me vienen a la mente algunas cosas.

- Excelente salud. Hum, excepto por un dolor en el brazo, ya la tengo.
- Unos Estados Unidos que estén unidos.
- Una buena lluvia que me empape.
- Yo, de pie, afuera, con la cabeza en alto, la boca ligeramente abierta bajo la lluvia torrencial.

- Una muerte feliz cuando llegue el momento.
- Tal vez... renacer como el perro de mi hija. Su perro tiene una vida tan buena.
- Hacer que el cabello se me ponga blanco. Debido a las restricciones del Covid-19, no he ido a la peluquera durante muchos meses y mis raíces marrones están creciendo. ¡Me encanta ser rubia! ¡Ay, caramba! A los 83, debería tener las raíces ya blancas; pero no es así, son de un color marrón oscuro —no chocolate fuerte o caoba— sino un marrón polvoriento, opaco, como popó de ratón. A mi papá se le puso el pelo blanco, de la noche a la mañana, cuando tenía 52 años y yo tenía 17; mi madre tenía un hermoso cabello blanco a los 60 años. Sin duda, yo le causé las canas, pero si de veras eran genes, ella no me los pasó a mí.

- Tal vez... que el cabello real se me vuelva rosado.
- Tal vez...
...y de pronto caigo en la cuenta. La vida no se trata de hacer listas de lo que queremos. Como dijera John Lennon: “La vida es lo que sucede cuando estás ocupado haciendo otros planes.”

De modo que adelante Vida, ¡sorpréndeme!

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

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Rodney:

- ★ lives in Garcia CO with his wife Olympia and daughter Haley. (And another one is on the way. Yay!)
- ★ studied auto body and auto mechanics in college.
- ★ loves his work at NorthStar and says, “I take the time to do it right.”
- ★ has fun prospecting for gold with his family (and he has found gold!)

Bring in your car or truck to the guys at NorthStar and you'll find gold, too.



Pack It In, Pack It Out: Camping at the Carson National Forest

Most overnight facilities on the Carson National Forest (CNF) will be opened Friday, June 26th. Most campgrounds have full amenities provided, however, we are handling some areas as self-contained camping only. Self-contained camping means you need to pack out everything, including human waste.

If customers choose to camp in the Carson NF at a campground identified as self-contained, they will need to literally and figuratively pack out everything they pack in, to include human waste, all trash bags full of trash, and all dog/animal waste. Anything that did not originate in the forest will need to be taken back out of the forest.

If your RV or travel trailer does not have a bathroom, that's okay, there are many new products to help you handle your human waste cleanly and safely. This link does not imply en-



Stock Photo

Some campgrounds in the Carson National Forest are considered "self-contained", campers need to literally and figuratively pack out everything they pack in, including dog and human waste, and all trash.

endorsement by the the Forest Service of any one product: this link is provided as a courtesy only: <https://www.bing.com/search?q=wag+bags+toilet+system&FORM=R5FD3>

Dispersed camping opportunities outside of developed sites are available provided you follow Leave No Trace practices: <https://www.fs.fed.us/lei/no-trace-ethics.php>.

This includes but is not limited to packing out trash (including any trash bags, so please do not leave your trash bags at locked trash cans), camping at least 200 feet from water sources, and digging cat holes for human waste at least 6-8 inches deep: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/leave-no-trace-seven-principles.htm>

Dispersed camping is one of the best things about our national forests. With dispersed camping, please ensure that you're on roads that are open to motor vehicle use and that you park in areas that are clear of vegetation brush. Parking in cleared out areas that are clearly for parking helps prevent wildfires

from sparks.

Stage II fire restrictions remain in place: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/news-events/?cid=F-SEPRD725305>.

CAMPFIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED ANYWHERE IN THE FOREST. FIREWORKS ARE NEVER ALLOWED ON FOREST SERVICE LANDS. DO NOT USE CAMPFIRES OR FIREWORKS!

We recognize that the National Forest System is a place that offers relief and refuge during this unprecedented time. Forest Service employees welcome you and we consider the Forest Land Systems to be "all yours." That said, please help us remove trash, keep it clean, and stay on the designated motorized roads. Please help us keep our campgrounds open and our land healthy and HAPPY CAMPING!

Wildness is a Necessity

By VANETTE HARRIS

Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity.

—John Muir

John Muir got it right...and he said it back in 1901. It fits today just as it did then, if not better. COVID-19 has definitely made us tired and nerve-shaken, and even over-civilized. My husband David and I truly believe that "Wildness is a Necessity," not just during this pandemic, but every day.

We love to hike. A good hike was one of the first things on our list of "wild" things to do after arriving back in Questa during the Memorial Day weekend. We have part-time jobs in Red River, but still have plenty of time to hit the trails.

Being flatlanders (Louisiana and Texas), we have to get used to the altitude before doing anything too "wild" or strenuous. Walking up to the old cemetery in Questa was just perfect to expand our lungs, strengthen our legs, and increase our stamina. After arriving at the top and eating a snack we enjoy exploring it. This is the eighth summer we have spent in Questa, so exploring the cemetery is like visiting old friends. We say "hello" to the Gonzaleses, the Romeros, the Raels, the Garcias, the Rodriguezes, the Martinezes, the Sanchezes, the Cisneros, and many more. We enjoy



Courtesy Photo

Vanette and David Harris, enjoying the wildness of the great southwest.

the peace and quiet. Our "friends" let us do all the talking, and they do all the listening. Can't beat that!

After our successful journey to the cemetery, we felt just "wild" enough to handle the Vistas de Questa Trail. We start at the entrance off Highway 522. It's a nice two-mile hike to the top and of course, two miles back down! The scenery at the top is spectacular and someone built a wonderful bench where we could rest our weary bones while soothing our parched throats with cool water. We enjoyed our lunch here and were ready to finish the task. The trail is well marked and just rugged enough to make us feel very accomplished upon completion.

On to the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness. Located in the Carson National

Forest off Highway 38 near Red River, the trail is a must for all ages. The first part of this trail is not too "wild." It is shady, cool, easy to follow, with lots of flora and fauna, and as a bonus, the delightful Columbine Creek runs alongside us. We enjoy the tall aspens with their fluttering leaves, the majestic Ponderosa pines, the beaver dam, the tiny splashes of color from the wildflowers, the old fallen trees that have become art pieces. Colonies of ants do what ants do best; building, working, building, working, building, working. The sounds of the forest are like enjoying our own private symphony.

Last but not least; the El Aguaje Trail in the Wild Rivers Area of the Rio Grande Gorge. We saw this trail last year



Courtesy Photo

The El Aguaje Trail in the Wild Rivers Area of the Rio Grande Gorge, not for the faint-hearted!

during an overnight camping trip. The sign at the beginning of the trail says that it is .75 miles down to the river, and then, of course, the same back up. Lesson # 1: do not do this trail in the heat of the day. Going down wasn't so bad but coming back up was a four-letter word for Hades. Very steep. Very hot. And for someone (me) that has a little vertigo, this trail was terrifying. My husband was like a teenager traversing this trail. I felt like I was a million years old, but slowly putting one foot in front of the other, I made it back to the top. Just like the story of the rabbit and the turtle, "slow and steady wins the race." Whew!

Thank you, Mr. Muir, for your words of wisdom, "Wildness is a Necessity." So, try not to let your day go by without a little bit of "wildness." David and I have been married for 53 years, and it sure has worked for us.

Hot Summer Fishing

By TONER MITCHELL

Acknowledging that good fishing comes and goes like weather trends, often literally, here are some general midsummer fishing tips for the Questa area. Though I'm a native New Mexican with a long history of fishing the north, this information draws heavily from the up-to-the-minute experiences of Chris Michael, owner of Rio Grande del Norte Outfitters, and his son Joshua.

The Michaels are having their best success in the Cabresto system by fishing mornings and evenings with small dry flies like renegades and parachute adams. Grasshopper patterns with beadhead droppers work well too, a good dropper choice being a red or green Copper John nymph. Fishing the inlet to Cabresto Lake seems to yield the best results.

According to Chris, "I'm not seeing as many cutthroats in Cabresto as I'm used to."

Due to low water conditions, smaller spinners are the ticket on Cabresto Creek. Panther Martins in sizes 2 to 4 are the biggest one can get away with. Yellow bodies with orange blades perform well.

The same general approaches – morning/evening fishing, small dry flies, and spinners – are applicable in a number of regional fisheries such as the Valle Vidal, Cimarron, and other creeks (wardens are out, says Michael, so be sure to have your license on you).

The prevailing dictator of success will be the sun, how it heats things up and how oppressively bright it can get. You know how much you love to eat an enchilada lunch in the middle of your backyard with the full summer sun beating down on you? Yeah, me neither.

During the peak of summer, I like sitting in the shade of a tree or portal, usually in the evening after things have cooled off. An afternoon rain shower is a special bonus, and small bites of cool food – chips and salsa, cherries, or grapes – instead of hot and heavy meals. Trout are no different.

Chris Michael says he's seeing lots of caddisflies and blue-winged olive mayflies on the water. Ants and beetles are also favorite summer trout foods. As much as any other season, the middle of the summer is the time to think like a fish.

Josh Michael has been doing espe-



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Joshua Michael at Eagle Rock Lake – that boy knows how to fish!

cially well at Eagle Rock with his hopper dropper setup. He's also been using rubber worms tied with tungsten beads. He believes the weight makes the worm wiggle in the water, enticing more fish.

In response to increased fishing traffic, Chris and Josh are having to conduct regular sweeps of popular fishing holes to clean up litter and discarded fishing line. On the plus side, Josh has harvested quite a few lures and flies, even a nice knife. On the downside, the fact that anglers expect to be picked up after speaks to the larger issue of land abuse statewide, how we New Mexicans are increasingly trashing our public lands. As we set our sights on growing an outdoor economy, we can ill afford to tolerate such behavior.

"Like it or not, we need to sell fishing licenses," Chris Michael says. "Especially to out-of-state fishermen who won't come if they see this kind of a mess. Without license revenues, we can't grow enough fish to stock our lakes and streams. Whatever way you look at it, it's not that hard to clean up after yourself?"

So, pack it in and pack it out. And happy fishing!

Storage Order: Don't Tempt the Bears

By MARYANNA CLEMONS,
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

Recently the Santa Fe National Forest had a camper and a bear interaction that left a Los Alamos woman in the hospital with a collapsed lung, several broken bones and multiple bites. The Carson National Forest (NF) has had bears entering developed recreation sites along Hwy. 38 in the Questa Ranger District looking for food. In an effort to prevent similar occurrences, the Carson NF is implementing a Food Storage Order for the following areas:

- Goat Hill Campground
- La Bobita Campground
- Fawn Lakes Campground
- Fawn Lakes Day Use Area
- Columbine Campground
- Elephant Rock Campground
- June Bug Campground

What is a Food Storage Order?

All food and refuse must be acceptably stored or acceptably possessed during daytime hours:

- In the Daytime – All food, attractants and refuse must be acceptably stored or attended. Attended means that someone is within 100 feet and in sight of accessible food.
- At Night – Unless being transported, eaten or prepared to be eaten, all food must be properly stored.
- What Methods of Storage Are Acceptable? To be properly stored, food and other attractants may be secured in an enclosed hard-sided vehicle (including pickup camper shell or enclosed horse trailer); a certified bear-resistant container; or suspended at least ten feet clear of the ground at all points and four feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole.
- What Items Must Be Properly Stored: Anything (excluding water, baled hay, or hay cubes without additives) that can be eaten to provide nourishment, including soft drinks, canned food, alcoholic beverages, pet food, processed livestock feeds and grains, personal hygiene products (toothpaste), and refuse, including empty food and beverage containers, must be properly stored. If you use a barbecue grill, try to burn off any remaining food residue and properly store the grill at night.
- The Forest will continue to coordinate with the New Mexico Dept of Game and Fish on all bear matters.

Camping Tips:

- Whether camping in a campground or in the backcountry, make your campsite a bear avoidance campsite by:
- Always keeping a clean camp
- Keep your sleeping area, tent, and sleeping bag free of food and odors
- Don't sleep in clothes that you wore while cooking or handling fish or game
- Cleaning barbecue grills and storing them so they are unavailable to bears
- Using bear-resistant trash receptacles and food storage lockers

- Keeping pets under control at all times
- Properly disposing of all fish remnants

See the Forest Service "Be Bear Aware" webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/know-before-you-go/bears> for more information on hiking and camping in bear country. For additional information on managing a wildlife encounter, see the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish brochure <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/publications/wildlife/Living-with-Large-Predators-in-New-Mexico-2016.pdf> on living with large predators. It's also worth a minute of your time to watch the National Park Service video <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bearspray.htm> on how to use bear spray effectively.

