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Questa Del Rio News

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Buildings, Murals, Beautification & Economic Development



Photo by Lou McCall

At the RYNO site, home to Questa's first Plastic Shed Project, the ghost of an adobe home still lives. On one wall is this beautiful mural, produced in the spring of 2020 by Dimitri Kadiev, a young travelling muralist. The Repurposed Plastic Project made *bancos* (benches) in their garden where people can sit and gaze at this mural.



By LYNN SKALL, DIRECTOR,
QUESTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FUND

Questa is fortunate to be located in an unsurpassed naturally beautiful environment that contributes to our local economy. In the Village, we are grateful to have opportunities to enhance and improve the beauty of our man-made environment, which will help further boost Questa's economic development. Instead of timeworn abandoned commercial buildings, there is potential for these vacant structures to be creatively spruced up to attract new busi-

nesses. Blank walls and the sides of shops can be turned into palettes of brightly colored murals and uplifting designs to attract visitors and future business owners alike.

A group of interested citizens has formed the Questa Mural Project, with the goal of turning the facades of these abandoned buildings into more attractive structures, as well as transforming blank walls into art canvases throughout town. Get in touch if you are interested!

QEDF is starting the process by inventorying the available unadorned walls and empty buildings along the main corridors of State Highways 522 and 38. Once cataloged on a map with photos, QEDF will work with the Village of Questa to contact the owners of record for these commercial properties and learn more about them: the history of each place, and what plans the owners might have for their properties.

The goal is to employ inexpensive and simple strategies to make the exteriors of

The mission of the Questa Economic Development Fund

is to support the transition of Questa and the surrounding community to a diversified, sustainable post-mining economy.

these buildings more visually appealing to help Questa's curb appeal and find potential investors and business owners to see what these vacant spaces could become. Imagine driving by a building with previously boarded-up windows that are now painted to resemble the scene inside an old-fashioned barbershop, a bustling breakfast diner, or the wares in the window of a bike shop! For a potential entrepreneur, this might be just the visualization it takes to picture their dream business coming to life here in Questa.

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Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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

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

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EDITORIAL

Big Losses for Our Community

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the U.S. just one year ago. Finally, March is here, after what seemed like a very long winter. The Vernal Equinox on March 20 marks a special passage in the earth's orbit around the sun; that's when we celebrate the first day of spring. The days are getting longer and on March 20, the nights and days are equal in length; it is a relief to see the days get longer. This has been such a dark year that the return of the light is deeply significant.

This past year will be memorable for a lot of reasons. Recently, many families in the area have suffered painful losses. We lost count of all the local individuals in the obituaries in the *Taos News*. And we have received word of others, not listed, who have passed from this life.

We would like to express our condolences to the many families who are grieving. These losses have had a deep impact on our communities. Here at the *Questa Del Rio News*, we weren't equipped to handle these many big losses and couldn't prepare adequately to address them in this issue of the paper.

Our newspaper was contacted directly about three of these deaths and so we have reported on them (see pages 22-23). The local funeral homes did not post obituaries in this community newspaper, nor did the families of the deceased. In the last month there have been at least 10 people from Questa, Cerro, Costilla, and Amalia who have passed away, from many causes. Those are the ones we know about. Although we couldn't report on each individual, these losses are significant.

As many of you know, we are not your typical newspaper. We have lived to celebrate our Big Three because we have not operated on the conventional journalistic model that has put so many small newspapers out of business. We are adapting to these times and have survived when many local news sources have not. We are forging ahead trying to find what works. Since we do not have capital to pay writers and do not have staff reporters, we depend on you, our readers, to let us know what is happening and what you want to hear about. Think of it—and us—as community supported journalism.

When there is a death in the family, it is overwhelming to face what needs tending to, not even counting the emotional component. We don't expect families to drop everything and contact their local newspaper, and it is not our place to intrude, either. We have tremendous respect for funeral homes and what they do for grieving families. Obituaries are one of the many services they provide. We will remind funeral directors to please offer local families obituaries in the *Questa Del Rio News*, and we ask that our readers keep us in mind during such challenging times. The loss of a community member is one of the most important stories we can cover. We want to be a community paper that is truly in touch with our members.

As our newspaper moves into our fourth year of service, we remind you, our readers, that we are here for you. Please let us know the news you want and need. We want to be your voice and to publish what is important to you and relevant. This month, we were specifically asked to cover stories about tax help for seniors and a social security phone scam that targets the elderly. We are happy that we can offer this information in our Senior Living Section (page 25).

Besides sharing sad news like obituaries, please remember that you can offer happy news, too. Birth, *quinceañera*, engagement, and wedding announcements can be published in the *Questa Del Rio News* and before we know it, graduation time will be here! When you put these notices in our paper, it is the true definition of community news. By purchasing low-cost announcements, you are celebrating important events with others and also supporting your local news source: feeding two birds with one scone!

As the days get longer and warmer and we look to flowers and planting gardens, let's remember that time heals all. The difficult memories of the past year will someday be less painful. All things in this life are lessons in impermanence. Here's hoping we can soon turn our minds to happy memories.

WITH BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY SPRING,
LOU MCCALL AND THE QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS

**THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS
TO THIS MARCH 2021 ISSUE:
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!**

BARRIE ANDREWS, LINDA BETZ, ELIZABETH BRUNAZZI,
GRETA BRUNSCHWYLER, MIKE CORDOVA, JANIE CORINNE,
CLAIRE COTÉ, PETE CRIDER, CHYNA DIXON, APRIL DUNBAR,
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CYNTHIA RAE-VIGIL, JOHN WALSH & ALTA VISTA STUDENTS
AMBER A, HALEY C, SIERRA O., RYAN A., SANDIE
SEGURA WESOLOWSKI

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wow, more original journalism than we get in our [Albuquerque] Journal. This is incredible. Once a month, I'm blown away, this is as much a magazine as it is a newspaper.

Two thoughts: Incredible amount of people from Questa and surrounding areas I would imagine subscribe to this, is there a "family feature" that could give a platform for families, once a month to share a few memories, plans or "where are they now" moments. Not to boast, but to create a tie from the community to the people from the community. Just a thought.

I might be interested in contributing a short column every quarter on economic thoughts and or observations... any interest? I would obviously want your editorial oversight before a release, but I could contribute or perform interviews of professionals I know that I may be able to twist an arm and get a short conversation. Again, Wow, incredible content.

Best,
Mike Gaillour
New Mexico Bank and Trust

Thank you, Mike, We are so happy you like our paper, and thank you for comparing us so favorably with the Journal! We take great pride in the Questa area, its families, and rich traditions. We try to have a local history article every month. Thank you for your offer to contribute a quarterly article. As you may know, our writers are mostly volunteers, and our paper is rich with diverse voices because of our contributors. It would be fantastic to have a financial column from you with a focus on the economic needs of our local families and communities. Welcome to our Q News Family!

*In Appreciation,
Lou*

OOPS!

We just learned that one of our fabulous sugarless recipes from way back in December had a formatting issue that made it hard to figure out... If you didn't get to use this recipe in December, try it now!

**Chocolate
Beet Bundt Cake**

4 large beets
3 c flour (whole wheat, pastry, all-purpose, or brown rice)
3/4 c cocoa powder
2 t baking soda
1 t baking powder
1/2 t salt
For sweetening, use Stevia, or Swerve, or applesauce. If it's dry use about 1/2 c. If wet, 1 c and go from there, to get the right consistency
3 eggs
1 c plus 2T water (may need to adjust to get the right consistency)
1/3 c canola or other oil
1 t vanilla extract

Prepare beet puree. Roast or boil until tender, drain, allow to cool slightly, then puree in blender or food processor. Use about 1-1/4 c of it for the cake, and use the rest as you see fit.

Preheat oven to 350 and butter a Bundt pan. If you don't have one, use an iron skillet and turn a ceramic ovenproof bowl over, placing it in the middle to act like a Bundt pan.

In medium bowl, whisk together flour, sweetener (if dry like Stevia or Swerve), cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt.

In a separate larger bowl, lightly beat the eggs with a whisk, then whisk in water, oil, vanilla extract, and sweetener (if it is wet, like applesauce). Add beet puree and whisk well.

Add flour mixture to beet mixture and stir with rubber spatula or wooden spoon until fully incorporated.

Pour batter into the prepared pan and bake 50-60 minutes, until knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Set aside to cool.

NorthStar Winners Announced For January Maze Contest



Photo by Ellen Wood

Malaquias Rael, manager of NorthStar Tire & Auto, witnessed the random drawing by his grandson, Andrew Lovato, along with his granddaughter, Alyse Lovato, and daughter, Danielle Lovato. The NorthStar guys in the background are (left to right) Art Trujillo, Lucas Lovato, Sundance Stadler, and Rodney Cordova.

By ELLEN WOOD, AD AGENCY
FOR NORTHSTAR TIRE & AUTO

The first of a series of NorthStar Tire and Auto ads featuring puzzle contests was a success! People from Questa and surrounding communities brought in or mailed "HOW TO GET TO NORTHSTAR" maze puzzles and some filled out the entries while waiting in the lobby for their vehicles to be repaired.

All maze entries were put into a big can, and two random entries were drawn by Andrew Lovato, five-year-old grandson of NorthStar's manager, Malaquias "JR" Rael. The winners for January are Jim Arciniega and Casilda Lovato. Each received a gift certificate for an oil change.

"This ad campaign incorporates the

spirit of fun and shows we're not just a stodgy auto repair shop," said Rael. And indeed, some of the puzzle solvers participated in the fun by drawing happy faces, cars, trucks, and skateboards on the maze. One contestant drew a helicopter landing at NorthStar without even going through the maze and added the comment: "Ha Ha!!"

February's ad featured a word search puzzle. Drawing winners will be announced in the April issue of *Questa Del Rio News*. This month's ad is a crossword puzzle, so please participate! A random drawing of two winners of the March puzzle will be announced in our paper's May issue. No purchase is necessary to participate in the puzzle contest. The guys at NorthStar can be asked for hints if a puzzle is too difficult.

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From MENTORSHIP TO SKATE PARK TO MURALS!

From VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION

Most of our readers know that the Vida Del Norte Coalition is an organization that works to prevent substance misuse in the youth and our community. The core of Vida are volunteers from various sectors of the community—and you are welcome to join! Individual involvement with Vida is as unique as those who come forward. Some join us by participating in our monthly coalition meetings where we brainstorm ways to prevent substance misuse and support one another. Some people attend our yearly retreat. Others show their support by participating in events and activities we organize.

The youth in our community also participate in Vida Del Norte: they are named the Active8. They attend meetings, help with Vida events, are active in the community, and are outstanding peer role models. Recently, one of our

core coalition members, William Borges, pointed out that male involvement in the Active8 group is now almost nonexistent. This is concerning, as substance misuse is very much an issue that affects everyone. How can Vida involve the young men and boys in this community in a way that might be more beneficial and engaging for them?

The idea of a community mentoring program came up... There is a definite need and value for clean activities that young people and the community can participate in, so how might these activities be integrated into a mento-

ring program? The Drug-Free Communities grant that Vida receives does not support direct service programs. Therefore, a volunteer group has begun to organize this mentoring program. They are seeking partnerships to receive donations and volunteers to help create the program, and are meeting regularly on Zoom.

Another exciting idea that came up during a mentoring meeting has been the idea of building a skate park

in Questa. The process could provide many mentoring opportunities. Interested youth can participate by addressing the Village Council, finding funding opportunities, planning, building, maintaining, and using the park. When our youth accomplish something important to them, they build self-confidence and learn life skills—and it is not boring! A skate park would be a place for youth to be social in an active, healthy way and the chance for them to give back to the community to build something lasting that can be enjoyed now and by future generations.

You don't have to be perfect to have something of value to share with the younger generation.

Youth have come forward during the Vida meetings to say that one of the reasons for substance misuse is because there is not enough for them to do and they get bored. Yet another reason to start a mentoring program and find more activities for youth! It's important that we value our youth and listen when they express themselves. If they feel that boredom is a factor in why they choose to misuse substances, then the community needs to find ways of addressing

this issue.

Other activities are also in the works. For example, in the month of February, youth partnered with Yoga Sala and their Jazz/Hip-Hop program. The Active8 hosted a cooking workshop (chocolate chip cookies!). These events have been held virtually, but as our county moves out of yellow and into the green zone, in-person activities that engage youth can come to the forefront. Toner Mitchell, of Trout Unlimited, has been sharing ideas about water restoration. A hiking group as well as agricultural projects to engage the youth are being developed to help them learn more about local culture. Opportunities to learn digital coding and multi-media venues that will enhance their skills in our digital world are also being discussed. The possibility for internships and hands-on skill building is being planned through our partnership with the Questa Independent School District. In addition, the Mural Project is coming to life to beautify some of the buildings around Questa. (See beautification article on page 1). These are all projects that Vida would like to see our youth participating in.

Join these conversations and projects! Please contact Maria Gonzalez, at (575) 779-2260.

Heart + Head = 2 Big Successes!

By JANIE CORINNE

Two locals—Lucas Rael from Questa, and Rose Reza from Valdez, gave surprising advice on the Passion to Profits broadcast on February 4. Both have made a big impact in the world through their business savvy, and both imparted the heartfelt wisdom that motivates everything they do.

Lucas Rael grew up in Questa and moved to Albuquerque for his last two years of high school. He is big on making decisions, sticking to them, and eliminating obstacles and excuses. Lucas explained that he created his business, Ambitions Consulting Group, by filing for the business name “before I even knew what I would do with it.” That inspired action led to a now thriving business with 22 employees.

Lucas, who comes from a family of business owners, started Ambitions as a print shop. He has expanded it to offer a

wide range of business support services, from IT to business planning. The print shop now primarily extends services to the community, for instance, recently donating 250 full-color brochures on vaping prevention to Vida del Norte drug-free coalition. You'll be seeing them around town very soon!

To propel a new business toward success, Lucas recommends making commitments to action, extensive planning to reduce risk, solid understanding of finances, and finding like-minded, positive mentors who have experience in your field. Lucas started and ended his presentation with these simple and powerful words, “Always do the right thing.”

Rose Reza is now the Executive Director of the UNM Taos HIVE business incubator, a new asset for our students, entrepreneurs, and business professionals. She grew up in Valdez, under parents who “truly mentored” her. Like Lucas, she has carried her family's values with

her into a more than notable business career.

The list of Rose's achievements include being the first Latina to achieve Regional Vice President for Wal-Mart Stores. In that role, she oversaw 22,000 associates and a budget of \$5 billion. She was also the first ever female recipient of the Sam M. Walton Entrepreneurial Award.

If you ask Rose how she achieved this, she brings it back to the wisdom she learned from her family. “It is all about people, how to work with individuals.” She was taught to never forget where she came from and “why we're doing what we're doing.” The selflessness she exemplifies comes from the mandate to “measure your success on the success of those we serve.”

In 2014, Rose came home to Taos County, initially leading the Taos Entrepreneurial Network which gave her the chance to expand the myriad of skills

and strengths she sees in our people. She is excited that her new role as Executive Director of the HIVE allows her to bring together a large network of resources to open pathways, other than tourism, to our local workforce. The HIVE is starting by offering inspiration, training, scholarships, and technical support.

Perhaps it is a stereotype that one has to put aside part of oneself to be successful in business. Both of these outstanding New Mexicans know that the opposite is true. They have made extraordinary impacts, guiding others to business success, by holding to their most precious values and beliefs. Thank you, Lucas and Rose!

Passion to Profits is a Questa Economic Development Fund series to provide inspiration and information that enables local people to get into business or expand their current business. To hear the Passion to Profits presentation by Lucas and Rose, contact Lynn Skall at QEDF, lynn@questaedf.com or (575) 586-2149.

Get your local news from *Questa Del Rio News*



Business Profile

ROOTS & HERBS
PRODUCTS FORMULATED
FOR WELLNESS

By CYNTHIA NAJIM

Organic farming has found a welcoming home in northern New Mexico. Fresh vegetables are popular from local farms, which any trip to farmers markets will attest. There is one petite plantation that has shifted its focus from produce and flowers to specialize in a different crop—hemp. Roots & Herbs Farm in the El Rito area of Questa is carving its niche in this burgeoning market.

With increased legalization of cannabis, hemp production is big business. After the Farm Bill of 2018 removed the plant from the U.S. controlled substances list, many states jumped on the bandwagon, including New Mexico. The largest producer in the world is China, which cultivates more than 70% of global output.

Hemp has myriad beneficial properties and a vast range of applications. Some people judge cannabis because they only think of its recreational use. Hemp outperforms traditional materials across many consumer goods categories, including fiber for rope and clothing, pet products, construction, biofuel, automotive, health, beauty, and more. Hemp is one of nature's most versatile and beneficial plants.

Roots & Herbs Farm uses its ultra-premium, small batch hemp crop for health and wellness products, including full spectrum CBD oil. CEO and founder Michael Nezi, a cheerleader for the bountiful benefits of hemp, says this decision was intentional. "During these disruptive times, mounting anxiety and stress are increasing physical tension, insomnia, and a host of other maladies. We want to help alleviate this debilitating trend and stimulate quality of life with products that balance, uplift, and restore."

Michael grew up in New York and then Ohio. His father was a corporate executive and having witnessed his dad's demanding lifestyle, Michael wanted to pioneer a different path. After obtaining a business degree from Miami University in Ohio, he headed west to Colorado and eventually to New Mexico, when high school best friend Jerry Schwartz lured him to Pilar in 1991 with the vision of scenic, healthy, clean living.

Earning meaningful income was

Did you know?

In 1938, *Popular Mechanics* published an article that declared hemp as the "New Billion-Dollar Crop." Claimed to have thousands of potential applications, there seemed to be no limit on how and where hemp could be used.

"American farmers are promised a new cash crop... and it will provide thousands of jobs for American workers throughout the land."

— *Popular Mechanics*

In 1941, Henry Ford built a car out of hemp. It was not only made with hemp plastic, but it also ran on hemp fuel. Hemp plastic tested to be much stronger than steel.

(excerpts from the August 7, 2020 blog post by Ministry of Hemp)

an ongoing challenge and Michael was determined to find a way. After a year of dotting around the Taos area, he was introduced to El Rito and fell in love with its rich beauty and good vibes, as Michael still asserts. He stayed in a cozy tipi in winter and on a walk in 1993, he happened upon the property where Roots & Herbs Farm is today. There was a seemingly abandoned structure with no running water on the 2.5-acre parcel, and Michael beheld pure potential. He negotiated with the owner to restore the house and care for the land in exchange for \$50 a month rent, a strenuous yet rewarding arrangement which lasted 10 years.

