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Questa Del Rio News

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

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BREAKING NEWS

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Cerro's Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918



Photo by Lita Meads

In the Cerro Catholic Cemetery, there is an area seemingly forgotten by time; only fence posts in the shape of crosses painted white stand as indicators of the burials from the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918.

By DEBORAH
ARCHULETA MORENO

*I had a little bird
Its name was Enza
I opened up the window
And in-flu-enza
—1918 Nursery Rhyme*

La Influenza Espanola, or the Spanish Flu of 1918, was a forgotten pandemic that swept a deadly force across the globe, taking countless lives in just a few months. At its peak, it killed over 30 million people worldwide, first appearing in the midst of the First World War.

The illness struck quickly and without warning, taking many in the prime of their lives. Fearing panic, officials and governments were reluctant to admit that the pandemic posed such a grave and serious threat; they even went so far as to prohibit any publications, discussions, or statistics of illness or death rates. This virus had become a public enemy to the entire globe. Schools, theaters, libraries, and churches were closed, and the public was urged to wear masks. It was also forbidden for more than five persons to gather in a group.

Because the medical community had

little knowledge of what they were dealing with or how to treat it, they advertised to the public the benefits of alcohol, tobacco, and home remedies of garlic, camphor, or sugar cubes soaked in kerosene. Tanlac Tonic, a popular "cure-all" was promoted as a "powerful reconstructive tonic" that was advertised to help aid in the recovery of the illness. Due to the lack of doctors in smaller communities, people were left to their own devices. The people did what they could, relying on old herbal and folk traditions.

1918 SPANISH FLU cont'd page 16

Final Countdown for Census, Bureau Visits

By LYNN SKALL

Census workers are now actively visiting every house in Taos County that has not responded to the 2020 Census. Workers will visit homes up to six times between now and September 30 to help

everyone get their census form filled out and get counted.

If you would prefer not to be visited, here are four easy ways to respond to the Census today (you don't need a 12-digit code):

1. Respond online at my-

2020census.gov

2. Call toll-free 844-330-2020 (English) or 844-468-2020 (Spanish)

3. Send in by mail if you received the paper form

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Questa Del Rio News

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

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The Historic Community of Cerro



Photo by Carolyn Gallegos

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Church in Cerro, built by the community of Cerro, completed in 1945.

By DEBORAH ARCHULETA-MORENO

Nestled along Guadalupe Mountain, and surrounded by the vast landscape of the Sangre de Cristos where the Rio del Norte (the Rio Grande) and the Rio Colorado (the Red River) meet, there lies the small settlement of Cerro. First known as *Plaza de Guadalupe*, and *Cerro de Guadalupe*, it was first settled in 1812. At that time, New Mexico was still a territory, first under Spanish rule and later a territory of Mexico.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the Spanish Crown gave Spanish officials the authority to grant large amounts of land to individuals interested in agricultural and ranching pursuits. The title of these lands remained in the hands of the Spanish Crown until 1820. When Mexico gained independence from Spain in 182, and under the Mexican land grant system, they encouraged settlement in the Territorio de Nuevo Mexico. Thus, Cerro was awarded the *Plaza de Guadalupe* Land Grant in 1851.

Shepherders by trade, the first Spanish families that settled the area were a religious people, of Christian

faith. They built themselves a small settlement of adobe and lumber homes, and a morada where they could practice their religious beliefs. (A feature story of the Cerro Morada will be in the Easter Edition, April 2021).

The settlers would herd their sheep down the steep trails of the rift to the Rio Grande. Together these families held celebrations, festivities, danced, told stories, and took care of one another. And when their church began to deteriorate, they banded together to help donate and build a new church, which was completed in 1945.

In that spirit of tradition, the families of Cerro held a 200-year celebration of the settlement in 2012. In hopes that the ancestral knowledge, culture, and traditions be passed on to the next generation, the celebration brought together families of all ages to honor Cerro and its history.

The elders of the community are a wealth of wisdom and knowledge and are here to mentor and nourish the minds of the young people of today. Many family traditions are still practiced, and it is important that each generation honor them and share them.

THANK YOU CONTRIBUTORS:

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OOPS!

Last month we announced the breaking news: "Coach Madrid is Back!" Mr. Tomas Madrid is back at Questa High School teaching history and math this year. Although he is known locally as "Coach" Madrid, he is not coaching any sports: sorry about our mistake!

La histórica comunidad de Cerro

Por DEBORAH ARCHULETA-MORENO

Acurrucado cerca de la Montaña Guadalupe, y rodeado por el inmenso paisaje de la Sangre de Cristos, donde confluyen el Río del Norte (Río Grande) y el Río Colorado, se encuentra el pequeño asentamiento de Cerro. Inicialmente conocido como Plaza de Guadalupe y Cerro de Guadalupe, se estableció por primera vez en 1812. En ese momento, Nuevo México todavía era un territorio, primero bajo el dominio español y luego de México.

A finales de 1700 y principios de 1800, la Corona Española les dio a los funcionarios españoles autoridad para otorgar grandes cantidades de tierra a personas que estuviesen interesadas en actividades agrícolas y ganaderas. El título de estas tierras permaneció en manos de la Corona española hasta 1820. Cuando México se independizó de España en 1821 y bajo el sistema de concesión de tierras mexicano, se alen-

taron los asentamientos en el Territorio de Nuevo México. Así, Cerro recibió la merced o porción de tierra "Plaza de Guadalupe" en 1851.

Pastores de oficio, las primeras familias españolas que se asentaron en la zona fueron personas religiosas de fe cristiana. Se construyeron un pequeño asentamiento de casas de adobe y madera y una Morada donde practicaban sus creencias religiosas. (Un reportaje sobre la Morada de Cerro aparecerá en la Edición de la Semana Santa, en abril de 2021).

Los colonos pastoreaban sus ovejas por los empinados senderos de la hondonada hasta el Río Grande. Estas familias realizaban juntas celebraciones y festividades, bailaban, se contaban historias y se cuidaban unas a las otras. Y cuando su iglesia comenzó a deteriorarse, se unieron para ayudar a donar y construir una nueva iglesia que se terminó en 1945.

En ese espíritu de tradición, las familias de Cerro realizaron una celebración de los 200 años del asentamiento

en 2012. Con la esperanza de que el conocimiento, la cultura y las tradiciones ancestrales se transmitan a la próxima generación, la celebración reunió a familias de todas las edades para honrar a el Cerro y su historia. Los ancianos de la comunidad guardan una riqueza de sabiduría y conocimientos y están aquí para guiar y nutrir las mentes de los jóvenes de hoy. Todavía se practican muchas tradiciones familiares y es importante que cada generación las honre y las comparta.

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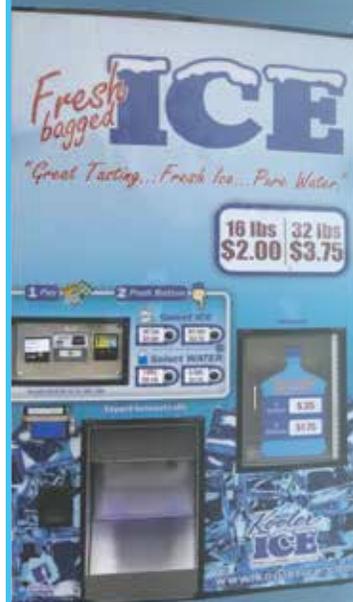
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QUESTA MAYOR GALLEGOS SPEAKS TO QBEN

By LYNN SKALL

The honorable Questa Mayor and featured Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network speaker, Mark Gallegos, joined the monthly meeting a few minutes late, having rushed back to the Village after wrangling cows all day. Community members gathered via Zoom on Wednesday, August 16 to hear the latest area updates.

With the Village of Questa seal perfectly lit and positioned behind the Mayor, Gallegos looked the part, and it was clearly apparent that he is fully invested and well-established in his town. The Mayor was born and raised in Questa, graduated, then coached at the high school, and has been part of his family's business since he was 17 years old. He has dedicated almost two decades to the governance of the Village, first as a Councilman, and over the past six years as Mayor. Currently, he is halfway through his second term. Plus, he serves as a Taos County Commissioner, looking out for Questa's interests.

He is the current owner and operator of El Monte Carlo Lounge and Burrito Express in the heart of town; Gallegos expressed that they're doing okay through this new pandemic economy. In fact, he reported that, "The Village gross receipt

taxes are actually up."

Gallegos said, "COVID-19 has put things into perspective, it's showing us that we care about our family values and how we do business. Our locals are staying local and supporting our community merchants."

The Village GRT collections have also benefited from the social distancing mandates. "We're seeing lots of New Mexico residents 'stay-cationing' here, camping, arriving in RVs, exploring Questa, and recreating in our wilderness areas."

To provide additional support for businesses during COVID-19, the Village Council has applied for federal CARES Act stimulus funding that will be made available to Questa businesses as a grant via an application process. For more criteria information and to apply for funding that does not have to be repaid, visit the Village website, www.questa-nm.com.

Questa leaders are working on a variety of projects to improve the quality of life in Questa, to create new job opportunities, and to attract new businesses from out of state. Here is more of the Mayor's report:

- The Library expansion is moving forward, breaking ground this month with a planned opening and ribbon-cutting targeted for April 2021. Questa Library Director Sharon Nicholson could barely contain her excitement, "We have been waiting years for this, it's going to be a very special place in our community!"
- The cellular tower behind the Village Town Hall is getting upgraded; this should greatly improve the quality and reliability of cellular service in our area with new 4-G connectivity and new carriers.
- The Questa Business Park, north of town, has been the focus of recent activity; installation of phone lines, electrical, and natural gas infrastructure is 70% complete. Future tenants will lease the land and construct their own buildings. The Mayor was proud to report that "The Business Park is unique to Questa. It's the only one of its kind in Taos County; we're going to see great things happen there."
- Water is an ongoing issue, and it was confirmed that the Business Park has been designed to accommodate large water users: "Chevron has supported the Business Park and this additional water is an investment in our future growth," said Gallegos.
- Historic water lines through town continue to age, run slowly, cause new leaks, and get shut down. As they are repaired, they are gradually being replaced, documented, and mapped, as records of old water lines are sketchy. "This is quite a challenge and a lot of work for our small public works crew; these four employees do a great job in our Village, so please tell them thanks when you see them around town," said the Mayor. These public works employees are supervisor John Rael, Antonio Caraveo, Russell Gallegos and Donald Casaus who works with the sewer and the airport.
- The Rural Transportation District is in final negotiations with QEDF to construct a transfer center in the Questa Visitor Center parking lot. "It's centrally located with better parking, lighting, and shelter. This is needed," said Gallegos.
- The establishment of a lodger's tax of up to 5% is being explored, with funds

to be used to promote Questa to drive new outside revenue into town. The Mayor reported that, "Questa is the only municipality in Taos County without a lodging tax, and there is a lot of opportunity for Questa with this tax."

- The Village of Questa has entered into a two-year partnership with the Taos County Sheriff's Department for police service in our area. County officers, who are experienced and typically certified, are scheduled to provide coverage in Questa 24 hours a day. "The County has done a great job, and this agreement provides police coverage in Questa, which the Village could not otherwise afford on our own." The Mayor also put out this warning, "These officers have been charged with issuing speeding citations on Highways 522 and 38, so watch your speed."

After the Mayor's presentation, he accepted questions from the Zoom audience; one attendee asked about the status of La Cienega. Gallegos reported that the historic building will be remodeled for use as a combination youth center and senior center, however, there is a lot more planning that needs to happen first.

Mayor Gallegos and the QBEN attendees felt the conversation was positive and productive. QBEN hopes to schedule the Mayor for this kind of update again soon, but, in the future, it will be scheduled on a day when Mark Gallegos doesn't already have cattle-wrangling on his calendar.

The Zoom meeting was recorded. QBEN Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 pm. To request a link for the recording, or to be added to the distribution list, email Lynn@QuestaEDF.com.

Free Program—Libraries as Launchpads

By ANWAR KAELIN

Bring your business idea to life or pivot your business model to meet current demand with Libraries as Launchpads!

The Libraries as Launchpads program provides participants with the framework to discover if their idea is market-ready and determine the next steps to get there. Through the program identify your ideal customer, learn to pitch your business, and connect to additional resources that will aid in your business growth.

1st place wins \$1,000
2nd place wins \$500

Applications are open to New Mexico entrepreneurs building outdoor recreation, tourism, food/ag, and all creative industry businesses in or nearby the following counties: Cibola, Estancia, Harding, McKinley, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, and Taos as well as in the Silver City and Alamogordo areas.

The program will take place virtually with weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Onboarding: Week of September 14th
4-week course: Sept 21 - Oct 16

Program Overview:

The Libraries as Launchpads is designed for people with a business idea, prototype, or an active small business looking to reach more customers and

explore new markets. Through the program, you will have

- Access to an online learning portal
- Join 2 weekly virtual meetings with statewide participants and our Lead Faculty
- Peer-to-peer engagement activities
- Workbook field guide
- Leave the Building activities
- Video case studies & readings
- Reflect activities to access if this venture is right for you!

Program Details:

Creative Startups - Libraries as Launchpads program is essentially 5 weeks in duration, September 14th - October 16th.

Week 1: On-Boarding & Welcome

September 14th-20th

There will be a one-hour meeting on Tuesday to get you into the online learning platform and get you ready to start the program. You will then have the rest of the week do a warmup exercise and prepare to dive in!

4-weeks: Modules 1-4 online September 21st-October 16th

During the 4 week program you will have 2 virtual meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week with additional time required for assignments.

Topics you will cover include customer discovery, prototyping, sales, and pitching your idea - yep, it's intense!

<https://www.creativestartups.org/DIY-Launchpad>



Business Profile

NORTHERN RIO GRANDE
DRIVING SCHOOL:
RELATIONSHIPS THAT
LAST A LIFETIME

By CYNTHIA NAJIM

Do you remember when you learned to drive? You might even recall your instructor. I certainly do. The entire experience is painted in my memory. In many ways, learning to drive is a rite of passage, a milestone toward becoming an adult.

Getting behind the wheel is a big responsibility, whether it's your first time or just another day of driving after 40 years. At 16 years old, the minimum legal driving age in New Mexico, there is a lot to learn beyond traffic signs and rules of the road: stepping into a greater field of awareness, understanding the meaning of defensive driving, being attentive to changing conditions, and ultimately realizing that you are not invincible, a common pitfall for young adults.

Not everyone has the demeanor to effectively teach driver's education. Ideal instructors – in the classroom and the car – are wise and extremely patient. They present the material in a serious manner, maintain safety with an air of calm, cultivate a rapport of respect and trust, and instill confidence in their budding drivers. The Northern Rio Grande Driving School ticks all these boxes and more.

The Cerro-based company was the idea of the late Marshall Bailón, beloved career schoolteacher and outstanding member of the community. “He wanted to try something on his own,” explained Vilma Bailón, his wife and driving school co-founder. As his partner in everything, she readily agreed. In 1998, they started to research requirements to open a driving school, filed the necessary paperwork, and officially launched their business in June of 1999 with one vehicle, a 1983 Dodge Aries.

The first three years they worked out of Questa, attracting students from Questa High School and neighboring areas. Marshall taught classroom sessions at the Questa Fire Department after his full-time job at Questa High School and Ranchos de Taos Elementary. He led the behind-the-wheel portion on weekends.

Vilma initially handled registration, scheduling, and liaised with parents. Before she could teach, she completed



Photos Courtesy of Northern Rio Grande Driving School

Eager students (from left to right) Aricala Chavez, Amaya-Lee Archuleta, and Sarae Garcia making a pit stop.

Founders Marshall and Vilma Bailón in full alignment.

the state's teaching certification, which requires annual renewal and continuing education. Once she obtained her New Mexico teaching credential and approval from the Traffic Safety Bureau, she began to teach.

The couple then decided to branch out into Taos, even though they didn't have established contacts. “Marshall always said, ‘if we are going to grow, we have to take risks,’” recalls Vilma. To support this leap, they undertook another risk – buying two new vehicles, which made Vilma nervous. “Who goes out and buys two new cars?” Vilma asked her husband. In his quietly assuring way, he calmed her concerns and they acquired two Nissan Altimas, the model which remains the Northern Rio Grande Driving School's tried and true choice.

They posted a sign-up sheet at Taos High School to announce their first program orientation. After that, they never looked back. The maximum per class is 40 students. Each must complete at least 30 hours of classroom training, seven hours of driving, and six hours of DWI awareness. Vilma taught the classroom portion from 4-7 pm at the Taos Youth and Family Center, after working a full day at Taos' Holy Cross Hospital, Questa EMS, and Taos EMS. On the weekends, she and Marshall took students out to drive – to Peñasco, Española, Los Alamos, the Enchanted Circle, Las Vegas, or Alamosa. Vilma chuckled, “I used to tell parents, ‘You're not hiring us to teach



your kids in a parking lot. We take them driving!’”

Other instructors over the years have included former coach Gordon Robinson, Diane Padilla, Beverly Rivera, and Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova, who learned to drive from this industrious couple.

In its 21 years of operation, the year-round Northern Rio Grande Driving School, the only program of its kind in Northern New Mexico, has never advertised. Their popularity is purely word of mouth.

Indebted Taos student Josephita Trujillo, now mother of two, fondly reminisced, “They made learning fun. You felt like you were part of their family. Marshall knew how to be cool to really relate with us. He was a great teacher! I grew a lot!”

Javier Hernandez, another appreciative student and now partner in Taos-based Razor Sharp Productions, took the course when he was 16. “I chose their program based on the great reviews from my friends. Vilma is an excellent teacher. Everyone likes her; my parents loved her, too! I felt 100 percent prepared and confident to drive on my own.”

Like most, these former students remain good friends with Vilma and still hear their teachers' voices when

driving, “Always buckle up. Always check your mirrors,” and “Be careful, hito. Slow down.”

While Northern Rio Grande Driving School trains mainly teenagers, Vilma's oldest pupil was an 82-year-old woman from Paraguay, who remains a close friend today. When I asked Vilma how many students they have trained, she reflected and said with a smile, “All of Taos County! One family put all seven children through our program. Typically, former students send their children to us, too.” She estimates close to 4,000 graduates.

After Marshall suddenly died in March of this year, the community was shaken. Families all over Taos County were in mourning. The class slated to start that month was cancelled. In July, just four months after his passing, Vilma was back in the car teaching. When asked how she could resume so quickly, she said, “I enjoy being around my kids. They keep me going. The most rewarding part is the bonding and friendships.”

Vilma is indeed dedicated and inspiring. During this period of COVID-19, Northern Rio Grande Driving School has partnered with Duke City Driving School in Albuquerque. They hold the virtual classroom teaching component and Vilma teaches the driving. She also commutes to Albuquerque on weekends to teach behind-the-wheel to Duke City students.

We love you, Marshall and Vilma!

Northern Rio Grande Driving School

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Wildness is a Necessity: Part 2



Photo by Emilie Salvagio

Frank's Eats & Sweets, a must-go in Questa! From left: Emilie, Vincent, and Maddie, Vanette and David Harris, and Roy Salvagio

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

I hope you have found a wee bit of “wildness” in your lives. I challenged you last month to give it a try. Did you do it? Was it a success – or not? Be careful; it can be addictive. You’ll probably feel exhilarated, happy, elated, thrilled, even more energetic and your health will improve; that is a fact of life... Well, maybe not all those things, but most of them.

This month I’m adding a quote from one of my favorite children’s books, *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak. “Let the wild rumpus start!”

The last two weeks of July the “wild rumpus started.” Our daughter and son-in-law and two adorable grandkids visited from Texas. Talk about tired,

nerve-shaken, and over-civilized – they were all three. After being in the Land of Enchantment for just two days, they were relaxing and enjoying every minute of the cool mountain air and the wonderful New Mexico hospitality.