Stay up to date on recreation opportunities by checking the Carson National Forest website and following us on Facebook and Twitter at @CarsonNF.



MEDITATION EDUCATION

You've heard the phrase "mind over matter," but how about mind over detention? In America, schools nationwide are replacing detention and discipline with mindfulness programs and meditation, garnering some amazing results: suspensions have been cut in half, attendance is up, and so are grade point averages.

How? By teaching children to recognize and deal with stress before it becomes a disciplinary issue in the first place.

In Baltimore, Maryland seventeen schools are participating in the Mindful Moment Program. Classrooms are guided through daily breathing and meditation, during 15-minute recorded sessions.

Teachers are taught how to check in with students for emotional issues throughout the day, and help them practice mindfulness skills when they're having a rough time. Overwhelmed students can request a break in the "Mindful Moment Room" or be sent there. Instructors talk to each child and help them engage in mindfulness practices, including breathing exercises and yoga. Many of the staff are former students themselves and can relate firsthand to the issues the children face.

The goal is to help kids identify and process their emotions, rather than bury

them or lash out. Studies show a mindfulness approach reduces problematic responses to stress. Outbursts and tantrums are down, and teaching minutes are up with students of all ages.

Parents are getting in on the act too as many kids are teaching them to breathe out their stress and tension. The impact has been especially felt in urban communities where stress levels are high and in the long term can affect a child's ability to focus and learn.

Teaching children mindfulness skills at a young age will serve them and benefit all, far beyond the classroom and into adulthood, leading to better choices and a more peaceful existence. And that's good news for a peaceful planet.

Good News Good Planet is produced in Taos, NM by Mandy Stapleford. It was created to inspire and remind us all

of the endless good deeds happening globally every day. Its regular format is a recorded two-minute audio of non-religious and non-political good news stories. Hear it on local True Taos radio KNCE 93.5 and Alexa. Visit www.goodnewsgoodplanet.com for more info and to sign up for the free weekly audio story with the option of also reading the transcript.

**GOOD NEWS
GOOD PLANET**

New regular monthly feature!

If you want to read more visit their website www.goodnewsgoodplanet.com for more Good News.

Consider becoming a GOOD NEWS GOOD PLANET member and making a monthly donation to support their important work.

Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos Unites Groups To Revitalize Agriculture



By CORILIA ORTEGA
and GILLIAN JOYCE

Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos has joined forces with LandLinkNM to bring together agricultural landowners, producers, and service providers to address an urgent crisis. Despite several generations of land-based people having abandoned agriculture due to changes in our economy, society, and cultures, we currently see many new farmers and ranchers seeking opportunities to

work the land.

Unfortunately for many producers in Taos County, the major obstacle to revitalizing our agricultural heritage is the reality that agricultural land values are prohibitively high, leaving many new or young producers with little or no opportunity to access land. Simultaneously, many of our elder owners of agricultural lands are no longer able to keep producing.

As a result, our agricultural lands, waters, and traditions in Taos County are in trouble. Fallow fields bring in invasive species that threaten the crops of current producers as well as our native species. Loss of agricultural land valuation challenges our legacy landowners to hold on to their agricultural lands as taxes skyrocket. Unused acequia water rights are in danger of being lost.

We need the next generation of farmers to learn from the experienced minds of current producers, Mayordomos and Commissioners.

Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos is evaluating the ways in which we can support the producers and agricultural lands and waters of Taos County. To this end, we have partnered with LandLinkNM to help connect the owners of fallow agricultural land with current and potential producers, and to help producers connect with agricultural labor and services.

What is LandLinkNM? It is a free online resource that provides the opportunity to list agricultural lands for lease, trade, or through other agreements. The site offers legal templates for lease and memorandums of understanding, a guide to agricultural land agreements specific to New Mexico, as well as

pro-bono legal advice regarding agricultural land leases and agreements.

Alianza Agri-Cultura is available to work with property owners, producers, and agricultural service providers in order to help list their lands, needs, and services on the LandLinkNM website, as well as to help get the word out through word-of-mouth, social media, and print outlets. We can walk you through the process and connect you with additional resources.

Please contact us at (575) 425- 0897 with any questions, comments, or needs we may be able to help you with. For more information about our organization, check out our website, alianzaagricultura.org, or our Facebook page, Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos. To learn more or list your property, needs, or services, go to: LandLinkNM's website at landlinknm.org

Carson National Forest Fuelwood and Camping Update

By MARYANNA CLEMONS

With Carson National Forest offices closed due to the pandemic, special fuelwood phone numbers were providing customer service for those seeking fuelwood permits. They were successful in helping the Carson National Forest (CNF) assist customers with fuelwood permits, resulting in virtual sales for the month of June of 1,245 permits, equating to 13,970 cords of wood.

As of July 20, the fuelwood phone numbers have been phased out and

district phone numbers are now used for fuelwood permit sales. The CNF website is updated with these district numbers. Contact any one of our offices between the hours of 8 am and 4:30 pm (closed for lunch between noon and 1 pm) to speak with our customer service representatives. The number for Questa Ranger District is (575) 586-0520.

The Forest Service is making every effort to expand access to recreation sites within the context of CDC guidance and state and local government public health orders for residents, while prior-

itizing employee and public health and safety. While the State of New Mexico has travel restrictions and quarantine instructions in place, the five National Forests in New Mexico, including the CNF, will be honoring reservations made on "reservation-only" campgrounds via www.recreation.gov. We ask that anyone coming to the CNF abide by the CDC guidance of social distancing and the State of New Mexico's guidelines of wearing a face covering and limiting group numbers.

While many sites remain open for

public use, temporary area closures may be enacted in some local situations to support guidance from health and safety officials for residents to stay home, stay safe, and save lives. Most developed campgrounds on the Carson National Forest are first-come, first-served.

Stay up to date on recreation opportunities by checking the Carson National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/carson/> home and follow us on Facebook and Twitter at @CarsonNF.

Revival of Plastic Recycling Spurs Community Development



Volunteers constructed walls filled with compressed post-consumer plastic as a demonstration project in Questa. From left to right are Holly Armstrong, Todd Wynward, Randy Martinez, Juan Perez, Sierra Ross Richer, Angelo Herrera, and Daniel Herrera (RYNO).

Photo by Savannah Herrera

By JONATHAN HUTCHISON

Locals have mourned the curtailment of Taos County's recycling program, especially the absence of any outlet for plastics. Diehards have been squirreling their plastic waste away, hoping and waiting for some new approach to disposal to emerge here.

Now there is a way to put all that plastic to work, courtesy of the creative collaboration of Daniel Herrera of RYNO (Rewire Yourself with New Opportunities), Todd Wynward of TiLT (Taos Initiative for Life Together), Megan White of Plastic-Free Taos, and architect Doug Eichelberger. They have launched an experiment in sustainability, using compressed recycled plastic as a building material. This initiative was featured in the July issue of the *Questa Del Rio News** and in the *Taos News*.

Building with recycled plastic helps build community.

RYNO hopes to revitalize a Questa trailer park with new compressed plastic structures, creating a place of hope and healing for people struggling with addiction and incarceration in northern Taos County. At-risk youth learn life skills as they work on this and other projects with Herrera as their mentor.

The group's first demonstration project, a 10 x 12-foot storage shed is nearing completion. Several El Rito/Latir households contributed recycled plastic to this effort. An Open House celebration

is scheduled for Friday, August 7, from 1-4 pm at the trailer park in Questa (see sidebar for location).

Eichelberger, RYNO, TiLT, and Plastic-Free Taos plan further compressed plastic construction projects in the Questa area and in Taos. Plans are underway, stay tuned!

It couldn't come at a better time.

Most households, no matter how conscientious, will generate a certain amount of recyclable plastic waste

that can be repurposed. Why not find a spot in the home to collect it? When your bag is full and you've gotten it all spic-and-span cleaned, donate it to RYNO's ongoing building projects. The Questa Shed Project alone kept hundreds of bags of non-biodegradable plastic out of our landfills and water table.

How to participate:

The project accepts all seven kinds of recyclable plastic containers, as well as plastic grocery bags. This is more comprehensive than most municipal or county recycling programs. Take the following steps to prepare your plastic for donation:

1. All plastic should be thoroughly rinsed, free of food waste and oily/greasy residues.
2. All tops and caps must be removed prior to donation, to speed production. [All sorts of plastic tops and caps can be recycled separately at the Questa Center Supermarket, as a fundraiser for cancer care in Mexico. Email news@questaedf.

com for more information.]

3. Place clean, capless, crushable plastic in a garbage bag and tie it closed. Label each bag with your or the donor's name on a piece of duct or masking tape.

DO NOT INCLUDE: Brittle plastic, styrofoam, trash, newspaper, glass, wood, cardboard, or metal.

Drop off your plastic donation: In Questa:

Alert Daniel Herrera to your donation via email at dansautohondo@gmail.com or (575) 224-7386. Leave bagged and labeled plastic under the portal of the former Movies At Home store. Or, drop it off at the demonstration project site, 2380 Hwy 522, Questa, at the top of the trailer court behind the video store. Leave donations inside the new plastic-built shed on the left.

At TiLT House, in Taos:

Alert Todd Wynward to your donation at tiltcoordinator@gmail.com. Leave bagged and labeled plastic NEATLY along the left edge of the TiLT House driveway, 215 La Posta Road in Taos, at the corner of La Posta and Salazar, west of Albertsons.

If this demonstration project is any indication, Taos County may be blessed with a sustainable, eco-friendly outlet for disposing of our plastic waste, while promoting beneficial community services. Kudos to RYNO, TiLT, Plastic-Free Taos, and Doug Eichelberger for this visionary program!

Building With Plastic: Questa Shed Demonstration Project Completed

RYNO will celebrate the completion



Photo by Daniel Herrera

The Questa Shed Project, shown here nearing completion. Celebrate RYNO's Open House to see the finished structure on August 7. (See Sidebar for more information)

of its collaborative demonstration project, a 10 x 12-foot storage building constructed with recycled plastic, with an Open House in Questa on Friday, August 7, from 1-4 pm. The public is invited.

The Questa Shed demonstration project site is located at 2380 Hwy 522 in Questa. It is on the west side of the highway, at the top of the trailer park behind the old Movies at Home Store.

Please RSVP to dansautohondo@gmail.com or (575) 224-7386 to schedule your site visit during the 1-4pm window. This will help avoid congestion and help with social distancing. Face coverings are required. Learn more about the vision of La CULTURA CURA recovery program and its mission going forward by contacting Daniel Hererra at (575) 224-7386.

* Visit the July issue online to read more about the Questa Shed Project and the Caps for Cancer campaign: <https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?e=&u=a995d5df1e0ed56cdaa-f7e35e&id=ba526ea3e8>

First Online, Socially-distanced, Live Auction of Local Art!

**QUESTA
CREATIVE
COUNCIL**



When you can't go to the studio tour - the studio tour will come to you! The dynamic folks behind the Questa Creative Council are determined not to lose momentum. For three years they have found ways to connect artists in northern Taos County to art lovers, and this summer they will host the first ever online, socially-distanced, live auction of local art.

With their annual August studio tour on hiatus due to virus exposure, the excitement planned for this August 15-16 will be replaced by a special event for armchair travelers and art lovers

closer to home. For 48 hours, beginning at 12:01 am on Saturday, August 15 and ending at 11:59 pm on Sunday, August 16, the Creative Council's new artist directory website will host a live interface for your bids.

If you haven't checked out www.northernnewmexicoartists.com yet, you should. This new platform is a showcase for artists with their personal bios, inspirations, and images of their work. For the two auction days, a temporary feature will offer this unique event online at the website.

You can see the offerings now at northernnewmexicoartists.com. You can "Buy Now" some of them! But bidding is the only option on auction days.

On auction days, you can place a bid by first registering as a buyer in the Auction section of the website. This will allow you to bid and get notified if

others outbid you. If you have secured the item at the end of the auction, you will be directed to a safe payment option (Paypal or Square), where your purchase will be processed. Your new artwork will be carefully packed and shipped by members of the QCC after payment is secured.