In 1995, with the help of Jerry Schwartz, Peter Waskiewicz, Tracy Paulding Cates, and Dylan Trachtman, Roots & Herbs Farm was born. The modest organic operation began as a Community Supported Agriculture program. They improved the soil to cultivate and harvest vibrant florals and delicious produce, yielding at its peak 100 pounds of salad mix each week.

Michael bought the property in 2005 and the founding team went separate ways. The entire region was facing drought and Michael paused to regroup and diversify. In 2016, he moved to Colorado to expand his knowledge of organic farming, including exotic tomatoes which he grew in Durango, and to learn about hemp—the healing properties and the most effective farming practices. This new road has its steep learning curves and government regulation, but Michael is optimistic and fulfilled.

He draws upon his business background to research and foster optimal alliances in this fast-growing sector, to rebrand Roots & Herbs and its new line of health products, and to map out his launch and marketing strategies. Then



Kevin Rebholtz, kevinrebholtzphotography.com

Lush hemp field at Roots & Herbs Farm during the 2020 growing season.

there's the unforgiving science of growing and processing ultra-premium, weather tolerant plants and later formulating precise therapeutic potions.

There is intense regulation by New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA). They survey the farm after planting and return before harvest to randomly select, cut, and lab test flowers from different plants to score the maximum allowable THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) content of 0.3%. The lab results determine whether the plants pass or fail. If the flower tests higher than 0.3% THC, the NMDA considers it an illegal substance and returns to witness the destruction of the crop.

Michael marks 2021 as his fourth year in hemp and is staying the course. He is committed to, 1) farming sustainably, using regenerative agriculture and efficient water management, 2) developing a conscious brand with sustainable packaging and shipping, and 3) creating and delivering ultra-premium, full spectrum products, which can truly make a positive difference in people's lives. "Full spectrum" means that all the cannabinoids in hemp are used, including the small amount of THC. Other producers sell "broad spectrum" products, which do not contain THC, and "isolate" products, which only contain one cannabinoid, e.g. CBD (cannabidiol).

Jerry Schwartz, owner of Taos-based landscaping business Sticks and Stones Earthworks, knows firsthand Michael's quality standards and inclusive work ethic. "The dedication he channels into the entire operation, from seed to bottle, and into his team is amazing and very rare in the industry."



Kevin Rebholtz, kevinrebholtzphotography.com

Roots & Herbs Farm CEO and founder Michael Nezi, the consummate ambassador for quality of life.

Roots & Herbs sells Rub-A-Dub Balm, a richly blended salve for aches and pains, and four versions of full spectrum oils—Flow (600mg CBD), Restore (1200mg CBD), Sleep (300 mg CBD + 300mg CBN), and Pet Formula (600mg CBD). Even though these products are specifically designed to provide relief and healing benefits, no direct claims can be made because they are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Nevertheless, actual testimonials tell a compelling story: here is Nora, a loyal customer with a stressful work life in Wisconsin. On Facebook, she requested remedy suggestions for insomnia and anxiety. Michael responded and sent her a bottle of the mint-flavored Flow (600mg CBD). "It really helped my mood and mental state. I immediately felt an uplift and physical relaxation. I don't take it every day, only when needed. After finishing that bottle, I bought a different brand at double the strength. It made me feel sluggish and depressed. I didn't like

BUSINESS PROFILE cont'd on page 28



CYNTHIA RAE-VIGIL

By DONNA MITCHELL-MONIAK

Cynthia's family, like many families in the Questa area, has been a part of its tradition and historical roots. They are invested in its economic and social viability, its mixture of natural treasures, and protecting and preserving these treasures for generations to come. Cynthia says of many *Questeños*, "We want to stay here, we want to keep the traditions, but also evolve."

The restoration of the San Antonio Catholic Church is a fine example. San Antonio del Rio Colorado Historic Preservation (SARCHP) is a non-profit organization that we mention frequently in this paper. The repair, restoration, and beautification of the historic adobe church after a wall collapsed in 2008 fully galvanized the people of Questa. Artisans, skilled craftsmen, other volunteers providing meals or bookkeeping—all community members helped out in every way to save what is to many the heart of the Village. "Our forefathers helped build that church in the mid-1800s. We wanted to rebuild it rather than build a new one. Everyone enjoyed working on it. All community members had something to contribute."

When the restoration was completed, the non-profit organization that was founded for that purpose turned its sights to other needs in the community. Cynthia is a very active board member of SARCHP, and the Questa Lodging Project is its current focus. Vacant and neglected buildings in Questa that could be saved have been identified and four unoccupied houses with historical value are preparing to be renovated. Using a revolving loan and working with owners, the house gets refurbished and turned into a rental property. Quality rentals are needed in Questa for AirBnB style and longer seasonal use.

"Rich in tradition and history," Cynthia said of Questa and the surrounding area. "In many ways we are still living our history while evolving and finding balance between tradition and the new."

The Lodging Project, like the restoration of San Antonio Church, helps keep the historic roots of Questa vibrant while supporting tourism or lodging for outdoor exploration. Questa and the area are well poised for this with BLM lands, the national forest, Red River and the high country, as well as the creeks and rivers including the Rio Grande—all within a hike or beautiful drive. These restoration projects are philanthropically supported in part by the LOR Founda-

tion, Chevron, and the Questa Economic Development Fund.

Ms. Rael-Vigil also serves on the board of Presbyterian Medical Services, which provides health centers and clinics throughout New Mexico, including Questa's Health Center, where dental, medical, and behavioral health services are provided. Cynthia speaks fondly also of the Questa Credit Union, built by the community, which began as a conversation about local businesses serving local people.

Rael's Market, which Cynthia owns, is a favorite gathering place in Questa, embodying the themes of roots and community wellbeing. Each feeds and nourishes the other and has throughout generations. Cynthia's grandfather, Enrique, and two of his brothers opened the store in 1927, calling it Rael's Bros. Inc. Her dad then took over in the mid-60s and built the current store. It was a general store that helped supply the community with necessities—there was even a phone booth! Historic photos on the wall hanging over the comfy couches show the storefront for Rael's and other Questa downtown landmarks.

Helping out at the the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Questa VFW, the Catholic Daughters, and 4-H were all part of our conversation and yes, Cynthia is active now or has been involved in all these organizations. She reminds us of the variety of opportunities available to contribute: volunteering at schools, 4-H, or the Library serve our community's



Martha Shepp

Questa's own Cynthia Rael-Vigil.

students. The VFW, with its kitchen and hall, serve not only veterans but groups who might like to rent the space (after COVID-19). Local meeting space in a rural community is a luxury and rare. And, in order for this rarity to be available, volunteer assistance is required.

Though someone is featured in these monthly articles, it is volunteerism that is the overall focus, because that's how communities actually function. "We're here because we love the area," Cynthia said. "Small businesses are the spine of a community." Yes, and volunteerism is the blood. Through both "everyone brings something to the table."

Whatever talents and time you have or whatever you like to do, it is needed and appreciated in your community. Help out. Your community needs what you can "bring to the table."



VILLAGE VOICE
MARCH 2021

Administration Office

As we look to get back to "normal" the administration office re-opened its doors to the public on February 22. Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 am - 5 pm and closed for lunch from 12 - 1 pm. For more information contact (575) 586-0694. Masks are required and social distancing is expected.

CA Cisneros Youth & Family Center

The center gradually re-opened its doors to those groups holding a contract agreement with the Village. All current COVID-safe recommendations will be followed by those in the building during

use. Due to current restrictions, now is not the time to open to the general public. The availability for such things as events, meetings, or meet-ups will be considered at a future date.

The Questa Motor Vehicle Department

Open to the public for walk-in services on March 1. Masks are required, and social distancing is expected. Regular office hours of 8 am - 4 pm. Contact Sara at (575) 586-2429 for more information.

Police Department Update

The Village of Questa currently has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with Taos County Sheriffs' Office allowing the Taos County Sheriff Deputies to provide full coverage of all law enforcement needs to the Village.

Questa Public Library

As of February 11, the library is back! You may make an appointment to use a computer, select a book, or make your own copies. There is a limit of one patron in the library at a time for no more than 30

minutes (although some instances of computer use may be extended to 60 minutes.) And we will all follow health department guidelines.

The library expansion is moving at a great pace despite the heavy winter conditions. There has been a lot of construction work completed on both the interior and exterior of the building. It's great to see the new library building "come to life." We hope the construction part of this project is complete by mid-April. For information about the Questa Public Library contact (575) 586-2023 or questalibrary.org.

Questa Fire and EMS

Congratulations, Raynelle Cordova! The Questa Fire Department has recently appointed Raynelle Cordova as the Assistant Fire Chief. She is also the Director for the Questa EMS Department and has done a great job partnering with and supporting Fire Chief Alfredo Romero and his department. It is fitting that she has been appointed to serve her peers in this new capacity.

State of the Village Event:

2021 Project Outlook

Mayor Mark Gallegos will host a State of the Village event on Monday, March 1, at 6 pm. He will update the community on the 2021 Project Outlook for the year and will be available for questions.

This event will be held via GoToMeeting. Join from computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/231554837>

Dial in on phone: United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073 Access Code: 231-554-837. This information will also be available on our Village of Questa Facebook page and Website.

Village Council Meetings

The Village of Questa Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month via GoToMeeting. All meetings are open to the public and include an allotted time for public comments. For more meeting information you may contact the Village office at (575) 586-0694.

Remembering Leon's Store in Cerro

By SANDIE SEGURA WESOLOWSKI

While Leon's Store is no longer in business, many people in Cerro still remember when it was open. I spoke to Jose M. Leon to learn about Leon's history. The exact year it opened is unknown, but the story told to Jose M. is that his great-grandfather, Epimenio Leon, ran the post office in the back part of Leon's Store. My research uncovered that in the U.S. Appointment of U.S. Postmasters Book, Epimenio was listed as Postmaster of Cerro on November 10, 1897. While it is not definite proof, it is certain that Leon's was already open by 1912, as it is listed in the First Statehood Directory of 1912-1913, and Epimenio Leon is listed as the owner of a merchandise store in Cerro.

Epimenio's son, Jose de Gracia Leon, was the next person to purchase and take over the store. While the exact years are unknown for Jose de Gracia ownership of Leon's, my father, Jose Segura, worked as a driver for Jose de Gracia in the early 1950s as a teenager, and he remembers the store at that time.

One story my father recalled from his youth is the time that he drove Jose de

Gracia to Taos to purchase ice cream. Jose de Gracia told my dad that the children loved buying ice cream and he wanted to be sure to have this for the children. On the way back from Taos, Jose de Gracia was worried about the ice cream melting and of course they happened to get a flat tire on the way back.

Dad said while they were changing the tire, they were both eating some of the ice cream that was starting to melt. Luckily, all was not lost, and they were able to make it back to Cerro with some ice cream.

My father remembers Jose de Gracia as a grandfather figure who shared important life lessons with him.

Jose de Gracia's son, Richard, was the next owner to run the store. Like his father Jose de Gracia, Richard also purchased the store. Many people from the "Families From Cerro, New Mexico"

Facebook group shared very nice memories about Richard. One member told about not having any money to purchase anything and how Richard gave her paper dolls. Another member recalled how he went to the store with play money and how Richard let him use that to buy

candy! Many stories were told about the times that Richard let people get their needed items, even though they didn't have money to pay the full amounts. There are many stories about Richard's kindness to many.

When Richard passed away in 1977, Richard's wife, Margaret, ran the store until 1980. My grandparents lived in Cerro and my family visited often when I was growing up. While I didn't live in Cerro, I have memories of visiting Leon's Store during this time. My grandmother Maria Segura used to give the grandchildren a dollar so that we could buy things at Leon's. Back then a dollar felt like a lot of money because you could still purchase penny candy, and a big candy bar cost a quarter. I also remember how friendly Margaret and her children were whenever we went to the store; they made us feel that they were very happy to see us. Leon's was not just a store but a place to gather and catch up with family and friends.

While it has been 41 years since Leon's Store closed, Leon's is still remembered by many and holds many wonderful memories.



Jose M. Leon

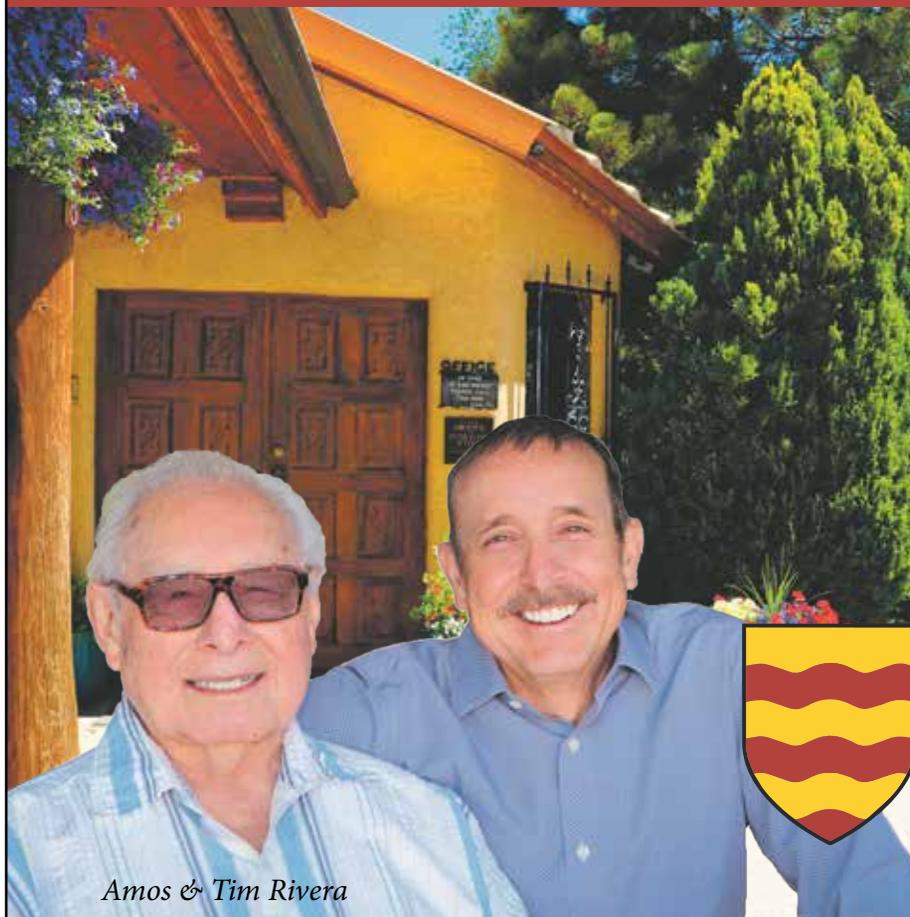
Early images of Leon's Store in Cerro.



Courtesy Photo

Can any of our readers identify these two men in front of Leon's Store in Cerro? Let us know! news@questaedf.com or (575) 586-2149

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BODY | MIND | SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

A FUN EXPERIMENT.

How would you like to see with your very own eyes the energetic effects of your thoughts and feelings? We reside in—and are—a field of life energy, and that field reacts to how we think and feel. We have all heard the words “thoughts are things,” or that “you create your reality by how you think.” But beyond those words, there is visual proof of that very fact.

The following experiment is from the book: *God Doesn't Have Bad Hair Days* by Pam Grout. And yes, I did the experiment and yes, it did work. I also did a little investigating online and found

confirmation as well as modern physics theories to support why this works.

The Experiment:

Get two wire coat hangers and untwist or cut the neck of each hanger until you've got just two straight wires. Shape the wires into an “L” shape about twelve inches long for the main part, and five inches long for the handle. We will call the “L” wire a wand. Cut a plastic straw in half and place one over each of the 5” handles and bend back the bottom of the wires to hold the straw in place. The object is to allow the wand to move without your hands interfering or controlling it.

Now hold the wands, one in each hand about chest high and about ten inches from the body in front of you. At first, they will flap about as they encounter the river of energy that is every-

where. Give them time to settle down. Once the wands stop flapping you are ready to begin the experiment.

With your eyes ahead, recall with feeling some very unpleasant event from your past. Depending on the intensity of your emotion, the wands will either stay straight ahead showing a low intensity of emotion or they will point inward toward each other. The wands are following the electromagnetic bands around your body which have contracted as a result of the negative frequency generated by your unpleasant thoughts and emotions.

Now, again with your eyes ahead, think about something loving or happy. The wands will now expand outward as your energy field expands to your positive energy flow.

And now, keeping your eyes straight ahead, focus your attention on an object

to your far right or far left and watch your wands follow your thoughts. The more you play with this, the more adept you will become at feeling the vibrations shift as you change from one frequency to another. Energy flows where attention goes.

I want to note here: Be patient! If there is no movement instantly, allow it to take the time that it takes.

Why do I think this experiment is important? The electromagnetic field of the human body is the vital force, the field of life that can be diminished or disturbed by our thoughts and feelings. That diminishment or disturbance has the potential of creating disease in the body. The magnitude of the importance of watching our thoughts and feelings is great, and how we focus our mind is by far one of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves.

Positive Thoughts

by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

It feels like newness is truly in the air. As an embrace to the newness of Spring and the virus no longer ruling the world, I found myself reflecting on times when new did not come with a choice, but just came. As young women, newness comes with gender and biology. One's first bra or first menses were celebrated when I was a kid. This helped me with the natural awkwardness of body changes, mood fluctuations, and a curious new interest from classmate boys who were also changing.

Conceiving a child is always somehow a surprise, even when it shouldn't be. As I rewound my mind to that moment of discovery, it wasn't the mechanics of love that brought the surprise but the irrevocable unknown of pregnancy and parenting. Pregnancy was limited to nine months, while parenting is unlimited and beyond time and distance.

Newness, unsought and with no road back, was my receiving the diagnosis

of multiple sclerosis twenty years ago. Like COVID-19, it came out of the blue and there was no going back to the time before MS. COVID-19 has done that for humanity. For me, the challenges of MS have been the greatest gift and teaching received in my life. I wouldn't wish the journey on anyone, but I would gladly offer all the gains of understanding, letting go, of inner peace and acceptance, of fortitude born of the heart, and of kindness from countless people. It feels like humanity's juncture is similar, as the world starts to emerge from the pandemic.