Wild Rumpus #1 – Cerro, NM

The avenue to Wild Rivers Rio Grande del Norte National Monument

Driving on the winding road of NM Highway 387 through the small village of Cerro is an experience in and of itself; we love that drive! There is the Chapel of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Catholic Church, the beautiful well-groomed cemetery across the street from the church, My Tia’s Café (a great place to stop after a hike in Wild Rivers), and the small delightful post office. To the north is the majestic Ute Mountain, La Yuta, that looms in the distance, watching over and protecting the village. We were headed to the Pescado Trail. This trail begins at the Wild Rivers Visitor’s Center and ends at the Red River Fish Hatchery.

David and I completed this trail last year and said we could check it off our list. Going “down” to the hatchery was great. But coming back up to the Visitor’s Center was tough, so we wised up this summer. Since we had the relatives with us, we left one car at the hatchery, and then piled in the other car for the ride to Wild Rivers. David and I were practically singing along the trail, since we knew we didn’t have to come back up it! Upon arriving at the hatchery, the kids couldn’t get their shoes off fast enough so they could cool those wee toes in the

cold waters of the Red River. On the way home, the car automatically swerved into Frank’s Eats & Sweets in Questa for some scrumptious ice cream; mint chocolate chip, vanilla, mocha almond, strawberry, sugar cone, waffle cone, cup – HEAVEN. Put Cerro, the trail, and Frank’s on your bucket list!

Wild Rumpus #2 – Let’s drive through Cerro for another adventurous hike – The Guadalupe Mountain Trail.

This is one of the first trails you will come to after entering the Wild Rivers area. It will be a left-hand turn onto a dirt road. This road will take you to the trailhead. The fresh air is filled with the scents of sage, piñon, and juniper. The trail has lots of switchbacks that take you higher and higher. After a multitude of grunts and groans, we made it to a dramatic overlook. Ute Mountain and Mount Blanc to the north and Latir Peak to the east. Worth all the huffing and puffing, for sure.

Wild Rumpus #3 – Mallette Creek Trail in Red River

Perfect for kids and grownups, too. The shady cool crisp air of the mountains was intoxicating. We saw deer, rabbits, and chipmunks. We explored a deep dark cave. We sat in a circle on tree stumps inside a teepee constructed of branches and talked about our next “wild rumpus.” My son-in-law had a book that he had purchased at Half-Price Books, the US Army Survival Manual. It was filled with information about snakes (poisonous and not), plants (edible and not), and how to

tie a knot, set up a tent, what to take on a hike, fire-building, water crossings, and much more. He was constantly pulling it out of his backpack saying, “Hold up, guys, look at this.” The list of the edible plants was incredible: bracken, juniper berries and twigs, nettle, pine seeds, cattails, dandelions, and even wild roses. I wished I had packed the Ranch Dressing. We could have had a very “wild” picnic. Load the kids in the car and check out Mallette Creek Trail!

Wild Rumpus #4 – The Stations of the Cross Shrine in San Luis, CO – La Capilla de Todos Los Santos

Located at the junction of CO Hwy 159 and 142, it is a relatively steep three-quarter-mile hike to the chapel atop a small mesa named La Mesa de la Piedad y de la Misericordia (Hill of Piety and Mercy). Along the trail, the Stations of the Cross are artistically rendered in a series of 14 bronze sculptures by Huberto Maestas, a San Luis artist. Great teaching opportunity for kids and adults alike. After arriving at the top, the chapel was an oasis of peace and tranquility, a place to pause and reflect. What a gift the good parishioners of the Sangre de Cristo Parish have given to the state of Colorado. Even if you have completed this journey – do it again and again! We honestly never tire of it. Our Texas crew loved it, too.

Well, I think we are “wild rumpused” out for now. Keep on keeping on, folks. Don’t sit down too long. You might end up old and decrepit. Let your “wild rumpus” start today!



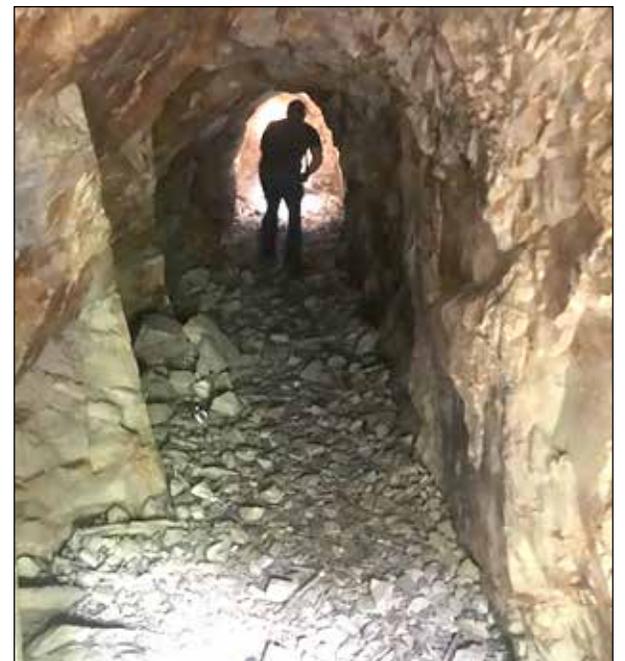
Photo by Vanette Harris

The Stations of the Cross Trail in San Luis; Emilie and Vincent Salvagio



Photos by Vanette Harris

Teepee in Mallette Park; Roy and Emilie Salvagio and their children Vincent and Maddie



Photos by Vanette Harris

Cave at Mallette Park.

Fishing in the Wild Rivers

By TONER MITCHELL

When the kids go back to school, I start thinking about the Rio Grande gorge. More than usual anyway – the Rio is one of my favorite things to think about – because September is when the stars seem to align in the minds of the river's brown and rainbow trout (Rio Grande cutthroats too, thanks to the past several years of stocking them at Wild Rivers). For the most part over the next couple months, whatever drifts near a trout's face is going to get munched.

My favorite Wild Rivers trailhead? It depends on the relationship between my energy level, the size of fish I'm hoping to catch, and what spectacular view I prefer to be surrounded by on a given day.

If I'm feeling lazy, I go in at Chiflo with the understanding that I might not encounter tons of big fish. The dry fly fishing can be fantastic once the nights start cooling off. Chiflo is also easier to negotiate at stream level, with not so many boulders to climb and fall off of.

Bear Crossing is the next trailhead downstream. The hike is short, like

Chiflo, but the trail is steep and in poor condition. The fishing water is mainly pools. A lot of stocked cutthroat babies are growing up well, I've heard.

Big and Little Arsenic are perhaps the best loved trailheads at Wild Rivers. Due to the preponderance of hazards, one does not generally fish the Rio Grande in an efficient manner, but one can at least pretend towards such an objective by hiking down the Big Arsenic Trail, taking a left towards Little Arsenic Springs, fishing up to Big Arsenic Springs (where you'll pick up the trail) and loop back out to the rim. The rock garden above Little Arsenic Springs requires a good short game using dry flies, streamers, or medium-sized spinners.

The La Junta trailhead, leading to the confluence of the Rio and the Red River, provides access to the short, fast pocket water in both streams. Around the horn, at the El Aguaje trailhead, anglers have an easier walk to the midpoint of the Red between the hatchery and the big river.

To my mind, every fishing trip to the gorge is an adventure to be remembered. This is definitely not to say that certain

steps should not be taken to either enhance one's pleasure or avoid the worst kind of misery. To be blunt, the Rio Grande gorge can kill you by blunt head trauma, drowning, snake bite, and a host of other painful possibilities. It can dry you out from within or make you scratch your leg off due to the slightest brush of poison ivy.

Bring water: not just enough, but more than enough. A water filter weighs about the same as a full liter bottle if you choose to go that route. Staying hydrated will maintain your body's capacity to respond to heat and near constant exertion.

So will food; eat a good breakfast and pack a protein-based assortment of snacks and a sandwich. Learn what poison ivy looks like with and without leaves. Expect to see it at the margin between streamside vegetation and where the cactus and juniper begin. Never forget about rattlesnakes in the morning or evening, when they seek warmth in the sun, or in the heat of midday when they seek cooling shade. Above all (and my wife often hassles me about this), try not to fish alone.

As for the fishing, fly and lure anglers should come prepared with small and large offerings. Effective fly patterns can be as small as #18, while lures may need to be up to half an ounce to get down into the fishier areas of the Rio's pools. Don't be lazy with the heavy stuff; if you're not keeping it moving, you're taking a chance of snagging up on the bottom.

In smaller pockets, especially in the low light hours of morning and evening, active nymphs and streamers are also a must for fly fishermen. Keeping a straight line is generally good practice, and one of the best ways to ensure this is to cast as short as you can get away with. Seriously, a rod length cast is often all you need.

My best advice for fishing the Wild Rivers is not to be too hard on yourself. As with all rivers with such wealth of food and good habitat, the fish don't have to be on it around the clock to survive. Sometimes they all seem to be taking a break at the same time, though that doesn't happen too often when September rolls around.

Questa...Find What's Reel: 2020 Virtual Fishing Derby

SIGN UP FOR THE QUESTA 2020 VIRTUAL FISHING DERBY

REGISTER ONLINE:

by **September 9** at VisitQuesta.com;
online payments only taken by **PayPal**

REGISTER IN PERSON:

Through September 20 at the Questa Visitor Center, Wednesday - Sunday, 10 am to 3 pm; in-person payment is **cash only**

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$20 per person and includes a Questa Fishing sticker and a Fishing Derby participation tag

WHEN: Saturday, September 12

through **Sunday, September 20, 2020**

WHERE: Fish (all types qualify) must be caught in the Taos/Questa areas; suggested fishing spots:

Eagle Rock Lake, Questa (great for kids!)
Cabresto Creek/Lake, Questa
The Red River, Questa/Red River Village
Rio Grande, Questa/Taos County

AGE CATEGORIES:

Kids: 9 and under
Teens/tweens: 10-19 years old
Grownups: 20 and older

CASH PRIZES: Longest fish in each age category

1st Place \$200
2nd Place \$100
3rd Place \$50

TROUT CHALLENGE BONUS PRIZE: Each registered competitor can also win a Questa T-Shirt by catching and

submitting photos of all four of these NM Trout during the Derby: Rio Grande Cutthroat, Rainbow, Brown, and Brook. (Everyone can win the Trout Challenge!)

PARTICIPANTS MUST SUBMIT ONLY ONE ENTRY WITH TWO CLEAR PHOTOS TO QUALIFY FOR CASH PRIZES:

1. A social-media-friendly picture with the angler holding their fish
2. A picture of your longest including a measuring device accurately showing the length of your catch

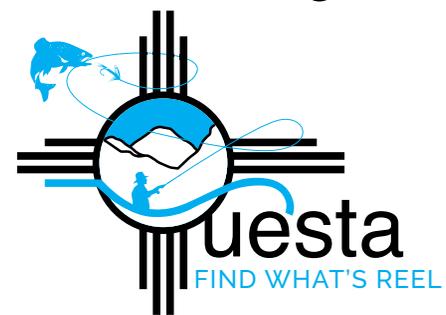
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FOR THE BONUS PRIZE:

In addition, you can also win the Trout Challenge by submitting good photos clearly showing you and your numbered participant tag with one photo for each of the four different trout, Rio Grande Cutthroat, Rainbow, Brown, and Brook (the trout do not have to be caught on the same day)

Email photos by **NOON on Monday, September 21** to VisitQuestaEvents@gmail.com

Include your:
Full Name
Age
Length, and
Location of catch

OTHER RULES: a NM fishing license is required for all persons 12 and older; purchase online at <https://www.takemefishing.org/new-mexico/fishing-license/> or at Questa Lumber & Hardware, at 2349 NM Hwy 522, Monday - Saturday. All local and state laws and regulations must be followed by all participants. One entry per person. Photos will be reviewed by a judging panel and all panel decisions and winners are final.



OVER \$1,000 IN CASH PRIZES!

By LYNN SKALL

"Catch" the Annual Questa Fishing Derby which is being "released" in a new format this year to accommodate social distancing during COVID-19. Fortunately, social distancing doesn't deter outdoor fishing enthusiasts, as many actually prefer to fish in their own space – staking out their secret fishing spot where they lose themselves in the quiet of the stream to relish the satisfaction of setting the hook and reeling in their catch.

The Questa Fishing Derby in the past has drawn over 200 participants vying for cash prizes, all fishing in the same small lake on the same day, which is too much togetherness for today's circumstances. The Fishing Derby this year is being modeled after... real-life fishing. It's being

held over nine days, Saturday, September 12 – Sunday, September 20 and allows anglers to fish any of their favorite Questa fishing spots, providing lots of time and individual space for participants to compete and then submit their photos, for more than \$1,000 in cash prizes.

We're calling it a "virtual" fishing derby, but only the registration and the submission of your winning photos is virtual: the rest is all on the water in the real outdoors!

Winners will be announced by the end of the day on Thursday, September 24 via email; all winners will be featured in the October issue of the Questa Del Rio News. For more information, stop by or call the Questa Visitor Center at (575) 613-2852, located at 1 Hwy 38 in beautiful downtown Questa, NM.

BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

THE INTELLIGENCE
OF THE HEART

Jeffrey Mishlove, clinical psychologist, author, and interviewer, shared a story about his experience of being “dis-heartened” after an election. As time went on, he shared his feelings with others and always used the term “dis-heartened.” At some point, his heart rate began to drop to as low as 39 beats per minute. Jeffrey was concerned and went to see his doctor, who apparently did not reveal any answers. It was some time after the doctor’s appointment that Mishlove became aware of his use of the word and of the feeling of being “dis-heartened.” After that, he decided to use the word “heartened,” and focused on being “heartened.” His heart rate began to return to normal.

The heart is the center where body, mind, and spirit unite – where opposites come together as one. The functions of our precious heart center go well beyond

keeping a constant rhythmic beat for the circulation of our blood for oxygen and nutrients. It is one center for a certain type of intelligence, a center of love and peace. Scientifically it was discovered by Dr. Andrew Armour of the UCLA Neurocardiology Research Center, that there is a “little brain in the heart.” Not only does the heart have a brain, the heart is a transmitter and receiver of messages to and from the brain in our heads by way of hormones, pulse waves, the nervous system, and electromagnetic energy.

The brain communicates with the heart, and so impulses go back and forth between these two giants of this living organism that we call the human body. The most important things to think about and understand are this: What are the messages being conveyed from one to the other? What is the nature of the energy field between the brain and the heart which sets the stage for our experience moment to moment? This is important to know because we are the ones responsible for the nature of the energies being communicated between heart and head. We have the power to recognize when we are feeding the heart and/or the

mind beneficial energies or those that are destructive to both mind and heart. We can see how important it is to understand that the heart influences the brain and the brain influences the heart.

The well-known teacher and author, Louise Hay, in her book *You Can Heal Your Life*, says that heart problems are related to a lack of joy, a hardening of the heart, as well as a belief in strain and stress. She also states that a heart attack is related to squeezing all the joy out of the heart in favor of money, position, or other material gain. She also refers to the brain as a computer, which sounds rather cold when we compare it to the heart. From early Roman and Greek times, the heart has been considered the center for love. Yet the heart and brain are companions in life – their communication is designed to give us what we give them.

We are the captain of this vessel we call the human body. It is our job to be conscious of how we nurture it, feeding it not only healthy foods, but healthy thoughts and attitudes. It is our job to be the overseer that ensures balance and harmony that nurtures mind and heart and our entire body.

Remember: all negative or positive input will definitely affect the physical body, including the organs, blood flow, digestion and the possibility of creating diseases. We always have the opportunity to change our minds – our thinking, our attitudes, and our responses. The more we nurture the heart and mind with the best possible input, the healthier and more vibrant we are. Our mind becomes sharper and clearer. Being aware of what we are thinking and what we are feeling can be the most important self-therapies we can give to our heart as well as our brain, to create overall well-being

One way to understand our beautiful heart is to become familiar with it. That is to say, we can get to know our heart and what it is trying to tell us. We can sit quietly and close our eyes, then imagine we are taking our attention down the spine from our head and settle in just behind the heart. Just sit in this place quietly. Allow the unique quality that resides in the heart to nurture you. In this place resides the power to dissolve differences and be blessed with the grace of peace.

Positive Thoughts

by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

There are myriad people-powered initiatives now happening which envision humanity’s transformation, engaging humanity’s ingenuity and generous heart – a transformation from separateness and lack of unity to a collaborative, cooperative shared existence. We are shifting from damaging Mother Earth for purposes of human consumption to celebrating what Mother Earth already provides for all beings. On Earth, bigger is not necessarily better unless the largesse stems from using one’s abundance to provide for others, as the great oceans, rivers, vast plains, and great forests do.

The beauty and magnificence of huge Gothic cathedral are testaments to human wisdom, collaboration, and ingenuity. Crafted with devotion by hand over generations, these architectural wonders illustrate how small and helpless human beings are indeed in the scheme of things.

Good things take time. Just as harmful behaviors and bad choices took repetition to become habits, beneficial change takes repetition as well. It is a good time to reassess new ways of thinking and looking at things.

A day of meditation in support of

humanity and the world was held on August 8, the first of one scheduled for each month for the foreseeable future. If you would like to participate in all or part of September’s Day of Meditation in Support of Humanity and the World, please join us on Saturday, September 12, from 8 am to 3 pm, online. There is no cost. See BlazingLight.net for details. One day a month dedicated to contemplation and meditation in support of humanity and the world is a good thing to do.

There are countless initiatives, large and small, around the globe to bring positive energy to a world out of balance. You might check out the work of Charles Eisenstein or Kate Raworth. New Zealand and the initiatives of its prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, are making a big difference, as is the UN’s Millennial Development Goals, for well-being. Research what’s going on with visionary inventors, engineers, scientists, and spiritual leaders. These forward thinkers, having seen the limitations of the failing economic and political models, are exploring yet unrealized solutions to the problems of the world.

September includes days that recollect the human struggle to live together. Why is it so difficult, since we need one another? V-J Day remembers the surrender of Japan to the Allied Forces in WWII; but the cost to Japan was Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the death of over 220,000 people – nearly

half of them died on the day of the blasts. With the detonation of the atomic bomb on a civilian population, the world entered a new era: one in which humanity could destroy the only home it has.

Labor Day honors the long, hard labor movement and its beneficial gains for all American workers. Unions have been in decline for decades now; the plight of the American worker has suffered. Low wages, poor working conditions, and disparity in pay between male and female employees are still common. Workers can be taken advantage of without unions to advocate for them. Labor Day honors those who labor each and every day, the majority not protected by unions. The food on our table comes through the hands and aching backs of laborers. The road crew works in sweltering heat. Let us be patient with the inconvenience of slowed traffic or a detour and pray for workers’ well-being.

POW/MIA Remembrance Day is in September. War is brutal: for those who fight it, those captured and tortured, those left to die and or never to be seen again. For the men and women who have experienced humanity’s most heinous treatment of each other, we bow to them. Let us invoke the end of aggression for all beings. For the families who are still suffering, we pray that humans will learn to settle their disagreements in a less primitive way.

September marks National Food



Courtesy Photo

National Food Bank Day, September 4, 2020

Bank Day, yay! Let’s celebrate our own North Central New Mexico Food Pantry. See the notice in the classified ads and please donate!

Other September days to celebrate: Grandparents Day – honor those who have made your life possible. Joy, good food, and, yes, a hug. Guacamole Day and Quesadilla Day – yum. There is also World Heart Day (heart as understood in all ways possible), World Democracy Day (is your ballot coming to your mailbox?), and the Autumnal Equinox (yes, winter is coming again). September also holds Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Lastly, September is Hispanic Heritage Month ¡Viva la Celebracion!