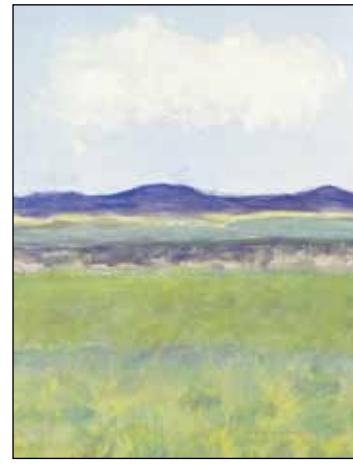
At press time over 18 artists had committed to participating in the live auction, promising unique, local, hand-crafted artwork. Organizers anticipate participation to double, with many more artworks to offer. Questa and its environs truly is where artistic traditions meet. Fine traditional crafts will be represented as well as modern inspirations and techniques. If you've enjoyed the Questa Studio Art Tours in previous summers, you have an idea of the high quality and wide range of art produced in our area. The auction represents a diversity of

pricing, as well. Everyone at home missing the scenery of the studio tour route can log in and choose more art for their homes, or gifts for their family.

Some examples of works you'll find to bid on include; burl bowls by Andy Jaramillo, carved gourd art by Betsy Irwin, paintings by Cami Thompson, Karen Ahlgren, Peggy Trigg and others, monoprints by Betsy Peirce, pastels by Joan Norris, stained glass by Marcus Rael, and much more! Our local artists have been working during this time of distancing, and we hope this new online event will show as much support for their much-admired skills as direct visits and sales provide.

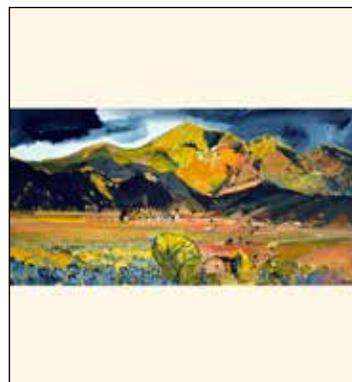
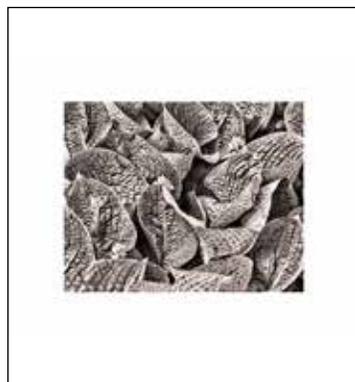
August 15-16: log on to <https://northernnewmexicoartists.com/>

For more information, email: questacreativecouncil@gmail.com, or call Peggy at (505) 974-5314.



Courtesy Photos

Photos shown are some of the many available auction items. Visit the artist's profile page for more information.



Update from the Questa Creative Council

Questa Chamber Music Virtual Concert – Late August?

Rehearsing for a late August or early September concert are (from left) violinist Suzie Schwartz, violist Andrea Gore, and cellist Rebecca Caron. Not pictured: pianist Martha Shepp.

The Series usually kicks off with a late August concert with Andrea Gore, Rebecca Caron, and Martha Shepp, and we still hope to make that happen, though its live presentation format is in question. This time we will be joined by another string player, Suzie Schwartz, from Taos. It may occur at La Sala with social distancing and masks... we shall see! We're working on the post-romantic composer Gabriel Fauré's Piano Quartet #1, a very lush and symbolic work appropriate to the times we're living through now. Contact Martha Shepp for more information at (575) 776-7579 or see our page on the QCC website.

New Face in the QCC

Emily Wilde, who you may know as the graphic designer for this paper, will be helping with communication needs of the QCC, providing welcome relief for volunteers Claire Coté and Martha Shepp.

Streetlight Banners Round Two:



Courtesy Photos

Top Photo: Rehearsing for concert. Left: Violinist Suzie Schwartz, Center: Andrea Gore, viola and Rebecca Caron, cello. Bottom Photo: Showing the work in repainting the decorative road signs in Questa.

Now Installed!

Retablo images from St. Anthony's Church graced Questa's downtown district since July of 2019. Did you know other designs have also been planned? Images of Questa history are now showing and you

may recognize some of them as ancestors of local families: five of the 18 were donated by locals through the QuestaStories project, depicting their ancestors and loved ones; the rest are from our national archives, in the Library of Congress.

Thanks to the Ortiz, Coggins, Ortega, Rael, Vigil, and Jaramillo families. The final set of banners for future use, Round Three, are of art by our local artists.

Questa History Trail Completion Celebration

We are looking at Labor Day, in the beginning of September, for our official ribbon-cutting celebration of the completed Questa History Trail route. This local, outdoor, socially-distanced celebration will include a guided walk, traditional treats, and card- and poster-sized reproductions of the current history-themed streetlight banners for sale. The history and culture of Questa is so unique and it will soon have this wonderful community asset to illuminate our past in all its guises. A wealth of information is available now on the project's website; <https://questatrail.org/>. Stay tuned for more news!

QCC Initiative to Replace Questa Studio Art Tour with Online Auction (See article on Page 14)

Visit <https://questacreative.org/> for more information or contact questacreativecouncil@gmail.com.

NeoRio 2020: Home

VIRTUAL EVENTS AND COLLABORATIONS, SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 25

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 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, community, and celebration of each year's fascinating theme.

We're transforming and adapting NeoRio 2020 in response to heightened safety measures, while recognizing our need for personal connection and support. We're asking everyone to consider their experience of "home" during the global pandemic for NeoRio 2020.

Participants (that means you!) are invited to create artwork time-capsules with an accompanying audio sto-



Photo by Carrie Leven, modified by Claire Coté

ry to be shared and archived digitally in collaboration with Questa Stories ~ Community Memory Project. These time capsules, created by you as well as by local and regional artists, will be shown and shared via an online exhibition and digital archive, through a series of community roundtables on Zoom, and in local streetfront windows. Additional collaborations are also in the works.

Let's come together and reflect on this poignant time. You are invited to participate!

Watch for details on how to take part during the September 18-October 25 timeframe: go to LEAPsite.org or call Claire at (575) 224-9066.

Questa Online Art Auction

Replacing Questa Studio Tour

QUESTA STUDIO ART TOUR

SAT

48

HOURS ONLY

August 15-16

Saturday-Sunday

Preview auction items and bid on your favorite Questa area artists artwork online at

QuestaArtsTour.com

QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL

n m a
new mexico arts

taos
community
foundation

Continuous Learning Plan 2020-21

Questa Independent School District

Even after QISD begins the hybrid model, families that are not comfortable with their students returning to school will be permitted to continue their educational access virtually 100% at home.

Continuous Learning Plan

In compliance with the New Mexico Public Health orders and the requirements set forth by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), in-person learning will be delayed. In consideration of the concerns that families have expressed about sending their children to school and in the hopes of keeping teachers and staff as safe and healthy as possible, Questa Independent Schools will follow these guidelines and measures. This means we will begin the school year with a virtual (online) model of instruction. Virtual learning will continue for all students until at least September 7, 2020.

Beginning September 8, Kindergarten to 6th grade (K-6) students may be allowed to transition to the hybrid model of learning. In-person learning in classrooms (groups) can be no larger than one adult per five students (1:5 ratio). Other onsite groups will stay compliant with the same ratio and social distancing recommendations. After some time, and checking to make sure COVID numbers are not increasing, middle school students will transition to the hybrid model. Lastly, high school students will be allowed to return to in-person learning in a hybrid model, again only if COVID numbers are within an acceptable range. The whole transition of moving students into the hybrid model one group at a time could take about nine weeks. If everything goes according to plan, QISD will have all students back in the classrooms for in-person learning on a hybrid model around the middle of October.

The virtual model will be supported by a variety of online learning platforms including Edgenuity, iStation, iReady, Khan Academy, and Microsoft Teams. Although these platforms will provide curricular support and structure for virtual learning, QISD teachers will be providing live instruction daily as well. Teachers will be using their expertise to create a rich, hands-on learning environment, even within the confines of a COVID-19 closure. Professional development training will guide teachers into building online curriculums combined with project-based science, art, performance, and other activities. We are excited to watch our students and teachers grow in this new learning adventure.

Students will be supported in their social and emotional needs as well. Teachers will be given an Advisory Class. At the elementary level, this class will be the grade-level homeroom. At the secondary level, this class will be a group of students assigned to one teacher to ensure that every student in the district receives focused, personalized support. Advisory teachers will monitor student academic progress, and also provide

emotional check-ins, support, and education in things like self-care techniques to ensure student well-being. Advisory teachers are the “point person” in the district for each student.

In the hybrid model, students will attend at their school site on the following days:

Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate Students:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
PreK, Kinder, First, Second Third Grades	Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Grades	PreK, Kinder, First, Second Third Grades	Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Grades

Questa Junior and Senior High Students:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Seventh, Tenth, Twelfth Grades	Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh Grades	Seventh, Tenth, Twelfth Grades	Eighth, Ninth, Eleventh Grades

This rotational schedule will allow for appropriate social distancing. It will also allow for disinfecting classrooms on the days that those grades are not on campus.

In the virtual model, for students registered at AVEIS, their “attendance” days (i.e. Mondays and Wednesdays for PreK-3rd) will be more intense and a little longer day consisting of live classes as well as independent online work. “Off” days (i.e. Tuesdays and Thursdays for PreK-3rd) will also have some live classes but will focus on more independent online work and have fewer structured times. These “off” days will focus on instruction in the morning.

Along with the Junior and Senior High, AVEIS will be offering days and times for parents to register on-site with guidance if they are uncomfortable registering online.

We are compiling and updating our list of families and their access to technology and internet service. We are working closely with community partners to identify areas of hot spots and to brainstorm creative solutions, including the possibility of utilizing school sites for a very small number of students, to ensure access to virtual learning.

New Teachers, Courses, and Collaborations

We would like to welcome back to the district three former QISD teachers for the new school year. Amber Benavidez will teach English Language Arts, Erica Zito will teach Science, and Tomas Madrid will teach History and Math at Questa Junior and Senior High. We are looking at including some new electives for students: Entrepreneurship and Welding. Both of these classes are in collaboration with Questa Economic Development Fund. The Welding class will be offered for dual credit through UNM-Taos. The Welding class will also receive funding from Los Alamos National Labs and Chevron Questa. These electives are meant to help ready students for careers in self-employment, business,

and welding. Also in development is a course collaboration with the Vida del Norte Coalition to bring Drug and Alcohol Prevention programming to our students in a new elective called Personal Development. In this class, students will learn coping skills to manage stress and to learn more about their personal beliefs and values and setting long-term goals.

Sports

Last school year, our student athletes suffered the consequences of being under school closure because no sports were allowed. This year the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA), New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) and NM superintendents have worked hard to create safe opportunities for student athletes to participate in sports.

Football and soccer have been postponed to the Spring season. Volleyball and basketball will have a later start than usual. Spirit will have their state competition in March with no requirement to attend other competitions to qualify for state. Because football and soccer will happen in the Spring, baseball and track and field will also have a delayed start and will go into June for their state championships.

If NMPED allows districts to run on a hybrid model, sports will continue according to the following schedule. In other words, even if Questa stayed 100% virtual all year, we will still be allowed to play sports as long as we have the option through the state to be in a hybrid model. If all NM schools are ordered to stay home or closed, then sports will be canceled.

Here is the Sports Calendar according to the New Mexico Activities Association from July 15, 2020. Remember dates are subject to change based on new public health orders. Please visit www.nmact.org for the latest news on sports and activities.