Due to the shut-down, the world's carbon emissions greatly decreased. It was something that would not have been possible without this larger-than-life event (but part of life) exerting its force. The hardship experienced worldwide has included sickness, death of loved ones, isolation, education truncated, and friendships finding new ways to be. This last year has included fear and sickness, and, as with any pregnant pause, rethinking, reversioning, reorienting, and reinventing became possible (and necessary).

For more than a year, the “now” has been in slow motion, the past seemingly ancient—even when reminiscing just a year or month before. And the future? I was not afraid of the future; I also didn't want to plan anything other than fruit trees and berry bushes in the backyard. Would my mother make it? Would my mother-in-law? Would my daughter who works at Logan Airport be safe and remain healthy? Would I visit them again? In praise to all that is Good and Benevolent, the answers are yes. But because we all know people whose lives have been turned upside down by the virus, we can all pray these blessings into the world and to those who are still crying with loss or fearful of how to make ends meet.

A corner has been turned. Newness is upon us like Spring! Newness invites us to fresh dialogues and ways of communicating, to listening, reinventing features of our lives, and visioning a world made peaceful because we live lives of peace. Let us replant our world and tenderly water the new growth so that in time, a berry bush or fruit tree offers shade and shelter and, yes, some-

thing delicious for people and animals alike. Let us help one another and assist our communities in their needs, because those needs are our needs.

Every day now is a new day. Of course, that was the case before COVID-19, before MS, and even before my kids. But something vulnerable in me has been awakened in this last year: maybe in you, too. It's childlike, curious, and wide-eyed. What can I learn today? What can be embraced today? What can be let go? Inventions come from these in combination. The future does, too. Happy Spring, everyone!

March honors World Wildlife Day, national Grammar Day, Hug a G.I. Day, International Women's Day, and National Day of Unplugging. St. Patrick's Day brings green like the Spring, Daylight Savings Time messes with our biorhythms yet again, and the Spring Equinox is bracketed by International Day of Happiness and World Water Day. Passover and Palm Sunday set the devotional tone of Spring, and then for our tummies there is Spanish Paella Day. Be sure to share your family paella recipe or share some with your neighbors!

Blood Drive in Red River March 30

From THE RED RIVER
CONFERENCE CENTER

The Town of Red River is hosting a blood drive on March 30, from 10 am until 1:30 pm at the Red River Conference Center. Donors can sign up online

at www.bloodhero.com. If you are unable to make an online appointment, call Vitalant at 877-25-VITAL (877-258-4825). Complete your FAST TRACK Health History online at <https://www.vitalant.org/health> the same day you give blood. It takes about 10 minutes

to answer the yes/no health history questions and will determine if you qualify to be a donor. Fast Track will save you time. Both staff and donors are required to wear a face covering at blood drives or donation centers.

All donations are tested for

COVID-19 antibodies. If your donation tests positive for antibodies, Vitalant can separate the plasma component to be used for COVID-19 patients while the other blood components can be used to help patients with other medical conditions.

What does home mean to you?



**LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

When you were growing up, was home where you were nurtured and cherished? Or was it a place you wanted to escape from?

However you feel about home, currently or in the past, write about it, in English or Spanish, and send it to Claire Coté for the Home Digital Archive, a project of LEAP (Land, Experience and Art of Place).

Claire recently recorded my reading of an essay, “Home and Hobos,” for the archive and it reminded me of another memory I have of home: hiding from Daddy when he came home from work. It was a daily ritual for my siblings and me

when we were kids.

My father was a shoemaker, and his shop was down the hill. In early evening my sister, brother, and I would hear the vroom, vroom of his motorcycle and we’d try to find the best hiding place we hadn’t already used hundreds of times.

From my hiding place I could usually peek out and see Daddy look under the table. “Nope, nobody there,” he’d say and then, in his thick Slovak accent, he’d make similar remarks when he looked behind the kitchen door. Giggles from my little brother never gave away his hiding place, even though I was sure Daddy could see his little butt sticking out from behind the overstuffed chair. Somehow Daddy was never successful in finding us until he’d spent at least five minutes looking.

One day I decided to hide in a place Daddy would never think to look: under the living room couch. The couch was a pullout daybed with what seemed like four inches from the bottom to the floor.

It was covered in a scratchy, rust-colored material that never wore out, even though the couch was the place we’d jump to from the piano bench when we played the other, disapproved of, game. (Hiding was not disapproved of, just jumping on the furniture.)

Although I was skinny and scrawny, I was also strong and somehow, I managed to squeeze myself underneath. It was dark and scary under there! I lay flat on my back, barely able to make out the spiral eyes of the bedsprings that had gotten loose from the thin decayed covering. It smelled like an old witch’s attic where stiff, slightly decomposed bird bodies were mixed in with stacks of old magazines a cat had peed on a long time ago.

From what I could hear, Daddy had already found my brother and sister and was quite seriously looking for me. After a while, the whole family searched in earnest. “Eleanor. Eleanor. We give up. Where are you?”

I couldn’t believe what happened next: they all stopped looking for me and went into the kitchen to have their supper! My thoughts turned to spiders—big, black ones, so hungry they’d even be tempted by a skinny girl’s thin layer of flesh. So, I squeezed myself out from under the couch and joined them in the kitchen.

Until the day he died, from time to time my brother would tease me about hiding under the couch. “How the hell did you fit under there?” he’d ask, expecting no answer and getting none.

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

For more info about the Home Digital Archive, contact emailforleap@gmail.com

or call (575) 224-9066.

¿Qué significa para ti el hogar?

Por ELLEN WOOD

Durante tu infancia, ¿era tu hogar el sitio donde te criaban y te querían? ¿O era un lugar del que querías escapar?

Independientemente de cómo te sientas con respecto a tu hogar, presente o pasado, escribe sobre este, en inglés o en español, y envíalo a Claire Coté para el Home Digital Archive, un proyecto de LEAP (siglas en inglés de Tierra, Experiencia y Arte del Lugar).

Recientemente, Claire grabó mi lectura de un ensayo, *Home and Hobos* (*Hogar y Vagabundos*), para el archivo y esto me trajo a la memoria otro recuerdo que tengo de mi hogar: esconderme de Papá cuando él llegaba del trabajo. Era un ritual diario para mis hermanos y para mí cuando éramos niños.

Mi padre era zapatero y su tienda estaba colina abajo. Cuando caía la tarde, mi hermana, mi hermano y yo escuchábamos el brum, brum de su motocicleta y tratábamos de encontrar el mejor escondite que no habíamos usado cientos de veces.

Desde mi escondite, usualmente podía asomarme y ver a Papá mirar debajo de la mesa. “No, no hay nadie ahí,” decía y luego, con su marcado acento eslovaco, hacía comentarios similares cuando

miraba detrás de la puerta de la cocina. Las risitas de mi hermano pequeño nunca revelaban donde se escondía, a pesar de que yo estaba segura de que Papá podía ver su traserito asomando por detrás de la butaca. De alguna manera, Papá nunca conseguía encontrarnos hasta que pasaba al menos cinco minutos buscándonos.

Un día decidí esconderme en un lugar donde a Papá nunca se le ocurriría mirar: debajo del sofá de la sala. El sofá era una cama plegable con lo que parecían ser diez centímetros entre su borde inferior y el suelo. Estaba cubierto de un material áspero y de color óxido que nunca se desgastaba, a pesar de que el sofá era el lugar al que saltamos desde el banquito del piano cuando jugábamos a otro juego que también era desaprobado.

Aunque flaquita y escualida, yo también era fuerte y, de alguna manera, logré acurrucarme debajo del sofá. ¡Era oscuro y aterrador estar allí metida! Me acosté de espaldas, y apenas lograba distinguir los espirales de los muelles que se habían soltado bajo la cubierta, ya delgada y medio rota. Oía como el ático de una vieja bruja, donde los cuerpos rígidos y algo descompuestos de los pájaros se mezclaban con pilas de revistas viejas en las que un gato se hubiera orinado mucho tiempo atrás.

Por lo que alcanzaba a oír, Papá ya había encontrado a mi hermano y a mi hermana y me estaba buscando muy en serio. Pasado un rato, toda la familia me buscaba, preocupada. “Eleanor. Eleanor. Nos damos por vencidos. ¿Dónde estás?”

No pude creer lo que pasó después: ¡todos dejaron de buscarme y se fueron a la cocina a cenar! Mis pensamientos se volvieron hacia las arañas —grandes, negras, tan hambrientas que incluso podrían sentirse tentadas por la escasa carne de una chica flacucha. Así que salí de debajo del sofá y me uní a ellos en la cocina.

Hasta el día de su muerte, de vez en

cuando mi hermano se burlaba de mí por esconderme debajo del sofá. “¿Cómo diablos te acurrucaste ahí?” preguntaba, sin esperar respuesta y sin obtener ninguna.

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

Traducido por Teresa Dovalpage Para obtener más información sobre Home Digital Archive, póngase en contacto con Claire en la dirección emailforleap@gmail.com o llame al 575-224-9066

YOU MATTER
YOUTH GATHERING

Join us in person or virtually.
Saturday, March 20 6:30 pm
Meeting ID: 897 9596 6706 Passcode: 825566

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES
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www.lwmsite.org

Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine: Register First!

By CYNTHIA NAJIM, LATIR
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Many New Mexicans still need to receive the vaccine. We want to make sure you know how to make this happen! You must register for the vaccine with the New Mexico Department of Health's (NMDOH) system online—and **this is the only way to be scheduled to receive the vaccine.** In addition you will need to access your profile numerous times throughout the process.

If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, please ask a family member, friend, our library staff, or a neighbor to help you with these important steps:

Go to the NMDOH website:
<https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>

On that landing page, you will see this:

What would you like to do?

I want to create a new profile
In order to schedule an appointment you must have a profile. Each person should only register once.

I want to access my profile
Schedule your Appointments, Update Chronic Health Conditions, Enter Demographic Information and more.

I want to view the public dashboard
See the latest updates on New Mexico's COVID-19 vaccine distribution

If you already have set up an account profile with NMDOH, then click "I want to access my profile" and follow the vaccine registration instructions. If you do not have an account profile with NMDOH, then click the top box: "I want to create a new profile."

You will then be asked for information about yourself, and how to best notify you by email, text, or phone on when and where your shot can be administered. Once you have completed that entire page, scroll down and click "Submit My Registration."

You will then receive a **confirmation code** via the notification method/s you chose—email, text, and/or phone. This code verifies that you have successfully created your online account profile. **KEEP THIS CODE**—you will need it for future reference.

Next, you will be scheduled to attend a vaccination clinic held in your area;

to be patient, this may not happen right away. When you have been assigned to a clinic, you will receive a different code, an event code via email, text, and/or phone. **YOU NEED TO KEEP THIS CODE ALSO!**

Log into your NMDOH account profile by entering your **original confirmation code** and date of birth.

Once you have accessed your account profile, click "Schedule an Appointment," and enter your **new event code**. You will be given the date and location of your designated vaccination clinic. Select the time that works best for you, then be sure to record your appointment date, time, and location in your calendar.

When you arrive at the vaccination clinic on your date and time, you will need to provide ID, insurance information, and the event code. **REMEMBER:** without that code, you will not receive

the vaccine that day!

Congratulations—you got your first dose! Staff will give you a COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card with details of your first dose, as well as the target date of your booster, usually 28 days* later. Please keep this card handy; you'll need to bring it along for your second dose.

Once you've come home, having had your first dose, log into your NMDOH account profile and click "I have received my first vaccination."

As the 28-day date approaches to receive your booster, the same scheduling process applies. You will receive an **event code** notification. Log in to access your account profile, click "Schedule an Appointment," and enter your **new event code**. You will be given the date and location of your designated vaccination clinic. Select the time that works best for you, then be sure to record your appointment date, time, and location in your calendar.



Sharon Borges, Costilla Volunteer Fire Department

The first local vaccination clinic held on February 3 at Alta Vista Elementary School in Questa was a big success.

Please be patient while you are waiting to hear about your local clinic details. There are priority groups who are most vulnerable, who will receive vaccines first. (Frontline health workers, emergency medical responders, essential workers, older citizens, and anyone with underlying medical conditions over age 16.)

Our first local vaccination clinic was held on February 3 at Alta Vista Elementary School. It was organized by the Taos County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Taos County Senior Program, and Albertsons, with the help of Taos County Fire EMS and Questa Fire & EMS Director Raynelle Sanchez Cordova. Volunteers from the Village of Questa; Questa Independent School District; Taos County Sheriff's Department; Questa, Costilla, Latir, and La Lama Volunteer Fire Departments; and Kit Carson Electric were helping, too. We are grateful to all of you!

Midwife and OB Clinic Information

Questa Health Center Clinic

Beginning on **March 3**, appointments will be in person with an OB or midwife on the first and third Wednesday of every month, in the afternoons. Telehealth appointments from Questa to an OB in Taos will be on the second Wednesday of the month, also in the afternoons.

Questa Medical Center is located at 2573 State Highway 522, Questa, NM 87556.

Appointments are scheduled through the Women's Health Institute, at (575) 758-5001.

*If you are unable to attend the designated clinic to get your second vaccine, you can go up to 21 days from that date, or up to a total of 49 days after your first shot, but NOT longer.

QUESTA VACCINE CLINIC March 2nd

Another vaccination clinic will be held in Questa on March 2, from 1-5 pm, at one of the schools, yet to be confirmed. These clinics are organized once NMDOH receives the vaccine serum and allocates dose quantities to different parts of the state.

Those who have registered are eligible, and will be notified if there are enough doses. You cannot just go to the school site and expect to be vaccinated, so please register at New Mexico Department of Health: <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/>

To Register For The Vaccine If You Don't Have A Computer Or Internet Access

- Call the Aging and Disability Resource Center at **1-800-432-2080**.
- You will be asked to provide your name, date of birth, address, and information about high-risk medical conditions.
- Options counselor will complete your registration on your behalf.
- A representative of DOH will contact you to provide **event code** and information about how to schedule appointment when vaccine is available in your area.
- You will be provided a medical questionnaire to complete on the day of your appointment.

For more information or assistance call the New Mexico Department of Health at **855-600-3453** or the Aging and Disability Resource Center at **800-432-2080**.

Prenatal Telehealth Clinics Launch in Questa

**HOLY CROSS MEDICAL CENTER
LEADS EFFORT TO
IMPROVE MATERNAL/CHILD
HEALTH OUTCOMES**
By COLLEEN DUROCHER

Across rural America, small independent hospitals are finding it more and more difficult to sustain obstetrics programs. Some areas, including northern New Mexico, have now become an OB desert, where some patients must drive two to three hours to reach a provider.

To address this problem, a four-year collaborative grant program managed by Holy Cross Medical Center in Taos is bringing new telehealth care to mothers in rural northern New Mexico. The Rural OB and Maternal Services (ROAMS) program is designed to help local mothers more easily access important high quality local prenatal and postnatal care, including the supportive social service programs available to them and their families.

Maternal mortality is higher in New Mexico than the national average and has been climbing in recent years. Funded by a grant from the federal Health

Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), ROAMS aims to change this worrying trend by improving access to services for mothers and families in our region.

In March 2021, ROAMS is opening new OB telehealth clinics in Questa and Clayton, New Mexico. These clinics provide office-to-office telehealth appointments from rural health centers to OBs at Women's Health Institute and Miners Colfax Medical Center, as well as with high-risk pregnancy specialists when necessary. Beginning this spring, the program will also offer home telehealth kits, so mothers can meet with their prenatal practitioner from home. The free home telehealth kits will include a tablet; automatic reporting of blood pressure, oxygen, and weight; a glucometer and fetal heart rate monitor; and educational videos and reminders. After care is completed, families will keep the tablet as a gift from ROAMS, and simply return the measuring devices.

The program will provide ROAMS family navigators at sites across the region, to assist with family needs such as

signing up for home visiting or accessing other services, as well as a breastfeeding consultant—and both services are free for mothers and families. The program is currently hiring part- and full-time family navigators in Raton, Taos, and Clayton. Family navigators will connect pregnant mothers with important social service programs, such as home visiting, lactation support, etc. Applicants will be required to have a high school degree, and training to become a Certified Health Worker will be provided. Salary depends upon experience.

“Prenatal and postnatal care is vital because it allows providers to identify, treat, and stabilize chronic conditions; address behavioral health needs; and plan for a healthy and intentional pregnancy,” says Colleen Durocher, ROAMS Executive Director. “I am really excited about the program and hope mothers take advantage of these new services that are closer to their homes.”

ROAMS is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial

assistance award totaling \$2,982,779 over four years, awarded through a competitive RFP process. Holy Cross Medical Center was one of only three grant recipients nationwide. Additional project partners currently include Holy Cross First Steps, Miners Colfax Medical Center, NM State Medicaid, Presbyterian Medical Services Questa Health Center, Union County General Hospital, and Envision NM 2.0, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Adolescent Medicine, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.

“We knew we needed to try something new,” says Bill Patten, CEO of Holy Cross Medical Center. “Rather than each hospital providing services within its normal silo, the ROAMS project allows us the opportunity to pool resources and think in terms of maintaining this important service on a regional basis. It is our hope that by working together we can not only sustain, but also grow our OB capabilities.”

Please visit www.ROAMSNM.org for additional information on the grant and services provided.

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OCHO art + event space—The End of an Era

By LOU MCCALL

The building at 8 Highway 38 in downtown Questa has a rich multifunctional history as religious space, dance hall, boxing ring, union hall, light industrial building, and most recently: art studio and gallery. Barrie Andrews and Min Jae Hong, the current owners, have decided they will soon put the property on the market. The closing of OCHO art+event space marks the end of an era.

The more recent history of OCHO began with owner Kelly Morris, who used the building as a studio gallery. Min Jae Hong arrived in Questa in 2009 and he and Kelly partnered as co-artists in 2012. Min Jae's vision was to create an art studio and gallery space, so he set to work continuing the renovations begun by Kelly—restoring the wood floors, ceilings, and other improvements. James Garcia played a big role in the modifications of the building, including constructing the pergola on the front which was aided by design help and financial assistance of the Frontier Communities Program, a division of the New Mexico Main Street Project. Garcia also built a sunroom on the south side, which initially Barrie Andrews used for her healing arts practice.