A Woman for Vice President?



In my last column I lamented our current state of affairs and one of the things I said would make me happy is a united United States. Well, I'm here to report that I realized I'm part of the problem. Our country is polarized and although I try not to be too political in my columns (I have best friends who are for the other team), I too take sides. I may talk about "there's no separation – we're all part of the One," but I'm fervently partisan.

No, I'm not going to push for my candidate – but I do want to talk about women in politics, as well as in business, and how far we've come and how far we still have to go to reach equality.

Eleanor Roosevelt, our country's

longest-serving First Lady, once said, "A woman is like a tea bag – you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." Well, Kamala Harris is certainly being put through hot water. Just this afternoon she was chosen to be Joe Biden's running mate, and already she's being called "Nasty," "Horrible" and "Phony." Strong women have often been called "nasty" because they are strong and outspoken.

I was called even worse after I was hired as the first female member of executive management of a 13-branch bank in New Jersey. My job was the bank's first Director of Marketing and Sales, reporting to the new CEO, and I started an in-house ad agency, public relations department, company newsletter, and staff training division.

On my first day a woman in charge of setting up business cards and letterhead for executives was in my office and although she was shaking when she answered my question about getting a key, she told me, quite tenderly, that women weren't allowed to have keys and that

we all had to show up once a month on a Saturday to help stuff statements into envelopes. (Of course, I got the key and never stuffed an envelope.) Her name was Catherine and she asked to leave the staff of one of the Senior Vice Presidents to become the first member of mine. His secretary, Gail, also joined my department. They were the start of the best possible team in the world. And I broke the rule that said you shouldn't be close friends with your staff!

Without bragging too much, our team was extremely successful – earnings soared; we made headlines in national newspapers; and we had fun. I started with the "bank" title, Assistant Vice President, but within three years I became Senior Vice President, an advancement unheard of in the history of the bank, which was started in the 1800s. Sadly, I noted that there were whispers about the boss promoting me so quickly.

When the CEO chose me to head the bank's first Planning Committee, I asked the Executive Vice President, who was the longest tenured and oldest executive

of the bank, to be part of it. He refused and said the bank's Planning Committee was too important to be headed by a woman!

Yes, times have changed a lot since then – men have given us much more respect for our abilities and women have been helping women – but we need to continue the upward climb.

[Editor's Note: Because of innovative products created by the bank's planning committee (minus the executive vice-president), Wood was chosen as "1982 National Bank Product Development Expert" and was a featured speaker at the ABA National Convention that year. American Banker newspaper spotlighted her alongside the convention's keynote speaker, Henry Kissinger.]

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

¿Una vicepresidenta mujer?

VIVE AMA RIE
Por ELLEN WOOD

En mi última columna lamentaba nuestra situación actual y una de las cosas que dije que me haría feliz fue unos Estados Unidos unidos. Bueno, estoy aquí para informarles que me di cuenta de que soy parte del problema. Nuestro país está polarizado y aunque trato de no ser demasiado política en mis columnas (tengo muy buenos amigos que están del otro lado), yo también tomo partido. Puedo hablar de que "no hay separación, todos somos parte del Uno," pero tengo mis propias preferencias en cuanto a partidos políticos.

No, no voy a hacer campaña por mi candidata —pero sí quiero hablar sobre las mujeres en la política, así como en los negocios, y lo lejos que hemos llegado y lo que aún nos queda por recorrer para alcanzar la igualdad.

Eleanor Roosevelt, la Primera Dama con más años de servicio en nuestro país, dijo una vez: "Una mujer es como

una bolsita de té; no se puede saber cuán fuerte es hasta que la pones en agua hirviendo." Bueno, Kamala Harris ciertamente está siendo escaldada. Apenas esta tarde fue elegida para ser la compañera de campaña de Joe Biden, y ya la han llamado "odiosa," "horrible" y "falsa." A las mujeres fuertes a menudo les dicen "odiosas" porque son enérgicas y francas.

A mí me dijeron cosas peores después de que me contrataran como la primera mujer miembro de la dirección ejecutiva de un banco con 13 sucursales en Nueva Jersey. Mi trabajo consistió en ser la primera Directora de Mercadeo y Ventas del banco, que respondía al nuevo CEO, y comencé una agencia de publicidad interna, un departamento de relaciones públicas, un boletín de la compañía y una división que se encargaba de la capacitación del personal.

En mi primer día, una mujer que estaba a cargo de la creación de tarjetas de presentación y membretes para ejecutivos se hallaba en mi oficina y, aunque

estaba temblando cuando respondió a mi pregunta sobre cómo obtener una llave, me dijo, con gran suavidad, que a las mujeres no se les permitía tener llaves y que todas teníamos que presentarnos una vez al mes los sábados para ayudar a poner en sus sobres los estados de cuentas. (Por supuesto, conseguí la llave y nunca llené un sobre). Esta mujer se llamaba Catherine y pidió dejar de trabajar para uno de los Vicepresidentes Senior para trabajar en mi equipo. Su secretaria, Gail, también se unió a mi departamento. Fueron el comienzo del mejor equipo del mundo. ¡Y rompí la regla de no ser amiga cercana de quienes trabajan para ti!

Sin alardear demasiado, nuestro equipo tuvo un gran éxito: las ganancias se dispararon; llegamos a los titulares de periódicos nacionales y nos divertimos. Comencé con el título de "banco", que era Asistente del Vicepresidente, pero en tres años me convertí en Vicepresidenta Senior, un avance sin precedentes en la historia de un banco que se había inicia-

do en el siglo XIX. Lamentablemente, noté que había rumores acerca de por qué el jefe me ascendía tan rápido.

Cuando el CEO me pidió que encabezara el primer Comité de Planificación del banco, le pedí al Vicepresidente Ejecutivo, que era el ejecutivo más antiguo y con más antigüedad del banco, que formara parte de él. ¡Él se negó y dijo que el Comité de Planificación del banco era demasiado importante para estar dirigido por una mujer!

Sí, los tiempos han cambiado mucho desde entonces, los hombres respetan mucho más nuestras habilidades y las mujeres ayudan a otras mujeres, pero tenemos que seguir ascendiendo.

Ellen Wood de Questa es la galardonada autora de la serie de libros "The Secret Method for Growing Younger" que se encuentra disponible en northernnewmexicoartists.com. Su sitio en la red es www.howtogrowyounger.com. Para contactar a escribe a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

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Questa Shed Project: Transformation on Many Levels

By LOU MCCALL

It is hard to say exactly how this simple utility structure got started. There were many disparate factors that came together to form a collaborative partnership that brought the Questa Shed Project to fruition. “Pre-future” describes how many unrelated chapters, dating back decades, evolved into a book that all the authors collaborated on to write the happy ending. Well, this isn’t the ending, but you know what I mean...

You could say that the catalyst for the Questa Shed Project was when Taos County stopped recycling plastic. Environmentally conscious individuals looked for ways to keep plastic out of the landfill. Plastic-Free Taos was born. Taos Initiative for Life Together (TiLT) was maturing in its mission and addressing the plastic crisis (and yes, plastic waste is a global crisis). Architect Douglas Eichelberger had been working in sustainable building for decades and figuring out how to build with used plastic. And Daniel RYNO Herrera was writing his own personal story of transformation, which as time goes by, is transforming many lives besides his own.

These threads continued to weave themselves into the story of the Questa Shed Project. Somehow the characters synchronistically found each other, decided to take clean plastic waste and build something with it. They kept more than 425 big black bags of used plastic out of the landfill. They turned waste into walls. That was how they built a utility shed with compressed plastic walls. And then it started to get interesting.

As Questa Del Rio News reported last month, the site of the Questa Shed Project is a trailer court in Questa that needed an upgrade. The shed was designed by the architect, the plastic donated by the public, and tax-deductible donations paid for new materials. Volunteers compressed the plastic and built the shed. And here is when the story gets REALLY interesting. Daniel Herrera has come a long way in the seven years that he has been clean and sober. He feels that he was given a second chance in life and he wants to help others with their second chance. You could say that RYNO is Daniel’s middle name, it stands for “Rewire Yourself with New Opportunities.” Daniel’s vision is to create a place where individuals recovering from addiction or incarceration can learn new skills and get a fresh start in life. The vision was made manifest at the RYNO



Photo by Lou McCall

VOILA! The finished project: a utility shed at the RYNO site in beautiful downtown Questa, built with about 425 big black bags full of repurposed plastic which otherwise would have been taken to the landfill...

RYNO & TiLT Have the Next Project Lined Up!

Questa Farmers Market will be building walls, beds, and benches on Fridays & Sundays in September.

Volunteers are needed.

Call (575) 224-2102 for details and to donate plastic.

site, with the shed and other projects.

To celebrate the completion and show their handiwork on the Questa Shed Project, the collaborators hosted an Open House on August 7. The shed is amazing; with 12” plastic walls, the structure has an R-10 insulative value. Were the walls an additional 4” thicker or 16” wide, the R factor would go up to 20, and New Mexico Building Code would allow it for residential construction. Something to think about...

Anyone who attended the Questa Shed Project’s Open House went away uplifted and inspired, not just by the shed, but by the entire site and all the projects in development. There is a lot going on there. When you drive in, you think you are visiting a trailer park. If you wander around the site, though, you see an apple orchard with huge trees that could be 200 years old, with a good crop of apples on them. In the shade of these grandmother trees are bancos (benches) made with... guess what? Plastic, same construction as the shed. At the open house guests could sit in the shade

on these bancos and look at a massive, well-tended and very productive garden. Overlooking the garden courtyard is a colorful mural, another surprise. The ghost of an adobe home lives there too, asking for a roof and some TLC.

Todd Wynward of TiLT and Daniel Herrera of RYNO have been collaborating for three years at the site, together reviving its old acequia, creating garden beds and growing food, removing trash and debris, improving the old adobe, and nurturing the neglected apple trees to be fruitful once again. Daniel’s dream has been materializing more year after year, so TiLT commissioned traveling artist Dimitri Kadiev to create and paint, sharing RYNO’s vision through a customized, colorful, world-class mural.

A hidden gem of the RYNO site is a renovated mobile home – very impressive, indeed. You don’t have to see the “before” shots to know that it was a successful remodel. There are countless old, sometimes abandoned, mobile homes in Taos County alone that could be given a second chance. This trailer got lucky and has been transformed into a truly beautiful habitat. Another trailer sits empty across from it and looks like it might be next in line for transformation. For now, it is a storage facility for all the bags of post-consumer plastic waste that someone couldn’t take to the landfill. These bags of plastic are headed for the next project, at the Questa Farmers Market site.

Beyond this project, think if you

might have a building project that you would like to sponsor, and let them know. In addition to making the world and Questa a better place by reducing the waste stream and making waste into walls, you are also providing an opportunity for good people to learn a new way to live and work. RYNO and TiLT are doing good in a world that could use more good. If you would like more information, would like to help, or have any questions, please contact Daniel RYNO Herrera at dansautohondo@gmail.com or (575) 224- 7386. To discover more about Todd Wynward and TiLT, go to taostilt.org.

For future projects, we offer:

An architect to provide pro-bono initial advice

Two trained foremen to be employed by your organization to work with your volunteer group to construct a structure of your choice.

The Repurposing Plastic Fundraiser!

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to cover partial costs that will allow us to continue collecting and repurposing Taos County’s plastic. Help us reach our goal: Contribute to Todd Wynward’s Facebook Fundraiser: “Repurposing Plastic Project.”

Friends, you care about this – now show it through a little more support! TiLT can only collect plastic for Taos County if we receive financial support to initiate more building projects. Let’s kick off our Facebook fundraiser by sharing, posting, and donating! Go straight to the Fundraiser link:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/4074222505981142/10158473533618540/>

You can also make your donation by check, please mail to: TiLT, 215 La Posta Rd., Taos NM 87571. TiLT is a federally recognized nonprofit 501(c)(3) and is the fiscal agent for RYNO, a community project in Questa. The amount gained through the Facebook fundraiser will be designated for expenses related to TiLT’s Repurposing Plastic Initiative, which includes our first project at RYNO as well as future projects

THANK YOU, TOGETHER,
WE CAN KEEP TURNING OUR
WASTE INTO WALLS!

FUN FACT:

We discovered that with volunteer labor, our 10 x 12’ shed cost about \$29 square foot in materials, which included the roof, door, and windows.



AN ARMY OF TREES By MANDY STAPLEFORD

While a beautiful and mysterious country, China is also known for the blanket of smog that overcomes its cities on a regular basis. Its air pollution alone is attributed to causing over a million premature deaths per year.

In an effort to combat their high levels of air pollution and reduce their carbon footprint, the People's Liberation Army has deployed over 60,000 soldiers to plant trees and create new forests.

China plans to grow over 32,400 square miles of forest, which is equivalent to the size of Utah. The goal is to increase their forestation rates from 21.7% to 23% by the end of the decade, and up to 26% by the end of 2035.

A majority of the soldiers will work in the heavily polluted Hebei Province, where there are three new forests planned. Hebei is well known for producing the fumes and smog that often blanket Beijing and Northern China.

In addition to planting trees, China has also worked to lessen its dependency on coal in recent years, and is looking towards renewable energy sources, by making considerably large investments in the research and implementation of solar and wind technologies. China is also an emerging world leader in the development of electric cars.

Zhang Jianlong, head of China's State Forestry Administration, says, "Companies, organizations and talent that specialize in greening work, are all welcome to join in the country's massive greening campaign." He also went on to say that, "Cooperation between government and social capital will be put on the priority list."

This new Chinese green army is setting an extraordinary example of the positive actions that can be accomplished with military might, by fighting for the planet, peacefully and with a loving consciousness to our Mother Earth.

Good News Good Planet Taos, NM by Mandy Stapleford. Created to inspire and remind us of the endless good deeds happening globally every day. A two-minute audio of non-religious and non-political good news. Hear it on True Taos KNCE 93.5 and Alexa. goodnewsgoodplanet.com. Sign up for the free weekly, audio story or read the transcript. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/AvSdX6ytoYM>. SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-259154859/tree-army>.

Taos County Recycling Opportunities Remain

By JONATHAN HUTCHISON

By some estimates, 70% of what goes into our county landfill can be repaired, reused, or recycled. Every recyclable item kept out of the landfill reduces contamination of our soil and water, slows the depletion of natural resources required for new products, and saves significant energy and water in manufacture.

Although government-run recycling programs in Taos County have been somewhat curtailed, with fewer items accepted and, in some cases, open fewer hours, some opportunities for recycling remain.

Through its system of eight "transfer stations," the Taos County Solid Waste Department still accepts corrugated cardboard, steel and aluminum cans, mixed paper, brown bags, motor oil, and metal household appliances.

No plastics or glass are accepted at this time. However, Solid Waste Director Edward Martinez recognizes the need to reestablish glass and plastic recycling and is exploring local uses for old glass. He is also in the process of securing funding for a baling device to turn compressed plastic into building blocks for construction projects.

There are two transfer stations in the northern part of the county: the Cerro site is approximately three miles west on State Road 378. Just past the cattle guard and entrance sign to the Rio Grande Del Norte Monument, bear right onto a dirt road and proceed 3/4 of a mile. Contact station attendant Michael Pacheco at (575) 779-6488.

The Arroyo Hondo Site is located a half mile west on County Road B-008, approximately 2.5 miles north of Arroyo Hondo, on State Road 522.

A complete list of county transfer stations can be found at <https://www.taoscounty.org/368/Solid-Waste-Operations>. All eight transfer stations are open from Tuesday through Saturday from 8 am - 4 pm. For more information about Taos County's recycling program, contact the Solid Waste Department at (575) 737-3821.

By ordinance, each residential structure in Taos County is assessed an annual Solid Waste Operations fee of \$120. This fee entitles residents to dispose of household waste and use the recycling facilities at the transfer stations. Those who contract with a commercial trash hauler are eligible for a discount on the county fee. This reduced rate grants the



Stock Photo

Solid Waste Director Edward Martinez recognizes the need to reestablish glass and plastic recycling.

resident access to the recycling facilities on a less frequent basis.

The Town of Taos operates its own recycling center at 201 Bertha Street. This center accepts steel and aluminum cans, mixed paper, phone books, corrugated cardboard, brown bags, and e-waste (computers). There is no cost to recycle at this municipal center. Hours of operation are reduced to Wednesday and Thursday only, from 7 am - 4:30 pm. For more information, call (575) 758-9679.

Non-profit groups and private businesses provide alternatives to county and municipal programs. Taos Initiative For Life Together (TiLT) partners with Rewire Yourself for New Opportunities (RYNO) of Questa to turn compressed plastic into building blocks for construction. Plastic collection is ongoing, for a new project at the Questa Farmers Market. To donate (they are seeking at least 500 bags!) contact Market Coordinator Gaea McGahee at (575) 224-2102, Todd Wynward at tiltcoordinator@gmail.com, or Daniel Herrera at dansautohondo@gmail.com or by phone at (575) 224-7386. Donations are encouraged to keep this initiative alive. To donate, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/4074222505981142/10158473533618540/>

or mail a check to: "Repurposing Plastic Project," 215 La Posta Rd, Taos, NM 87571.

The Questa Center Supermarket continues to accept plastic caps and lids of all kinds, shapes, and sizes as a fundraiser for cancer treatment in Mexico. The Questa Del Rio News co-sponsors this initiative with support from Kit Carson Electric Co-op. If you are an individual or group who would like to volunteer to help with packaging and shipping the boxes, please email news@questaedf.com.

Finally, Recycle Ranger, a Taos recycling service owned and operated by Pablo Van Huen, collects and transfers recycled glass and plastic from business and residential customers for a per-load price or ongoing monthly subscription fee. Pickup is not currently available in the northern part of the county, but individual households may deliver glass and plastic to Recycle Ranger's collection points in Taos and surrounding communities. Van Huen states that with enough interest, pickup could someday be extended to the Questa area. For details, contact Recycle Ranger at (575) 770-7917. See the April 2020 edition of the Questa Del Rio News for our Business Profile featuring The Recycle Ranger.

It takes some effort to repair used items or distribute them to others, or to collect and transport recyclables. However, that effort is repaid in reducing a household's burden on the waste stream, slowing the extraction of finite resources and the expansion of landfills, limiting groundwater and soil contamination, and keeping energy prices and costs of consumer goods down. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

RYNO & TiLT
are building at the
Questa Farmers Market

TURN WASTE INTO WALLS

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!

Fridays & Sundays in September

For Details and to Donate Plastic
(575) 224-2102

Visitor Center
at NM Hwy 38

EBT/SNAP, WIC, DUF
ACCEPTED!

Vendors
Welcome

QFM Hours: SUNDAY: 10am - 2pm • Covid-19 rules at QuestaFarmersMarket.org



MONTHLY UPDATE

Corner Sign

Notice something new at the stop-light corner? The QCC has spruced up the metal Questa sign with fresh paint, and also the wooden arrow mileage markers that were created as part of the Main Street Frontier Community Grant work in 2015.

Questa History Trail Ribbon-Cutting and Celebration: Postponed

We were looking at Labor Day for our official ribbon-cutting of the completed route, but the pandemic situation is still preventing public gatherings of more than 10 persons, so this community gathering will not happen as planned. In addition, St. Anthony's Church has a new project – creating a better parking lot out back, near our acequia sign and bridge – so this is affecting the Trail access. So, as per usual these days, we ask you to stay tuned and we will continue to provide updates. Keep yourself steeped in Questa history, though, and delve into the wealth of information that is available NOW on the project's website; <https://questatrail.org/>.