Sport	Start date	State Championships
Volleyball	Oct. 5	December 4-12
Basketball	Jan. 4	March 1-13
Spirit	TBD	March 26-27
Soccer	Feb. 15	April 12-17
Football	Feb. 22	April 23-24 & 30, May 1 & 8
Baseball	April 5	June 21-26
Track & Field	April 5	June 17-19 & 24-26

QISD 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

July 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				15	

September 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
					18	

October 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					18	

November 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
					13	

December 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
					11	

January 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					16	

February 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
					16	

March 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
					16	

April 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
					17	

May 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				10	

June 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

IMPORTANT DATES:

2020

- Aug 3 - 4.....Professional Development For Staff
- Aug 5.....First Day Of School (Students)
- Sept 7.....Labor Day (No School)
- Sept 18.....Professional Development For Staff
- Oct 12.....Indigenous People's Day (No School)
- Oct 14.....40th Day
- Nov 13.....Professional Development For Staff
- Nov 23-7.....Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- Dec 1.....80th Day
- Dec 11.....Professional Development For Staff

2021

- Dec 21 - Jan 1.....Christmas Break (No School)
- Jan 8.....Professional Development For Staff
- Jan 18.....Martin Luther King Day (No School)
- Feb 10.....120th Day
- Feb 15.....President's Day (No School)
- Mar 5.....Professional Development For Staff
- Mar 15-19.....Spring Break (No School)
- Apr 2 - 5.....Easter Break (No School)
- Apr 16.....Professional Development For Staff
- May 14.....Class Of 2021 Senior Night
- May 15.....Class Of 2021 Graduation
- May 18.....Last Day Of School

QISD Closed

Aug 5, 2020	First Day of School	Dec 21-Jan 1,	Christmas Break	April 2 nd /April 5 th	Good Fri/Easter
Sep 7, 2020	Labor Day	Jan 18, 2021	Martin L. King Day	May 14 th /15 th	Sr Night / Grad
Oct 12, 2020	Indigenous People's Day	Feb 15, 2021	Presidents' Day	May 18, 2021	Last Day of School
Nov 23-27, 2020	Thanksgiving Break	Mar 15-19 2021	Spring Break	May 31, 2021	Memorial Day

October 14th - 40th Day / December 1st - 80th Day / February 10th - 120 Day

TERM	START DATE	END DATE
2020-2021 Year	8/05/2020	5/18/2021
Semester 1 (S1)	8/05/2020	12/17/20
Progress 1 (P1)	8/05/2020	09/11/20
Quarter 1 (Q1)	8/05/2020	10/08/20
Progress 2 (P2)	09/14/20	11/12/20
Quarter 2 (Q2)	10/13/20	12/17/20
Semester 2 (S2)	01/04/20	5/18/2021
Progress 3 (P3)	01/04/20	02/04/20
Quarter 3 (Q3)	01/04/20	03/04/20
Progress 4 (P4)	03/08/20	04/15/20
Quarter 4 (Q4)	03/08/20	5/18/2021



Get Ready!
Back to School



By CARLA ARCHULETA,
QISD SUPERINTENDENT

The first day of our new school year for students is August 5. I would like

to thank our administrators, school board, staff, and teachers who have been working non-stop through the summer months to get ready for students. We have really missed the kids' physical presence in our schools, and we look forward to the passing of the pandemic so we can resume school as normal. For now, we are so happy to be starting this new year with a solid plan for meeting our students' educational needs in a COVID-19 positive world.

We would like to thank parents who have registered their students with the district for the 2020-21 school year. With parent and community input we came up with two plans which cover all the bases and are flexible in the case of changing public health orders. In this issue, we hope you find all the information you need for your students to be successful this school year. Please also visit our website for the most up-to-date information. <https://qisd-nm.schoolloop.com/> If

you do have any questions please reach out to either Maria Cintas (Principal) or myself (Superintendent). As always, we hope that everyone will continue to stay healthy and safe through social distancing and wearing a mask.

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NEW AT ROOTS & WINGS from page 28

specialist, and an educational aide fill the staff roles. In a small school such as this, the staff wear many hats, so plumbing and snow shoveling often fall into the category of other staff duties.

RWCS is looking forward to opening its doors this fall to hybrid and distance learning, following NM Public Education Department recommendations. Parents and caregivers can choose what works best for them. RWCS has created a schedule where only 50% of students will be in the facility at any one time, and online learning will be provided to the other 50%, from their homes. One-hundred-percent online learning is also an option. A parent survey is forthcoming to allow parents to choose which model will work best for their family.

RWCS is following all the CDC and New Mexico guidelines concerning COVID-19 and will flex their schedule accordingly as these rules and recommendations change. All students will be provided face shields and masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Teachers' temperatures will be taken daily and anecdotal records will be kept on a daily basis after interviewing staff and students about their current health. All students will be given their own colorful personal water bottle with the RWCS logo on it to have at school and then keep when the year is over.

The annual multi-day overnight wilderness backpack trips will have to be replaced with daily outdoor education adventures, but RWCS is certain that adventure can be created in this way also.



Courtesy Photo

Jon Orris, new director of Roots and Wings Community School in Lama.

RWCS will continue their plans to teach their fall unit (called expeditions) on migration using the expeditionary learning

project-based model which has guided the school for its 21 years. The curriculum will also include short case studies to understand COVID-19 and its effects on students and the world.

School will begin in person at 50% capacity on August 17, with a Zoom parent orientation scheduled for August 9. School will meet Mondays and Tuesdays for half the students and Thursdays and Fridays for the other half. Wednesdays will be a cleaning, prep, and check-in day. Which students come on which day will be emailed very soon to families, and the school is committed to working with families with siblings in different age cohorts.

RWCS is always open to your questions or concerns. Please call (575) 586-2076 or email the office manager at vgarcia@rwcs.org

QHS WELDING PROGRAM from page 1

"human" capital by creating technical training programs and establishing test pilot programs." The Welding Lab fulfilled these objectives. It would provide high school students with the unique opportunity to get training in basic skills in a high paying trade in high demand. Their skills could be put to use right after graduation. Questa High School already had a welding classroom, and so QEDF would help QISD start a welding program – it seemed like a win/win situation.

When the welding program was approved by the Questa Independent Schools Board in March, many collaborators and stakeholders were excited that it was finally time to get the program started. Now that we are in full swing of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are having to adjust our plans, but hope the program will be implemented with minor changes. The group which includes QISD, QEDF, Chevron, Los Alamos National Labs, and UNM-Taos, believe student and instructor safety

is the priority. We must follow public health orders as well as all plans and agreements across all the community partners.

At a weekly meeting, some of the ideas proposed included delivering MC3, the online portion of the curriculum, virtually. The Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) is a comprehensive pre-apprenticeship training curriculum that applies to many trades, including welding. It was developed by the National Building Trades National Apprenticeship and Training Committee in 2008. Students who complete the MC3 Curriculum become eligible for apprenticeships immediately after graduation from high school.

Everyone agrees the best way to begin the welding program is in-person learning, however, the pandemic is forcing us to be more creative with our plan. Students are expected to return to school with a hybrid model (alternating in-person and virtual learning) and a possible start date of September 4. If that happens, a small cohort of welding students can begin the hands-on activities with proper social distance

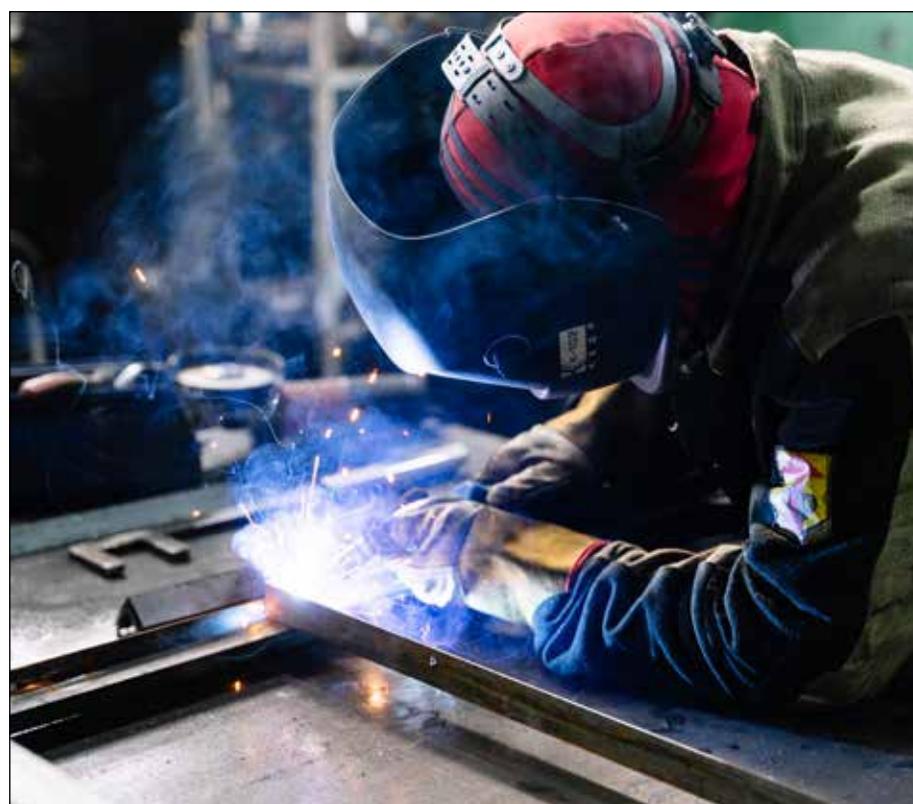


Photo by Pavel Chernogov from Pexels

The new QISD welding program is a collaborative effort with QEDF, LANL, Chevron, and UNM-Taos.

and safety measures. The in-person class can begin at that point. Of course, any plan that is selected will have to be

approved and agreed upon by all of its partners. We will report more in our September issue, so stay tuned!



IMAGINE YOUR STORY!

By SHARON NICHOLSON,
QUESTA LIBRARY DIRECTOR

In summers past, by August 1, we would have celebrated the end of our summer reading program and would have welcomed many of our local chil-

dren for fun and learning at the library. There would have been countless stories read and shared, snacks consumed, activities explored, and a magic show enjoyed.

This year is so different. This year we would have explored ways to imagine our stories. We were left to imagine on our own. How are we doing with that? I can only wonder. In my mind I hear my mother saying, "Use your imagination; you will figure it out." Do parents still say that to their children? Oh, I hope so! Imagination can take us away from our uncertain world. Reading a book can open our minds to imagining new ideas, new places, and even new adventures.

The other day I was thinking about the frequent trips I take up the road to

release captive mice from the live trap on the porch. I leave them in the same area each time as I tell them to find the rest of the colony and have a good life. I found myself wondering if someday I might notice something different about the trap. Maybe the trap is packed with very polite mice. These mice would be dressed in cute little clothes and would be carrying a backpack, or maybe a carry-on. Surprised, I would ask them,

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution."

— Albert Einstein

"What are you doing?" A distinguished looking gentleman mouse would reply, "We thought this was the express bus to the colonies. We are on our way there to visit our family members who have taken that trip this summer."

Would the story go on to say I took them up the road? Who knows? How would you continue the story? I hope you will share it with me! Use your imagination!

Art Kits for School Kids, Round Two!

From THE
QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL

In August and September, we will be working to supply a second batch of art kits for area youth. The first distribution of 57 kits happened last December.

Thanks to your help, we were able to raise over \$800 in donations.

With parents, teachers, and schools modifying learning environments and coping with these uncertain times, the QCC is planning a fundraising event to help us buy art kit supplies for our pro-

jected 300 school-aged children. The kits will contain a sketchbook, pencils, colored pencils, a watercolor set, and an activity sheet that will integrate into art-oriented lessons at the schools.

If you are interested in helping with a monetary donation, please go to the

QCC website and click the donation button. From there you can select from a dropdown menu: Art Kits. Thank you in advance for helping out our kids. <https://questacreative.org/>

Writings of Edith Warner

A transcript of the April 2020 KCEI radio commentary by Lisa Fox.

A quote from the past, a prayer for the future... a translation that is as accurate for war as it is for climate change, and now as well as for our current conundrum...

Edith Warner, an extraordinary soul who found herself, from her upbringing in the east to becoming a light at the crossing of Otowi Bridge, the intersection of the ancient indigenous culture of

San Ildefonso Pueblo and the soon-to-become top secret Manhattan Project on the mesa above her, called Los Alamos.

November 30, 1947

"I have been thinking. If the world situation is as bad as it seems, I feel strongly it should be taken to the people. The strength of this country is the people and always in a crisis they have come through. I feel, though, that the thing we should work for is not security as such for our own country, but peace for the world. This is not really idealistic but

realistic in view of the past and the present. I'd like to see the people presented with the facts in a dignified, honest way but with a spark, a challenge. The time has passed for phrases – for freedom and such – but peace embodies freedom and security. I think we would respond in large measure to something as vital as this is if we could be made to realize: if we had to give up something for it. We take for granted what we have and leave the future in governments' hands. I'd like to have trained reporters like Ed

Murrow saying what they wanted and how they thought we could work toward it. It seems to me that a country aroused would do more to offset danger of war, [and corona virus] than all the weapons imaginable." — Edith Warner

This passage is from In The Shadow of Los Alamos: Selected Writings of Edith Warner edited by Patrick Burns, 2001 UNM Press. You can listen online to this and the April 2019 commentary by Lisa Fox as well as archival Farming Through the Seasons programs by visiting culturalenergy.org

THIS IS MY WISH FOR YOU:

Comfort on difficult days,
smiles when sadness intrudes,
rainbows to follow the clouds,
laughter to kiss your lips,
sunsets to warm your heart,
hugs when spirits sag,
beauty for your eyes to see,
friendships to brighten your being,
faith so that you can believe,
confidence for when you doubt,
courage to know yourself,
patience to accept the truth,
love to complete your life.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

TWILIGHT

When, at twilight, nothing
Nothing, nothing, nothing at all
Stirs in the forest, then you know
It is a holy time, a time
To obey the sacred silence
With aspen and piñon
Where not one leaf or needle
Dares disturb the exquisite
Stillness.