By June of 2012, the site was ready for its grand opening with an art exhibit. OCHO's early artist members who showed their work were: Nancy Brown, John Wenger, Kelly Morris, Starr, Scott Randel, Claire Coté, Min Jae Hong, and Barrie Andrews. The opening was truly grand! with over 110 people in attendance, both inside and outdoors. For the next several years, OCHO was a busy place, abuzz with creativity. Min Jae recalls arriving in Questa, after living in New York City, "It was an exciting time for me, a whole new environment, a whole new idea. The number of creative individuals was astounding, for me. OCHO was our playground."

In 2014, Kelly Morris accepted a teaching position in Texas to be closer to his family and Barrie and Min Jae then became co-owners of the building. The gallery was often used as an event space for birthday parties, meetings, and other functions; some public, some private. Various classes were offered, including Barrie's printmaking workshops—there is still her etching press there. Events were mostly local, sometimes drawing participants from southern New Mexico and surrounding states. The



E. Wilde



Claire Coté

Earth Day NeoKite celebration and Exhibition organized by LEAP and hosted by OCHO, April 2012



Claire Coté

Opening Night "Luz es Vida" organized by LEAP and hosted by OCHO, summer 2015



Claire Coté

Long line of audience members waiting to get in to the standing room only "Thinking Wilderness" Pecha Kucha at OCHO, a collaboratively organized event for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, summer 2014.



Claire Coté

Barrie Andrews giving welcome introduction for the full-to-capacity "Thinking Wilderness" Pecha Kucha held at OCHO, 2014.



PAST
EVENT
POSTERS

exceptions were artists in residence, Barrie's *Acutonics* classes, and the Questa Creative Council's Wild Rivers Plein Air exhibits, which drew crowds from around the globe.

Alberta Bouyer shared her business and marketing acumen during her years at the Questa Visitor Center and later directly with OCHO, to mutually expand the visibility of both OCHO and Questa.

Starting with two notable exhibits, one by Starr sponsored by Min Jae Hong, and one organized by Claire Coté of children's kites as part of NeoRio, OCHO grew to sponsor over 60 events. Claire brought many people in due to her deep lifelong community connections. OCHO was home to Claire's non-profit LEAP (Land, Experience and Art of Place), the parent body of LEAP's signature event NeoRio. Many of OCHO's early events were sponsored by LEAP, which had a theme every year. For instance, 2014 was the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, with LEAP's 2014 theme "Rethinking Wilderness." LEAP also sponsors annual Earth Day events, which started at OCHO. LEAP also hosted a Spring Film Series at OCHO for a few years.

As curator of many events at OCHO, Claire appreciates the vast generosity of both Barrie and Min Jae for openly sharing the space. They put their faith and trust in others to make the facility open to the public. Claire said that most people don't know what it takes to maintain a public building. Those using OCHO didn't have to worry about the nuts and bolts of upkeep, mortgage payments, utility bills, or plumbing problems. Efforts were made to set up structures of compensation to use the space and in many cases, money was just not available. Essentially, OCHO was Barrie and Min Jae's gift to the community.

Claire looks back at the meaning that OCHO held for Questa and its people. It was a gathering place of rich cross-pollination. The OCHO era was short-lived and had a lasting impact and influence. She says that OCHO laid the groundwork for so much of what is going on today in and around Questa.

Gaea McGahee started her yoga classes and "Kave" ventures at OCHO, which later came to be called Yoga Sala, born in the winter of 2016 and later moved to Gaea's own building in 2019. The Questa Farmers Market evolved through different incarnations,

OCHO cont'd on page 28

New Art-Themed Street Banners Installed in Questa



Courtesy Photo

New banners on display in Questa feature artwork from local artists, Betsy Peirce on the left and Betsy Irwin on right.

By LYNN SKALL

The Questa Creative Council's new art-themed banners have been installed on light poles throughout the Village of Questa. They will be on display through the spring and summer months. These are the third and final set of banners.

The first set of banners funded by the Questa Economic Development Fund and coordinated by the QCC exhibited the beautiful hand-painted retablos in St. Anthony's historic Church in July 2019. The next set of banners, displaying historic imagery of our town and its people, just came down.

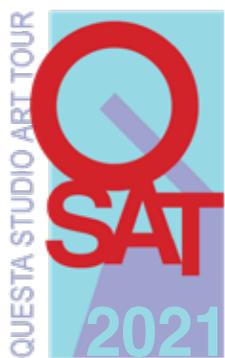
The new banners feature the artwork of 18 different Questa area artists and



craftspeople. The artists are: Ruth Archuleta, Monique Belitz, Diane DeFremery, Roger Harrington, Sandra Harrington, Marcos Herrera, Betsy Irwin, Clarence Lacombe, Lou McCall, Gaea McGahee, Maria Mikhailas, Betsy Peirce, Michael Rael, Mike Ridder, Martha Shepp, Peggy Trigg, Armando Vigil, and the youth of Questa.

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative generously donated the time of their staff and equipment to install the banners; we thank you, KCE, for your partnership and continued community support.

Questa Studio Tour 2021 Forges Ahead (We Hope!)



By PEGGY TRIGG

After weathering the COVID-19 storm, the Questa Creative Council has optimistically decided to go ahead with the sixth annual Questa Studio Arts Tour for 2021. This year's art tour is being planned for Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15, from 10-5 daily.

We will begin planning for the event with the hope that the pandemic will have subsided enough to open our studios to the buying public once again.

We will begin planning the in-person tour, not forgetting the ever present option of returning to an online auction, similar to the auction we held in 2020, if necessary. Although the online auction was very successful, with over half the items sold, we miss our personal interaction with our collectors and the community.

The 2019 tour had close to 45 artist participants at 13 different locations, with average artist income from sales at approximately \$2,000 each. We brought over 400 visitors into our studios over the two-day weekend event. We believe that the buying public and our community

members are hungry for the in-person tour and we have hopes that attendance will be similar this year, in 2021.

We are asking you, Questa area artists, to join us in this community event. If you are an artist and are interested in joining the 2021 tour, here are the nuts and bolts:

Fill out the online application or pick up one at ArtQuesta or Rael's Market.

Pick an existing hub to show your work, or create your own hub.

Application fee is \$60. This fee will be used for the marketing campaign.

Send us your application and fee, along with images, to: QCC, PO Box 1025, Questa, NM 87556 by May 31, 2021.

About a week before the tour, hub leaders will get supplies, such as signage for the actual tour.

During the tour you will set up your signs, organize your spaces, and greet the customers as they come through your studios.

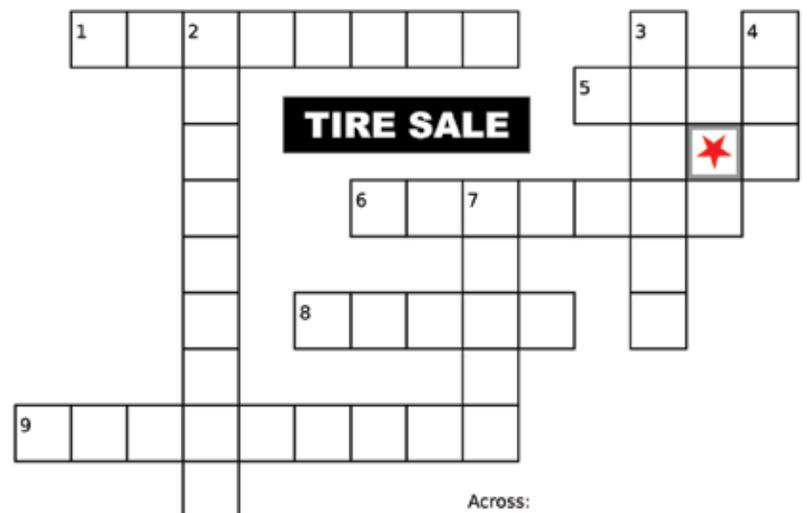
The QCC will take your images, descriptions, and bios, place them on our website and use them in our marketing campaign. Our promotion includes multiple emailed newsletters (to past customers), online local and regional calendars, print advertising in local and regional newspapers, radio advertising, local and regional posted flyers, street signs, a QSAT promotional video, and the tour brochures.

Our Northern New Mexico Artists Website is another marketing venue that we offer. Check it out at <https://north-ernnewmexicoartists.com>. The site was developed with the Questa Studio Arts

Tour artists in mind. Currently, all the 2019 tour artists are represented on this site, with 20 or so having an additional artist profile page. This page offers the artists an extra marketing venue by providing space for many images, an artist

bio, and links to selling platforms. If you are interested in having your own page, please let us know. Our contact information is questacreativecouncil@gmail.com or pegtrigg@gmail.com.

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Down:

2. 4 tires for the price of 3 here
3. Has fun prospecting for gold
4. Was grade school pal of JR
7. Got specialized training as a Service Writer

Across:

1. He's single and working on his house
5. How many tires for the price of 3
6. Replace tires before this happens
8. Tire Special is only this month
9. Mr. NorthStar

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Doing the Questa in Chama

By TONER MITCHELL
OF TROUT UNLIMITED

It seems like an eternity ago when Questa ramped up efforts to diversify its economy, with recreation and agriculture assuming featured roles. Amazingly, that effort assumed its current momentum only eight years ago. In that time there have been two river restoration projects in the Red River through the village, the formation of several community groups advancing economic and community wellness initiatives, and no end of conversations on how Questa can become a healthier, happier, and more economically stable place.

As tempting as it is to attribute such progress to some secret formula, it's impossible to ignore the simple fact that Questa's wins are the result of Questa's people and the energy, dedication, and creative ideas *Questeños* have brought to the greater project. In other words, one does not just export such a model and expect success.

Not to say the Questa story doesn't contain lessons that can be easily stolen by other communities hoping to achieve the same success. Questa is full of such lessons. That's what the village of Chama seems to think.

Like Questa, the town of Chama possesses an embarrassment of potential riches. The surrounding country is

breath-takingly beautiful. The fishing is great (though not as great as it could be), and the town is easily accessible from a number of directions. Importantly, Chama's economy has seen better days, which is similar to Questa, as well.

Chama's quaint downtown is strategically linked to the Cumbres and Toltec train, which for decades has offered tours through the spectacular mountains between Chama and Antonito, Colorado. Unfortunately, there are few activities the Chama tourist can partake of besides the train, a sign that the town's economy is a bit too one-dimensional. This in spite of one of New Mexico's best trout streams running through the center of town.

Like the Red River, the in-town section of the Rio Chama is not as functional as elsewhere in the river's course. It's too wide and shallow, can become too warm, and due to ubiquitous private ownership along the streamside, access is a problem. These issues have been recognized to inhibit economic development by a group of Chama's town leaders. Efforts are underway to seek funding to restore the river. Chama leaders are actively reaching out to their fellow residents to arouse interest in stream restoration and also to generally make the downtown area a focus for walking, shopping, fishing, and importantly, hopping on the train for one of



Austin Phippen

Questa has identified its assets for scenic beauty and outdoor recreation and Chama want to, too!

the most unforgettable scenic experiences of your life.

The Chama leadership group, comprised of business owners and village council members (as in Questa, one and the same), hopes their efforts to revitalize the downtown area will spawn related projects throughout the area. Already a magnet for sportsmen, Chama may discover ways to expand opportunities for hunters and anglers, either through gaining access permissions or expanded restoration of fish and wildlife habitat.

One could be forgiven for wondering how recreational development in Chama should be of interest to a person living

in Questa, but one could also wonder how the development of similar opportunities might lead to the two towns sharing in a bounty that might not exist had they not looked into developing their outdoor assets.

Tired of Colorado crowds or the cost of more exotic destinations, families visiting either Questa or Chama might very well develop a New Mexico vacation habit that's difficult to quit. The more destinations we dust off in our state, the more reasons people will have to visit us again and again and again.

Toss a stone in a pond and watch the ripples expand.

Carson National Forest: Stay Safe in the Winter Backcountry

By JAVONNE GOODMAN

Since Williams Lake Basin is one of the most popular places in New Mexico for backcountry skiing (along with other scenic areas for winter sports) the Carson National Forest encourages visitors to exercise caution and educate themselves about additional hazards, challenges, and safety risks posed by winter recreation.

In the first week of February, there were widespread dangerous conditions and 15 avalanche fatalities in the U.S.!

The Carson National Forest urges winter recreationists to take safety seriously and follow these recommendations:

- Learn to recognize avalanche terrain. Most avalanches occur on slopes between 25 and 60 degrees, but there are always exceptions. Self-study is no replacement for instruction by a trained professional, so we encourage backcountry skiers and snowshoers to

take an avalanche safety course if they will be traversing steep terrain. The Taos Avalanche Center and American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education are good places to start. The Taos Avalanche Center also provides avalanche forecasts for much of New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo range, including periodic observations from popular areas like the Nambe Chutes. If you're ever in doubt, don't risk it.

- Carry the right safety gear. An avalanche beacon, probe, and shovel are all standard recommended equipment for traveling in avalanche terrain. Wherever you travel, dress appropriately for the conditions, take plenty of food and water, and invest in a good first-aid kit. A flashlight/headlamp, matches, extra food and clothing, and even an emergency bivouac are all recommended if there's any chance of

getting stranded overnight.

- Never travel alone. Avalanche beacons are virtually useless if you're by yourself and in need of urgent help. If you are solo and suffer an injury in the backcountry, you will not have an immediate first responder or a critical communication channel for getting help as quickly as possible.
- Know the terrain. Always carry a good map and compass and know how to use them. Keep in mind that over-snow travel often takes much longer than traversing the same terrain in summer. Pay attention to topographic lines indicating steep features that could pose hazards. Always check the weather forecast before you go, since conditions within the forest, especially at higher elevations, will be significantly different than conditions in nearby towns and cities.

- Know your limits. If you have any doubts about your physical or technical capabilities, always err on the side of caution.
- Have a plan. Incorporate all of the above into a game plan that doesn't just cover your "ideal" trip, but also considers the range of hazards and safety risks posed by winter backcountry conditions. Set criteria for turning around to head back home in the face of such conditions, and stick to your plan.

The Carson National Forest offers a range of winter backcountry recreation experiences. Know before you go and recreate responsibly to make sure your adventure is both fun and safe.

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Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round: Show Your Home Some Love

By JAVONNE GOODMAN,
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

With most of northern New Mexico in extreme drought, the 2021 fire season could begin as early as late March or early April. The Carson National Forest is working with local, state, federal and tribal partners, and non-governmental organizations to encourage New Mexicans to recognize that in our changing climate, wildfire preparedness must be a year-round effort. In honor of a new 2021 wildfire preparedness campaign with our partners and with Valentine's Day, February's message was: show your home some love.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), 58,250 wildfires burned 10.3 million acres across the U.S. in 2020, the largest number of acres impacted in one year. As our seasons trend warmer and drier, wildfire can happen any time, which means New

Mexicans need to prepare and maintain their homes against the threat of falling embers and flames.

Show your home some love by taking the time to identify vulnerable areas that need to be addressed before a wildfire appears. And remember, while you may not see the flames, wind can carry hot embers from burning vegetation or other materials at least a mile (and more) from an active wildfire. Start with the top of the structure, work down to the ground, and then work out from there.

- Check your roof. Houses with wood shake or shingle roofs are more likely to be destroyed during a wildfire. If possible, consider installing fire-resistant roofing material, such as asphalt composition shingles, metal, concrete, or clay tile. A damaged roof with missing shingles and plastic skylights can also give hot embers from a wildfire an easy entry point. Maintain flat roofs, ensuring

no cracks or exposed sublayers exist.

- Clear your rain gutters, flat roofs, and valleys in pitched roofs. Remove pine needles, leaves, or other materials that may have accumulated over the winter. Embers can easily ignite in dried out debris.
- Check your vents. Consider changing out standard 1/4-inch mesh with 1/8-inch metal wire mesh (if building codes and required air flow allow) to prevent wildfire embers from penetrating attics, eaves, and crawl spaces. Keep vents clear from debris and do not plant shrubs underneath or in front of vents.
- What about walls? Replace exterior wall coverings that are combustible, susceptible to melting, or can readily transmit heat with noncombustible or fire-resistant materials.
- Windows can be a weak point. Dual-paned windows with tempered glass will resist greater fire intensities

than single-pane windows.

- Clean your deck. Remove debris from under your deck and from the gaps between deck boards. Replace wooden lattice with properly vented solid skirting or with 1/8-inch wire mesh to keep embers out.
 - Don't store firewood, gas cans, lawn mowers, cardboard or other combustible materials next to your home. Move these items at least five feet away from the outside walls of the house.
 - Landscaping could light up your home. Think about replacing flammable plants with fire-resistant species, and replace wood chips with decorative rock for ground cover.
- Stay up to date on Carson National Forest news by checking the Carson National Forest website and following us on Facebook and Twitter. Online News Release with more resources and information: <https://wp.me/puHKG-5Dq>

Taos Land Trusts Offer Planter Boxes Again This Spring

BY CHYNA DIXON, REPRINTED
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AGRICULTURA SEPTEMBER 2020

In the summer of 2020, Taos Land Trust, in collaboration with community partners, built and distributed over 80 planting-ready 4x8 garden boxes, complete with soil, irrigation equipment, hoop house coverings, and seed—to families in our community. This summer, we're ready to do the Planter Box Project again.

Since the pandemic began, the number of families receiving nutrition support from local food distribution centers has dramatically increased, as has the need to support students whose primary access to food is through schools. As members of our community have been asked to stay at home these many months, thoughts have turned to land, water, and resilience. Seeds were sold out, as more at-home gardens were planted than ever in recent memory.

The changes in the pace and focus of life throughout the past year have manifested in a variety of ways. For the Taos Land Trust, these changes have included a renewed emphasis on food production and security, regional food planning, youth employment and livelihood opportunities, and cross-sector collaboration with educators and producers.

When the Planter Box Project first began, we thought we would build and



Jim O'Donnell

Planter box young volunteers delivering soil.

distribute 10 boxes total. As word spread about the project, community members and leaders quickly reached out to us—eager to know if we might be able to produce just a few more. Thus, what began as a small day-long project turned into the creation of what we affectionately called our “box factory,” staged on-site at Rio Fernando Park (a 20-acre property with 13 acres of historical agricultural land and seven acres of wetland, next to Fred Baca Park). With a generous donation from the Taos Community Foundation and spurred on by the positive community feedback, we soon set our sights on producing a total



Jim O'Donnell

4 x 8' planter boxes delivered to Habitat for Humanity.

of 80 boxes.