September 18 - Save the Date! Questa Chamber Music Concert

We've been cooking up virtual and online ways to bring you live music experiences in the wake of our changed world where no large gatherings are permitted, so we cannot have our usual public concert this fall. Nevertheless, these area chamber music folks: Andrea Gore (viola and violin), Rebecca Caron (cello), Suzie Schwartz (violin and viola), and Martha Shepp (piano), WILL perform and we have come up with an alternative way to attend what is now a hybrid event on Friday, September 18, at 1 pm, which we're very excited to present to you!

The notion of essential work and essential workers that has been defined in government health orders during the pandemic leaves out inclusion of the healing and natural uplifting elixir qualities of the arts, we believe. The direct experience of art, creativity, and imagination in times when most activities are virtual and individualized is truly essential. To quote another local performing group, Puppet Theatre los Titiriteros, "we believe in the necessity of



Courtesy Photo

Some of the original 2015 work crew: Back row left to right: Erin Freiboth (QEDF's first VISTA volunteer), Claire Coté, Daniel Hutchison (Localogy Executive Director), Richard Holmes (community volunteer and seasonal Forest Service Ranger), Kendrick Laidlaw, Cynthia Rael Vigil (Rael's Market), Renee Martinez (Administrator Clerk, Village of Questa), Jennifer Vialpando (Artist and Questa Junior Senior High School Teacher)

Front row left to right: Asa Hutchison (son of Daniel Hutchison and Stephanie Owens), Connie Long, Timothy Long, Mayor Mark Gallegos, Joan Eilers (former Questa resident and community volunteer), Aimee Deans (former Questa resident and community volunteer), Charlie Deans (Community by Design consultant hired by the Village and beautification project coordinator), William Powell (Revitalization Specialist, NM Mainstreet)

finding new ways to reach out, to be active, inspire..." and encourage reflection, grieving for what is lost, and re-creating through creative response, in a beautiful setting. Your caring practice of your own emotional health is a good way to take

care of others, too.

For this hybrid presentation, we will provide up to ten socially distanced seats set up in the garden outside La Sala. From there, through open windows, you can experience the concert: it can

be easily heard and enjoyed, even seen, somewhat! You'll experience four pieces of live music, a dance interpretation of one of the selections from La Sala ballet teacher Tuesday Faust, poetic interludes between pieces, and an optional exercise for exploring and reflecting. You can bring your own meditative tools (journal, writing or drawing implements) and we will provide a series of mindfulness inquiries pertaining to each of the four live musical pieces being presented at the concert.

Tea will be provided, too.

On the music menu: Faure Piano Quartet #1, Mahler Piano Quartet, duos for strings, Mendelssohn for cello and piano, and more. A recording will be made of this concert and it will appear on YouTube, thanks to funding from some grant monies. Contact Martha for more information or to reserve one of the few garden seats: (575) 776-7579; sheppmartha@gmail.com

Art Kits for School Kids

In November we plan to get in gear to supply much needed art kits for area youth, but you can help the efforts now. QCC fundraising efforts will bring money in to help us assemble some art kit supplies for our projected Questa schools 300 students, in this time of uncertainty.

Donate today! Go to questacreative.org and select the Art Kits options under the donation button.

ECOMMERCE...IT WORKS!

The Questa Creative Council is happy to report that the online Questa Studio Arts Tour online auction, held August 15 and 16, was a success! Our online auction that replaced the usual physical Questa Studio Art Tour and brought buyers to our website from all over New Mexico and the USA, including Washington, North Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Michigan. The auction highlighted over 50 pieces of artwork for two days of bidding. It resulted in the sale of 27 pieces of artwork and generated close to \$5,000 in revenue for our local artists!

Additional sales were made through our artists profile pages, which are part of our new website, northernnewmexicoartists.com. If you missed the auction or just want to investigate the philosophy and background of your favorite local artist, go there. Many artists provide direct links to their sales platforms, too.

If you are an artist interested in joining the website and possible future auctions and events, please email us at questacreativecouncil@gmail.com.

A big thanks to the following for their help and expertise on this project: Alberta Bouyer, Dan Kuehn, Emily Wilde, Martha Shepp, and Peggy Trigg. This project was made possible through grants from New Mexico Arts and The Taos Community Foundation.

Participate in NeoRio 2020: Home

YOU ARE INVITED TO BE AN ARTIST
FOR THIS YEAR'S NEORIO!

By CLAIRE COTÉ,
CONNIE LONG, AND
MARTHA SHEPP

Since 2009, NeoRio has been a venue for innovative art, experimental thinking, education, and exchange. It has been a public gathering and celebration. NeoRio 2020 must respect the current heightened safety measures, while at the same time creatively responding to these extraordinary times. Affirming that we each have a unique experience of the world and something valuable to express, EVERYONE is invited to create and reflect upon the theme of home during the global pandemic for NeoRio 2020... we're inviting you to be the artists for NeoRio 2020... from your home!

Pondering Home

What does home mean to you? Think inside and outside the box! Approach the theme of home with the broadest perspective: body as home, garden as home, kitchen as home, family as home, traditions as home, Earth as home, home

during the pandemic, home as refuge, safety, confinement...

Starting Point: The Box

All participants will be provided with the same starting point: a 7 x 7 x 7" wooden box, specially made for this year's NeoRio project. Think of the cube as a raw material to work with; to be added to, subtracted from, or modified in any way you like. The cube could be carved, collaged, painted, drawn or written on, covered, attached to, drilled, inlaid, quilted or... destroyed? (Just document the process!) Take the cube and the theme of home and follow wherever they lead you. Cubes are available for pickup at the Questa Visitor Center Wednesday - Sunday, 10 am - 3 pm through September 13. After that date, cubes will be available on Thursdays, 10 - 3 pm until October 1.

Short Audio Reflection

Reflection helps us to make sense of and glean meaning from challenging times. Sharing stories connects us with one another and is an opportunity to express our vulnerability and courage. There is power in oral tradition; hearing a person's story in his or her own voice

deepens its significance and impact. Current circumstances show us more than ever that connection adds purpose to life. With this in mind, we again invite you to reflect on the expansive theme of home and express yourself in a brief audio story. (A smartphone can be used to record your story, or we are happy to record it for you over the phone.)

Exhibition and Archive

We foresee a poignant outcome with the combination of unique cube artworks and audio stories. These will be shown in the online exhibition, "Home: Thinking Inside and Outside the Box" which will go live October 8. Friday, September 26 is the deadline for us to receive your digital documentation (artwork and story) for participation in the virtual art show. Find full guidelines on how to participate at LEAPsite.org. On October 9 and 10, we kick off a dynamic series of NeoRio 2020: Home interactive, community roundtables on Zoom, during which artworks and stories will be shared. All are invited!

We welcome the continued submission of home cube artworks and stories throughout the fall. These will be included

in the NeoRio 2020: Home archive. The online home story-sharing events and archive is a collaboration with Questa Stories Community Memory Project at QuestaStories.org.

Helping Others Participate

Are you a teacher? Do you know people who might want to make a cube artwork and submit a story? We would love your help involving others in this project!

NeoRio is free and open to all; donations are appreciated.

NeoRio is made possible by individual donations, local business and media sponsorships, and grant support. This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional sponsorships from Questa Economic Development Fund, Questa del Rio Colorado News, Questa Visitor Center, Zia Event Design, North Star Toys, Questa Lumber and Hardware, and generous individual donors and volunteers.

Questions? Contact Claire:
emailforleap@gmail.com (575) 224-9066
(call/text) More info at Leapsite.org

PICK UP YOUR CUBE TODAY!

NeoRio 2020: Home

Participate in NeoRio 2020: Home

You're invited to be an artist for this year's NeoRio!

"Home: Thinking Inside and Outside the Box"
Online Exhibition and Zoom Roundtable Discussions

How to Participate:

1. Pick up your cube at the Questa Visitor Center
2. Create a *home* cube artwork
3. Take photos of your creation
4. Record a short audio story
5. Email them to emailforleap@gmail.com

Full guidelines on how to participate at **LEAPsite.org**

Get your cube at the Questa Visitor Center:
Wednesday - Sunday, 10 am - 3 pm through September 13.
After that, cubes will be available for pick-up on Thursdays, 10 - 3 pm.

SEPT 26 Submission deadline
There is no cost to participate!

Questions?
Contact Claire: emailforleap@gmail.com (575) 224-9066 (call/text)




This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional sponsorships from Questa economic Development Fund and Taos Community Foundation, Questa del Rio Colorado News, Questa Visitor Center, Taos Public Library, Zia Event Design, North Star Toys, Questa Lumber and Hardware, and generous individual donors and volunteers.

More info at
LEAPsite.org

Rio Costilla Studio Tour: Emerging Artist Program

By JANE KIRCHER

To no one's surprise, there will not be a Rio Costilla Studio Tour this year. However, there will be an Emerging Artist Program. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous couple from the San Luis Valley, their printing supplies from their business has been donated to the program. Kircher Studios pick up, then separate said supplies into five piles for the following schools: Rio Costilla Academy in Costilla, NM, Questa K-12, NM Centennial R-1 in San Luis, CO, Sierra Grande in Fort Garland, CO, and the schools in Southern Conejos County, CO, whose art programs have been supported by community member Cordy Lujan.

One by one, teachers from these schools have made their way to the Kircher Studios to collect boxes of supplies, piles of paper, chipboard, poster board, acetate sleeves for artwork, pre-made mats, frames, pens, pencils, Expo markers, Sharpies, highlighters, and assorted tapes. Coming at a time of great need for education in the Valley, these supplies destined for children are truly a godsend.

In their years of stalwart support for the Studio Tour these donors could not have foreseen the impact their generosity would provide at such a difficult time. Teachers making their way to the Kircher Studio tell of the planning going into the 2020-21 school year. Arts educators and schools are finding their way along a confusing path of conflicting



Untitled painting by Felipe Rodriguez, 2019

information and long-term educational underfunding.

Imagination is one of humanity's greatest assets... or one of its greatest liabilities. Training the imagination is a central mission of a sound education. Directing it is best left to the human heart. Arts programs are where this imagination is explored and pondered. For many children, great refuge is found in colored pencils and flights of fancy.

In 2009, the Studio Tour, already active for a decade, sought to engage the community at a grassroots level. The solution was found in ongoing

support for the arts programs in area rural schools. The first Emerging Artists Show opened at the Ventero Open Fine Art Press in San Luis, CO, in 2009, with 22 entries from 22 children. Ten years later in 2019, the show had 62 youth and 70 entries. Awards and supplies topped \$835. These funds were raised from an auction of artist-decorated canvas bags and the Annual Studio Tour garage sale.

This year's gift from these anonymous donors places this community school program well above that. In 2021 the hope is to have the best show ever! In each kit provided to teachers were placed



Photo by Jane Kircher

2019 Award Recipient, Alexis Mondragon, Psychedelic Swan

entries for a 2021 show with the request to turn their entries in at the end of this school year.

The Studio Tour functions under the umbrella of the Rio Costilla Council for Arts and Culture and is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Current fundraising will provide teachers with gift cards to refresh their supplies for classes later in the quarter.

Should you wish to decorate a canvas bag for next year's auction, request an entry form for your child, or to donate to the cash or supplies sorely needed for these schools, please contact Sharleen Farmer at (720) 220-6181 or Jane Kircher at (719) 672-3063.

Expansion of the Questa Library Breaks Ground!

By SHARON NICHOLSON

The Questa Public Library happily announced that they held their groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of the library on Tuesday August 15. The library first opened in 2008. It soon became evident that a 1600 square foot library it would not be big enough.

Esther Garcia and Judy Cuddihy, major players in bringing the library into existence, got busy creating an expansion plan. Preliminary architectural drawings were created, and the late Senator Carlos Cisneros was enlisted to get behind the project. An appropriation for \$585,000 passed the State Legislature and was signed by Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham in

2019. Living Design Group, an architectural firm based in Taos, was awarded the contract to design the project. The contractor who is building it is Cordova Contracting and Development LLC, they expect to begin construction 7-10 days after groundbreaking.

Photo by Doug Patterson; Architect, Living Design Group Architects

Questa Library Expansion groundbreaking ceremony on August 25. From left to right; Mark Cordova, President and CEO of Cordova Contracting & Development LLC; Sharon Nicholson, Library Director; Mayor Mark Gallegos; Judy Cuddihy, Questa Library co-founder and Expansion Committee member; Councilman Charlie Gonzales; and Jon Paul Romero of Cordova Contracting.



1,2,3: Come Count With Me!

By SHARON
NICHOLSON

“Counting is the process of determining the number of elements of a finite set of objects.”

Wikipedia

As any preschooler can demonstrate, counting is most important. First, it might be counting fingers, then moving on to Cheerios, and eventually to pennies. By the time we reach adulthood, we are skilled at counting the days to the weekend, the cash in our pockets, and the number of books we need to make it through the weekend.

We hear a lot these days about the

2020 Census. The Census involves counting on an enormous scale. It is important because each person included in the total count means more money in federal programs for our state, including many at the Questa Library.

Counting is required of many of us in our jobs. At the library, we count you when you enter the building. Once a month we add all the numbers together to report to the Village of Questa, and ultimately, we do a yearly count. We also count the number of times the computers get used, books checked out, and attendance at library programs. These numbers are recorded on the Annual Report required by the State Library, and passed on to federal agencies. Just

as with the Census, it all has to do with funding. Numbers determine the amount of money that might be available to operate the library facility, buy books and other materials, and allow the library to offer programs like Summer Reading and computer instruction.

Here are the results of our counting from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. You, our community, made 3,606 visits to the library. You checked out 3,108 books and DVDs. You also received 108 books from other libraries in the Interlibrary Loan system. Our wireless services outside the library are difficult to track, but our best guess is 2,920 WiFi sessions. Before COVID-19, 822 children and adults attended library programs. Of course,

our numbers were much less this year, since you stayed home to help combat the spread of the virus. And we all count money, too. The library must remain vital and grow, so we still spent \$5,192 on new additions to our collection, both books and movies

Counting is fun. It is necessary. Let's hope we don't need to count too many more days until the library doors will be open again. Until then, let us know what you need: books to read, cool kids magazines with games and activities, DVDs to watch, computer time, or free books from the cart! Keep counting, wash your hands, and wear your mask.

And please, make sure you are counted in the 2020 Census!

Friends of the Questa Public Library Annual Board Meeting

By MARGARET LEJUSTE

At the July 13, 2020, Friends of the Questa Public Library (FQPL) annual board meeting held via Zoom, the following slate of officers was elected: President – Evelyn Coggins; Vice President – Margaret Lejuste; Secretary – Nancy Parker; and

Treasurer – Lynn Galusky.

Sharon Nicholson, Library Director, presented an overview of the past year's

library activities. Although not officially open during the COVID-19 state-mandated shutdown, the library continues to offer curbside service, computer access by appointment, free book giveaways for children, WiFi access in the parking lot, and support of the 2020 Census. Before March, the library conducted children's

programs, including Fun Fridays and a Halloween book giveaway.

The FQPL continues to support the library expansion by raising funds for furnishings and equipment for the new building. The Board welcomes current

and new friends of the Questa Library. Membership payments of \$10 were due in July but it is never too late to join. Call the library at (575) 586-2023 to join FQPL and help our library continue to grow and prosper.

**SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD
SIGN-UP MONTH!**

I See it's Fall

I see the trees,
I see the breeze,
I see the nectar covered honey bees.
I see it's yellow,
I see it's red,
I feel like I want to snuggle up in bed.
The days are getting shorter
The nights are getting colder
And as the days pass by, I know I'm getting older.



By Elija McNulty
of the El Rito area of Questa,
10 yrs old

Photo by Rachel León

Eighth grader at Questa High and Cerro resident Alyana León with her best friend, Frodo.



Cerro Vista Farm

Fresh Produce and Flowers

Farm Stand Open

June 24th—September 30th

198 Lower Buena Vista Road
Cerro

Wednesdays - 3 pm to 6 pm

1918 SPANISH FLU from page 1

The virus proved to be deadlier than World War I and had a devastating impact on the villages and the smaller communities of New Mexico. The first flu fatality in New Mexico was a soldier at Fort Bayard, NM, near Silver City on September 20, 1918. Then, about a week later in nearby Deming, NM, the first civilian flu-related death occurred. The Puebloans and Navajos were hit hard by the pandemic. Of all the pueblos, San Ildefonso fared the worst, leaving only a couple of surviving families. There were several hundred deaths in Taos County alone. Children were orphaned, and sometimes more than one family member died at the same time. As quickly as people passed, they would be taken

and buried. Survivors would go so far as to burn whatever the sick person had touched. There were no family viewings, no services, no funeral processions, and almost no time to mourn – it seemed that all that anyone could really do was to wait to see who was next.

My great-grandparents, Melaquias and Carmelita Vargas from Cerro, NM, were among the survivors of the horrifying pandemic in Taos County. They were not without loss; their four-year-old daughter died of the influenza. My great-grandfather helped make the caskets for the families of Cerro. In his old age, he would tell stories of the days when the influenza pandemic hit Cerro and Questa. He would talk of how many people died every day; they simply could not keep up. In the Cerro Catholic Cemetery, there is an area seemingly

forgotten by time; only fenceposts in the shape of crosses painted white stand as indicators of the burials. In my research, it was not easy to acquire a list of names of the locals who passed away during the pandemic in Cerro and Questa. Because so many people were dying daily, it was not always possible to keep an accurate count or listing.

An article in *La Revista de Taos* November 1918 edition states, “Se nos reporta tabiem, que en Questa, Cerro, Costilla y Penasco, en esta mismo mes, han fallecido gran numero de personas, particularmente en Cerro, han fallecido en numero de mas que cuarenta.” (Translation: “We are reporting, that in Questa, Cerro, Costilla, and Peñasco, in this same month, large numbers of people, particularly in Cerro have died in numbers of more than forty.”)

Over a hundred years later, here we are facing another pandemic. It is striking: the measures the authorities instituted at that time look very much like the ones we are seeing today – social distancing, isolation, quarantine, masks, and handwashing. The Spanish Influenza brought emotional distress to the families. Soldiers, so happy to come home from the War, found their communities much changed by the pandemic with so many loved ones having passed away. The families forged through. One moment the virus was here, the next it was gone, and they continued as best they could – survival at its best. Here we are, in the year 2020, getting a glimpse of what our ancestors endured. As it says in the scriptures, “... and this too shall pass.”

La gripe española

Por DEBORAH
ARCHULETA MORENO

*Yo tenía un pajarito
que se llamaba Enza.
Abrí la ventana
y entró la in-flu-enza.
(Rima infantil de 1918)*

La influenza española, o la gripe española de 1918, fue una pandemia olvidada que arrasó con fuerza letal en todo el mundo y se cobró innumerables vidas en tan solo unos pocos meses. Cuando se hallaba en su punto máximo, mató a más de treinta millones de personas en todo el mundo, luego que apareciera por primera vez en medio de la Primera Guerra Mundial. La enfermedad golpeó rápidamente y sin previo aviso, llevándose a muchos en el mejor momento de sus vidas. Por temor al pánico, los funcionarios oficiales y los gobiernos se mostraron reacios a admitir que la pandemia representaba una amenaza grave y seria; incluso llegaron a prohibir cualquier publicación, discusión o estadística sobre las tasas de la enfermedad o de mortalidad. El virus se había convertido en un enemigo público de todo el mundo. Se cerraron las escuelas, los teatros, las bibliotecas, las iglesias y se instó al público a usar máscaras. También estaba prohibido que más de cinco personas se reunieran en un grupo.