Then, in this twilight, something
Something calls you to listen, to listen
With every fiber of your being,
To obey with the aspen and the piñon
So you may hear the singing.
Dare not ask why. Just listen.
The Great Forest is singing its song
For you.

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MESA

O Path of Perfection
You brought me to the great mesa
Where earth and sky embrace
In a quivering stillness
Of such magnitude
That the heart is riven,
Cleft open to the majesty
Of space and time.

Where the ancients carved their story
On the rocks and linger still in every leaf of sage.
In every gully, every canyon
Their spirits hover on the wind,
Calling us to remembrance
Of their embrace of earth and sky.

Where tribal drums still thrum,
Thrum thrumming a journey to the clouds,
In reverent homage to the vast horizon,
To the rivers, lakes and mountains
Of this enchanted land.

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OF THE MONTH
POEMS



THE ACTIVE8 YOUTH GROUP OF
VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION

By RACHEL KUC'

For August we honor the members of the Active8 Youth Group as Volunteers of the Month. The Active8 are associated with the Vida Del Norte Coalition and are an instrumental part of it. We thank them for all their hard work this summer in the Questa community. Their involvement is crucial to the work of the Vida Del Norte Coalition to try to prevent substance abuse in our community. Volunteering is a great way to give back and help strengthen our community while bringing us closer together. It can also be very empowering and educational. The members of Active8 are working hard to help make our community and the world a better place and we want to thank them for all that they do and for being wonderful, unique, and caring individuals.

NORTH CENTRAL FOOD PANTRY

Some of the Active8 members volunteer at the North Central Food Pantry, helping to pack up and distribute food. The pandemic has added a strain to operations since food must be packed up and brought out to cars to maintain social distancing. "We love having them! Some of these young ladies work inside loading the boxes, and some load them on the vehicles as they drive through," says Jeannie Masters at the Food Pantry.

Kate Cisneros is also thrilled to have the volunteers help at the Food Pantry, "It's really nice because they learn what it is to give out and not receive. That's my whole thing, to teach them that it's a lot of work, but we are doing it because we want to help the public, the community,"

Angelica Lovato, a 16-year-old from Questa, comments, "It has been cool to help out in our community a little more. I think we definitely need that. I think we have kind of separated and I wish that we could get back closer together like it used to be. I've always liked helping people but it is definitely in a different light when you are help-



Photo by Rachel Kuc

Active8 members of the Vida del Norte Coalition volunteer at the North Central New Mexico Food Pantry. From left is Ashlynn Rael, Alianna (Booboo) Gonzales in the middle, and Amalia Gonzales on the right.

ing people you don't know... You don't know what they are going through or if they are struggling. It makes you want to do more."

Ashlynn Rael, age 13, said, "It's been fun, it gets me out of the house, helping other people." Another Questa 13-year-old, Alianna (Booboo) Gonzales, said, "It's good to help around with stuff for people who can't do it by themselves. It feels good to volunteer for people." She also said her favorite thing about the Food Pantry is that the ladies over there are funny!

The North Central Food Pantry distributes food on the second and fourth Friday of each month from 11 am - 2 pm. You can find more information

and directions at www.ncfpquesta.com. You can also make donations on their website, which are always welcome and appreciated!

QUESTA FARMERS MARKET

Three of the Active8 members have paid internships at the Questa Farmer's Market this summer: Kaylee Piper, Amalia Gonzalez, and Booboo Gonzalez. It is impressive to see how hard the interns are working, how engaged they are, and how well they work together and with the community. Booboo Gonzales is motivated to get out of bed on Sundays, she says, "I can at least go somewhere instead of doing nothing!" Sometimes staying in bed is wonderful and we all

need our rest. It's a good thing for us all to remember that there are always plenty of ways we can help out in our community if we decide to get out of the house and out of our comfort zones.

Young people, please consider joining the Active8 group! It's a great way to get more involved in your community, express opinions, learn about the dangers of substance abuse, or just have something to do to get out of the house – and it is very empowering. Parents or youth can find out more about joining Active8 and the Vida Del Norte Coalition by calling director Maria Gonzales at (575) 779-2260 or by visiting the website at vidadelnorte.com

Working for our Community.

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Anastacia Gonzalez; Giving Back to the Community

By MARIA GONZALEZ

Anastacia Gonzalez was the very first youth member of the Vida del Norte Coalition. She was instrumental in helping the Coalition understand what the young people in our community are experiencing with substance misuse. Anastacia reports that there are other ways to cope. She graduated from Questa High School this year and plans to move to Colorado Springs this fall in pursuit of higher education. She stated that being a part of the Coalition and learning how the opioid epidemic continues to rise because of over-prescribing of pain medication, especially to the youth and elderly.

This has influenced Anastacia's decision to study alternative medicine. She recalls having several sports injuries and her parents taking her to the chiropractor and acupuncturist as an alternative to modern medicine. Anastacia will be pursuing massage therapy certification and plans to continue with a degree in biochemistry, and eventually finish as a chiropractor. She hopes to return home one day and have an office in the Enchanted Circle, as she feels like we are limited locally on alternative ways of healing. "I would like to return home and give back to the community. I know that my grandma would be able to use this service!"

Anastacia says, "Growing up in Questa, my parents gave us opportunities to grow. Since we were young we were always involved in something. We hiked and fished, I began playing soccer when I was four years old, and got to play on a traveling team with a group of girls from Los Alamos. We had the opportunity to play at different tournaments here in New Mexico and Colorado. I moved on to play other sports as

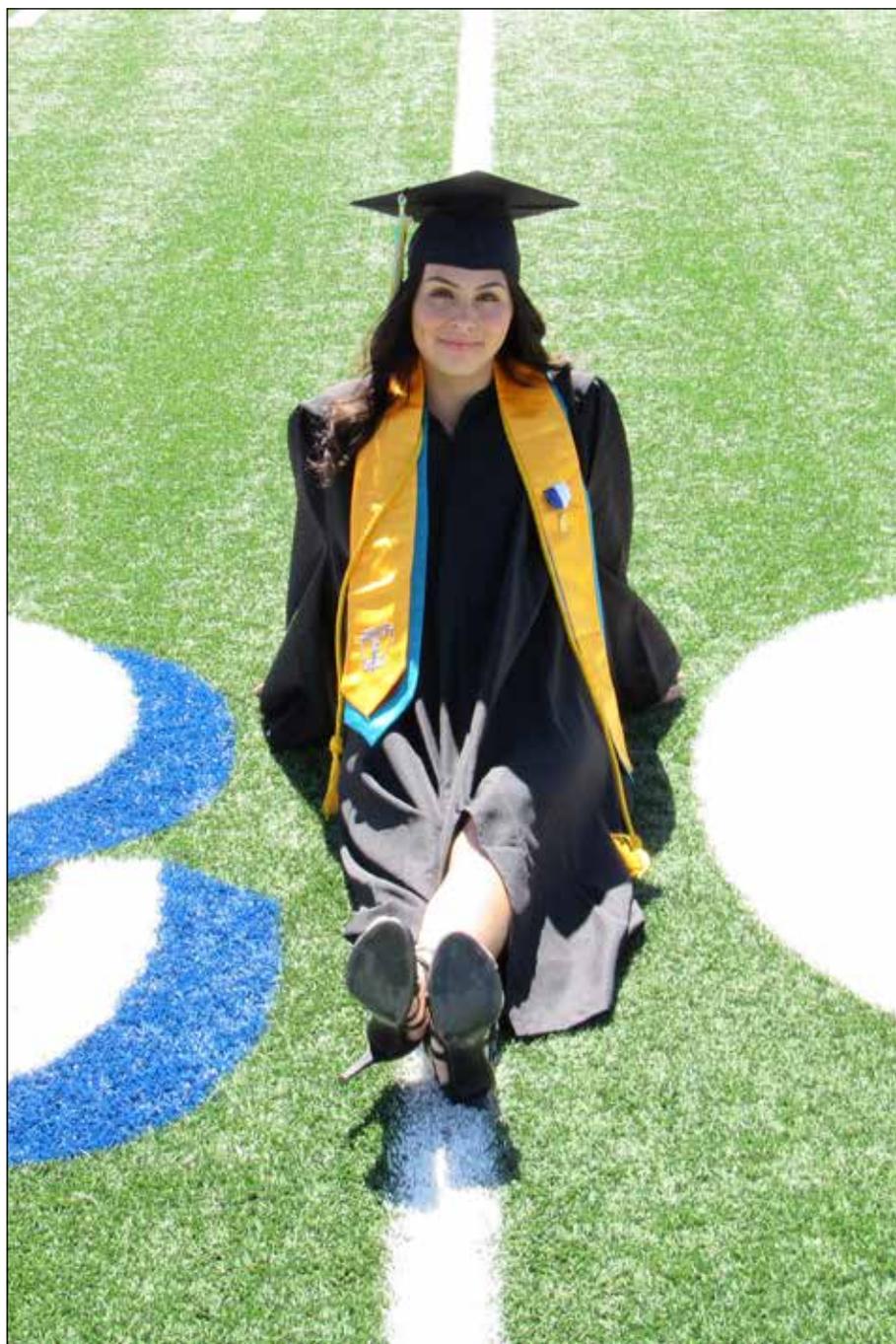


Photo by Maria Gonzalez

Anastacia Gonzalez, Questa High School Class of 2020 and Active8 member of the Vida Del Norte Coalition.

well: volleyball, basketball, and track. I got to meet kids from other communities and realized that some of the things that

were happening in my community that we thought were normal weren't happening elsewhere.

Alcohol and drugs in our community have become part of our culture and it's not out of the norm to see adults and youth drinking or using substances. It was hard to see these things taking place, being normalized and nothing being done in our community. This was something that my friends and I talked about and another reason I joined the Coalition. Throughout my middle school and high school experiences I was involved with Student Council, Honor Society, and Q-Town Drama Club. Through these organizations I volunteered in the community regularly and enjoyed giving back. I have also done volunteer work through the Coalition. I really enjoyed distributing food at the Food Pantry to our community members, especially during this time when people are without jobs and aren't able to provide food for their families.

When I joined the Vida Del Norte Coalition, I didn't realize it was a nationally recognized organization and several communities have benefited. The Coalition has made a difference with their partnership with Drug-Free Communities, SAMHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services), Drug Enforcement Administration 360, and the Centers for Disease Control. My mom tells me to look for opportunities that can open doors for me and I think that's what she envisions with the Coalition. Being one of the first members of Active8 I hope that I was a good role model for the younger members. I was only part of the Coalition for a year-and-a-half, but I think that the rest of the Active8 members will make a real difference in our community, because they are all younger and they can lead the way to make a difference for the younger generations in our community."

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 See Covid-19 rules at
 QuestaFarmersMarket.org



Questa Farmers Market
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In Service to Senior Citizens

By CYNTHIA NAJIM

August 21 was declared National Senior Citizen's Day by President Ronald Reagan when he signed Proclamation 5847 on August 19, 1988. This annual day of celebration honors the achievements of those who have long walked on this planet – pioneers of science, medicine, music, psychology, philanthropy, civil rights, and much, much more. It also provides an opportunity to show our appreciation for their incredible stamina and spirit.

I have long been grateful for the core values instilled by my Lebanese and Swedish family. At the top of the list are compassion to all and reverence toward elders. I am fortunate to have known all four grandparents and deeply appreciate the struggles they endured, and the resolute determination and faith required to keep going in the face of great change, hardship, and war.

In addition, during my 30 years of living overseas in Asia, Europe, and Central America, I was immersed in cultures who respect and dearly care for seniors, a practice sometimes absent in the United States.

In my upcoming book, *The Wisdom of Our Elders*, I describe these courageous, and often fragile beings as “those wise and withering treasures who dwell among us quietly and too often unnoticed.” Society flocks to museums to behold riches of past civilizations. Our elders still with us are these jewels, and merit our utmost respect, tender caring, and love. A sincere smile goes a long way.

Closer to home here in Taos County, we are lucky to have the Taos County Senior Program, still widely known as Ancianos Senior Center. In 2014, Ancianos, a non-profit organization, was taken over by the county and renamed Taos County Senior Program. (Be sure to note the new name before the Ancianos sign in Questa is taken down.)

Executive Director Mike Trujillo and Operations Manager Dawn Romero spearhead the Taos operation and oversee the satellite centers in Questa, Amalia, and Chamisal. Normally there are a total of 24 employees, including three positions in each of the branches – site manager, driver, and cook. Of the current 22 staff members, seven have been with the organization for over 15 years! Everyone is dedicated and happily supports the goals of bringing joy to seniors and helping them live their lives



Photo by Cynthia Najim

The Questa Senior Center dream team from left: driver Rosie Cisneros, cook Teresa Ortiz, and site manager Melli Rodriguez.