This summer, we hope to do the same. We are partnering with local community organizers, youth and educational leaders, and our own Emerging Young Farmers, to build and distribute planter boxes to our community. We offer these planter boxes free of charge to residents of Taos County. Currently the program is prioritizing families with children who are eligible to receive free/reduced lunch, as well as

to elders. Anyone within Taos County is welcome to inquire. Last year, we were able to reach families in Questa.

Although small in size, these boxes are mighty in impact—they are one small step toward increasing local food sovereignty and security for all.

To support the project, to ask us any questions, or to inquire about receiving a box, please email: chyna@taoslandtrust.org or call (575) 751-3138.

2020 Results: Thank you for Supporting Questa Farmers Market and Shopping Local

BY GAEA MCGAHEE, QUESTA FARMERS MARKET ORGANIZER

It's mid-February as I reflect on all we did at Questa Farmers Market during the 2020 season. Now that those busy months are settling into memory, let's recall some of our accomplishments and grow inspired for the 2021 season, late May to Early October 2021!

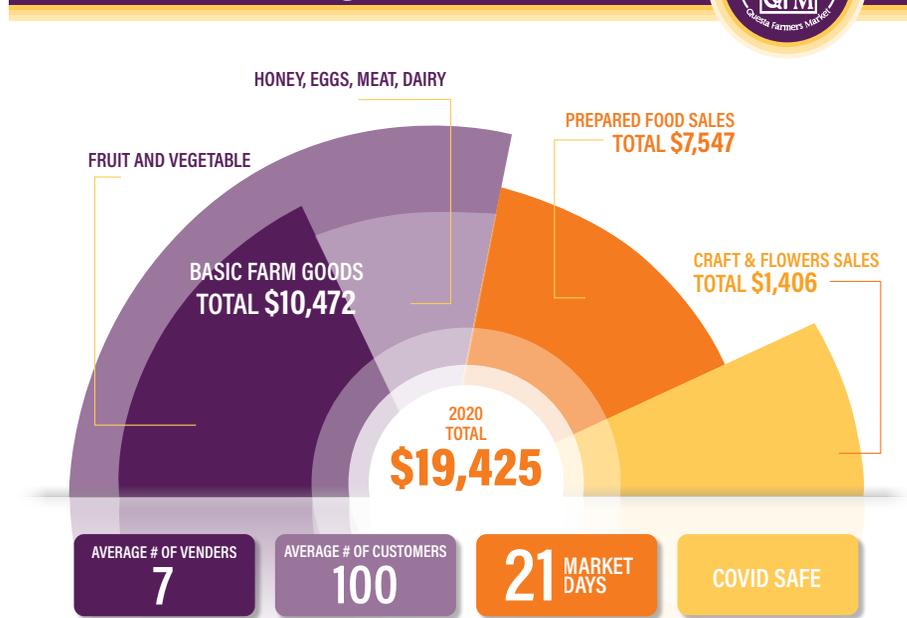
The focus of QFM is to create a truly local market, welcoming to backyard gardeners and professional growers, people with family orchards, and young, ambitious farmers. We work creatively to accommodate the maximum number and variety of vendors.

This past season, we carried on under unusual conditions shaped by a global pandemic, brought people together, briefly and in the safety of the outdoors—each Sunday for 21 weeks from May 24 to October 11. We gained perspective in 2020 and we witnessed our resilience. During those five months of Sunday markets, neighbors supported each other by buying local products from farmers, gardeners, bakers, and craftspeople. On average there were seven vendors each Sunday and an average of 100 customers. And the market was a bright stopping place for visitors to our community.

We completed site beautification projects led by youth interns and volunteers, who planted vegetables and flowers, weeded and watered, and made sure that the marketplace supported the vendors and customers.

We benefited from a grant from the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association (NMFMA) to get local produce into the distribution chain. We purchased food from local farmers whose supply lines were disrupted by COVID-19, and brought the food to the North Central Food Pantry, where demand had increased. We worked with several farms and increased the connection between community members in Questa and agricultural projects across the county. Our teen interns and volunteers, as well as the Food Pantry volunteers were key to the project. Twice in the season, we harvested at Red Willow Farm and interns took the produce through the entire process; picking, washing, packing and delivery. QFM is seeking funding again to do a

Vendors' Earnings 2020



QUESTA FARMERS MARKET ECONOMIC DATA FOR THE 2020 SEASON



Gaea McGahee

Kaylee Piper (left) and Alianna Gonzales finish Cucui's head at the market, October, 2020

"I learned a lot this summer from working at the farmers market. I learned how to make a compost bin, build/make my own garden. I learned to do a lot of teamwork with my friends and even others I didn't know," —QFM intern Amalia Gonzalez.

"I'm excited for the market coming this season. And I can't wait to be back. God bless you all!" —QFM intern Kaylee Piper

similar project in 2021. We gained new vendors in 2020, including Mesa Roots Farm. They moved from Three Peaks to Sunshine Valley by the end of the season and are currently planning for a strong 2021 growing season.

THE NUMBERS

We track the financial impact of the market each year, and because 2020 was hard—we didn't host live musicians, we didn't encourage folks to linger and visit because of social distancing—I

wondered how the 2020 numbers would turn out. The 2020 season brought in \$2,300 less to the Questa area, with \$19,425, compared to \$21,737 in 2019. That total breaks down into three categories: 1.) \$10,472 in Raw Agricultural Products (fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat and honey), 2.) \$7,547 in Produced Food (hot food, baked goods, processed farm products like pickles, preserves and pesto), 3.) \$1,406 in Art and Craft (handmade items).

The Market is organized around several core ideas: that we must support all vendors, no matter how small, and contribute to local economics. We believe that building roles for youth makes QFM dynamic and unique. Our previous seasons have shown that supporting jobs for youth at our market is meaningful: our internships are flexible and teens have a choice of learning and service activities. We're committed to continue to offer these paid internships.

At the start of the 2020 season we employed two interns, then a third and a fourth joined: Amalia Gonzalez, Kaylee Piper, Alianna Gonzalez, and Ashlyn Rael, all of whom are in the Active8, of the Vida del Norte Coalition. There were projects and jobs to go around: "many hands make light work." The LOR Foundation provided much of the funding for the teen internship program.

Working together to build and care for the inviting outdoor market space was an important part of the internship in 2020. They built new garden areas and a new larger horno alongside our dedicated Andy Jaramillo. This coming season we expect to use the horno regularly and hope to have interns take on this project.

Did you know you can help fund the internship program by purchasing gear we sell at the Market, designed by market helper/freelance graphic designer Emily Wilde: shirts, aprons, and stickers! Email growersmakers@gmail.com, call or text (575) 224-2102 about these items.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

QFM organizers, volunteers, interns, vendors, supporters (the Questa Economic Development Fund, The LOR Foundation, and several local businesses), and community members all contributed to site improvements last year.

- The Questa Credit Union donated one of their shipping containers, which is being turned into a market hub.
- Teen interns built a much larger horno, alongside Andy Jaramillo and others.
- The interns along with our steadfast volunteers, Andy and Lorie Jaramillo, extended the garden zones at the market and tended to their thriving all season long.
- The LOR Foundation provided funding in 2020 for extensive site

development and beautification work, including materials for the new larger horno, for more gardens, and in preparing more land to use in planting native fruit and shade trees. Their grant also supported QFM in a project that turned plastic waste into walls in collaboration with RYNO and TiLT.

- Once the COVID-19 health rules allow, live music and special events can return, and we will be able to enjoy our new concrete pad dance floor, which the Questa Economic Development Fund sponsored and Norman Garcia poured in November 2020.
- And we all built the unforgettable Cucui monster together for Cam-balache 2020!

HOPES FOR THE COMING 2021 SEASON

- Grow gardens in our current locations, make new beds, plant trees, add tables
- Develop the land northwest of the current market area by adding parking, planting zone, and trees
- Ahead of the season, build out the market hub—transform the shipping container into a space for SNAP/EBT transactions, market merchandise sales, storage, and more
- Support youth entrepreneurs, and more vendors overall
- Host music and special events



Gaea McGahee

Ashlyn Rael (left) and Amalia Gonzales at Red Willow Farm prepared fresh harvest for the NCFP distribution, September 2020

- Seek funding to add local produce to the North Central Food Pantry distributions: this depends on surplus in the local food system as well as grant funding
 - Paint murals on some of the things we've built
 - Continue to increase support for local producers and regenerate agriculture in our communities
- To be a "farmers market," at least 50% of our vendors need to sell raw farm goods/unprocessed local foods (fruits, vegetables, honey, eggs, meat). "Local"



E. Wilde

Alianna Gonzales (left), Kaylee Piper (center) and Amalia Gonzales working on the horno at QFM, July 2020

means mainly New Mexico-grown within 80 miles of the market. We are always looking for vendors, volunteers, and interns. You can find details about becoming a vendor on our website, questafarmersmarket.org/for-vendors/. We can arrange pickup at the farms or yards of anyone needing help with transportation.

When we keep our money and resources in our community and choose to spend our dollars at our local market and businesses, this adds to everyone's

wellbeing. Supporting Questa Farmers Market vendors by shopping local is doing something great in small ways. We look forward to the 2021 season and to working with our interns, volunteers, vendors and community.

We are a program of the local non-profit, Localogy www.localogy.org. To contact Market Organizer, Gaea, call (575) 224-2102 growersmakers@gmail.com QuestaFarmersMarket.org facebook.com/QuestaFarmersMarket instagram.com/questafarmersmarket

Cerro Vista Farm CSA Shares Now Available



E. Wilde

Last year's (2020) beet harvest at Cerro Vista Farms.

By FARMER DANIEL

Have fun. Be in Nature. Meet new people. Take home the best quality fresh produce from a local farm! Cerro Vista Farm in Cerro, with Farmer Daniel steering the ship, has been growing fresh produce and flowers for local residents

for the past 22 years. To reserve some of this excellent produce for yourself, you can buy a CSA Farm Share.

If you purchase by March 10, you will receive additional "farm cash" credit that can be spent at the Cerro Vista Farm weekly Wednesday Market, which is open to the public. Most of the Farm's expenses happen February through June—to buy seed and fertilizer, repair farm equipment, and pay the labor force to get fields ready and greenhouse plants started. And most of the income from produce sales happens in July, August, and September—so if you can buy your share now, you're really helping, truly supporting local agriculture!

Once the growing season is in full swing, starting June 21, you can pick up your share at

- Cerro Vista Farm in Cerro
- Arroyo Hondo Midtown Market
- Arroyo Seco Sol Food Natural Market
- In Lama at the "T"
- Taos Farmers Market

A summer full share costs \$520, with

8 or 9 fresh produce items per week. A half share is \$365, with 5 or 6 fresh produce. (Note: half shares are actually 2/3 as much produce for 2/3 the price of a full share.)

Daniel Carmona is a long-time farmer and founder of Cerro Vista Farm. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), supplies fresh produce to shareholders throughout the grow-

ing season. Cerro Vista Farm also sells food in the summer months to locals and at the Taos Farmers' Market, which Daniel helped start decades ago! You can reach him at cerrovistafarm@gmail.com or from his website www.cerrovistafarm.com where you can buy a Farm Share by credit card; or email Daniel for other payment options, including five monthly payments. Thank you for your participation in Community Supported Agriculture!

DID YOU KNOW?

Taos County has 14 identified rodent species. The most common are the house mouse, deer mouse, voles, pack rats, field mice, pocket gophers, and beavers. They are generally nocturnal omnivores who come and go into our dwellings. The droppings and urine of mice are responsible for many diseases (i.e. typhus, hanta virus) and allergens and the fleas and ticks they carry are responsible for others (i.e. pox, plague). Deer mice are most responsible for hanta viruses. Deer mice are brown with white undersides. Most other mice are gray. "Gray is Good, Brown is Bad."

Control Methods: Seal every possible entry point to your dwelling, then use traps, baits, and glue boards. A mouse can get through a hole the size of a nickel. Mice follow walls at night with their whiskers. Place trap where baited end is next to wall. Place devices where droppings have been observed.



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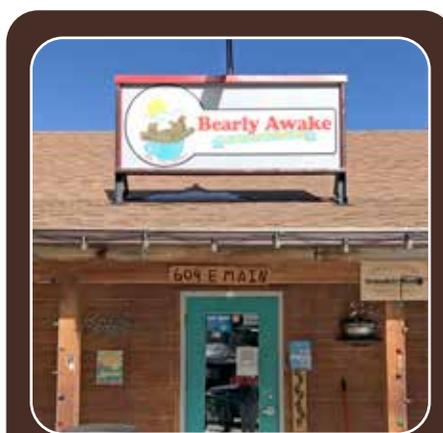
Get Your Coffee Fix in Red River

By SHELBY WERLEY, RED RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Between February and December of 2020, and despite a global pandemic, Red River welcomed three new coffee shops to town along Main Street.

First came Steam Coffee Co., owned by Matt Dietz, opening its doors on February 7, 2020. Steam Coffee is located in the old caboose on Main Street, which previously was a vape shop. Dietz moved to Red River in December of 2018 and began the long process of renovating not only the caboose, but also the Pioneer Lodge, which sits on the same property. Dietz put an incredible amount of work into the now modern, yet still rustic, and totally Instagram-able coffee shop. It is a great place to stop by for craft espresso drinks, premium roast coffees, smoothies, protein shakes, and fresh baked goods. Dietz has a real passion for Red River and you can see that passion the moment you walk into Steam Coffee Co.

On November 20, 2020, Levi and Tori Curry, along with Mike and Kim Parham, opened Bearly Awake Coffee, Froyo, and Adventures on the east end of Main Street, where Anita's used to be. Levi and Tori have lived in Red River for 35 years and have long been a family known to most people in town. They had the itch to open a business in Red for over five years, so when this opportunity came, they "jumped on it, with or without COVID," says Tori. Calling Bearly Awake only a coffee shop would be doing it a great injustice. They offer several libations beyond coffee: frozen yogurt with dozens of toppings, fresh-squeezed lemonade, smoothies, specialty shakes, pastries, and even some lunch items.



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bearlyawakecoffeeandadventures.com



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STEAM COFFEE & TEA CO.
400 W. Main, Red River
(575) 754-4200
steamcoffeeco.com

Photos by Martha Shepp

For non-coffee services, they offer electric bike rentals (and sales!) and book outdoor activities: fly fishing, horseback riding, and snowmobile tours. Just when you thought that was all, Bearly Awake Coffee, Froyo, and Adventures also sells local art from artists all over the Enchanted Circle. Their slogan is "Not Your Ordinary Coffee Shop" and it certainly fits all Bearly Awake has to offer.

Elizabeth Rodrigs is the most recent business person to join the coffee boom in Red River, opening her second business, Peak Espresso, on December 9. Rodrigs

has lived in Red River for seven years and has owned the beloved Dairy Bar since the summer of 2017. She decided to open Peak Espresso to give even more back to the community she loves. Peak Espresso is located in the Lifts West building, close to the Brewery. While "The Way" coffee shop was previously in this location, Peak Espresso has a new feeling and offers much more: offering pour-overs, French press, lattes, teas, homemade koloches, turnovers, and more tasty pastries. Many people know Rodrigs for her pastries, so having a place to sell them right on Main

Street excited many locals. "For me, coffee, tea, and pastries are great ways to bring people together and make a positive impact on the community," Rodrigs says.

No matter what flavor or type of coffee you prefer, Red River has you covered. From homemade pastries, to frozen yogurt, or enjoying a hot drink in an old caboose, each one of these locations are incredibly unique and special in their own way. Next time you're in town, be sure to stop by, grab a cuppa, and say hello to these incredible business owners making it work during this difficult time.



**CHANGE YOUR FOCUS,
CHANGE YOUR WORLD.
TEACHING EMPATHY**

Empathy is vital for a civilized society to thrive, yet it is not necessarily instinctive and sometimes needs to be taught.

In Denmark, a nation that has consistently been voted the happiest in

terms of the quality of life for its citizens, empathy is taught in schools from a very young age. Introduced in 1993, a mandatory program called Step by Step, begins as early as preschool.

Children are not born with racism or hate or suspicion; they learn those terrible traits from society. So why not teach them how to stay kind instead?

Step by Step shows kids images of other kids in different emotional states; sadness, anger, fear, frustration, happiness, confusion, and so on. The students then talk about what they see, what the other

child is feeling, and what they think it would feel like themselves.

Students learn the life-affirming skills of how to read facial expressions and body language, of problem solving, self-control and of course, empathy. Teaching non-judgement is also essential: they are to simply recognize the emotions they see and respect those sentiments.

The Danish go even further with anti-bullying programs that encourage kids to talk about bullying and teasing and to learn to become more caring to each other. It has yielded such positive results that

98% of teachers say they would recommend it to other institutions.

And it has been proven that empathy is one of the most important factors in fostering successful leaders, entrepreneurs, managers, and businesses.

While history, science, and math are important, the Danish understand that empathy is a necessary life skill that will empower a person and take them farther in life than numbers and facts ever will.

Empathy: the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of another.

*This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live.
"Building community through creativity." SecoLive.org.
Audio file on SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-259154859/gn-7-1-teachingempathy>
Transcript PDF: https://mcusercontent.com/6dd23531465f1c13f80eb7d84/files/708ae0cf-c871-4d45-9f16-722f365dabf0/GNGP_7.01_TeachingEmpathy.pdf*

**St. Patrick's Day Recipes
Luck o' the Irish To Ye!**

COMPILED
By ELIZABETH BRUNAZZI

Corned Beef* See Notes Below

Ingredients:

- 3 to 4 lbs corned beef brisket or round
- 1 onion, quartered
- 2 ribs celery with leaves
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 t kosher salt
- 4 whole cloves
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 carrot
- 1 t brown or red cane sugar
- 1 t cracked black pepper

Cover meat with cold water and seasonings. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for about 3 hours. Test meat for tenderness: when fork easily pierces (as with a baked potato), the meat is done. Never overcook.

For a boiled dinner, remove the meat and boil cabbage, new potatoes, and carrots in the beef stock.

After boiling, the brisket may also be rubbed with mustard and sugar, and then baked in the oven about 30 minutes at 350 degrees or until glazed.

***Note:** Corned Beef also makes a very good sandwich and leftovers. My best bet is a "Corned Beef Po'Boys" from Louisiana (*Cotton Country Collection*, 1972).