Puesto que la comunidad médica tenía poco conocimiento de con qué estaban lidiando o cómo tratarlo, se dedicaron a informar al público sobre

los beneficios del alcohol, el tabaco y los remedios caseros como el ajo, el alcanfor o los terrones de azúcar empapados en queroseno. Tanlac Tonic, una popular “panacea”, se promocionaba como un “poderoso tónico reconstructivo” que ayudaba a recuperarse de la enfermedad. Debido a la falta de médicos en las comunidades más pequeñas, la gente quedó abandonada a sus propios recursos. Hacían lo que podían y recurrían a antiguos remedios herbales y tradiciones populares.

El virus resultó ser más letal que la Primera Guerra Mundial y tuvo un impacto devastador en las aldeas y las comunidades más pequeñas de Nuevo México. La primera muerte por gripe en Nuevo México fue la de un soldado en Fort Bayard, Nuevo México, cerca de Silver City, el 20 de septiembre de 1918. Luego, aproximadamente una semana después, en la cercana ciudad de Deming, ocurrió la primera muerte civil relacionada con la influenza. Los nativos puebloños y los navajos resultaron tremendamente afectados por la pandemia. De todos los pueblos, San Ildefonso la pasó peor, pues quedaron solo un par de familias sobrevivientes. Hubo varios cientos de muertes solo en el condado de Taos. Los niños quedaron huérfanos y, a veces, varios miembros de la familia morían al mismo tiempo. Tan pronto como morían, se los llevaban a enterrar. Los sobrevivientes quemaban todo lo que el enfermo había tocado. No había visitas familiares, ni servicios,

ni procesión fúnebre y casi no quedaba tiempo para llorar; parecía que todo lo que se podía hacer era esperar para ver quién era el siguiente.

Mis bisabuelos, Melaquias y Carmelita Vargas de Cerro, Nuevo México, estuvieron entre los sobrevivientes de la horrible pandemia en el condado de Taos. Ellos también sufrieron pérdidas pues su hija de cuatro años murió a causa de la influenza. Mi bisabuelo ayudó a hacer los ataúdes para las familias de Cerro. En su vejez contaba historias de los días en que la pandemia de gripe azotaba Cerro y Questa. Nos contaba de cuántas personas moría cada día; simplemente no era posible mantener el ritmo. En el Cementerio Católico de Cerro hay un área aparentemente olvidada por el tiempo, con solo postes de cerca en forma de cruces pintados de blanco que marcan donde hay entierros. Durante mi investigación, no me fue fácil obtener una lista de los nombres de los lugareños que fallecieron durante la pandemia en Cerro y Questa. Como tantas personas morían a diario, no siempre era posible llevar un recuento o tener una lista precisa.

Un artículo en *La Revista de Taos*, en su edición de noviembre de 1918, dice: “Se nos reporta también que en Questa, Cerro, Costilla y Peñasco, en este mismo mes, han fallecido gran número de personas; particularmente en Cerro, han fallecido en número de más de cuarenta.”

Más de cien años después, nos enfrentamos a otra pandemia. Es sorprendente; las medidas que las autori-



Photo by Carolyn Gallegos

This iconic barn is possibly the most photographed sight in Cerro. It was originally built by Francisco Martinez and his sons Tomás and Nicolás and is currently owned by the Vigil family.

dades ordenaron en aquellos tiempos se parecen mucho a las que estamos viendo hoy; distanciamiento social, aislamiento, cuarentena, máscaras y lavado de manos. La gripe española trajo angustia emocional a las familias. Los soldados, tan felices de volver a casa después de la guerra, encontraron que sus comunidades habían cambiado mucho por la pandemia, ya que tantos seres queridos habían fallecido. Las familias continuaron adelante abriéndose paso; en un momento dado el virus estaba aquí, al siguiente se había ido, y ellos siguieron haciendo lo que mejor podían—sobreviviendo de la mejor forma posible. Aquí estamos en el año 2020, apenas vislumbrando lo que sufrieron nuestros antepasados. Como dice en las Escrituras, “...y esto también pasará.”

Una casa de recuerdos

By KAILEE THARNISH

Some of my earliest childhood memories take place at the Cerro home of my *bisabuelos*, my great-grandparents, Juan and Delfina Chavez. Four generations of my family have grown up or spent time at that little house and the land surrounding it; the Chavez family has been in Cerro for six generations.

The *horno* under the trees by the ditch has fed us many times over. Everything from bread and corn to pork roast and beans has been cooked in that oven. Smoothing mud over the cracks to make sure the heat stays trapped is a tradition that relatives of all ages join in on.

I fondly remember playing with my siblings in the ditch. We would make jewelry out of the reeds that grew on the

banks and tried to “fish” with a pole made out of a stick, fishing wire, and a washer. In my family, playing in the waters of the ditch is a baptism of sorts: a rite of passage. We used to make mud pies and serve them in tin dishes my *bisabuela* kept on the shelves on the porch.

One memory that comes to mind is when my *bisabuelo*, who was in his 90s at the time, climbed down into the root cellar underneath the house. My parents, aunt, and cousin were all crowded around the opening where the ladder was, worrying about him. He was a very stubborn man; no one would dare tell him what to do!

Whenever I see circus peanuts, I think of my *bisabuela*. She always had those soft orange candies in her candy dish on the window ledge in the living room, along



Photo by Lelo Chavez

Mi bisabuelos, Juan and Delfina Chavez

with the hard candies in strawberry wrappers. Delfina also made delicious chow-chow (pickled vegetables). I distinctly remember tasting a piece of cauliflower and being surprised that it tasted like a pickle.

One of my favorite memories is when we re-poured the concrete walkway in

front of their house. We also made individual stepping stones with our names and handprints in them that lined the start of the walkway on both sides. It is so fun to look at them now and see how much we have grown physically, and expanded in family members. My brother and cousin, who are age 20 now, were so little when we made those stones that we had to use their footprints rather than their handprints!

So much of who I am is tied to my family and to my childhood. Cerro has always and will always be a place that I keep close to my heart. The memories that I have from the house of my great-grandparents are ones that I will pass down to my children, so that they will know to appreciate the priceless gift of time with loved ones.

Families from Cerro

FACEBOOK GROUP KEEPS
MEMORIES ALIVE

By SANDIE SEGURA
WESOLOWSKI

The “Families from Cerro, New Mexico” Facebook group was created Oct 15, 2017 by Sandie Segura Wesolowski, Loretta Vigil, and Marjorie Melagare-Cosgrove. The three met on a New Mexico genealogy Facebook group and wanted a way to reach out specifically to people from Cerro to help in their genealogy research. None of them lived in Cerro, but they had deep family roots there. They chose to start a private group to help members feel safe about sharing information such as stories, photos, and memories. No non-members can access any information that is shared.

What started as a group of 20 people quickly grew to over 200 people in the first week! Now, the group has over 1,100 members and continues to grow. Members of the group are not just Cerro residents; many live in other states, including Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and as far away as Alaska.

Group members share their photos and stories of Cerro, their families, and ancestors. For some, seeing a photo helps to put a face to the name of a relative they may have heard about or from researching their family tree. Topics such as the Spanish Influenza of 1918 is just one topic that has been discussed (see related story on page 1). Sharing these



Segura Family Photo

The author's grandfather, Jose Procopio Segura, a member of the S.P.M.D.T.U. community organization founded in 1900.

memories helps keep Cerro and their ancestors alive.

Sociedad Protection Mutua De Trabajadores Unidos or S.P.M.D.T.U. was an organization started in 1900, dedicated to serving the communities in which it resides. My grandfather, Jose Procopio Segura, was a member of this organization. Historian Estevan Rael-Galvez shared a video of his mother, Nina, discussing how this organization helped her family when they lost a family member. She told the story about a man who came over to cut wood and do chores when they needed help. Estevan showed his mother photos on the Cerro group page and she recognized my grandfather as the man who came to help them! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIO6NR3l8uY>

If you are not already a member, you are encouraged to join the “Families from Cerro, New Mexico” Facebook group. To find this group on Facebook, use the search bar on Facebook and type in the group name, and click the “Join Group” button. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Familiesfromcerro/>

Muertes en Cerro y Questa a causa de la influenza española de 1918
Deaths in Cerro and Questa from the Spanish Influenza of 1918

Obituarios de La Revista de Taos, Noviembre de 1918
Obituary from Le Revistas de Taos November 1918

JESUS M. ARCHULETA

En Cerro, este condado, Tambien fallecio Don Jesus M. Archuleta a la edad de 59 anos. Fallecio el dia 21 de Octubre pasado victima de la influenza.

In Cerro, this county, Don Jesus M. Archuleta also passed away at the age of 59 years. He passed away on October 21, victim of influenza.

JUAN DE DIOS CHAVES de Cerro
GUSMANITA LAFORET de Questa
SOPHIA VIGIL de Cerro 36 anos
Una niña de FERMIN MARTINEZ
DONACIANO MARTINEZ
SOUSA VIGIL
SARA DE SEGURA é hijo
GABRIEL SIERRA
3 hijos de BASILIO FLORES
3 niños de ANTONIO SEGURA
Un niño de G. GARCIA
CIRILA MONTOYA
LUISITA KARE
2 niños de PABLO MARTÍNEZ
LAISA BLELLA y un niño
Un niño de MALAQUIAS GALLEGOS
2 niños de RICARDO ARCHULETA
Uno niño de MEDARDO LAFORET
Una mija de TIMOTEO ATENCIO UNO DE BENITO SEGURA
Uno niño de J. D. MARTINEZ
Otro DE C ARCHULETA
Otro de M. VARGAS GASPARG-VIGIL
Un niño de J. SEGURA
CELINA JARAMILLO

FELIPE SILVA
ERAEREGILDA SILVA
GUSMONITA DE BOYSON
IRENE DE GONZALES
FILOMENA DE DURAN
L. B. ORTIZ, JESÚS HERRERA
Dos niños de MALAQUIAS ROMERO
Un niño de J. E. VIGIL
Un niño de JUAN VIGIL
Un niño de J. E. MARTÍNEZ
Otro de EPIFAÑIO GARCIA
Una niña de F. MONTOYA
RICARDO GONZALES
Un de SAMUEL YOUNG
2 de CLESTINO MONTOYA y esposa,
3 de CANDIDO MARTINEZ esposa y niño.

Obituary from Le Revistas de Taos
Obituario de La Revista de Taos

ELAIZA GOMEZ de BLEA En Cerro, este condado, nos escribe el Rev. P. L. Martinez: "El día 18 de Noviembre dejó de exis tir aquí Doña Elaiza Gomez, esposa de Don Andres A. Blea. Sucumbió resultas de la Influenza española. La extinta era bástago de una des." "Jas familias más respetadas en el condado de Taos. Siendo hija de Don Pedro A. Gomez y Cleofas C. de Gomez y la esposa cariñosa del tS Sr. Andres A. Blea. Lamentan su separación eterna, además de sus. padres y esposo, una niña de cuatro meses, de edad, tres hermanos hombres y cinco hermanas mujeres."

In Cerro, this county, Rev. PL Martinez writes to us: "On November 18, Doña Elaiza Gomez, wife of Don Andres A. Blea, Passes away here. She died as a result of the Spanish influenza. The deceased it was the offspring of one of the most respected families in Taos County. She was the daughter of Don Pedro A. Gomez and Cleofas C. de Gomez and the loving wife of Señor Andres A. Blea. Very sad because of their eternal separation, are her parents and husband, a four-month-old girl, three brothers and five sisters."

New Course Prepares Questa High Students For High-Wage Jobs In Building Trades

By TRICIA WARE

This initiative is a successful collaboration between Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Questa Independent School District, the New Mexico Building and Construction Trades Council, UA 412 Local Plumbers & Pipefitters, the Chevron Corporation, and the Questa Economic Development Fund, and UNM-Taos.

Six Questa High School seniors will be training for high-wage, building-trades employment as soon as next summer. As part of a public-private partnership, a class at Questa High will offer a cohort of students dual credit at the University of New Mexico-Taos. The course will groom them for jobs in many high-demand, skilled building trades with the Laboratory (LANL) and other area employers. LANL Director Thom Mason said that the Laboratory expects to hire more than 1,200 craft, or specialized building trade workers over the next five years.

There is a possibility that the Welding course, originally scheduled for this fall may begin in January instead. Plans to hire a building-trades teacher have fallen through unexpectedly, so the class is NOT presently in session. Questa High School and its partners are searching for the appropriate candidate to fill the position and may still get the class going this Fall Semester 2020.

The Welding class will allow Questa High School students to meet union



Courtesy Photo

A new one-year course in the building trades provides training at Questa High School. The first cohort of six students will be prepared for paid apprenticeship and potential full-time employment at Los Alamos National Laboratory and other employers in the area.



standards. Paired with a high-school diploma, it allows students direct entry into union apprenticeship programs at age 18. As apprentices, they will work full time at LANL or with other employers at the starting salary of \$18 per hour while receiving additional classroom and on-the-job training. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, trainees will be journeymen with starting salaries ranging from \$70,000 to \$75,000 per year plus benefits. Participation in the course is free to students.

The Questa program is only the latest job-training collaboration between LANL and area educational partners. A similar building-trades program was recently announced at Taos High School. Likewise, Santa Fe Community College has pioneered a new program for machinists, and Northern New Mexico College is successfully training Radiation Control Technicians. Programs like these require one to two years of specialized training and result in high-demand, high-wage jobs.

LANL, a multidisciplinary research institution engaged in strategic science on behalf of national security, is managed by Triad, a public-service oriented, national security science organization equally owned by its three founding members: Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle), the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS), and the Regents of the University of California (UC) for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

"The Laboratory is pleased to collaborate with these education and economic-development leaders on career options for the emerging workforce. Skilled workers are vital to the Laboratory and to many other area employers."

—THOM MASON
LANL DIRECTOR

"The union is very excited to move forward with this collaboration. We're glad to respond to the growing demand at the Lab and across northern New Mexico for skilled builders."

—BRIAN CONDIT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
NEW MEXICO BUILDING AND
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

"Empowering our students to embark on well-paid career paths with New Mexico employers is a top priority for Questa Independent School District. This first cohort is only the beginning for Questa High School graduates who will be rebuilding the economy of the future." The new program will also revitalize the Questa High School's welding program.

—CARLA ARCHULETA,
QUESTA INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

"Chevron is very pleased to see the launch of this program. It will open up future opportunities for youth in the Questa area and increase the economic diversification of our community."

—CHRISTIAN ISELY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR
FOR CHEVRON

"Transforming the economy in Questa begins with a skilled workforce," "It has been a joy to have collaborated with so many conscientious partners to re-tool our community's job training offerings."

—MALAQUIAS RUEL,
CHAIR OF THE QUESTA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FUND

"This new program is part of the UNM-Taos mission to provide meaningful early college initiatives, dual-credit, and career pathways to northern New Mexicans."

—PATRICK VALDEZ,
CHANCELLOR OF UNM-TAOS

"I commend these regional partners as well as the students of Questa High School for remaining adaptable and optimistic despite unprecedented challenges. We are eager to bring new talent into the fold."

—ART SPARKS,
REPRESENTATIVE FOR
UA 412 LOCAL
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS

Environmental Education New Mexico: Everyday Outdoors Challenge



Photo by Kelly Steinberg



Photo by Kelly Steinberg

Explore your nearby waterways for the Everyday Outdoors Challenge

By TALLIE SEGEL

Join the environmental education community in our outdoor challenge! Environmental Education New Mexico (EENM) is a non-profit organization that works with education and community leaders to support outdoor and environmental education for New Mexico's students. We work directly with teachers, providing training and resources, and with state and community leaders to create systems change that makes outdoor education an integral part of our education system.

We envision a world where every kid gets to play and learn outdoors every day, and we want you to join us! When you get outside this September, you can

support EENM with every step! Record your time walking, hiking, biking, running and moving around outside earn points and earn prizes

Registration suggested prices: \$35 dollars for individual, \$25 for family, register as a team for \$30 dollars per teammate, sponsor a classroom for \$50

Make an even bigger difference to EENM:

- Collect donations and ask friends and family to support your EENM!
- Start a team and get your friends, family, coworkers, and community outside too! You don't have to be together to compete with other teams.
- Start a friendly competition! Chal-

Take a walk in the woods for the Everyday Outdoors Challenge

llege your friends, family, or an EE colleague to join the challenge or start their own team.

- Encourage NM students to get outside by sponsoring a classroom to participate in the challenge.
- Teachers, sign your class up and compete with other classes!

Once you register, get moving outside! Log your time spent playing outdoors (doesn't matter if you're climbing a mountain or playing at the park) on your profile regularly and check the leaderboard to see how you stack up in the competition! At the end of the month, join us for a (virtual) celebration to find out who hiked the farthest? Who

spent the most time at the park? Who raised the most money? Make up your own awards and let us know!

How to participate:

- To register, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/NM/Albuquerque/EENM> and create an account.
- Starting on September 1, get outside and hike, walk, or run on New Mexico's walking, hiking and biking trails and neighborhoods – through September 30.
- Follow EENM on Facebook and share pictures from the great outdoors so others can see what you've been up to.
- Learn more about EENM @ www.eenm.org

Tips on Using Video to Assess Student Attention Virtually

DON'T DO THIS

X DO NOT connect students' video use and eye contact time to participation points, grading, or school attendance.

X DO NOT Remove students from the meeting if their videos are not on.

X DO NOT Trick students into turning on their videos (eg., for a class dance party)

X DO NOT Give extra credit to students who have their video on.

DO THIS!

• **CHOICE. DO LET** students decide whether to turn on or keep on, their video. Allow them to use virtual or blurred backgrounds and fun filters (e.g., be a banana or potato!). <https://bit.ly/virtualmtgfilters>

• **REAL-TIME CHECK-IN. DO ASK** questions often to assess student understanding. Allow students to respond via audio or virtual meeting tools (e.g... chat box, polls, nonverbal reactions."thumbs up").

• **USE DIGITAL ASSESSMENT TOOLS. DO COLLECT** different types of data to evaluate ongoing learning - Answer Garden, Gimkit, Kahoot, Google Forms, Poll Everywhere, Socrative, Crowdsignal, Formative, Classkick, Ted-Ed, Playposit, Ed Puzzle, Nearpod, etc. <https://bit.ly/formassesstech>

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

PRIVACY. Students might be uncomfortable displaying their living space to their peers.

SAFETY. Students (and their family members) may not want their image captured, recorded, or shared. Students could be cyberbullied if a classmate takes a screenshot of their video.

EQUITY. Students might have unreliable Internet access, low bandwidth, devices without video capabilities, or limited access to a device.

PERSONAL. Students might feel shy or anxious to be on camera. <http://bit.ly/zoomcams>

"BUT I DON'T LIKE TEACHING TO BLANK SCREENS"

Teach students to setup their Google Meet or Zoom profile picture as a bitmoji, school photo, or a favorite selfie. When the camera is off, the students' profile picture will show up, giving you a virtual audience to talk to.

ASK BEFORE ASSUME

This is a challenging time for everyone. If students are struggling to show attentiveness, ask questions rather than make assumptions about their actions or punish them for lack of engagement.

YOU GOT THIS!

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About the Cerro Community Center

By LOU MCCALL

Driving through Cerro on State Road 378, there are many interesting old buildings to look at. Standing tall and proud is the Cerro Community Center (CCC), a beautiful adobe structure originally constructed as the Cerro Elementary School in 1938. The CCC is an important part of the Cerro community and its history. It was created and is run by longtime Cerro residents. The president of the board of the CCC is Jose “Medardo” Vigil, the vice president is Jose “Elijio” Chavez, the secretary is Alonzo Quintana, and treasurer is David Cisneros.