Photo by Cynthia Najim

Rosie Cisneros loads food for Meals on Wheels home delivery.



Photo by Cynthia Najim

Melli Rodriguez serves take-out lunch to Jake Eli Ortega who looks forward to picking up his meal every day.

are free, although a suggested donation of \$1.50 is welcome.

Transportation, currently only available in Taos, is invaluable. A driver will take seniors to doctor appointments and the pharmacy, pick up groceries, and before COVID-19, even take them to get their hair and nails done. Bingo, a popular game and valued opportunity to socialize after lunch, has been suspended. Also postponed, Fitness is a series of low-impact exercises like Tai Chi led by a qualified instructor before lunch.

The only qualification to participate is age. You must be 60 years of age or older. Even I'm eligible! When I asked how many seniors enroll in these programs, I was astounded at how few. The day of this interview, 90 individuals picked up lunches in Taos and only 16 in Questa. Perhaps people don't know about this resource, or perhaps some don't want to accept what they consider to be charity.

Having spent time with a variety of elders, these offerings can make a positive difference in their lives. In fact, all staff I spoke with told me that, during this COVID-19 period, their clients miss the community, the sense of belonging, and the independence they feel at the center. They miss their buddies, the interaction – drinking coffee together, telling jokes, and swapping stories.

In Questa, the search for a new facility is underway. But regardless of location, the Questa Senior Center beats with heart. The amazing trio who make everything happen do so purely for the love of seniors. And it shows! Site manager Melli Rodriguez has worked there nearly 16 years; cook Teresa Ortiz, 8 years; and driver Rosie Cisneros, 15 years. On Fridays, after delivering Meals on Wheels, Rosie sometimes even takes seniors to Taos for errands. Each woman is an exemplary model of active loving service.

If you or someone you know can benefit from joining the Taos County Senior Program, please register. And if you'd like to make a private donation to supplement the ever fluctuating government funding, contact Mike Trujillo at the Taos Center. Your gift will be graciously received.

Taos County Senior Program
Taos Center: (575) 737-8927
200 Albright Street, Taos NM 87571

Questa Center: (575) 586-0508
148 Embargo Road, Questa NM 87556
QuestaSeniorCenter1@gmail.com

Did you know?

“The aging of baby boomers means that within just a couple decades, older people are projected to outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history,”
said Jonathan Vespa, a demographer with the U.S. Census Bureau.

“By 2034, there will be 77 million people 65 years and older, compared to 76.5 million under the age of 18.”

as independently as possible.

Taos County Senior Program runs four primary outreach initiatives: Meals on Wheels, Congregate Meals, Transportation, and Bingo & Fitness. Meals on Wheels is well-known nationwide for delivering balanced meals to those

who are housebound. Congregate Meals are lunches cooked and served at each center. Given the restrictions with COVID-19, seniors now pick up their meals at the center to eat at home. Menus for both food programs are designed by a certified nutritionist and



AUGUST 2020
VILLAGE VOICE
DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Questa Motor Vehicle

The Questa Motor Vehicle Department is currently open by appointment only. Masks are mandatory to enter the office. To schedule an appointment you may go to mvd.nm.gov or call (575) 586-2429

Questa Public Library

The Questa Public Library is offering curbside or at-the-door service. Call

the library to order books and DVDs for pick-up only. The phone number is (575) 586-2023 and hours are Monday through Saturday from 12 pm - 5 pm.

Village Administrative/ Utility Office

The Village office doors are closed to the public; however, payments are still being accepted by phone or drop slot. All utility, public works, and administrative needs are being addressed as normal.

The Village office hours are Monday through Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Contact the Village at (575) 586-0694.

Dollar General Update

The Village of Questa is currently in the process of reviewing 12 Oaks' application for a zoning and building permit. The Village expects to provide a final written decision regarding this application following discussions between 12 Oaks and the Village's legal counsel.

IT'S DIY SEASON!
SUMMER IS HERE!

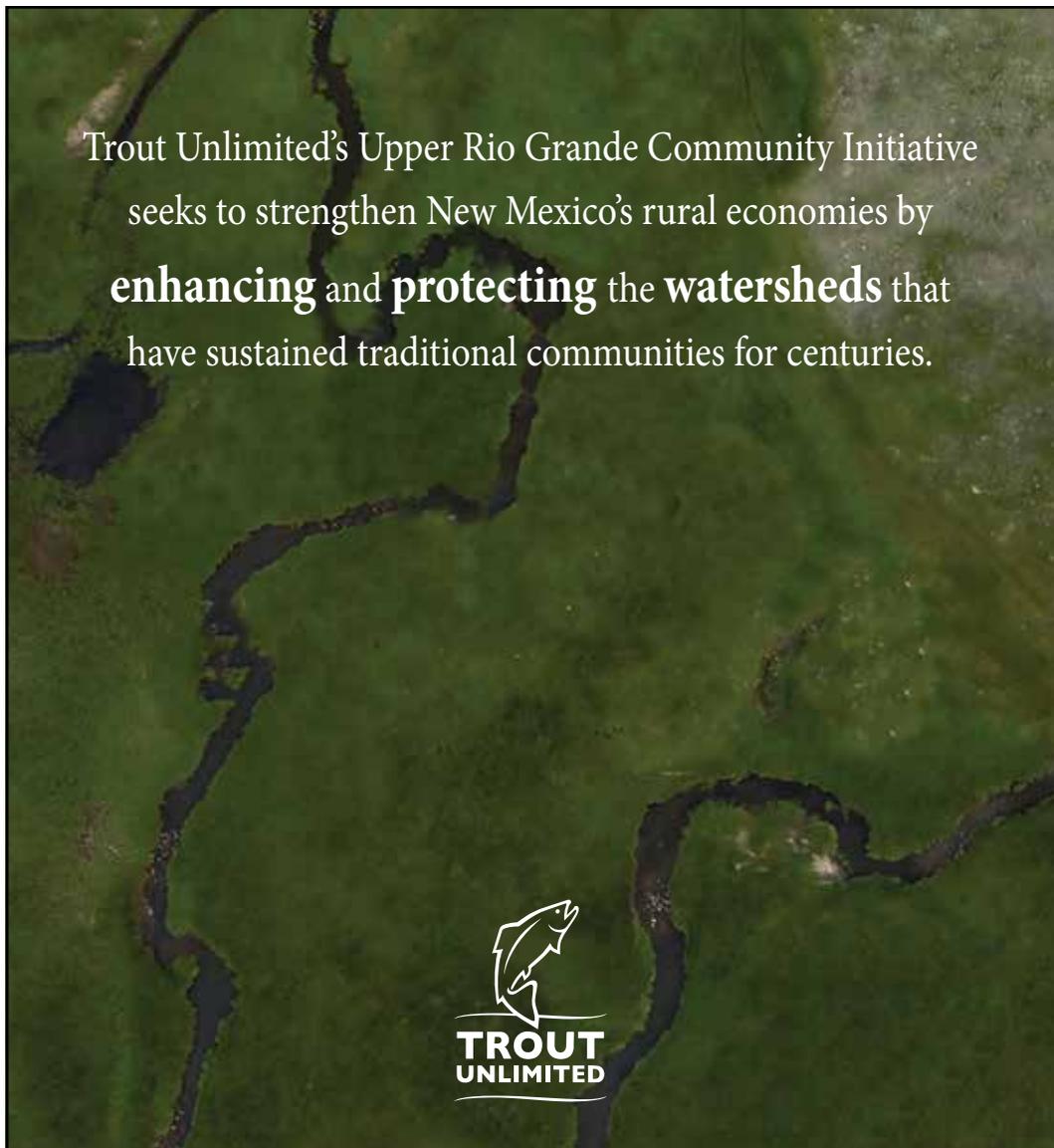
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Trout Unlimited's Upper Rio Grande Community Initiative seeks to strengthen New Mexico's rural economies by **enhancing** and **protecting** the watersheds that have sustained traditional communities for centuries.



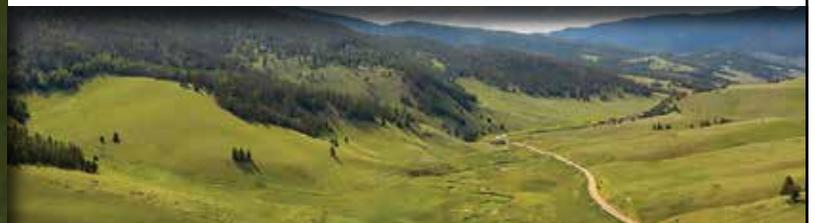
Since 2013, TU has supported the Village of Questa's expansion of its fishing-based economy through re-storing the Red River, developing a restoration work force, and improving the village's capacity to lodge and serve visitors.



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.



Welcome to Questa Farmers Market, 2020



Lorie Jaramillo tending a market garden

Photo by Gaea McGahee



Andy Jaramillo hard at work on the horno

Photo by E. Wilde

CONTRIBUTORS:
CAROLINE YEZER,
GAEA MCGAHEE, AMALIA
AND BOOBOO GONZALEZ,
AND KAYLEE PIPER

Questa Farmers Market is blooming! Located near the busy intersection of NM Highways 522 and 38, the QFM greenery and flowers pull you in, just like a butterfly or a bee. And that's intentional. Creating beauty as well as a marketplace is the goal of the organizers, volunteers, and market interns. Their ambition is to support the vendors and to make a welcoming space for the community to come together. Visitors often remark that they hadn't necessarily planned to stop, but were drawn to the curious plantings, and the quirky 1960s truck that doubles as a raised bed for corn and flowers.

Market gardens, planted and cared for by market interns and volunteers, are an oasis of sunflowers, marigolds, corn, squash, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, kale, chard, and herbs (cilantro, dill, and basil), and they are meant to be shared. Stop by and visit the gardens; harvest carefully, use with joy.

Market intern Booboo (Alianna) Gonzalez reflected on the market: "The Questa Farmers Market, to me, is a very

helpful place for people to meet up and sell vegetables – for not even a high price. There's a lot of fun stuff here; making coffee out of the horno, and lamb. There are a lot of gardens with fun stuff – so, yeah!" She and her sister, Amalia Gonzalez, plant and water the gardens along with Kaylee Piper. These three young women are the paid market interns this season (they are also teen members of the Active8, Vida del Norte Coalition). "They are 100% vital to the creation and care of the marketplace, which includes these gardens," says organizer Gaea McGahee. "You'll also see Lorie and Andy Jaramillo watering and tending. We've doubled the garden space since last season, and there will be more green when we begin to plant trees... very soon!" says Gaea. "I like working at the farmers market because it helps me make the community look a bit better than it already is," says Amalia.

Market interns contribute to QFM social media content and recently made a TikTok account. You can follow QFM on Facebook and Instagram too, where interns share photos and videos from every Sunday's market. You can pitch in any amount to support our interns' paid seasonal positions by donating to QFM on our website, QuestaFarmersMarket.org

Mission Statements:

QUESTA FARMERS MARKET

is a community-led effort to localize our economy by supporting agriculturalists and makers during the growing season in beautiful northern New Mexico.

LOR FOUNDATION:

Listening first, LOR works with rural communities in the Mountain West to enhance livability and prosperity while preserving the character that makes each community unique.

VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION:

Unite Northern Taos County communities in prevention and decreasing youth substance use. (Active8, the youth extension of the coalition is actively participating to reduce youth substance misuse.)

or by buying a T-shirt at the market.

The Market's cheeriness is inspiring and needed after months of a difficult and isolating pandemic. So many of us have been socially isolated and physically distant, but we are social beings and need interaction and community to thrive. To slow the spread of COVID-19, the

best advice, if we are going to interact in community spaces, is to keep interactions outside, avoid enclosed places, and to wear masks when we are in public, sharing space. The vendors' booths are spaced far apart and offer shade in the summer heat; built to make life easier for a vendor. The greenness of the site promises what we need right now: relief, renewal, and hope. Most importantly, the people: those you may have known since you were born, your compadres and your primos. If you are new in town, the market is a social center, a place you can visit to find ways to help your community. Shopping local is a real form of support, not a trend, and it is how the world must work again.

If you come to Questa Farmers Market this Sunday, the social aspect, the safety of being outdoors with everyone masked, and the therapeutic benefits of growth and renewal are what you might immediately feel and appreciate. Less obvious but also beneficial are the ways neighbors can support each other at the market, by buying local products from farmers, bakers, and craftspeople. These exchanges and material support systems restore our communal ties. They are essential to our well-being after so much time apart.