- 3 c finely shredded cabbage
- 1/2 c chopped celery
- 1 T finely chopped onion
- 1/4 c mayonnaise
- 1/4 c crushed red pepper
- 1 t salt
- 1 small clove pressed garlic

Mix all ingredients and refrigerate. Just before serving, warm slices of 1/2 lb corned beef, and spread 4 small loaves of French bread with butter; toast. Then spread the toast with Dijon mustard, and layer with slices of beef, chopped vegetable mixture, and to taste, sliced tomatoes. Truly delicious!



Best Today's Irish Stew Recipe*

Ingredients:

- 4-1/2 lbs lamb shoulder chops, 1 to 1-1/2 in thick, trimmed, meat removed from bones and cut into 1-1/2 inch pieces, bones reserved
- Salt and pepper
- 3 T vegetable oil
- 2-1/2 lbs onions, chopped coarsely
- 1/4 c all-purpose flour
- 3 c water
- 1 t dried thyme (or 2 tsps chopped fresh thyme)
- 2 lbs Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled, cut into 1-in pieces
- 1/4 c minced fresh parsley

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat to 300 degrees. Season lamb with salt and pepper. Heat 1 T oil in Dutch oven over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add half of lamb to pot so that individual pieces are close together but not touching.

Cook, without moving lamb, until well browned, 2-3 minutes. Using tongs, flip lamb pieces and continue to cook until most sides are well browned, about 5 minutes longer; transfer to bowl. Add 1 T oil to pot, swirl to coat pot, and repeat with remaining lamb; transfer to bowl and set aside.

Reduce heat to medium add remaining 1 T oil, and swirl to coat pot. Add onions and 1/4 t salt and cook, stirring frequently and scraping up any browned bits, until onions are golden, about 8 minutes. Add flour and stir until onions are evenly coated, 1-2 minutes.

Stir in 1-1/2 c water, scraping up any remaining browned bits. Gradually add remaining 1-1/2 c water, stirring constantly and scraping pot edges to dissolve flour. Add thyme and 1 t salt, bringing to a simmer. Add reserved bones, lamb, and juices. Return to simmer, cover, and transfer to oven. Cook for 1 hour.

Remove pot from oven and place potatoes on top of lamb and bones. Cover, return pot to oven, and cook until lamb is tender, about 1 hour. Stir potatoes into liquid, wait 5 minutes, then skim off any fat that rises to the top. Stew can be refrigerated at this point for up to 3 days, for skimming off fat. Then bring to simmer over medium-low heat before proceeding.

Stir in fresh parsley and season with salt and pepper to taste. Discard bones, if desired, and serve.

***Stew with carrots and turnips.**

Substitute 3 carrots, peeled and sliced 1/4 inch thick, and 8 oz (1 cup) turnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch thick pieces, for HALF the potatoes. (Adapted from *America's Test Kitchen, Cook's Best Soups and Stews*, Boston, 2017)

Irish Potato Biscuits*

Ingredients:

- 6 or 8 potatoes, mashed
- 1 c milk
- 1 t melted butter (or plant substitute)
- 1/2 c flour
- Sea salt to taste

Boil and mash potatoes. While warm, lay on a floured board and run the rolling pin over them until they are free from lumps. Turn into a bowl, add the milk and butter. Mix well. Add salt and just enough flour to make a soft dough. Return to the board, roll out quickly and lightly into a thin sheet. Cut into rounds. Bake in a quick oven. Butter each cake as they are done, laying one on top of the other in a pile. Eat before they fall.

***These biscuits and the following Irish Soda Bread make excellent accompaniments to the savorys, the corned beef with vegetables and the lamb stew. I owe both these recipes as well as the final one for the Irish Chocolate Potato Cake to my friend in Nova Scotia, Janet Hawkins, and the historic collection *Out of Old Nova Scotia Kitchens*, Marie Nightingale, 1989.**

Irish Soda Bread

Ingredients:

- 2 c flour
- 1-1/2 t baking powder
- 1/2 t baking soda
- 1/2 t sea salt
- 1 T sugar (organic cane or red preferred)
- 6 T butter (or plant substitute)
- 1/2 c light, seeded raisins
- 1 T caraway seeds
- 3/4 c sour milk (buttermilk or Greek-style yogurt thinned with milk can be substituted)

Measure and sift together the flour, baking powder, soda, salt, and sugar. Cut in the butter with two knives or a pastry blender, until the mixture has the consistency of cornmeal. Stir in the raisins and caraway seeds. Add the sour milk while stirring quickly with a fork. Turn dough onto a floured board and knead lightly for a moment. Shape into a round loaf about 3/4 in thick and place in a well-greased 8-in layer cake pan. With a floured knife, make a lengthwise and crosswise mark on the dough in the form of a cross. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 30-40 minutes, until done to a golden brown.

Irish Chocolate Potato Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 c butter (or plant substitute)
- 2 c sugar (organic cane or red preferred)
- 4 eggs (organic, free-range preferred)
- 3 oz unsweetened chocolate, melted (use your favorite chocolate)
- 1 c mashed potatoes
- 1 c sour milk (buttermilk or Greek-style yogurt thinned with milk can be substituted)
- 2 c flour
- 1 t baking powder
- 1/2 t baking soda
- 1/4 t sea salt
- 1 t cinnamon
- 1/4 t nutmeg

Combine the ingredients in order given. Pour into two greased and lined 9-in layer pans and bake in a 350 degree oven for 35 minutes. Cool 10 minutes. Turn out the cakes and cool on racks. This is a very moist cake. Ice if you wish with the chocolate butter icing that follows which will also keep beautifully and will not dry out.

Chocolate Butter Icing

Ingredients:

- 1/4 c butter (or plant substitute)
 - 2 squares of your favorite unsweetened chocolate, melted
 - 3 c powdered sugar
 - Hot water, for the right consistency
- Beat vigorously, and add 1 t vanilla.

Irish Coffee*

Ingredients:

- 1 c hot black coffee
 - Sugar to taste
 - 2 oz Irish whiskey
 - 1 heaping T whipped cream
- Warm a stemmed goblet or tall cup. Put a spoon into the goblet or tall cup and add hot coffee. Sweeten to taste and add whiskey. Top with whipped cream.

***Note:** A Louisiana version of Irish coffee: 1/2 oz Irish whiskey and 1/2 oz rum. Top whipped cream with freshly shredded coconut.



My Bailey's and Guinness Story

By ELIZABETH BRUNAZZI

Over the years my passion for the work of James Joyce brought me to various scholarly conferences. In 1990 I attended an International Joyce Colloquium in Dublin, Ireland. As a veteran of similar academic events where coffee is normally served for breaks between presentations, I was astonished to see waiters circulate offerings of Bailey's Irish Cream, and, best of all, a Guinness bar for the pint or so during such breaks. The attendance, I must say, was quite an illustrious one. And, gee, did we have a good time!

The Original Bailey's Irish Cream

By LOU MCCALL

I have a very fun cookbook called *A Treasury of Top Secret Recipes; A Complete Guide to Recreating America's Bestselling Brand-name Foods and Restaurant Recipes in Your Own Home* by Todd Wilbur. Here is the recipe for Bailey's Irish Cream; it is such a successful product that the company uses one third of all of Ireland's milk production. ENJOY!

- 1 c light cream (not heavy cream, can substitute half-and-half)
- 14 oz ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 1-2/3 c Irish whisky
- 1 t instant coffee
- 2 T chocolate syrup
- 1 t vanilla extract
- 1 t almond extract

Combine all ingredients in a blender on high speed for 30 seconds

Bottle in a tightly sealed container and refrigerate. The liqueur will keep for at least two months if kept cool.

Makes 4 cups. Shake well before serving. The luck o' the Irish to ye!

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GREETING CARDS BY PEGGY TRIGG



SPROUTINGS

From the Alta Vista 5th Grade Class

A Poem:

Saint Patrick must be lucky
 Four-clovers and pots of gold
 But if we are all good people
 We don't need luck
 For we will get paid back 100-fold
 So, remember to love and be nice
 And the luck of the four-leaf clover
 Might pay you back twice.

—Ryan A.



Paintings of St. Patrick by Amber A. top, and Haley C. below



Saint Patrick

By SIERRA O.

Patrick was born in Britain around 386 AD. When he was 16 he was captured and taken to Ireland. In Ireland he was sold to a chieftain and made into a sheep herder. While he was herding sheep, he started praying during the day and night. After six years while praying he started hearing the voice of God, and the voice told him to go back home. Patrick walked 200 miles to the coast and got a ship ride back home.

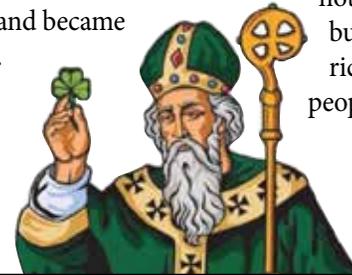
He went to France and became a bishop in the church. Because he loved the

Irish people, he returned to Ireland and became a missionary, and baptized thousands of Irish and established schools.

He used the shamrock to explain the Christian Trinity. They claim he drove the snakes out of Ireland, but there were no snakes in Ireland.

We know about his life from the two famous letters that he wrote in his later years. These letters describe his self-doubts and struggles, and his faith and hope in the world. He was

not canonized by the Pope but was called Saint Patrick because of the Irish people's love for him.



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Questa Girl Scout Troop 10692

By JACQUI ORTEGA

Girls Scouts is a program that engages and challenges girls. Girl Scouts offer many fun and educational activities, like earning badges, going on trips, selling cookies, exploring science, outdoor activities, and community service projects.

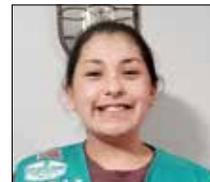
Questa Girl Scout Troop 10692 started in 2018 with Nicole Smith as leader, and Jacqui Ortega as co-leader. This is their third year of selling cookies! The troop is currently meeting via Zoom twice a month with surrounding troops to earn badges during

the pandemic. Questa's troop has a variety of girls—Daisy, Junior, Cadette, and Senior. With the proceeds from sales, they have done a sleepover at the zoo in Albuquerque and paid for registration renewal fees, uniforms, and supplies for their monthly meetings. The troop hopes they can get together soon as a group and have some more outdoor activity fun! They hope to make it to camp in Angel Fire at Camp Elliot Barker!

For any Girl Scout questions please contact Nicole archnikki89@gmail.com or Jacqui jacqui_rael@yahoo.com



Girl Scouts is a great organization. I have learned valuable skills. I hope to obtain a scholarship from Girl Scouts to attend college.



I enjoy meeting new people every year and seeing the joy on their faces when I deliver their cookies!



I like Girl Scouts because I get to experience building new relationships with girls from my community and around the state.



My favorite thing about Girls Scouts is selling cookies! I always have fun when we sell them.

Photos courtesy Troop 10692



My favorite part of Girl Scouts is earning patches and selling yummy cookies!



My favorite thing about Girl Scouts is selling cookies!



I like Girl Scouts because we have fun activities. I hope to earn a babysitting badge so I can babysit this summer!



My favorite part of Girl Scouts is earning patches and selling yummy cookies!

Library Gets PayPal Assist

FROM FRIENDS OF THE QUESTA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Donating to the Friends of the Questa Public Library (FQPL) Expansion Fund just got easier! A PayPal donation button has been added to the QPL website www.questalibrary.org for your convenience.

The FQPL board is happy to announce that we are on our way to reaching the \$30,000 goal needed to equip the new wing of the library. Expansion construction is still on track for a late spring completion and grand re-opening, pending pandemic health restrictions. Follow the construction progress on the library website and Facebook.

The board thanks our community for the new and renewed Friends mem-

berships, donations, grants, and all the volunteers who have come forward to help grow this important asset of the Village of Questa. We are proud to represent your interests in promoting literacy in our rural community.



Sharon Nicholson

Looking out... looking good! Progress continues on the new Questa Library addition.

Attention Readers: Zoom Book Club

The QPL Book Club is alive and well and ZOOMing right along. We would love to have you join us **March 22 at 3:30 pm**. The selection for **March is anything by Tana French**. Call the library at (575) 586-2023 to receive an invitation to the meeting. Everyone is welcome! Zoom assistance available. Read on!

Summer Reading Program Tails and Tales: A World of Fun

By QUESTA PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF

Attention all kids and parents! We are planning our Summer Reading Program for this year. It was necessary to cancel the 2020 program to help keep us all safe and healthy. Now things are looking better, and we look forward to inviting you to the library with its new building this summer.

Educators have recognized summer reading programs as valuable in motivating school-aged children to maintain and grow their reading skills during summer vacation. Summer reading also encourages regular use of the library and promotes library services and resources in the community.

This year's summer reading program is about reading and learning about animals. *Tails and Tales* is a fun and catchy phrase that will lead us to a world of animals, both real and fictional. The program includes activities to go along with the books we read. For young children, there will be simple

fun things to do. For older children, the challenge of creating their own animal story and characters. There will be outdoor activities, such as making bird-feeders, wind chimes, painting, drawing, and possibly planting a butterfly garden! We will be offering incentives and prizes to those who participate. And since we're talking about animals, some real animals with fluffy, wiggly, or feathery tails may be our special guests!

Dates for our Summer Reading Program will be posted soon! Call the library for more information or go to our website at questalibrary.org.

The Questa Public Library

Now open 12-5 pm Monday through Friday with limited occupancy. Computer appointments are encouraged. Find us at 6-1/2 Municipal Park Rd, Questa, NM 87556, just north of the Questa Medical Center. www.questalibrary.org Contact us at library@villageofquesta.org or (575) 596-2023.

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REMEMBERING JOE "JODY"
CISNEROS AND HIS ALTER-EGO
JOE MONDRAGON
BY MARK WHITE

Jody first saw me at the Questa Senior Center and promptly told me, a new guy in 2016, that he was John Nichols' inspiration for *Milagro Beanfield War's* Joe Mondragon. A researcher, I checked out his story and it indeed checked out, both in John's writings and in 2018 at the Q & A of the Friday night showing of *Milagro Beanfield War* at the Taos Center for the Arts auditorium on its 30th anniversary. In front of a packed crowd, I asked John if he had someone specific in mind when creating the Joe Mondragon character. Without hesitation he replied, "Up in Questa, Joe Cisneros."

For the 30th Anniversary celebration, the Questa Public Library allowed me to take their copy of the *Milagro Beanfield War* for John Nichols to sign it and he enthusiastically inscribed it with the following message: "March 17, 2018, To Questa, Thank you so much for giving me Joe Cisneros, and thus giving me this book and Joe Mondragon! Hasta la victoria, Siempre! John Nichols"

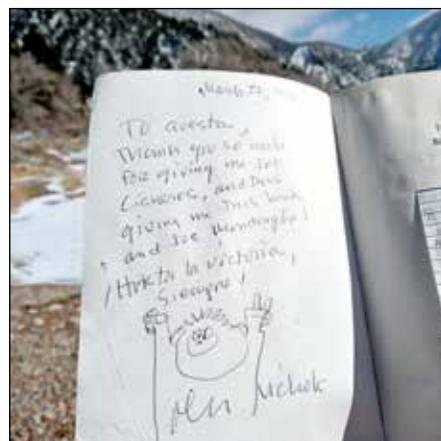
Joe was proud of inspiring John's Joe Mondragon character. His role got him a lot of attention, which he didn't mind at all. He liked to tell people about many fan visits to Questa and trips elsewhere for appearances. He took me for a ride to San Luis one time. While he got his haircut, I visited the county office. I told the fellow at the desk I was in town with the model for Joe Mondragon after I had asked about my business. He said he had to tell the treasurer, a huge *Milagro Beanfield War* fan. She came to the desk and was delighted to meet Jody when I brought him in from his truck.

Joe invited me to see a Colorado College class visiting Questa to hear him and Dave Rael talk about mine pollution. They spoke at the Youth Center, then went to Eagle Rock Lake and across from the water treatment plant. The professor was delighted with Jody and Dave and the students were very attentive. Jody told me lots of stories about Milagro fans.

When I visited Joe I took photos. He was quite an artist and craftsman, with a great feel for wood and carving animals from it. He was quite a character with his "Chief protagonist of *Milagro Beanfield*

War" front license plate on his Buick, one of his many vehicles. I got a shot of him leaning on that car next to it. At Jody's request I took a photo of a door he had made for Dave Rael's guesthouse, a spectacular piece with a very evocative owl carving. Thanks for asking, Jody.

Jody was certainly controversial in Questa. Talking about my desire to use *Milagro's* fame to get the Taos-Red River traffic to drop more dollars here could prompt bitter denunciations. Locals seem attuned



Mark White

John Nichols, author of *Milagro Beanfield War* thanked Questa for raising Jody with this inscription in Questa Public Library's copy of the book.

to John Nichols' question about Joe Mondragon: "What's that little half-pint son of a bitch want to cause so much trouble for?" Joe just thought people were jealous of his fame and how it introduced him to Elizabeth Taylor. John had seen there was more to it than that, but maybe Jody had seen some jealousy as well. Here's hoping we can avoid speaking ill of the dead.

Questa might capitalize on the *Milagro Beanfield* story and create a way to visit "Joe Mondragon's Workshop" or see some of the places mentioned in the book, and have archives available to researchers, to add to the mix of Questa's tourist attractions. Questa folks could work their tourist jobs near home rather than spending miles and gasoline on the roads to Taos and Red and points beyond. *Milagro* fans are looking for John Nichols' composite for their magically realistic pilgrimage. If they look in Questa, they'll find the biggest part of it. If Jody's legacy saves just one Questa driver from hitting an elk between work and home because tourists come here rather than us going to them, can we all give our thanks to Jody for being himself? Or more of us at least?

TWO FRIENDS... TWO GOODBYES
By VANETTE HARRIS

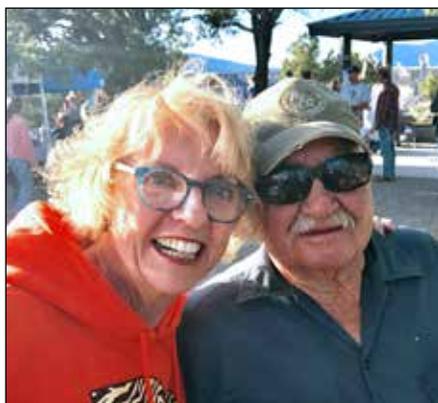
True friends are a luxury. They are worth more than silver or gold. They have your back. They tell their story, and they listen to yours.