Elijio graduated from the 8th grade there, in 1961, with eight students in his graduating class. His mother, Delfinia Chavez, was head cook when it was Cerro Elementary School: she arrived at the school very early in the morning to make bread. (See photo of Delfinia Chavez on page 17). When Elijio was going to school, there were five teachers. Each teacher taught two grades, starting with kindergarten and the first grade. The eighth grade had one teacher all to themselves!

Cerro Elementary School closed its doors in the mid 1990s. While the building stayed empty, Cerro residents petitioned Taos County to buy the building, which they eventually did. It opened its doors as Cerro Community Center with a lot of support from the community.

The late Mr. Gilbert Segura (he passed in 2013) was instrumental in creating the CCC. He was very civic-minded and did many wonderful things for the Cerro community. “Gilbert Segura was the overriding force behind the acquisition of the old school building for a community center,” said Jeannie Masters, who sat on the community center board at the time. “Gilbert was relentless in getting the money for it, lobbying Senator Cisneros constantly. Many feel that Mr. Segura should be honored for all of his hard work for the community of Cerro. The U.S. Forest Service had community grants at the time, and the center received several in order to re-carpet, buy window shades, paint, etc.” Mr. Segura wrote and received other grant money for community-building projects in Cerro, too.

Getting the CCC ready to open was a lot of hard work for many Cerro community members. A core group did much of the hard labor of pulling up old carpets, repainting, and other reno-

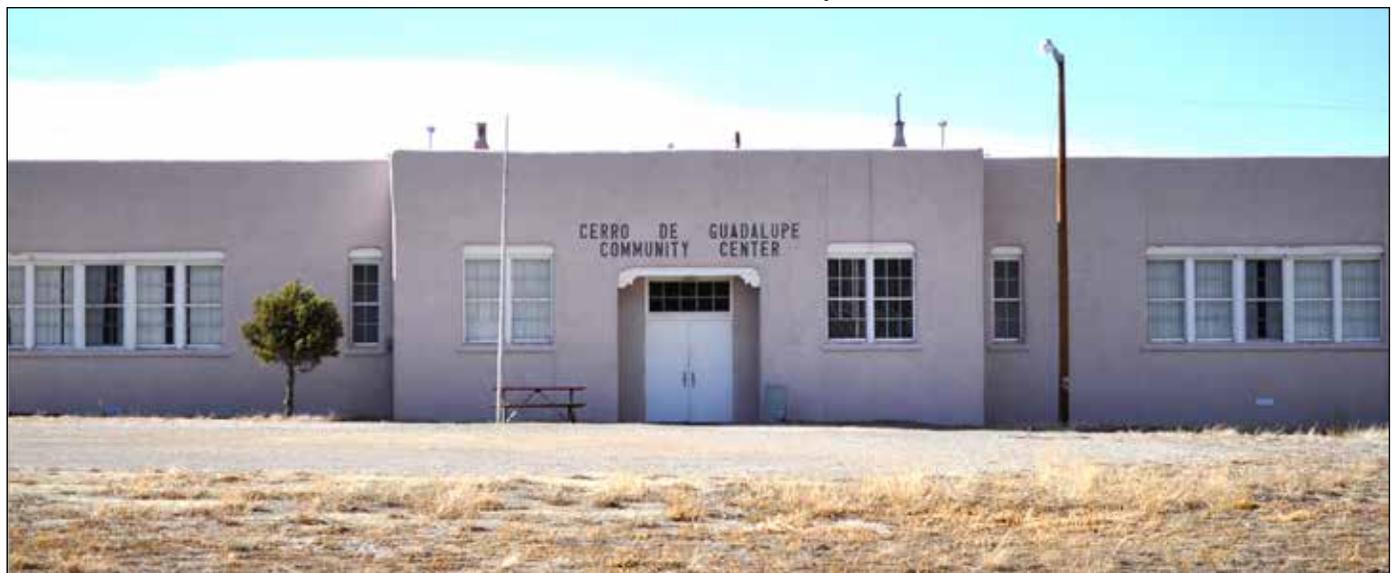


Photo by Carolyn Gallegos

Standing tall and proud is the Cerro Community Center (CCC), a beautiful adobe structure originally built as the Cerro Elementary School in 1938.

vations. Gilbert Segura led the charge with Jeannie Masters, Alonzo and Lucio Quintana, Rudy Garcia, and David Cisneros showing up regularly for much of the work. Apologies to those whose names we don't mention – you made a difference, too and we appreciate you!

In 2012 Cerro had a Fiesta commemorating 200 years as a community, dating back to 1812. The celebration was held at the community center and drew proud community members from all over New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah (and probably more states if you look at every page in the guest book). There was music, plenty of delicious local food, art, Native American dances, and more. Local Cerro business Fancy Face made the event banners and created special fiesta t-shirts, hats, and other merchandise that were sold to commemorate the event and there were many vendors there. It was a memorable event!

The Community Center offers a spacious and bright exercise room with exercise bikes, five treadmills, weight machines, free weights, and mats. People can become members of the gym for \$15 a month, which entitles them to access the exercise room and equipment. For the past year, the community center's well has been out of order, so currently there is no running water at the center. This has affected the use of the building so there hasn't been much promoting the exercise membership.

One of the old classrooms in the center houses a ceramics studio with molds, pottery wheels, and kilns. It was originally housed in what is known as “the Old Gym” and was moved when the community center opened. Many Cerro residents have ceramics that were crafted

with love by their family members and friends. The Sewing Room, which is used for all kinds of crafts projects, houses three beautiful antique wood-framed looms and quilt frames.

The Old Gym across the road from the CCC is another of Cerro's great old adobe buildings. It was built in the early 1930s as a WPA project. A wood shop located within it was used for building furniture, and many Cerro residents worked there throughout the years. (The wood shop is still in the Old Gym, in the back.) Malaquias Rael, Sr. taught woodworking as part of the WPA program. He introduced new tools, materials, and techniques that helped members of this rural community increase their skills. Mr. Rael and the old woodshop was covered in the May 2020 issue of the *Questa Del Rio News*' Business Profile feature.

Many Cerro residents used to play basketball at the Old Gym. During the winter months, Elijio and Medardo both remember the PE teacher having them shovel the basketball court so they could play, a resourceful idea for physical education. They didn't have cars back then; they either rode horses to school or made their way on foot, thigh-deep in snow. Medardo said, “People talk about the good ol' days, but they weren't that good. We worked our butts off!”

Taos County owns the Old Gym and Cerro Community Center as well as the Cerro VFW. The county had allocated funds to tear down the Old Gym, as it was considered a safety hazard: it was discovered that the Old Gym was built with asbestos and so the County is working to rectify it. (It is not known at this time what the County will do about the building.) The Village of Cerro maintains the buildings, at great expense

to the residents of Cerro. The community center is also home to one of Taos County's polling stations.

The center is in need of other improvements. Years ago, Elijio started writing to several politicians. Representative Bobby Gonzales responded and procured \$100k in funding three years ago. The funds will be used to install emergency showers, fix up the rooms, floors, and bathrooms, and possibly repair the sagging floor in the room that is used for elections.

Hopefully, there will be enough funds to fix up the kitchen, as well. Even though the funds were allocated in 2017, the Center has not seen it yet. Taos County Commissioner Mark Gallegos is tracking the disbursement of the funds.

The CCC has many exciting ideas for the future of the center, including the renovations proposed with legislative funding. They need this money to make it happen, but also need participation from the community. The community's number one goal is to attract active involvement from younger community members who can eventually take the helm of this historic community. Currently, senior citizens are the leadership and they are 100% dedicated to sustaining and improving the community economy, vibrance, history, and development. They cannot do it alone. The seniors have the vision but need help to formalize the planning, research, and implementation to move things forward. If anyone would like to step up and volunteer to help get the project started, please do!

Cerro Community Center
151 State Road 372
Cerro, NM 87519
(575) 586-2491 or (575) 770-0270

Cerro Acequia Association: *Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe*

By RACHEL LEÓN

I have been one of the Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe Commissioners since 2012. I serve as treasurer, and have worked with all of our Cerro mayordomos, The New Mexico Acequia Association, and the State Engineer's Office to ensure we are using the water to irrigate the 2,500 acres in our acequia association. The current President of the Cerro Acequia Association is José Medardo Vigil, who has been a longtime parciante leader. My husband, Rick León, is vice-president and has been a parciante of the acequia his whole life. He has memories of him and his brother Joseph León attending the ditch meetings with their father, the late Ricard León, and the late Norman Gwinn. Mary Jo Kelly serves as secretary; she is very caring about the community and works hard in her contributions to the Association. All of these commissioners are sharing the mayordomo responsibilities this year.

The irrigation season usually begins the last week of April with the opening of the compuerta or headgate at the Waltrip Ranch on our main acequia madre. During the winter it is diverted to the old bypass ditch to prevent freezing of our underground pipe that carries water to our lateral ditches. During the winter the water has always run on the ditch along the main Cerro Highway: Ditch #1. Lately there has not been much water in the winter, and years of erosion along the acequia madre have prevented the full waterflow. It just seeps down into the gravel; at least it is recharging the aquifer, though still running too quickly to the Rio Grande! Turning on the main headgate in the spring is a huge event for all of us. This is the time of year when we are cleaning the ditches together, have our spring meeting to elect a Mayordomo, and begin our irrigation season.

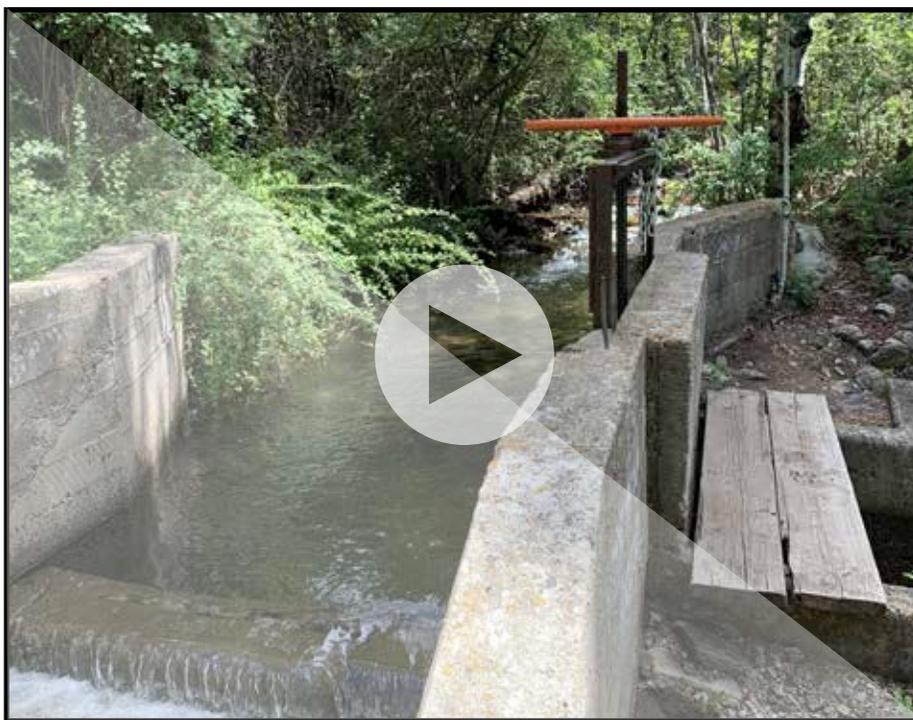
This year we were unable to hold a spring meeting or clean our ditches together. The individual parciantes were responsible for cleaning their section of the four lateral ditches fed by four contributory streams coming down from above El Rito.

The parciantes must clean an eight-mile stretch of Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe which begins at Latir Creek. The treaty and document between the Latir Ranch and the Cerro acequia



Photos by Rachel León

Young parciantes irrigate on the acequia in Cerro. Alyana León, 14 years old and Ricardo León, Jr., age 12.



Photos by Rachel León

Cerro ditch Latir compuerta or headgate. A video of the water at the big compuerta (headgate) at Latir Creek. Enjoy 5 minutes of soothing water sounds! <https://vimeo.com/445260453>

are over 100 years old. The Cerro Acequia Association dates back to the late 1800s.

Latir (Cummings) Ranch gets the water on weekends beginning promptly at noon on Friday. They turn the water to their side and close the gate to the 100+

year-old acequia that runs down to Cerro. The closed gate on the Cerro side is eight inches in diameter which allows some water to flow down for domestic use, such as gardens and livestock.

The Mascareñas families and a few in

El Rito also get water on weekends at the same time, from the other contributory streams: El Rito Primero, El Rito del Medio and El Jarosito. On Sundays by noon the Cerro mayordomo goes up the Latir headgate compuerta to meet the ranch worker to make sure we collect the water for the week.

The mayordomo sets up the next irrigator in our 200 parciantes on one of our four lateral ditches, which come up on Google Maps as Ditch #1, Ditch #2, Ditch#3, and Ditch#4. Each year one of the ditches is first on the rotation, and the parciantes on that ditch are given their turn during the week. If each parciante can get two full irrigations on their fields a year, we are doing okay. It has taken all of us to manage the water so that everyone gets a taste. Not everyone understands that they must wait their turn. Gardens don't always get the water every weekend: there simply hasn't been enough.

Our current mayordomo, Medardo Vigil, has worked alongside men like Milton Cisneros, the late Gilbert Segura, and the late Wilfred Rael. Mr. Wilfred Rael in particular played a large role in our last water adjudication process: he got the ball rolling. He worked with our attorney, the late Fred Waltz, to ensure all the acequias in the Questa Red River area were allotted the inherited amount of irrigation rights for their lands. We all owe much to the years of effort to complete that project.

As treasurer of the association, it has taken me years to reconcile the State Engineer's list of our acreage and to understand where everyone's lands are located. I personally do not know the entire history of our acequia. If I have made any errors or left anyone out, please forgive me and tell us the story! The work that will take all of us to complete together is daunting. It must be done if we wish to continue surface irrigation with the acequia system, a system that has been integrated into our laws before statehood or even before New Mexico became part of the U.S. Territory. It is a system that requires the cooperation and collaboration of our entire community. Some parciantes do not participate and that is hard on everyone. It is nice to see young people working with the acequia, learning the traditions, and understanding that "water is life," or ¡El agua es vida!



CERRO/QUESTA
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

By LOU MCCALL

The Cerro/Questa Friendship Circle is one of the best things going on in the communities of Cerro and Questa. The volunteers provide funeral meals to grieving families who are members of their organization. They utilize the commercial kitchen at the Questa VFW and serve hundreds of meals for funerals there. While they have had big groups of between 400 and 500 guests, the funeral meal is served to an average of 175-200 guests.

The Friendship Circle began in the early 1990s when Joseph Marquez of Garcia, Colorado contacted Gilbert Segura and Maes Archuleta of Cerro. He told them about their group in Garcia that cooked for families for funerals. He shared how it was organized and how wonderful it was for the community. Mr. Marquez suggested that they start one in Cerro, and they did!

To join the Friendship Circle back then, the annual dues were \$10 per family, or if you lived outside the area, \$15. In the event of a death in the family of a member, the group would contact the family, express their condolences, and ask how many would be expected at the

luncheon meal. They would then jump into high gear, meet at the VFW, and start planning, shopping, and cooking.

As the organization grew, their annual dues increased and for many years it was \$15 per family, and \$25 for those family members who lived out of town. As they sometimes cook for up to 400 people, and with food being expensive, the group only recently raised their dues by \$5 per month, so now it is \$20 or \$30.

The menus for the meals generally consist of roast turkey and ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, chile beans, and desserts. Often the families bring side dishes, desserts, crockpots of posole, and bottled water.

The Friendship Circle currently has around 400 member families and has had up to 600 members in the past. It was officially recorded as a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2014. There are many out-of-town family members who live mostly in Albuquerque or Colorado. There are over 200 volunteers who shop, cook, and clean up after the meal. These volunteers are divided into groups, with one head cook and about 20 volunteers in each group. In the past they have had up to 14 groups; currently they have ten. Each group rotates cooking duty, so if group one cooked for the most recent funeral, group two would step up for the next one. There is an exemption for the elderly, or those who cannot work, who do not have to help with the cooking. For everyone in the Friendship Circle, it is a joy and they are happy to help.

Current Friendship Circle President Vicki Cisneros, who has devoted her life

to serving good food, says, "It is a lot of work – that is ok, it's worth it to help the community."

We interviewed Vicki Cisneros earlier in the Questa Del Rio News, when we reported on the Questa VFW and their fundraising efforts to remodel their kitchen. Construction, like much of life in the world of COVID-19, has come to a stop. The kitchen has new equipment, just waiting to be installed, including a big, new commercial stove, new commercial refrigerator and freezer, bigger sinks, and a new steam table. It will be a nice new kitchen when the Friendship Circle is allowed to serve to large groups again.

Because of the pandemic and restrictions on large gatherings, the Friendship Circle has not been serving funeral meals. Friendship Circle Secretary Loveida Cisneros is sad to say that they have missed four funerals since the pandemic began in mid-March. "The families have been very understanding; they know that it cannot be helped." Plans are in place for the remainder of the pandemic for the Friendship Circle to provide trays of finger food, desserts, and bottled water to deliver to the grieving families.

The group has one annual meeting in October or November and invites the public. They elect officers, get a treasurer's report, discuss items of interest, and report on what the organization has done over the past year. This is the time when families pay their dues at the meeting or mail them in.

Loveida Cisneros, who says she has

been the Friendship Circle Secretary forever, says that what the group does is a very nice tradition. She recalls the first annual meeting she went to. When it came time to nominate officers, no one stepped up to be secretary. When they asked her to do it, she said she would act as secretary until they found someone permanent to fill the position. That was over 10 years ago! She says that out of all the members about 20 to 30 show up for the annual meetings. They stay away, she laughs, because they do not want to be elected as officers!

This year, because of the pandemic, there will not be an in-person annual meeting. The officers will meet and discuss the progress of the VFW kitchen and how the Friendship Circle will function as long as the pandemic continues.

is one of the most wonderful things about the Cerro/Questa Community. What the Cerro/Questa Friendship Circle does as volunteers makes such a big difference in the lives of their members and the local community. Everyone is welcome to join. Call any member of the Friendship Circle if you have any questions or would like to join. To pay dues, please mail to Cerro/Questa Friendship Circle, P.O. Box 1062, Questa, NM 87556

The current officers for the Cerro/Questa Friendship Circle are:

Vicki Cisneros, President (575) 779-6929

*Magdalena Mascareñas,
Vice-President (575) 770-5842*

Evelyn Quintana, Treasurer (575) 586-0572

Loviada Cisneros, Secretary (575) 586-1112

Bad Behavior in Campers Causes Campground Closure!

By MARYANNA CLEMONS

Due to large gatherings of people, impacts to natural resources, and the public not following alternative camping guidelines because of the needed bathrooms and trash service closures, the Carson National Forest will be closing the El Rito Campground in Vallecitos, NM, near Ojo Caliente. The closure began the week of August 17 and will continue until further notice. Barriers were put in place and signs posted. The Carson NF tried its best throughout the summer season to educate the public with posted signs, radio spots, and social media posts in hopes of compliance.

Why are we closing a campground?

The Carson NF has worked to con-



tinue to provide recreation opportunities during a time of unique restrictions and in an effort to keep most campgrounds open during this unprecedented time. Visitors were asked to practice "Leave

No Trace" camping if visiting the El Rito campground. The idea of "Leave No Trace" means removing all human waste and trash when leaving the campground. Unfortunately, this is not occurring and as a result the campground will be closed.

What is happening?