Questa Farmers Market interns from left to right: Amalia Gonzalez, Kaylee Piper, and (Alianna) Booboo Gonzalez

Photo by E. Wilde



The Questa Farmers Market is one of the most important things in my life. It has shown me so much and I don't know what I would do without it. It is one of the things that has helped turn my life around and helped me see the better in the world. And it is one of the things that has made me want to better myself as a person. I love the people and gardening. The farmers market has helped me through a lot of things and brings things into my life that I never want to lose. I am so thankful not only for the farmers market in my life, but also Active8, for that has changed my life in so many ways, too. The farmers market is a good place - it is filled with good. It really showed me that there is still good in the world and I thank all the people in it. I recommend getting into things like this because it is worth it. Also, the coffee here is amazing!!!

—Your fellow market intern,
Kaylee Piper

FARMERS
DO YOU HAVE A SURPLUS
OF LOCAL VEGGIES?
QFM WILL BUY THEM
from you and donate them to our
local food pantry.

CALL (575) 224-2102

There is even more work being done by Market volunteers, interns, vendors, and organizers with an ambitious post-pandemic future in mind. In the past the market has been able to incorporate live music and dance. At the moment, neither are allowed due to the problems of social distancing. This has not stopped market organizers prepar-

ing for site expansion, though, so that when the pandemic allows, music and dance can resume. The Questa Economic Development Fund is sponsoring a concrete dance pad. The LOR Foundation has committed funding to support site development and beautification, including the creation of a larger horno, more gardens, and planting native fruit and shade trees.

Like similarly minded markets, Questa Farmers Market organizers are focused on bringing healthy food options to low-income food-insecure places, to make fresh produce more affordable, and to build local food networks. These goals have become even more urgent during the pandemic. Shortages and delays in getting our food and supplies remind us of how fragile our global supply chains are, and how easily our essential food supply could be put at risk.

A goal of the Market is to support a resurgence of agriculture in Questa that is sensitive to the needs of the local residents, local economies, and quality of life. QFM vendors accept EBT/SNAP, and the Market matches EBT/SNAP dollar for dollar with a federal grant, offering Double-Up Food Bucks. At least 50% of goods sold must be from local (80 miles) NM farms and gardens, and the remaining portion can be prepared

QUESTA FARMERS MARKET

Day: Sundays

Time: 10:00-2:00 pm

Where: Visitor Center parking area

Contact: growersmakers@gmail.com

Website: questafarmersmarket.org

foods and crafts. QFM is authorized to accept WIC, and Senior Nutrition farm checks; these circulate July to November.

On the supply side, the Market applied for a grant through the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association

and received funding to purchase food from local farms to contribute this local produce to the North Central Food Pantry for distribution to those in need. This effort is meant to help keep fresh produce a part of food pantry distribution (the second and fourth Friday of every month at the North Central NM Food Pantry, located by the Senior Center) and to support farmers who have lost markets (like restaurants and larger farmers markets).

Questa Farmers Market also serves as an incubator for small businesses and keeps vendors and other participants returning. This year Evelyn Treats, Cerro Vista Farms, Mesa Roots Garden, and several others, including 9-year-old farmer Gabby, are participating. COVID-19 rules may have disrupted the music, but it is still the best place to get a Frito pie on a Sunday, and to laugh with a neighbor and plant seeds for our future together.

Questa Farmers Market is a program of the nonprofit, Localogy. For more information: (575) 224-2102 or growersmakers@gmail.com or QuestaFarmersMarket.org.

Journalism 101, Part 3

JOURNALISTIC ETHICS *Reprinted from the Society of Professional Journalists*

Over the years that we have been publishing the *Questa del Rio News*, we have been blessed to receive contributions from many members of our Enchanted Circle community. Because most of our contributors are not professional journalists, we have found ourselves in the position of educators in this cooperative enterprise.

This is the last of a three-part series of introductory journalism to help our contributors understand the process of writing for publication and in some cases go on to careers in professional journalism. We hope that this is the case with some of our talented young writers. In June we offered Part 1, writing tips. In July, Part 2 featured how to take better photos, and now Part 3: a basic guide to the ethics of writing the right thing. Thanks for sticking with us and for supporting your local newspaper!

Members of the Society of Professional Journalists believe that public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy. Ethical journalism strives to ensure the free exchange of information that is accurate, fair, and thorough. An ethical journalist acts with integrity.

The SPJ Code of Ethics is not a set of rules, rather it is a guide that encourages all who engage in journalism to take responsibility for the information they provide, regardless of medium. The code should be read as a whole; individual principles should not be taken out of context. It is not, nor can it be under the First Amendment, legally enforceable.

Seek Truth and Report It

- Ethical journalism should be accurate and fair. Journalists should be honest and courageous in gathering, reporting, and interpreting information. Journalists should:
- Take responsibility for the accuracy of their work. Verify information before releasing it. Use original sources whenever possible. Remember that neither speed nor format excuses inaccuracy.
- Provide context. Take special care not to misrepresent or oversimplify in promoting, previewing, or summarizing a story.
- Gather, update, and correct information throughout the life of a news story.
- Be cautious when making promises, but keep the promises they make.



Courtesy Photo

- Identify sources clearly. The public is entitled to as much information as possible to judge the reliability and motivations of sources.
- Consider sources' motives before promising anonymity. Reserve anonymity for sources who may face danger, retribution, or other harm, and have information that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Explain why anonymity was granted.
- Diligently seek subjects of news coverage to allow them to respond to criticism or allegations of wrongdoing.
- Avoid undercover or other surreptitious methods of gathering information unless traditional, open methods will not yield information vital to the public.
- Be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable. Give voice to the voiceless.
- Support the open and civil exchange of views, even views they find repugnant.
- Recognize a special obligation to serve as watchdogs over public affairs and government. Seek to ensure that the public's business is conducted in the open, and that public records are open to all.
- Provide access to source material when it is relevant and appropriate.
- Boldly tell the story of the diversity and magnitude of the human experience. Seek sources whose voices we seldom hear.
- Avoid stereotyping. Journalists should examine the ways their values and experiences may shape their reporting.
- Label advocacy and commentary.
- Never deliberately distort facts or

context, including visual information. Clearly label illustrations and re-enactments.

- Never plagiarize. Always attribute.

Minimize Harm

- Ethical journalism treats sources, subjects, colleagues, and members of the public as human beings deserving of respect. Journalists should:
- Balance the public's need for information against potential harm or discomfort. Pursuit of the news is not a license for arrogance or undue intrusiveness.
- Show compassion for those who may be affected by news coverage. Use heightened sensitivity when dealing with juveniles, victims of sex crimes, and sources or subjects who are inexperienced or unable to give consent. Consider cultural differences in approach and treatment.
- Recognize that legal access to information differs from an ethical justification to publish or broadcast.
- Realize that private people have a greater right to control information about themselves than public figures and others who seek power, influence, or attention. Weigh the consequences of publishing or broadcasting personal information.
- Avoid pandering to lurid curiosity, even if others do.
- Balance a suspect's right to a fair trial with the public's right to know. Consider the implications of identifying criminal suspects before they face legal charges.

The Society of Professional Journalists declares four principles as the foundation of ethical journalism and encourages their use in its practice by all people in all media.

- **Seek Truth and Report It**
- **Minimize Harm**
- **Act Independently**
- **Be Accountable and Transparent**

- Consider the long-term implications of the extended reach and permanence of publication. Provide updated and more complete information as appropriate.

Act Independently

- The highest and primary obligation of ethical journalism is to serve the public. Journalists should:
- Avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived. Disclose unavoidable conflicts.
- Refuse gifts, favors, fees, free travel, and special treatment, and avoid political and other outside activities that may compromise integrity or impartiality, or may damage credibility.
- Be wary of sources offering information for favors or money; do not pay for access to news. Identify content provided by outside sources, whether paid or not.
- Deny favored treatment to advertisers, donors, or any other special interests, and resist internal and external pressure to influence coverage.
- Distinguish news from advertising and shun hybrids that blur the lines between the two. Prominently label sponsored content.

Be Accountable and Transparent

- Ethical journalism means taking responsibility for one's work and explaining one's decisions to the public. Journalists should:
- Explain ethical choices and processes to audiences. Encourage a civil dialogue with the public about journalistic practices, coverage, and news content.
- Respond quickly to questions about accuracy, clarity, and fairness.
- Acknowledge mistakes and correct them promptly and prominently. Explain corrections and clarifications carefully and clearly.
- Expose unethical conduct in journalism, including within their organizations.
- Abide by the same high standards they expect of others.



ROCKETMAN

“I’m Gonna Love Me Again” is the song that won the Oscar for Best Original Song this year. It was written just for this movie and the only one actually sung by Elton John, serving as sort of a coda at the end of the movie chronicling his personal story. The movie proceeds from his musical roots as a young piano prodigy to his unique ability to capture the song to go with the lyrics, through his outrageous success, especially in America. That, as in so many musical career stories, led to a life of extreme riches, drugs, sex, and ultimately, suicide-attempting tragedy.

The story is told as a musical with Taron Egerton playing the role of Elton. Egerton is a young actor unknown to me, but apparently with successful appearances in the Kingsman movies. His performance in this movie was the subject of substantial Best Actor Oscar buzz, and while I’m not sure he deserves that level of accolade, his performance here was confident and his singing was acceptably entertaining. His dazzling costumes mirrored the wonderful excesses of Elton John, right down to some 53 different pairs of glasses. The performance was entertaining both emotionally and musically. Telling the life of a musician as a musical, using 25 of Elton John’s songs, is a fabulous way to relate the textures of Elton John’s music to the fabric of his life. In fact, I think that might be the single biggest strength of this movie – how it enlightens our understanding of his songs by embedding them in his life story.

The movie circles around Elton John’s rehab experiences. The story unfolds as he tells his tale in a circle of other troubled souls with flashbacks to all the important chapters in his life. That includes recounting his early childhood where his relationship to his parents becomes painfully critical to his subsequent life choices. As John says later in the movie, “Real love is hard

to come by. So, you find a way to cope without it.” For Elton John, that initially found creative expression in his music. It later manifested itself in increasingly destructive behaviors with drugs and alcohol.

Still, the story is emotionally strong and, as portrayed in this movie, is moving and will pull all the right strings. I dare say it is impossible not to feel despair at John’s lows and incredible elation at his highs. One of those highs was the unwavering support from Bernie Taupin, his lyric-writing partner, who may have been John’s only true friend during his early career. Another high point of the film is when he is “discovered” in America at his performance at the Troubadour in Los Angeles. We can certainly say that it was elevating in many ways. Of course, it probably didn’t happen exactly the way it was portrayed in the movie, but that isn’t as important as much as the incredible feeling of achievement and recognition that John received that night.

It can be argued that we’ve heard this story before. Indeed, the director, Dexter Fletcher, is the same director who took over and finished *Bohemian Rhapsody*, a very similar story, about Freddie Mercury of Queen, which won four Oscars including Best Leading Actor for Rami Malek. The story arc is similar in both cases, although they have entirely different approaches and tone, and end differently. Mercury died of complications of AIDS in 1991, while John emerged from rehab a very different man, got married, and has now retired from musical life to raise a family and engage in charitable organizations fighting AIDS.

Ultimately, of course, the main legacy of Elton John is his music. The movie does a wonderful job of staging his songs, especially his hits of the 70s. If you were alive during that time, you know some of his songs and will love to see and hear the stories behind them. The movie is not a major work of art, or of cinema. But it is a terrific way to spend a couple of hours, especially if you like Elton John’s music. (3.5 Stars)



Courtesy Photo

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Questa Del Rio News
WORKING HARD FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Reporting on this diverse and wide-spread community requires many eyes. We always welcome and need your help.

volunteerism

noun

- 1 [voluntarism\(def2\)](#).
- 2 the policy or practice of [volunteering](#) one's time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community

Interested? Contact us at news@questaedf.com

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

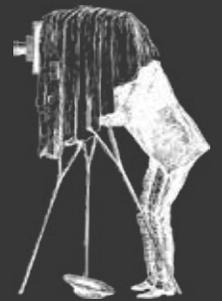


Photo by Jeff Zylland

Comet NEOWISE rising over Bryce Canyon in the moonlight on July 12, 2020.

Prints are available and all proceeds go to nonprofit project Guías Unidos.
www.guiasunidos.org.

Think you can take
a good photo?
Prove it.