This month David and I have had to say "goodbye" to two good Questa friends: Joe Cisneros and Dora Maes. We met Joe and Dora while enjoying good meals at the Questa Senior Center. They were so welcoming to us Texans, people who didn't talk like them, but they always had a big smile and a "how-are-you-doing?" when we walked in the door.

Joe Cisneros never met a stranger, as anyone who knew him would tell you. He loved telling us about his claim-to-fame movie, *Just Call Me Joe*. He even lent us a copy, which we thoroughly enjoyed watching. We not only learned more about Joe, but also the community of Questa. He may have been short in stature, but he stood tall for Questa and its people. Joe was an environmental activist, before some of us even knew what that meant. We sure are going to miss seeing him around town, at the Senior Center, the post office, the coffee shop, the hardware store... wherever people were, there was Joe. Rest In Peace, our friend.

Dora Maes was another friend who we met at the Senior Center. She loved art

and was an accomplished artist herself. During our summers (before COVID-19), Dora and I and several other ladies would meet at the Center to paint. We learned from each other, even though we painted in different styles. We visited, painted, and drank coffee. Some of the ladies who didn't paint would work on puzzles or read the paper... and drink coffee, of course. Last summer, because of the pandemic, we could not go inside, so I would pick up coffee at Rael's Coffee Shop and head to Dora's house. She loved those visits... just drinking coffee and visiting. We always said we were going to get out our brushes and paints, but we never did. It was enough being together for an hour enjoying each other's company. You will be missed, "Dorie." Rest In Peace, our friend.



David Harris

Vanette Harris and Joe Cisneros NeoRio

JOE A. CISNEROS, QUESTA'S
FAVORITE TROUBLEMAKER

Joe A. Cisneros, "Chief Protagonist of the *Milagro Beanfield War*," activist, carpenter, plumber, friend, and father was called home to be with our only Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on February 2, 2021. Joe was born on November 3, 1936 to Francisco and Corina Cisneros and was the sixth of eleven children. Joe was known for his many talents with wood, both as a carpenter and an artist. He will be remembered for his creativity and ability to make things work, but will also be remembered for his activism, creating friends and foes alike throughout his full life.

Joe is preceded in death by his parents Francisco and Corina Cisneros, Josie and Gilbert Gonzales (sister and brother-in-law), Rose Cisneros (sister-in-law), Frank Cisneros, Fabian and Presides Cisneros (brother and sister-in-law), and Maria Cisneros (infant sister).

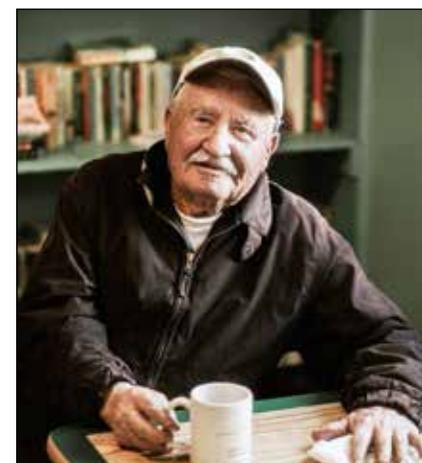
He is survived by Mary Ann Casados (former wife), sons: Pastor Joseph (Dina) Cisneros, Pastor Larry (Catherine) Cisneros, Andrew Cisneros, and David Cisneros. He is survived by grandchildren Joshijah and Abigail Cisneros; Larry, Jonathan, and Michael Cisneros; Brooke Cisneros; Bobby, Brit-

ney, and Santiago. He is also survived by great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Joe is also survived by siblings Stanley (Fabiola) Cisneros-Taos, Modesto Cisneros, Levi (Gail) Cisneros, Irene Cisneros (sister-in-law), Flavio Cisneros, Richard (Vickie) Cisneros, and Irene Cisneros, all of Questa.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. The family of Joe A. Cisneros has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

www.devergastaos.com 1-866-657-4019. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Joe A. Cisneros, please visit the Tribute Store at <https://www.devergastaos.com/obituary/JoeA-Cisneros/sympathy>



Jessica Hurtado

EULOGY FOR STARR
From MOSE RAINAULT

I was newly sober 30 years ago when I moved from Taos to Questa, and I was looking at the world through rose-colored glasses, a new start... it was exciting. Little did I know then what awaited me.

I settled into my new digs and eventually had to do laundry, so I pulled up to the laundromat and with my big green plastic basket (which I still have and use), I nudged open the door to the laundromat, backed, in and turned around to set the basket down. I stood there dumbfounded because I was looking at a hand-painted cement floor that looked and felt like an ancient Anasazi reproduction. I couldn't move. Jan, the owner, chuckled and said, "You can come in, it's all dry, you won't hurt it." My response was, "Who was the Michaelangelo of Questa, New Mexico?" She laughed again and said, "Well, he is a SHE and her name is Starr and she lives next door."

Starr and I soon met at an art studio function in Questa—of which there were many at that time—and we began this beautiful journey which came to an end a short time ago. We both had busy lives and so our friendship developed slowly. Starr's daughter, Dancer, was starting college at St. Johns College in Santa Fe, where she met her future husband, Ben. Shortly after college they married and moved to Ben's hometown in Maine. Lo and behold, Starr's granddaughter, little Eleanor, showed up. Starr loved kids, "Little People," she called them. And fuzzy



Dancer Jenkins-Starr

Starr at her family's home in Maine.

animals. Although Starr started life off as a secretary, she became a teacher and lucky were those kids that she taught, as she was the most sincere and guileless soul that I have ever met.

Starr had established a reputation as the sewing maven of the county. Many of you who are reading this will know her amazing skill at producing fabric miracles.

Seven years after meeting Starr, my partner Richard died, and again, a new life began. I opened up Graystone Farm Woodworks in the building that now houses Elite Fitness and that's where Starr and I started collaborating on our artist work. First of all, I hired her to make Roman shades, which many of you have in your homes. I had a large showroom

and represented many artists; Starr was one of them.

At one point, Starr faced a housing crisis. Between the two of us, we procured a wonderful apartment in Questa. I fabricated a very large work table and that's where Starr really came into her own with her fabric creations. One wall of the room was stacked chin high with old-fashioned wooden fruit boxes chock full of fabric, all color coordinated.

A short aside that shows her dedication and artistry: Starr was commissioned by a customer in Colorado to make four sets of drapes for their 2nd-floor master bedroom located in a tower room. The owners wanted a representation of the aspens surrounding their house showing the four seasons. Starr had found a piece of yellow gold fabric which she cut into small squares, scrunched up, and then sewed individually to represent autumn leaves... Some attached to the branches, others falling through the air and some falling on the ground. She had the patience of Job and loved the challenge.

For the nearly 20 years that I had the shop, I knocked on her door promptly at 9 am almost every day. One minute before 9 am brought out the Black Irish in her. We would have coffee and cookies and between the two of us we pretty much kept the world on an even keel. We disagreed on many things, but our friendship was never challenged. At one point she accused me of being the most optimistic pessimist that she knew. We had a laugh at that one!

I strongly believe that each and every

one of us is born with an addiction. The one we had in common was cigarettes. I, many years before, was able to stop smoking, the hardest thing I had ever done. Starr hand-rolled her American Spirit cigarettes and sort of half-heartedly argued that they weren't that lethal. She finally rolled her last one about six years ago, but by then the damage was done.

Time passed and we aged, and COPD became the third person in our friendship. It didn't share the love we had for each other. It was harsh and cruel, and the time came when her daughter Dancer had to come and bring her home with her to Maine, as the altitude here had become just too difficult. The only way Starr could travel was by train. I drove them down to the Amtrak station at Lamy one fall afternoon and kissed her goodbye as she sat in her wheelchair waiting for the train. It turned out she enjoyed the ride and began to get her strength back due to the lower elevation. Ben fixed her up with a work table and she started working again, making Halloween costumes and gifts for new family members. Then, sadly, her disease finally overtook her life and she passed away on January 8, 2021.

I believe that the death of a loved one is the creation of the gift of memories. This has been my gift to her, to share these fond memories. So, Starr, I know you are up there with a golden thimble, madly creating stars to help us light our way. See you around, kiddo.

Your old chum, Mose

(Oh! You will let us know, won't you?)

KAREN LOUISE STARR
BY DANCER JENKINS-STARR

"Starr" passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 8, 2021. She had been at Cove's Edge, a nursing facility in Damariscotta, Maine and under long-term care for a short time, due to her declining health.

Starr was born in Baltimore, Maryland on September 29, 1946. Her family moved to Florida when she was nine. When she was 20, she moved to New Mexico, where she lived for most of the next 50 years. Starr's health eventually required her to move to a lower altitude, and while she enjoyed spending the last few years with her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter in Maine, her heart was always in northern New Mexico.

Starr held a wide variety of titles and jobs over the years, from kindergarten teacher to Teacher Corps administrator, organic gardener and goat herder to interior design professional. When she was

seven, a book about making dolls and doll clothes set her on a lifelong journey of sewing in many forms, and the craft and creation of amazing works of fabric art.

She was predeceased by her parents, Katherine and Buddy Starr. Starr is survived by her daughter, Dancer Jensen-Starr, son-in-law Ben Frey, and granddaughter Eleanor Frey of Newcastle, Maine; sister Donna Oakes of Arizona; brother Albert Starr and Peg MacNicol and nephew Charles Starr of Oregon; sister Mary Starr Smith of Nebraska, nephew David Oakes and Amy Stoklas-Oakes and grand-nephews Cam, Tevel, and Keefe Oakes; and by her many dear friends from New Mexico.

No services will be held, per Starr's request, but those who knew her, please have a cup or three of black coffee and a story, or better yet a long wide-ranging conversation, in her memory. In the spring, her ashes will be placed under a tree in the New Mexico mountains.

DORA A. MAES

Dora A. Maes, age 88, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully on February 7, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband Jose Ben Maes; parents Segrinio and Annita Romero; grandson Gary Maes, Jr.; siblings Ralph, Segrinio Jr., Jake Romero, and Mary Mondragon.

Dora is survived by her children Loren Maes (Beatrice), Diane Larmore (Mike), and Gary Maes; grandchildren Anna, Audrea, Donna, Valerie, Julie, Donald, Angie, Michael, Benjamin, and Kristina; 25 great-grandchildren; her brother Tony Romero, and many loving relatives and friends.

Rosary was recited on Friday February 12 at 9 am followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 10 am at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa, with burial to follow at the El Pueblito Cemetery. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, seating was limited. The family of Dora A. Maes entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Dora A. Maes, please visit the Tribute Store at <https://www.devargastaos.com/obituary/DoraA-Maes/sympathy>

UNABLE ARE THE LOVED TO DIE,
FOR LOVE IS IMMORTALITY.

EMILY DICKINSON



MARCH REVIEW:
PARASITE

Writer and director—and Oscar winner in both categories—Bong Joon Ho received his degree in sociology before turning to movie-making. His movies reflect that background, exploring the dark side of social class distinctions in ways that people without that training may not. In *Snowpiercer*, his 2013 movie, the message is thickly layered, almost with a trowel, as he tells the tale of a futuristic train where the lower classes live in the back of the train and slowly move forward through stratified railway cars as they stage a bloody revolt against the ruling class

occupying the front cars. The metaphor is heavy-handed and perhaps a little too obvious.

Six years later, in *Parasite*, Bong treats the same subject with much more nuance and creates a more effective film. Here we find the social classes represented by two families, the Kims and the Parks.

The Kims live in cramped quarters, half underground, in one of Seoul's more destitute neighborhoods and attempt to make a living assembling pizza boxes and working the gig economy with mixed success. Like many in their social class, they have to deal with the miseries that poverty breeds, like living bugs and dying dreams.

In an unusual turn of events, one of the Kims has an opportunity to tutor a child in the Park family, who occupy a distinctly higher rung on the social ladder. From there, the movie turns into a farcical con as the Kims slowly move the entire family, not just into the Parks' lives, but physically, into their house. The Park home is clearly the opposite of the Kims', with wide open spaces, luxurious comforts, and stunningly beautiful views. The first half of the film exposes the gullibility of the Parks as they become increasingly dependent on the

Kim family without really knowing just how much they have ceded. In scene after scene, we see the con grow as the two families increasingly intertwine.

Much has been said about how this movie shifts between genres. And, clearly, the first half of the movie occupies the comedy category. But then things change, and viewers' emotions change too. Events create tension and we realize that darkness and danger are now much closer to the surface. If the first half of the movie is satirically funny, the second half becomes more like a Hitchcock thriller. But the transition isn't immediate: Bong moves us into it slowly, which brings the tension more fully into play. The surprise is, fittingly, in the basement and you will never see it coming. But the presence grows as the movie progresses and the uncertainty of the outcome fuels the movie's stunning climax.

Bong's imagery is riddled with layers. Not only are both homes horizontally structured, but the transitions between them are navigated by climbing either up or down ramps, stairs, streets, and driveways. He has done a masterful job of communicating his message through cinematic staging. There is one sequence in particular, that shows the

Kims retreating from the Park house, climbing downstairs. As the camera pulls back, we see just how many steps there are and how distinctly different their two locations are. The nomination for cinematography is richly deserved.

And so is the one for editing. This is a tightly constructed film. There is some disagreement about whether the coda is fully necessary, or maybe too long. But definitely the rest of the movie moves seamlessly, conveying the viewer between each scene with perfect emotional cadence.

In the end, though, this is Bong's movie, and he deserves the singular credit for achieving a near-genius mastery of multiple genres. He keeps your attention by focusing on powerful issues of contemporary society. By exposing the insidious structure of class relationships spawned by unregulated capitalism, he demonstrates that much of what we identify as class struggle is really the symbiosis of our economic life. Indeed, the fundamental question behind *Parasite* is who is feeding off whom? And is that really the way life should be?

Although I am not sure this is really the best movie of 2019, I do agree that it ranks extremely high. A masterful cinematic experience. (5 Stars)

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



by Martha Shepp

Waiting in line at Questa Credit Union.
Apparently cows make deposits too.

Think you can
take a good
photo? Share it.



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

MARCH POEM

6-1-2020

Long ago in a place of No Return
a blossom bloomed in the desert
a mushroom sprang from the desert floor
a baby boy was born
The Light was a mist of silver
a breeze blew steady stirring
Mother Earth swirling her gown
of emerald green as it shimmered
in the Moonlight
far in the distance a bell rang
a whistle blew
a thin line of smoke rose from a stone chimney
The mother cooed and rocked singing a song
of legends and mysteries
The Fairies of the Wood silently watched over
the Mother and the child
sprinkling their magic over Home and Hearth
Blessing beginnings shared together
Honoring the untouched path of the future
Giving Love to the Heart of the moment

marta glover

Social Security Phone Scams Plague Local Seniors

By STAFF WRITERS

There are a growing number of seniors in the Questa area who have received phone calls from individuals claiming to represent the Social Security Administration (SSA), trying to get Social Security numbers or money. That scam continues to grow, and social media reports that the problem is nationwide. In 2017, the FTC's Division of Consumer and Business Education received 3,200 reports regarding SSA imposter scams and those individuals reported losing nearly \$210,000. The following year these numbers jumped to more than 35,000 people reporting the scam, saying they have lost a total of \$10 million. The data for 2020 is not yet available.

These criminals have tricks up their sleeves. When these scammers call, your caller ID may show the real SSA phone number (1-800-772-1213) but they're faking that number. It's not the real SSA calling.

From the SSA's website: "Scammers are saying your Social Security number (SSN) has been suspended because of suspicious activity, or because it's been involved in a crime. Sometimes, the scammer wants you to confirm your SSN to reactivate it. Sometimes, he'll say your bank account is about to be seized but he'll tell you what to do to keep it safe. (Often, that involves putting your money on gift cards and giving him the codes—which, of course, means that your money is gone.)"

Here's what to know about Social Security phone scams:

AWARENESS IS KEY

- Your Social Security number is not about to be suspended. You don't have to verify your number to anyone who calls out of the blue. And your bank accounts are not about to be seized.
- SSA will never call to threaten your benefits or tell you to wire money, send cash, or put money on gift cards. Anyone who tells you to do those things is a scammer. Every time.
- The real SSA number is 1-800-772-1213, but scammers are able to put that number in the caller ID. If you're worried about what the caller says, hang up and call 1-800-772-1213 to speak to the real SSA. Even if the wait time is long, confirm with the real SSA before responding to one of these calls.
- Never give any part of your Social Security number to anyone who contacts you, or your bank account or credit card number.
- If you get one of these calls, tell the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

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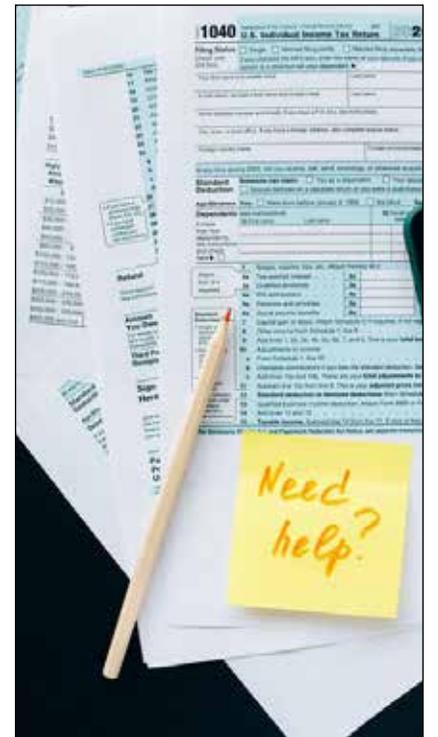
PROVIDING FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides virtual tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

Taxpayers are required to have an appointment to have their tax returns prepared. They can schedule an appointment by calling 888-OUR-AARP (888-687-2277) or they can visit the website at <https://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/taxaide> to request tax preparation. The taxpayer will likely get a call back or an e-mail.

People will also have the option of doing their taxes online or by phone with help by Tax-Aide's IRS-certified counselors or Tax-Aide will also provide taxpayers with free access to software, so they can prepare their own taxes. Taxpayers can also request help from a Tax-Aide IRS-certified counselor or to coach them through the process through computer screen sharing.

To get more information on the Tax-Aide program https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide



Courtesy Photo

This story is provided by AARP New Mexico. Visit the the AARP website, <https://local.aarp.org/taos-nm/> for more news, events, and programs affecting retirement, health care, and more.