- Trash cans are being vandalized. People are physically breaking the locks off and filling them up instead of taking their trash with them or using the large dumpster provided
- Forest Service employees are disposing of a 40-yard dumpster full of trash weekly
- Because bathrooms are closed, human waste is accumulating in the campground area and along

El Rito Creek

- Accumulation of trash and human waste creates unsafe, unsanitary conditions, for Forest customers, the local water resources, wildlife, and Forest employees

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Carson NF continues to assess the best way to serve the public. Please recreate responsibly by following all federal guidelines and state public health orders, including social distancing and limits on group size. Be safe and plan ahead to reduce unnecessary exposure and impacts on emergency personnel. Stay up-to-date by checking the Carson website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/carson> or following the Forest on Facebook and Twitter.

Fire Danger is Very Real

By FRED PATTON

How do we know how bad the danger of a wildland fire really is? Those individuals and agencies responsible for either managing or responding to wildland fires use a series of fire behavior and risk indices to predict the severity of a fire, should one start. Those indices are based on things like wind, slope and, especially, the dryness of the dead and living vegetation that could carry a fire. Earlier this summer, these fire danger indices were critical enough to indicate that any source of ignition, like outdoor burning, a thrown cigarette butt, or a lightning strike, would likely cause a fire that would be fast-moving, dangerous, and hard to control.

A countywide fire ban was put into effect to save lives and property. It is typical that any fire restrictions are relaxed once monsoon season sets in and that's just what happened again this summer. But the rain this monsoon season was a bit of a bust. Some places in the county did get a little rain and many received very little. The result is that our local fire danger indices are as



Photos by Cynthia Najim, Latir Volunteer Firefighter

Wheeler Peak Tender 95 refills the water tank on Lama Volunteer Fire Department's brush truck at the North Kiowa Bosque Fire in Questa on August 19, 2020.



Photos by Cynthia Najim, Latir Volunteer Firefighter

Latir Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jona Olsson and Latir Volunteer Firefighter Angela Bates deploy an attack line at the North Kiowa Bosque Fire in Questa on August 19, 2020.

bad as they were in June and some are, in fact, at historically high and dangerous levels here in northern New Mexico. We know that dangerous fires are spreading in Arizona, California, and now in Colorado. The risk of dangerous fires is still very real.

In case we need a reminder of how

dry and dangerous it still is: human error caused just over three acres to burn in the North Kiowa Bosque Fire in Questa on August 19.

Fire Departments were called out for the severe, fast moving brush fire which threatened numerous houses and took the resources from a number

of Enchanted Circle fire departments to control. First responders worked the fire for 5-1/2 hours. Local residents were without internet service due to damage to fiber optic cables. That fire was likely human caused, such as from a cigarette. Please be careful and remember, fire danger is very real!

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.



ENCHANTED E A T S

BY ROBYN BLACK

IT'S ZUCCHINI WEATHER!



Photo by Robyn Black

Make your gluten-free crust out of zucchini or cauliflower!

SWEET CORN AND ZUCCHINI PIE

Ingredients

4 T butter
Half of a yellow onion, diced
2 ears sweet corn
2 large zucchini, sliced very thinly (about 4 cups)
8 oz sliced mushrooms
1 T dried basil
1 t dried oregano
1/2 t salt
12 oz shredded cheese (I used both Mozzarella and Swiss)
4 eggs, beaten

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Heat the butter in a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onions, zucchini, and mushrooms. While the veggies saute, cut the corn kernels off the cob. Add them to the pan and continue to saute until the veggies are soft, 5-10 min. Remove from heat.

Once the mixture has cooled for a few minutes, stir in the basil, oregano, salt, cheese, and the beaten eggs. Line a pie pan (9-inch or larger) with parchment paper or just grease with nonstick spray. Transfer the mixture, arranging the top so the zucchini slices lay flat and

look nice. Top with a little extra cheese for looks, cover with greased foil, and bake for 20 minutes. Remove foil and bake for an additional 5 minutes to brown the top. Let stand for 10-15 min before cutting into slices.

BARBARA TRACY'S SKILLET LASAGNA WITH ZUCCHINI, CORN, AND CHERRY TOMATOES

Serves 6
35 min
(total prep and cook time?)

Ingredients

3 ears of corn on the cob
2 t melted butter
1 lb lasagna noodles, roughly broken
4 t extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1 pint cherry tomatoes
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 large zucchini, peeled into ribbons with a vegetable peeler
1 bunch asparagus, peeled into ribbons with a vegetable peeler
1/2 c grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 c capers

3 T chopped fresh basil

Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Brush the corn with the melted butter and add to the skillet. Sear until well charred, about 4 min per side. Cool slightly, then cut the kernels from the cob.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook the lasagna noodles until al dente, 7 to 9 minutes. Drain the noodles and toss with 2 T of the olive oil. Heat the remaining olive oil in the same skillet you used to cook the corn.

Add the tomatoes to the skillet; season with salt and pepper. Cook until the tomatoes are blistered, 6 to 7 min. Add the zucchini and asparagus; cook until tender, about 4 min. Add the noodles and corn to the skillet; toss to combine. Add the Parmesan, capers and basil; toss to combine. Serve immediately.

DISAPPEARING ZUCCHINI ORZO

Serves 8
5 minutes prep,
15 minutes cook time

Ingredients

1 lb orzo pasta
3 T olive oil
1 white or yellow onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
3 large zucchini, grated
2 t fresh thyme
1 t fresh oregano, minced
1/4 c Parmesan cheese, freshly grated
Kosher salt and freshly ground

black pepper, to taste

Bring 6 c water to a boil in a large pot. Add salt and orzo and cook until just tender, 8-10 minutes.

In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add onion, garlic, and zucchini and sauté until lightly golden. Add thyme and oregano and remove from heat.

In a large bowl, toss together the orzo, zucchini mixture, cheese, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve chilled or room temperature.

TAMMIE ARVILA'S ZUCCHINI BREAD

3 eggs
2 c sugar
1 c oil
1 T vanilla
2 c grated zucchini
2-1/2 c flour*
1 t cinnamon
1/4 t baking powder
1/4 t baking soda
1 t salt
1 t lemon rind
1 c nuts, chopped

Beat eggs till light and frothy. Add sugar, oil & vanilla, beat until thick. Add zucchini, stir thoroughly. Add dry ingredients, mix till smooth. Add lemon and nuts

Grease and flour pans* or line with waxed (or parchment) paper

Bake at 350 for 1 hour fro 2 bread pans or 50 minutes for 3 small bread pans

note:

*you can use cinnamon sugar instead of flour
*you can add 1 c sourdough starter and increase the flour to 3 cups

KATE BROWN'S ZUCCHINI LATKES

Ingredients

2 c grated zucchini or a mix of zucchini, yams, potatoes, or other veggies
2 eggs, beaten
2-3 cloves garlic
1/2 c flour (can be a mix of nut flour, wheat, or buckwheat
1 T tapioca flour will help hold together a gluten-free mix)

Optional

1/4 c chopped fresh parsley, dill, basil (use less if using dried herbs) Enough oil or butter

Prep the zucchini and/or other veggies: Grate, toss with 1 t salt, place in a colander over a bowl to drain. Put a bowl of water on top of the grated veggies to provide weight to press the moisture out. Let drain at least 10 minutes or up to overnight in the fridge. (This is an essential step! If you skip this part, the fritters will be soggy) TIP: drained water can be used as soup stock.

Heat oil or butter in a cast iron skillet until cook patties until golden brown, then flip over. The final cooking can also be done in an oven at 350. These freeze well, too. ¡Salud!

GRILLED ZUCCHINI

Serves 8
30 minutes prep,
20 minutes cook time

Ingredients

6 whole zucchini (medium-sized)
1/4 c olive oil
1 t Kosher Salt
1 t black pepper
3 whole lemons, zested
1 t Kosher Salt (additional)
Extra olive oil as needed for brushing

Lop off the tops and bottoms of the zucchini and slice them into quarters, lengthwise. Place them all in a very large (or two regular-sized) plastic zip bags. Drizzle in olive oil, 1 t salt, pepper, 1 T lemon zest, and the juice of two lemons. Seal the bag(s) and smush them around a bit so that the zucchini is coated. Set aside for 15 to 20 minutes to marinate.

Prepare the indoor or outdoor grill to medium to medium-low heat. Grill the zucchini on all three sides until nice and tender, being careful not to burn them. Remove the zucchini to a plate as it gets done. Pile up the rest of the lemon zest and sprinkle 1 T Kosher salt on top. Use a knife to chop the salt and zest together until it becomes...well, lemon salt! Add more salt if needed. Sprinkle the lemon salt over the plate of grilled zucchini and serve.

BEST EVER ZUCCHINI CRUST PIZZA

15 minutes prep,
13 minutes cook time

Ingredients

Zucchini crust:
2-1/2 c zucchini squeezed dry and liquid removed
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
1/4 c flour
1-1/2 t salt
1/4 c Parmesan cheese, grated
1/2 c Mozzarella cheese, shredded

Topping:

1/4 c pizza sauce
1 c Mozzarella cheese, shredded
1/2 c cheddar cheese, shredded
1/4 c pepperoni
1/4 c sliced olives
1/2 c sliced mushrooms
1 t dried oregano
Fresh chopped basil for garnish

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

In a large mixing bowl, add zucchini, eggs, flour, and salt and mix together. Add Parmesan and Mozzarella cheeses and mix until incorporated. On a 12" pizza dish, spread zucchini crust into a 10" circle. Bake for 13-16 min or until golden brown and set.

Remove the crust from the oven and reduce oven temperature to 400 degrees. Add pizza sauce, cheese, and toppings to the zucchini crust. Sprinkle with oregano and bake for 10-13 min more until cheese is melted and bubbly. Garnish with freshly chopped basil if desired.

MUSHROOM ZUCCHINI LASAGNA ROLLS

Serves 4

Ingredients

4 large zucchini, thinly sliced lengthwise
1 t olive oil for brushing + 1 additional T for sautéing
1 small sweet yellow onion, finely diced
2 fresh garlic cloves, minced
8 oz fresh mushrooms, chopped well

1 t dry Italian seasoning
16 oz high quality Marinara sauce
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste
1/3 c Ricotta cheese
1 egg
1/4 c freshly grated Parmesan cheese
A handful or fresh parsley, finely chopped
1/2 c shredded Mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a baking tray with parchment paper.

Lay out the zucchini strips on a large cutting board, lightly sprinkle with sea salt and pepper, and very lightly brush with 1 T of oil. Bake strips in your preheated oven for 10-12 min, or until slightly tender and easy to roll. Allow them to cool until ready to handle.

Meanwhile, add remaining olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add minced garlic and cook for 1 minute, until fragrant. Add in the onions, mushrooms, and Italian seasoning and cook 4-5 min. Stir in 3/4 of the Marinara sauce and simmer your mushroom sauce for about 4 min, or until slightly reduced.

In a medium bowl add Ricotta, Parmesan cheese, the egg, and a tiny pinch of sea salt + pepper, and fresh chopped parsley. Stir well to combine everything.

Use a 9x13" casserole dish or an ovenproof cast iron skillet and spread remaining marinara sauce on the bottom.

To assemble the zucchini rolls, lay out one zucchini slice on a cutting board. Spread about 2 spoonfuls of the Ricotta mixture over the top, then a spoonful of mushroom sauce mix. Carefully roll up each zucchini after filling, and place in the prepared baking dish. Repeat with the remaining slices. Pour any remaining mushroom marinara sauce over top. Sprinkle with shredded mozzarella and



Photo by Lou McCall

Simple garden fare: saute onions and garlic in bacon fat or olive oil, add zucchini and/or yellow squash and season with salt and pepper. Try creole or soul food seasoning, yum!



Photo by Kate Brown

This was my Bubbie's recipe for zucchini latkes.

bake about 15-20 min in your preheated oven, or until hot and bubbly.

Serve immediately alongside a nice fresh salad.

HEALTHY GREEK YOGURT ZUCCHINI PANCAKES

Ingredients

3/4 c + 2 T whole wheat flour (or all-purpose flour if desired)
2 t baking powder
1/2 t salt
1/2 t cinnamon (optional, but adds a nice pop of flavor)
2 large eggs, separated
1 c full-fat Greek yogurt
1 t vanilla extract
2 t dark brown sugar
1 t honey (optional, or use an extra tablespoon of

brown sugar)
1 c coarsely shredded zucchini
Butter, for the pan

In a large bowl whisk together the flour, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon.

In a separate bowl whisk together the egg yolks, Greek yogurt, vanilla, brown sugar, and honey.

Add flour mixture to the wet mixture, and stir just til combined; do not overmix! The batter will be thick, so don't worry if there are a lot of clumps left.

Add egg whites to a large bowl or the body of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment. Beat the egg whites on high speed until soft peaks begin to form. With a

rubber spatula fold egg whites into flour/yogurt mixture, stirring until fully incorporated. Stir in zucchini and mix until just incorporated. (Watch your mixing, as overmixed batter = rubbery, tough results.)

Melt 1 T of butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Ladle -c scoops of the batter into the skillet, cooking only a few at a time so they don't blend together. Cook pancakes until the edges begin to brown and the top of the batter bubbles, then flip and cook for another 1-2 min. Repeat for all pancake batter.

Top pancakes with honey, syrup, berries, or anything else your heart desires! Serve at once.

SPAGHETTI WITH ROASTED ZUCCHINI

Serves 4

10 minutes prep,
10 minutes cook time

Ingredients

12 oz spaghetti
3 T olive oil
2-1/2 slices fresh bread
2 cloves garlic
4 small zucchini (about 1 lb total)
1/4 to 1/2 t crushed red pepper
Kosher salt
1/4 c grated Parmesan (1 oz)
1/4 c flat-leaf parsley
1 T grated lemon zest

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and return to the pot. Toss the pasta with 1 T of the oil.

Meanwhile, in a food processor, pulse the bread and garlic until the bread forms coarse crumbs and the garlic is chopped.

In a large bowl, toss the zucchini, red pepper, remaining 2 T oil and 1/2 t salt. Add the Parmesan and bread crumb mixture and toss to combine. Spread the zucchini mixture on two rimmed baking sheets and roast until the zucchini is tender and golden brown, 10 to

12 min. Toss the pasta with the zucchini mixture, parsley, and lemon zest.

FISH AND ZUCCHINI TACOS

Serves 4

10 minutes prep,
24 minutes cook time

Ingredients

2 medium zucchini
1 t vegetable oil
1/4 t chipotle chile powder
Salt and pepper
2 limes
1 lb skinless red snapper or other firm white fish fillets
1/2 c packed fresh cilantro leaves
8 corn tortillas
1 ripe avocado
1/2 c chunky salsa

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Trim zucchini, then cut each crosswise into 2" pieces. Cut each piece lengthwise through centers into eight wedges.

On an 18 x12" jelly-roll pan, combine zucchini, oil, chile powder, and 1/4 t salt until well mixed. Roast 10 minutes.

From 1 lime, squeeze 1 T juice. Cut remaining lime into wedges; set aside. Push zucchini to one side of pan. Arrange fish in single layer on other side. Sprinkle fish with lime juice, then 2 T cilantro and 1/4 t salt. Roast 8 to 10 minutes or until fish is just opaque throughout.

Meanwhile, wrap tortillas in damp paper towels and place in glass or ceramic pie plate. Microwave on high 1 minute or until warm and pliable. Break fish into large chunks. Divide fish and zucchini among tortillas. Top with avocado slices and remaining cilantro. Garnish with cilantro sprigs and serve with lime wedges and salsa.





MICHAEL'S MOVIE MOMENTS

By MICHAEL YOUNG
AD ASTRA

After our movie group screening of *Ad Astra*, my friend, Andy argued that it was basically a remake of *Apocalypse Now* in a different setting. For me, the movie stirred memories of an even earlier classic, Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. So, imagine my satisfied surprise when I read that director James Gray describes his *Ad Astra* movie as "Sort a like, if you got *Apocalypse Now* and *2001: A Space Odyssey* in a giant mash-up and you put a little Joseph Conrad in there..." It appears that we both second-guessed the director. And so, with that description, you pretty much have nailed the story and tone of this movie.

Brad Pitt, in what is probably his most nuanced performance yet, plays a cool-as-a-cucumber astronaut of the future, Roy McBride. Roy is so cool that his pulse rate never goes above 80, even after the heart-racing opening sequence which puts James Bond to shame! How McBride manages his enviable coolness is never fully explained, but the constant preoccupation of his managers and himself with his psychological state might have something to do with it. Multiple times he has to record a psycho-self-analysis and his future options are determined by the results of these assessments; this is a different world from our own.

So, in this context, Earth is under attack by a powerful but unexplained energy emanating from somewhere near Neptune. Coincidentally, Roy's father had mysteriously disappeared somewhere near Neptune a couple of decades earlier, after abandoning Roy and the rest of his family to search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Something happened to that mission years ago and everyone was presumed dead. Now they aren't so sure! and Roy is given a new mission. So, this is where the story starts to look like *Apocalypse Now*.

All of this you learn fairly early in

the film. The storyline is what happens from Earth to Neptune as Roy embarks, pursues, and completes his mission. It is full of twists and turns befitting a science-fiction/adventure/thriller. Some of them are relevant to the story, others not. But you won't know until later which is which, so pay attention!

If the similarity with *Apocalypse Now* is found in the plot, the parallels with *2001* are in sentiment and tone. Just as in *2001*, there is a cool reserve throughout the movie. Despite exciting events, McBride maintains that low pulse rate, and with a James-Bond-like detachment, doesn't let anything bother him.

But the *2001* sensibilities go beyond the cool tone. *Ad Astra* attempts, in its conclusion, to raise the same kinds of questions that Kubrick posed 50 years earlier: existential questions about humanity's relationship with the unknown and whether and to what degree we have intelligent company in the universe. In posing these questions, both movies move from telling a story to exploring metaphysical questions that are not only impossible to answer, but even difficult to frame in a way that makes sense. I suppose the movie's tagline is entirely appropriate: "the answers we seek are just outside our reach."

Like *2001*, *Ad Astra* displays exceptional talent in the mechanics of sight and sound. The imagery in capturing the beauty of other worlds is awe-inspiring. And the nomination for sound mixing is well deserved because of the deft way that dialog, special effects, and music are all perfectly matched. Director Gray learned well from his Kubrick master, that a space movie must be technically perfect.

Despite all these good points, the movie as a whole is not great. Perhaps it never could be given the kinds of questions it attempts to frame. Kubrick managed it with *2001*, but *Ad Astra* doesn't deal with the philosophical issues with as much gravity and respect. It is fun to watch and certainly has intriguing moments, but when it is over and the credits roll, you have to ask: was that the best way to answer these types of questions? It didn't leave me with the same sense of awe of the universe that I had with *2001*. Sometimes it is best to leave the classics alone. (3.5 stars)

<https://michaelsmoviemoments.com/>



VILLAGE VOICE NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE OF QUESTA

Questa Motor Vehicle Department

Currently open by appointment only. Masks are mandatory to enter the office. To schedule an appointment during regular office hours of 8 pm-3 pm, you may go to mvd.nm.gov or you can call (575) 586-2429.

Dollar General Update

The Village of Questa has completed its review of the 12 Oaks' application for a zoning and building permit. Following

an in-depth assessment of the application, the Village's Zoning Ordinance, and the Village's Comprehensive Plan, the Village has found that this application meets all necessary requirements and, therefore, has approved the application.

Police Department Update

The Village of Questa currently has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Taos County Sheriff's Office allowing Taos County Sheriff Deputies to provide full coverage of all law enforcement needs to the Village. The Village and the Taos County Sheriff's Office are currently in the process of creating a formal contract on this subject.

Library Update

The much-anticipated library expansion project will begin in coming weeks! This has been a long process and we are very excited to see this project get started.