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

Zylland Astrophotography

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
AUGUST 2020

MARS IN RELATIONSHIP

“The caterpillar destroys its own environment to become a pupa and then a butterfly. The caterpillar and the butterfly are both beautiful structures, but in the middle is Chaos, a space and time for Transformation.” Bruce Lipton

Mars is often considered the “trigger” in any given relationship. It “energizes” whatever planet and sign with which it is in relationship. This year has seen it discussed almost as much by astrologers as the famous Pluto-Saturn-Jupiter triad, all in the sign of Capricorn, since Mars sends a bolt of energy into whatever it relates to. Currently in the sign of Aries, its partner in traditional astrology, its energy level is especially high. Thus, one might consider – as some are – that the challenging relationship this month between said triad and this activator planet is potentially devastating. From a personality perspective that might even be true, and agreed, we are all still humans living a personality existence.

But the Soul loves a challenge, and all three of the triad planets are expressing themselves on the highest, most spiritual level this month. Saturn’s chronic burdens are lightened; Pluto’s depressed darkness is also lightened. (Different form of “light!”) And while Jupiter gets more serious, it is still more spiritual. At the same time, Mars is entering into a blessing relationship with the Sun, first in Leo, then in Virgo, making Mars something of a fulcrum point this month. Sun in Leo joining hands with Mars in Aries is as powerful as it gets and can send enough energy into the unusually receptive triad of planets that they could potentially change this painful initiation into a time of Enlightenment, bringing it down to earth when the Sun shifts into Virgo. Make no mistake, this is a time of initiation for humanity, and accepting the challenge upon us as a potential for transformation rather than crying out in complaint is nothing more than attitude.

Everyone: The last few days of August are full of blessings on many levels; far more blessings than challenges.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: You have the energy and the support to get the job done.

Direction: Count your blessings.

Soul Thought: Life is a blessing.

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: Extra spark early in the month can help you through the whole month.

Direction: Make sure the spark stays inside, doesn’t explode.

Soul Thought: When to conserve and when to use well is the question.

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: It’s time to use all you’ve learned on intuitive levels.

Direction: The road is clear.

Soul Thought: Within and without.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: A beautifully devotional time can be had.

Direction: What are you devoted to?

Soul Thought: What is devotion?

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: The possibility is to go from inspired to practical.

Direction: Inspiration applied to daily life.

Soul Thought: How to bring a dream into reality.

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: You have the chance to experience it all every month.

Direction: You can instigate others to experience more than they might have anticipated.

Soul Thought: “I’m not crazy, I’m just not you!” Book title.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♃ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: If you intend to buy or sell, do it by mid-month.

Direction: After mid-month ponder it instead.

Soul Thought: “The reason most people fail instead of succeed is they trade what they want most for what they want at the moment.” Napoleon Bonaparte

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: It’s all about you this month.

Direction: Make sure it’s all about Good.

Soul Thought: Goodness is Godness.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♁ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: Partnerships may be a little rough early in the month.

Direction: Peace is coming, especially if you help it along.

Soul Thought: Peace is always coming.

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You are shoulder-to-shoulder with destiny.

Direction: And you are in a strong place to respond; look for it.

Soul Thought: Doesn’t mean it’s easy.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: Granted there are some challenges out there, cosmic and personal.

Direction: When you respond, think of everyone else.

Soul Thought: We all get our turn.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: It might feel like a plague of locusts.

Direction: Remember the salvation part of the story.

Soul Thought: A way to control locusts is to grow crops they don’t like.

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 2020

AUGUST 2 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

AUGUST 4 6:00 PM

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

AUGUST 7 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Questa Shed Project Open House, 2380 Hwy 522 in Questa. (575) 224- 7386. See page 13 for more information.

AUGUST 9 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

AUGUST 11 6:00 PM

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

AUGUST 14 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

AUGUST 15-16 12:01AM ON AUGUST 15 UNTIL 11:59 PM ON AUGUST 16TH

Questa Creative Council Live Virtual Art Auction at <https://northernnewmexicoartists.com/>. See page 15 for more details or email: questacreativecouncil@gmail.com or 505-974-5314.

AUGUST 16 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

AUGUST 18 6:00 PM

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

AUGUST 19 6:00 PM

Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network Zoom Meeting. For link or more information: send email to lynn@questaedf.com <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82539162654>

AUGUST 28 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

AUGUST 23 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

AUGUST 25 6:00 PM

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

AUGUST 30 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

AUGUST IS

National Wellness Month
National Water Quality Month
International Peace Month

AUG 2 Friendship Day, Family Day

AUG 7 Purple Heart Day

AUG 18 Fajita Day

AUG 21 Senior Citizens Day

FIRST WEEK: National Farmers Market Week, Simplify Your Life Week, World Breastfeeding Week
LAST WEEK: Be Kind to Humankind Week



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.

HELP WANTED

Looking for a rewarding, long-term career? CarQuesta is eager to hire a reliable new team member. If you are on time, committed, kind, and willing to learning the business and new skills, then you might be just the person they are looking for to join the CarQuesta family. Ask for an application at the front counter. Located at 2420 NM Highway 522 in beautiful downtown Questa.

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 at 2339 Highway 522, in Questa NM (575) 586-1985.

FOR SALE

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 (575) 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

QSAT ONLINE AUCTION AUGUST 15-16
Mark your calendars! Tune in to our our 48-hour QSAT Auction, August 15th and 16th. Auction Preview of items will run from August 6th to August 14th. Bidding will take place from August 15, starting at 12:10am and will end on August 16th at 11:59pm. Preview and Auction can be reached online at questaartstour.com or northernnewmexicoartists.com.

Questa History Trail official ribbon-cutting celebration! The QCC is looking at Labor Day for the possible grand opening of the completed route. This local, outdoor, socially-distanced event will include a guided walk, traditional treats, and card and poster-sized reproductions of the current history-themed streetlight banners for sale. The history and culture of Questa is so unique and it will soon have this wonderful community asset to illuminate our past in all its guises. A wealth of information is available now on the project's website: <https://questatrail.org/>. Stay tuned for more updates!

Do you have a small business or are you thinking of starting one? The Small Business Development Center at UNM Taos is here for you. Make an appointment with SBDC Director and Business and Export Assistance Counselor, Anwar Kaelin for free consultations by phone, videoconference, in-person at your place of business, or at the Questa Visitor Center. Call 575-737-6219 or email anwar@unm.edu to schedule your appointment. For more information visit <http://www.nmsbdc.org>

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.

Do you have awesome squash recipes?
The September Enchanted Eats section of the Questa del Rio News will be all about zucchini, summer squash and winter squash. Please send your favorite recipes to news@questaedf.com by August 12th to be included in the September issue!

LOST AND FOUND

Has anyone lost a calico cat in the Questa area on Llano Road near the fork that goes up to the Pinabete? This cat is boldly coming in our cat door and disturbing our other pets. Our neighbors also have stray cats. If anyone has a lost cat in our area, please call (575) 586-1252.

LOST DOG! Working Anatolian Shepherd. Intact Male, Golden Fur. Looks like a large Lab/Mastiff mix. Last seen on Luna Madre Rd. in El Rito area of Questa. (720) 276-8521.

Northern New Mexico National Forests LIFTS Stage 2 Fire Restrictions!

With the onset of the summer monsoons and decreasing fire danger, the Carson, Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests RESCINDED Stage 2 fire restrictions, including the ban on campfires, beginning at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

The September *Questa del Rio News* will be our Cerro Edition. Do you know any senior citizens who deserve to be interviewed or have other story ideas about Cerro? Let's get this party started! news@questaedf.com

THE LODGING TAX FEASIBILITY MEETING

Day: Tuesday, August 4 Time: 2pm Location: ZOOM

Meeting Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83677571570?pwd=emFKUFUvandJdTfYTEMORmhaT3ZYz09>

Dial in by phone: (346) 248- 7799

Meeting ID: 836 7757 1570 Passcode: 829625

Blue Bus Resumes Regular Red River Route and Others

On June 29, the NCRD Blue Bus resumed 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 NCRD 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

August QBEN Meeting Wednesday, Aug. 16 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 (575) 779-9249, or just stop by the Market and say hello (with mask in place).



CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH IN QUESTA

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

MISSION CHURCHES:

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

HARVEST QUESTA

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

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

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

PATH OF LOVE

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

QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

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

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

RED RIVER

CROSS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

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

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



QUESTA LODGING PROJECT CLASSIFIEDS

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

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 AUGUST

... TO BE OF SERVICE

Our real purpose is to fit ourselves
to be of maximum service to God
and the people about us.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 77

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



KEITH D. JAMESON, D.D.S.

Questa Dental Center

2451 Highway 522

575-586-0259

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DAVE WEST

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Cell: (575) 770-8841

Fax: (719) 672-4504

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



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Questa, NM 87556

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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'

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\$90 10'x20'

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

32 Sagebrush Rd. (next to Questa High School)

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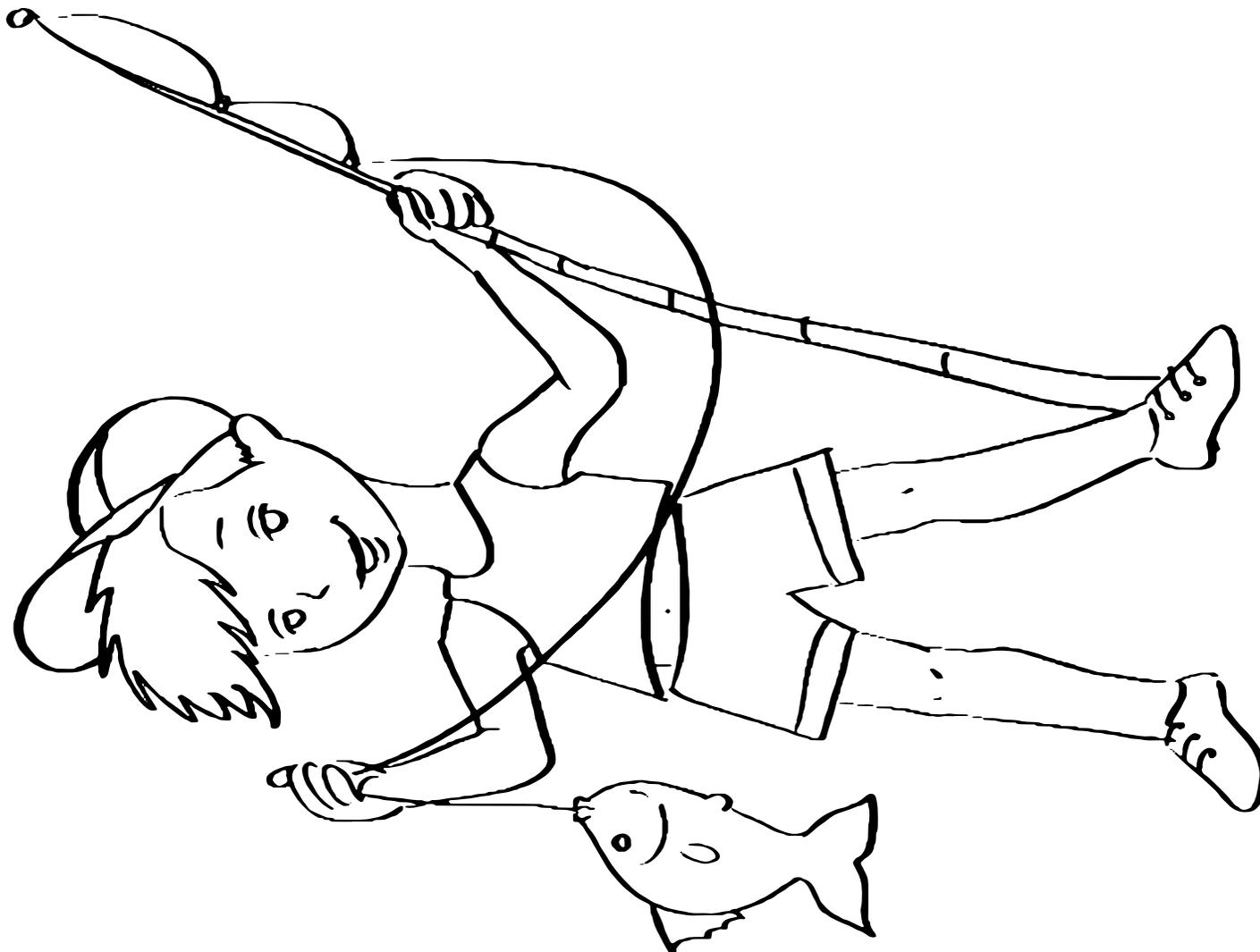
ZIMMER FELINE

FOUNDATION (TAOS)

DOG & CATS

CALL: 505.753.0228

ESPAÑOLA HUMANE CLINIC



COLORING CONTEST!

The lucky winner gets their picture in the *Questa Del Rio News!*

AGES 1-7 Email a photo of your completed picture by August 15, 2020.

graphics.questaedf@gmail.com. INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AND AGE.