On August 24, Elsie Rael of Questa woke up to see a baby black bear out her window. When her dog started barking at it, the little bear climbed up a tree where it stayed for several hours. Ms. Rael called New Mexico Game and Fish who said, "Let's give it two hours, if it is still there by 2 pm we will come... and watch out for the mama!" The bear finally wandered off to a neighbor's property around lunchtime to feast at an apple tree. Ms. Rael reported that it was bear season and there were three bears killed recently on Flag Mountain. The poor little guy (or girl) appears to be orphaned. Please keep an eye out for the baby bear and watch out for the mama!

Census Undercount Will Hit New Mexico Hard

By GILLIAN JOYCE

New Mexico faces an historic undercount in the 2020 Census, with potentially disastrous consequences for the coming decade.

On July 21, President Trump released an executive order requiring the removal of all undocumented persons from the apportionment data. Apportionment data is provided by the Census Bureau using decennial (10-year) census numbers of the complete count of the nation's population. There are two fundamental issues with the executive order. The first is that the Constitution is clear that apportionment data include all people living in the United States – not just citizens. The second is that there is no functional way to accurately remove undocumented persons from the population data, because data on undocumented persons is not collected. It has not historically been information collected by the Bureau, and the Supreme Court rejected the Administration's decision to collect the data last year.

Without real numbers for the undocumented population, an effort to remove undocumented persons from the data would essentially require guesswork on the part of the Bureau using the best statistical methods available, but guesswork nonetheless, leading only to estimates of the size of our undocumented population in any given location.

In the unlikely event that our undocumented population will be removed from the apportionment data, it would be constitutionally problematic because the data will not be based on a full census of the citizen population.

In March of this year the Census Bureau suspended all field operations in response to COVID-19. These field operations included the counting of homeless

populations, senior living facilities, prisons, college dorms and other group living quarters, and, of particular importance to New Mexico and communities such as Questa, rural areas of the country where home mail delivery is limited or does not exist. Other census-related operations were not halted but were necessarily slowed due to the pandemic.

In response to the challenges faced by the Bureau in reaching a complete count, the Bureau adjusted the timeline for the 2020 Census and requested an extension from Congress that would allow the full population data for the purposes of apportionment to be delivered to the President's desk on April 30 instead of the date set in statute, December 31. The House voted to approve, the Senate did not. According to *The New York Times*, the Senate did not vote on it at the request of the Administration.

On August 3, just over a week after the release of the executive order, news outlets began announcing that the Bureau was not going to be allowed the requested extension and would therefore be cutting Census operations short by one month in order to get the population data to the President's desk by the end of 2020.

Prior to the release of the new timeline, experts from within the Bureau stated clearly the full extension would be required to reach a full count of the population in the 2020 Census. Since the announcement of the new timeline, experts on the Census from across the country as well as previous directors of the Census Bureau have stated it is improbable, if not impossible, that the Bureau can reach a complete count and deliver the data by December 31.

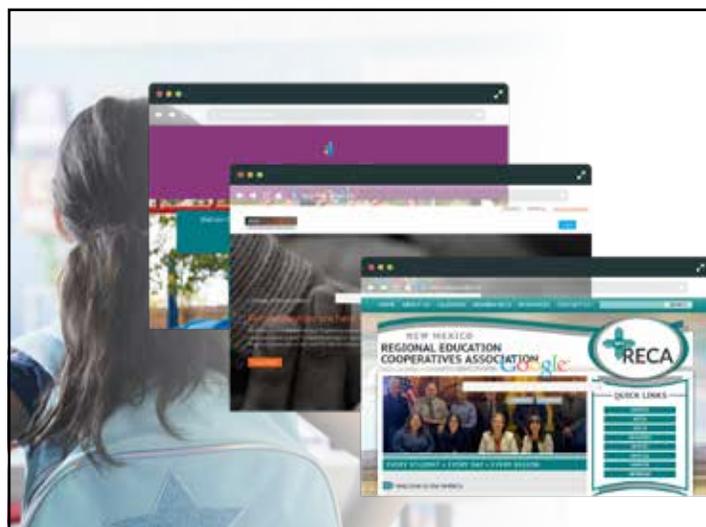
While the likely undercount will affect the entire nation, New Mexico will be among the hardest hit states in the country – if not THE hardest hit – by an under-

count and its repercussions. First, we are among the states most vulnerable to an undercount. As of August 11, just 53.6% of New Mexico has been counted, putting us at 49th in the nation for response rates, with only Alaska trailing behind us. Taos County, due to our reliance on P.O. Boxes, our rurality, and the density of our hard-to-count populations trails even farther behind, at just 31%. Questa is barely ahead of the county with a response rate of 31.6%. Not only are we more vulnerable to an undercount than other areas of the country, but an undercount will have more dire consequences for New Mexico than most any other state in the nation. New Mexico is among states most reliant on federal funding, if not the most reliant, depending on the data source and year. Because census data is used in the funding formulas for 316 federal programs and because New Mexicans rely so heavily on this federal funding, an undercount will have a more drastic effect on our State's economy and the lives of our citizens than other states in the nation.

Census workers have been on the ground in Taos County knocking on doors of those who have not yet responded to the 2020 Census since August 11. The Bureau hopes to visit non-responders up to six times between the hours of 9 am and 9 pm seven days a week in order to get everyone counted, but it is doubtful there is time left for this level of followup with our hardest-to-count populations. Strategically, in order to reach as close to a full count as possible, a very large percentage of households need to self-elect to respond to the Census either online, by phone, or with Census forms delivered through the mail or to doorsteps; thereby taking as much of the burden of reaching a complete count off of the overburdened Census Bureau.

Facing a larger undercount than the rest of the country

and greater consequences for every percentage of our population not counted, New Mexico stands to face a decade with drastically decreased federal funding for essential services such roads, schools, hospitals, emergency response, Medicare, Medicaid, Pell Grants, SNAP, WIC, affordable housing, small business loans, and hundreds of other programs that affect our lives every day. We stand to face this decade of drastically decreased federal funding at the same time we are experiencing a pandemic that requires a robust public health system, and the largest contraction in our national economy in modern history. We now have one month from the time this paper comes out, to get New Mexico counted. In order to drastically increase self-response, not only are individuals going to have to take up the charge and respond for their own households, it will be necessary to have a grassroots campaign of neighbor to neighbor, family member to family member outreach encouraging self-response and providing support to community members who are challenged or reticent to navigate websites, government forms, and phone trees. To self-respond online, go to my2020census.gov. Language options are available in the upper right corner of the webpage. To self-respond by phone call (844) 330-2020 (English) or (844) 468-2020 (Spanish). While the Census Bureau prefers response with their 12-digit code included in materials delivered in June, households that didn't receive or have lost their packets can respond using a physical address.



LOOKING FOR CHILD CARE?

The NMRECA (New Mexico Regional Education Cooperatives Association) is working with New Mexico Public Education Department and the New Mexico Early Childhood Education & Care Department to assist families in finding available Child care services while schools are operating in a remote or hybrid environment.

SEARCH BY:

Zip Code: <https://www.newmexicokids.org/coronavirus/providers.php>

Radius of Zip Code: <https://www.newmexicokids.org/home/parents-and-families-3/child-care-search/>

School District: <https://ccpi.unm.edu/visualizations/covid-19-resource-licensed-child-care-providers-school-district>

Am I Eligible? <https://eligibility.eccd.state.nm.us/eligibility/public/home.page?dswid=1742>



FINAL CENSUS from page 1

4. In person at the Questa Visitor Center, Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am - 2 pm, where a staff member will assist you in completing the form on a computer specifically for the census. The Visitor Center is located in Questa at the traffic light, at 1 Hwy 38; call (575) 613-2852.

Last month, the time frame for collecting census information was shortened by one month. September 30 is now the last day to respond to the cen-

sus, so there is even more urgency to get everyone to respond as soon as possible. It's 10 simple questions that take 10 minutes to complete, simply counting everyone who lives in your household.

For everyone counted in the census, your community gets \$37,000 per person in federal money over the next ten years. When there is an undercount, New Mexico doesn't get these funds – they go to another state – which may impact the funding we receive for our roads, our school meal programs and other educational and government pro-

grams that help our community.

The census is safe and confidential. By law the U.S. Census Bureau cannot ask you about your citizenship status; they are prohibited from sharing your information with law enforcement or other government agencies, and the information cannot be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits. Census Bureau workers will never ask for financial information, credit card numbers, your social security number, or your driver's license number.

All Census Bureau workers are

people just like you, doing a hard job in these difficult pandemic times, so be kind and respectful when they visit you. They will be wearing official Census Bureau badges (ask to see their ID), be carrying a bag featuring the Census Bureau logo, and have an electronic device with the Bureau logo on it where they can enter your information.

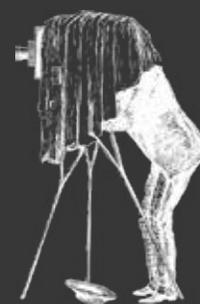
When you get that knock on your door, take ten minutes to fill out your Census. Or, do it right now to get that feeling of completion, and pride that you have helped your community.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Photo by Carole Knight

Somewhere over the rainbow... sunshine after the storm in Cerro.



Think you can take a good photo? Prove it.

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

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
SEPTEMBER 2020

VIRGO AND THE MOON

"It is said that from some aspects, Virgo is the oldest of the Zodiacal signs. Down through the ages, be it Lilith or Isis, Eve or the Virgin Mary, all portray the Mother of the World, but it is Mary who, at length bears the Child in her arms." The Tibetan Master through Alice Bailey.

Purification, Cleansing, Healing and Service are keywords for Esoteric Virgo and its ruling planet, the Moon. This is the sign our Sun is in for the first half of this month. Virgo Rising especially is indication in a chart that these are key dynamics regarding the chart holder's life purpose. It is a life of purging all that is not needed for spiritual evolution, of doing away with unnecessary riff-raff, materialism and selfish indulgences. It is a lifetime of recognizing that we are ALL here to be in Service to one another. That is what this month in this time of Initiation of humanity is about: Gestation, Preparation.

Here is the fundamental problem of the relationship between matter and Spirit resolved. The job is to purify our attitudes and develop spiritual values. The symbology of Virgo concerns the goal of the evolutionary process as it shields, nurtures and finally reveals the hidden, spiritual reality. Every human being contains within him or herself the power to recognize and release the Higher Self, the indwelling potency of the Soul. Few are as strong as what Mary had to go through to birth the Christ to save the world. As the Holy Mother principle, she symbolizes matter, but is also the custodian of the Christ principle, the Christ Consciousness. This stage of evolution is about seeking self-perfection through practices that will prepare the personality for use by the Soul. Following Virgo is Libra, when the preparation has been completed and the marriage between the two selves can occur.

Everyone: The Autumnal Equinox on September 22 energizes us all with the outpouring from Source which initiates each of the four seasons.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: Leading the way as usual, you run into the challenges first.

Direction: As with all good partnerships, preparation of self is everything.

Soul Thought: "Every time you are tempted to react in the same old way, ask if you want to be a prisoner of the past or a pioneer of the future." Deepak Chopra

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♀ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: Although the challenges are real, you have the foundation to survive.

Direction: If you don't, now is the time to build them.

Soul Thought: What are your values?

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: You can stand clear of the battle if you choose.

Direction: Sometimes yes; sometimes no.

Soul Thought: "Battle is our destiny and one must simply include it in the daily plan." Agni Yoga

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♀ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: You are in a clear space all month.

Direction: Take advantage to look under the rocks.

Soul Thought: That which is hidden can be revealed.

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: You can be the source of many blessings.

Direction: Remember to Serve.

Soul Thought: Shining your Light is Service.

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: It is a time of preparation.

Direction: Even if you don't know why.

Soul Thought: Virgo rules questions.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♀ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: You may feel a little abstracted.

Direction: Give it wings.

Soul Thought: When "far out" comes down to earth.

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: Despite the challenges, your edges soften.

Direction: If you let them.

Soul Thought: "Humility makes space for new possibilities." Henry on Madame Secretary

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♂ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: The first fifteen days the door is open to experience your own Divinity.

Direction: Step through ...

Soul Thought: ... or not.

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♀ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: The preparation could be for initiation.

Direction: Seek out the guru.

Soul Thought: "Only from the heart can you touch the sky." Rumi

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♀ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: Your fortune may swing.

Direction: Observe the passing landscape.

Soul Thought: What does a pendulum do?

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♀ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: Well, you're in the thick of it now.

Direction: Which means challenges and blessings.

Soul Thought: What does it mean to be able to see the top of the mountain from the bottom of the well?

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

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2020

SEPTEMBER 1 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.

SEPTEMBER 6 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

SEPTEMBER 7

Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 9

Deadline for online registration for Questa Virtual Fishing Derby (see story on page 7)

SEPTEMBER 8 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.

SEPTEMBER 11 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

(NOTE NEW HOURS!)

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

SEPTEMBER 12 - 20 Questa Virtual Fishing Derby, (see story on page 7)

SEPTEMBER 13 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

SEPTEMBER 15 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.

SEPTEMBER 16 6:00 PM

Questa Business Entrepreneurial Meeting via Zoom, everyone welcome. Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87849364259?pwd=Mms0TjBBR1dJR2FyUVlCem44RVVZQT09>. Call in by phone: (346) 248-7799 Meeting ID: 878 4936 4259 Passcode: 282982

SEPTEMBER 20 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

SEPTEMBER 22

Autumnal Equinox and Car-Free Day

SEPTEMBER 22 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.

SEPTEMBER 25 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(NOTE NEW HOURS!)

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

SEPTEMBER 27 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

SPECIAL DAYS IN SEPTEMBER:

- Sept 2** V-J Day (Victory in Japan, WWII)
- Sept 4** National Food Bank Day
- Sept 6** Read a Book Day
- Sept 12** Day of Meditation in Support of Humanity and the World
- Sept 13** Grandparent's Day, Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day
- Sept 15** International Day of Democracy
- Sept 16** International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, Guacamole Day
- Sept 18** POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sept 19** Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
- Sept 21** International Day of Peace, World Gratitude Day
- Sept 22** Autumnal Equinox, Car-Free Day
- Sept 23** Celebrate Bisexuality Day
- Sept 25** Dia de la Quesadilla
- Sept 28** Yom Kippur
- Sept 29** World Heart Day

SEPTEMBER IS:

- Baby Safety Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
- Library Card Sign-up Month
- Self-care Awareness Month
- National Suicide Prevention Month



HELP WANTED

Red River Brewing Company and Distillery is now hiring for all positions, full or part-time: servers, hosts, bussers, cooks, and dishwashers. Great wages and employee discounts, fun working environment, year-round employment, health benefits for full-time positions. Reliable team players apply now at <https://reddriverbrewing.com/hiring-information/>

Manager for Questa Lodging Project.

San Antonio del Rio Colorado Historical Preservation is seeking an independent contractor 10-20 hours per week to implement, manage, and grow the Questa Lodging Project. For a copy of the job description, or to submit your resume and cover letter, email admin@sarchp.com by September 11, 2020.

WELDING INSTRUCTOR NEEDED to teach hands-on classes at the new Questa High School Welding Lab. Classes could possibly begin with the Fall 2020 semester or January 2021. The class will be held on Fridays for 2-3 hours with max 10-12 students. Welding certification required; past welding instruction experience preferred. For more information and to apply, contact Lynn Skall, Questa Economic Development Fund, (575) 586-2149

HELP WANTED Help for your newspaper, that is! The Questa Del Rio News need donations in order to keep each issue coming for free to almost 4,000 readers. Make a donation in any amount, at www.questanews.com through PayPal (recurring monthly donations would be FANTASTIC!) or a check to QEDF, PO Box 1072, Questa NM 87556. (Note that it is for the newspaper.) Your donation lets us know we are loved. Thank you!

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.

NOTICES

Questions about Federal or State disaster assistance for your business? Business owners, independent contractors, and aspiring entrepreneurs can contact The Small Business Development Center at UNM Taos for FREE and CONFIDENTIAL one-on-one business consulting and training, on topics including business planning, accessing capital, marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, international trade, and much more. Contact us today at (575) 737-6219 or email sbdctaos@unm.edu to schedule your COVID-safe 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 You can listen to recent commentaries called Farming through the Seasons by Lisa Fox. Go to <https://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, and enjoy!

NEW DISTRIBUTION HOURS at the North Central New Mexico Food Pantry. Our local food pantry distributes food to anyone who needs it on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Please note their new hours: from 9 am - 12 noon. Because of the increased participation due to the pandemic, as well as their offering curbside service, they had to change their hours until further notice due to the heat. In addition, they are in need of more volunteers. Please contact the Food Pantry if you would like to help! 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 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. You may make a donation on their website <https://www.ncfpquesta.com/> or mail a donation to: North Central Food Pantry, P.O. Box 1076, Questa, Nm 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com

LIST IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

QuestaDelRioNewsAds@gmail.com

The October Questa Del Rio News will be featuring the community of San Cristobal. Do you have suggestions for news stories, individuals, artists or events about San Cristobal? Let us know! news@questaedf.com

September QBEN Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 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/87849364259?pwd=Mms0TjBBR1dJR2FyUVlCem44RVVZQT09>



Call-in only: (346) 248-7799

Meeting ID: 878 4936 4259 Passcode: 282982

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



NCNMEDD is excited to announce the new Working Now revolving loan program.

Working Now loans are now available

to help small businesses affected by the pandemic with expenses like payroll, rent, inventory, marketing, ecommerce development, personal protective equipment and small capital improvements.

In addition to funding, NCNMEDD will provide borrowers with technical assistance throughout the life of the loan to foster business success and sustainability.

The Working Now loan process is simple and straightforward. The terms and conditions of the loan will not change, and the review process is streamlined. Our office is here to help you every step of the way.

For more information or to submit an application visit

www.ncnmedd.com/rf

or contact Keith Flynn at

(505)-356-5600

keithf@ncnmedd.com

Blue Bus Resumes Regular Red River Route and Others

On June 29, the NCRTD 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 NCRTD continues to take aggressive measures to clean and disinfect passenger vehicles daily. Our top priorities are to continue service to the public, and to keep them and our employees healthy and safe. The District asks that anyone experiencing flu symptoms refrain from boarding our vehicles.

www.ncrtd.org



CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH IN QUESTA

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

MISSION CHURCHES:

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

HARVEST QUESTA

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

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

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

PATH OF LOVE

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

QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

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

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

RED RIVER

CROSS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

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

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



QUESTA LODGING PROJECT CLASSIFIEDS

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

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



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 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 visited by a Census Bureau Representative this month.

**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 SEPTEMBER

The willingness to grow is
 the essence of all spiritual
 development.

AS BILL SEES IT, p. 171

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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

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mtnricenm@aol.com
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 Wednesday-Sunday 11:00am - 6:00pm

Cerro Vista Farm

Fresh Produce and Flowers
 June 24th through September 30th
 Wednesdays 3 pm to 6 pm
 198 Lower Buena Vista Road
 See the farm online at:
cerrovistafarm.com

L&E Self Storage

\$40 for 5'x10'
 \$60 10'x10'
 \$90 10'x20'

(575) 586-0568 (575) 586-0695
 32 Sagebrush Rd. (next to Questa High School)

WHY SPAY AND NEUTER?

REDUCE SPRAYING & MARKING	REDUCE AGGRESSION	FREE SPAY & NEUTER
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LOWER RISK OF CANCERS	DECREASE OVERPOPULATION	PET CATS CALL: 505.466.1676 ZIMMER FELINE FOUNDATION (TAOS)
		DOG & CATS CALL: 505.753.0228 ESPAÑOLA HUMANE CLINIC

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 Fax: (575) 586-1916

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