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Miniatures Exhibit at Millicent Rogers Museum

By GRETA BRUNSCHWYLER

The 19th Annual Taos County Artists' Miniatures Show and Sale at the Millicent Rogers Museum opened with a virtual reception on February 10 and ran through February 28. This annual event demonstrated the museum's ongoing commitment to support the local arts in Taos County as well as fulfilling its mission of sharing and celebrating the arts and cultures of the southwest.

Each year, the museum puts out an open call for all Taos County artists to submit works for this popular event. All works must fit the criteria of being "miniature" (less than 100 square inches), meet museum quality standards, be orig-

inal, less than a year old, and may not have been shown in any other exhibit. The Miniatures Show and Sale includes paintings, drawings, photography, prints, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, and more.

Questa area artists' works in the show were quite varied, ranging from mixed media to oil to ceramics. The variety and high caliber of all demonstrated the depth and strength of the area's collective artistic talent. These excellent works from Questa included Diane de Fremery's whimsical, ethereal graphite and watercolor *Cattywampus*, Roger Harrington's stately, classic oil painting *Pear*, Sandra Harrington's lovely ceramic vase *Midnight Bloom*, Michael Ridder's eye-catching ceramic *Vase with Red*

Stripe, Cami Thompson's look back at summer's past in an oil painting, *Taos Garden*, and Peggy Trigg's rich, textural oil painting, entitled *Irrigation in Winter*.*

We also saw lovely art from the surrounding communities of northern Taos County, including Amalia artist Karen Ahlgren with her elegantly balanced watercolor and gouache entitled *Seeds of Change* and Costilla artist Allegra Sleep's glimpse of a childhood dream in mixed media, *Sarah & Daisy Sharing Secrets*.

These works were offered for sale as a way to support both the local arts community and the museum. This event provided a great opportunity for emerging and established artists to

exhibit their work. Those who visited the museum to view the show, as well as those who saw the show virtually on the Museum's website (millicentrogers.org) had the opportunity to vote for the People's Choice Award in three separate categories. The winners were as follows: 2-D "Rise Up" by Lydia Johnston, 3-D "A Tribute to San Isidro, Our Patron Saint" by Nina Sampsel and jewelry "Spring" Leaf necklace by Marilyn Nicholson.

We welcome you to the Museum Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm, at 1504 Millicent Rogers Road, Taos, NM 87571. The Museum follows all New Mexico State COVID-19-mandated guidelines and is New Mexico State COVID Safe Certified.



"Cattywampus"
Diane deFremery



"Ceramic Vase with Red Stripe"
Michael Ridder



"Seeds of Change"
Karen Ahlgren



"Midnight Bloom"
Sandra Harrington

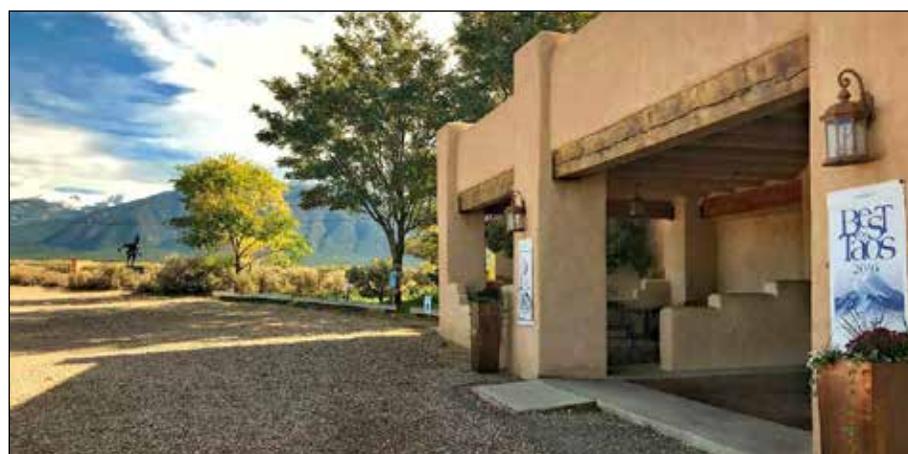


"Taos Garden"
Cami Thompson

Going to the Museum is a SNAP!

By GRETA BRUNSCHWYLER

On Valentine's Day 2021, the Millicent Rogers Museum felt a special need to give something to our community after this especially difficult and trying year. They have joined a signature access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), to encourage people of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits. The program is available to those receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits and supports them in visiting the Millicent Rogers Museum. The cost is a minimal fee of one dollar for up to five people, with the presentation of a SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer card. "Museums for All" is a part of the Millicent Rogers Museum's



Courtesy photo

broad commitment to seek, include, and truly welcome ALL audiences. Happy belated Valentine's from the Millicent Rogers Museum!

Museums for All helps expand access to museums and also raise public aware-

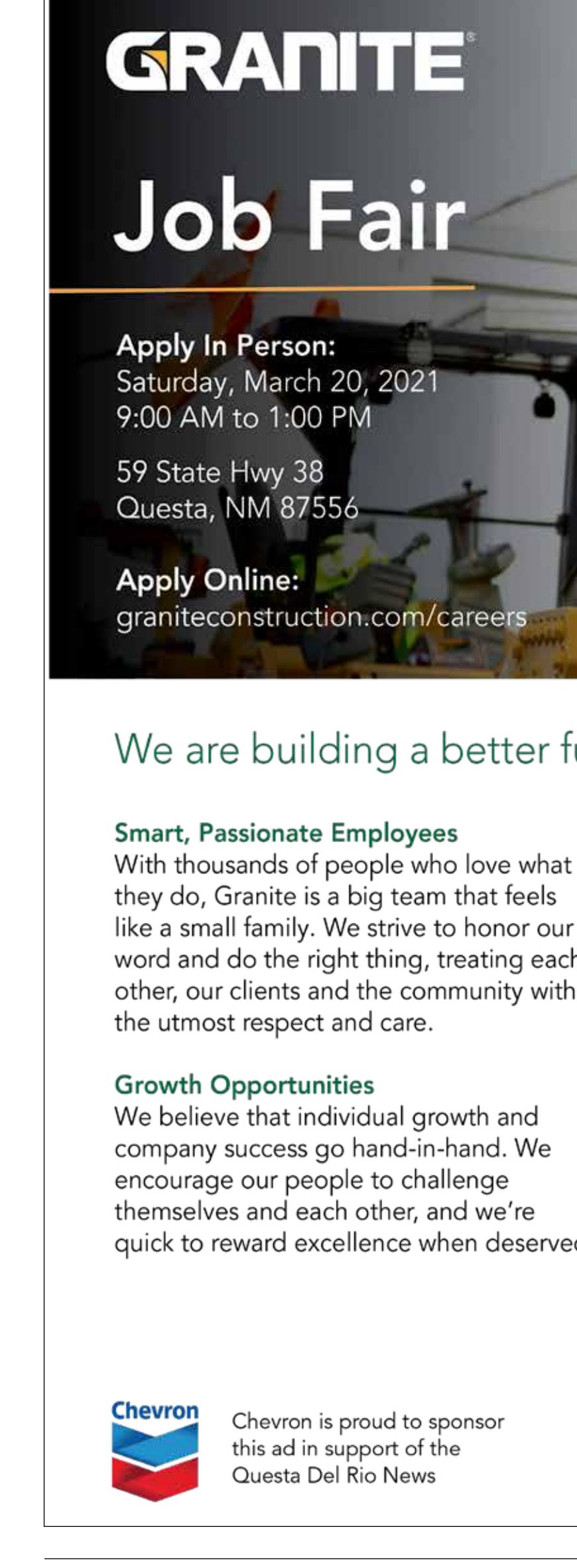
ness about how museums in the U.S. are reaching their entire communities. More than 500 institutions participate in this initiative, including art museums, children's museums, science centers, zoos, and more. The IMLS is the primary

source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Their mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, life-long learning, and cultural and civic engagement. To learn more, visit imls.gov.

The Museum is open: Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 10-4; free for children under 10 and museum members. Please check <https://millicentrogers.org/> for current information.

Also check out the 19th annual "Miniatures" show of Taos artists' works!

Greta Brunschwyl
Executive Director
Millicent Rogers Museum
greta@millicentrogers.org
(575) 758-2462 ext. 222
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- Heavy Equipment Oilers
- Grade Foreman
- Project Administrator

This event complies with CDC COVID-19 guidance.



Chevron is proud to sponsor this ad in support of the Questa Del Rio News



MURALS cont'd from page 1

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research reports that "vacant and abandoned properties are linked to increased rates of crime (particularly arson) and declining property values." *Business News* (September 2019) counters that when "locals and tourists frequent a mural and spend their money in the area, the building on which the mural is painted becomes more desirable, ultimately increasing its property value." Americans for the Arts, a national organization to cultivate the arts, goes on to say that "every dollar invested into nonprofit arts (such as murals) generates \$6 in taxes."

"A growing body of research has positively identified murals with social, cultural, and economic benefits, as well as with positive mental health," states the website of the Community Rejuvenation Project, a mural arts non-profit in East Bay, CA (crpbayarea.org). "Murals are examples of the 'broken windows' theory in reverse by creating a feeling that a location is cared for."

Mark White is a local who has many

ideas for the application of murals around Questa. He suggests, "Highly visible painted walls coming into town would catch a visitor's attention. Could a surprise glimpse somewhere unexpected give a visitor a reason to stop and explore our offerings instead of driving straight through?" Mark would like to see the legacy of the *Milagro Beanfield Wars*, written by Taos author John Nichols and based on events and characters from Questa, brought to life in a mural promoting this historic connection to our village. White would like the public to know that Questa is the village of Milagro in Nichols's book.

Toner Mitchell, the New Mexico Water and Habitat Program Director for Trout Unlimited—and a big fan of Questa, says, "I would love to see a huge cutthroat trout painted on something. It's a common practice around the west for fishermen who visit destinations with cool fishing art to take pictures and share them among their friends." This is free publicity and promotion of our area's excellent fishing.

Mayor Mark Gallegos, owner of El Monte Carlo in the center of town, has already given permission for the group to use the south wall of his building which



E. Wilde

Questa Library Mural.

faces Questa Credit Union, for a potential mural. The Mural Project will explore design ideas, with no shortage of creative inspiration.

A fundamental element of the Mural Project is to get local youth involved, to have them work with area artists and residents, bringing the community together to design, paint, and spruce up Questa. This collaboration will enhance our "pride of place" and make an immediate difference in beautifying the town they call home.

The economic development strategy is to beautify the Village with the ultimate objective of attracting and securing new tenants with business enterprises that will

contribute to Questa's long term "diverse and sustainable" economy.

- Do you own a highway-facing empty commercial property in Questa, or a blank wall? You may be interested in being part of the Mural Project.
- Are you interested in participating in the Mural Project with hands-on planning, inventorying, painting, and property beautification?
- Do you represent youth in the area that you would like to see get involved in this initiative?

Please contact Lynn Skall at (575) 586-2149 or lynn@QuestaEDF.com.

BUSINESS PROFILE cont'd from page 5

it at all. So I called Michael and said, 'I'm sticking with you!' The value pricing for such great quality is a bonus."

There is no better endorsement than word of mouth. Nora referred the product to a friend suffering from chronic pain who exclaimed, "This CBD oil is the bomb!"

Another influential example is Trevor Morones, Founding Partner and Co-CEO

of Control Point, a food safety optimization and training firm in Las Vegas, Nevada. His company is applying its expertise to the hemp industry. Trevor's respect for the hemp plant prompted him to reach out to Michael to learn more about his operation. Trevor was impressed by Michael's sincere caring for people, his staff, and by the farm's potential. Michael suggested his Restore product for Trevor. Later, Trevor raved, "I spoke with my best pharmacist/friend about the compounding effect that

I could have from AEDs (Anti-Epileptic Drugs). I am thrilled to share that Roots & Herbs is the only oil I have found to be safe, consistent, and genuine. On my continued personal medical journey, I am delighted to use Roots & Herbs daily." The collaboration between Control Point and Roots & Herbs is an exciting new beginning.

Roots & Herbs products are available in Questa at El Monte Carlo, and in Taos at Cid's Food Market and Taos Market, and

in Arroyo Seco at Sol Food Market. Online shopping launches on March 7 at <https://rootsandherbsfarm.com>, where customer service is prompt and efficient.

Congratulations, Michael! Your dream is now reality and will continue to grow.

Michael Nezi, CEO & Founder
 Roots & Herbs,
 Questa, NM
<https://rootsandherbsfarm.com/>
 @rootsandherbsfarm
 on Facebook and Instagram

OCHO cont'd from page 12

beginning in front of OCHO in 2015. It was originally sponsored by OCHO and called the Fall Farmer's Market, a community event championed by many individuals. By 2016 Gaea helped form the Northern New Mexico Growers and Makers Exchange, sponsored by LEAP, and had moved it to the corner of Hwy 522 and Hwy 38 at the Questa stoplight. Meanwhile, a Friday market continued in front of OCHO through 2017 by Ray and Jeanie Seibert who spent summers here from Texas. Musician Ray was keen on hosting fellow musicians and also selling his delicious chokecherry jelly. That little summer popup market continued on Fridays when Ray and Jeanie

were visiting from Texas through 2017.

Barrie graciously extended OCHO for community events and the Friday popup market continued concurrent with Questa Farmers Market, on different days of the week, with different capacities. The QFM has continued to grow into one of Questa's favorite summer and fall hangouts. It is a community project that has taken shape over the years guided by community members and their needs. It all started with OCHO, which provided a platform for so many creative developments in the community. (See related QFM story on page 16, 17)

Music events were produced and often performed by Martha Shepp and friends. Martha miraculously procured two pianos at one point! Sundays were

Community Music Days, when Lama legend Al Sutherland and other jazz greats came and improv'd. There were also a few evening Cabaret bistro-style concerts, when the place was transformed into an intimate restaurant atmosphere and Barrie's cooking crowned the experience.

Other music event highlights include The Peyote Bird Blues Band, the Questa High School Mariachis, and Jean Rael's Aztec Dancers at Dia de los Muertos. Art shows include several Neo Rio shows and the first two exquisite Wild Rivers Plein Air painting shows, put together by Peggy Trigg.

Volunteers showed up in so many ways, working, doing dishes, and pitching in. Leadership for events was buoyed by many hands and hearts.

Barrie Andrews remembers, "The most common comment I heard was, 'I'm seeing my neighbors whom I rarely see...' We remain grateful for the many memories."

In 2020 Barrie moved her healing arts practice to her home. The name OCHO was chosen partially because of the address, 8 Highway 38, and partially due to Barrie's mother's birthday; 8/8. With Min Jae Hong now in California caring for his elderly mother, and Barrie with her mother in El Rito, the two have come to the decision to sell the OCHO building. It is indeed the end of an era for the Questa community. Min Jae says, "Yes, it is an end of an era and also the beginning of a new one. There are so many more exciting creative possibilities coming..."

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
MARCH 2021

EQUINOX!

“We became the best of beings.” —Amanda Gorman

The vernal equinox, or first day of Spring, is a much appreciated day by most cultures worldwide, no matter which side of the equator you live on. That day for the northern hemisphere is March 20 this year, marking the day that the Sun shifts from the introspective hibernation of Pisces into the birth of Aries, the beginning of a new zodiacal cycle. The Sun has completed its march through every sign of the zodiac; we have had the opportunity to reap the lessons of every sign and now it's time to start the cycle all over again, hopefully on a higher level. After the year we have been through, this would be a perfect time to birth ourselves into higher levels of tolerance and understanding, expansion and unity, to make a new cycle's resolution of doing things better, so that this time next year, we can look back upon 2021 and confidently affirm the quote above.

The Spring and Fall equinoxes are the two times every year when the sun is shining straight down on the equator, making night and day of equal duration in both northern and southern hemispheres. What a perfect time to ponder upon the meaning of equality. Are we all equals? Of course not! No more than Aries is equal to Pisces; we are all in fact, very different. That is the meaning behind the age of Aquarius, the age for the people. As opposed to thinking of people as the masses, which Cancer rules, we now think of people as individuals within the group of humanity. THAT is how we are equal; honoring one another's different appearances, cultures, beliefs, and personal expressions of who we are. We are all different and we are all equally treading a path, back to our source.

Everyone: Look for blessings in the last week of the month, including Venus on the 28th on the western horizon at sunset—the brightest she will be in the evening all year.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: Communication may get a little tricky the latter half of the month.
Direction: Remember it's temporary.
Soul Thought: When words can bite.

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: You may be trying to hold onto something that's trying to break in two.
Direction: Maybe two is better?
Soul Thought: When two become one?

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: While it's clear sailing, sailing may not be your favorite sport!
Direction: Hold on to the gunwales.
Soul Thought: Or, spread your own wings!

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: You've been in the same "place" for quite a while now.
Direction: An opportunity to Just Be.
Soul Thought: The stability of water.

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: Even as the seasons, you have the opportunity to start afresh.
Direction: On the foundation of where you've been.
Soul Thought: “Thank you for being part of my life, whether you were a reason, a season or a lifetime.” (author unknown)

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: As usual, you are an instigator.
Direction: Of what? Is the question.
Soul Thought: You are also a receiver.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: You're going to be in this place for a while.
Direction: Decide what is worth holding onto and what isn't.
Soul Thought: “They kept going because they were holding on to something. That there's some good in this world, Mr. Frodo, and it's worth fighting for.” —Sam, Lord of the Rings

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: Those communication challenges build through the month.
Direction: An opportunity to honey your words.
Soul Thought: What is a sharp tongue?

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♂ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: You are seriously out there on your own, in a good way!
Direction: Great time to get things done!
Soul Thought: Ritin', Research and Rithmatic!

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You probably feel the pressure building; Results are often explosions.
Direction: You could choose to direct the power instead.
Soul Thought: The power of a firehose.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: What an incredibly powerful time for you!
Direction: Use that power well.
Soul Thought: In groups and alone.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: You have a tendency to take things seriously.
Direction: It's okay to enjoy yourself once in a while.
Soul Thought: Seriously!

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

MARCH 2021

MARCH 1 6:00 - 8:00 pm

State of the Village with Mayor Mark Gallegos: 2021 Project Outlooks for the year and Q & A. Meeting held via GoToMeeting. Join from computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/231554837> Dial in by phone: (877) 309-2073. Access Code: 231-554-837

MARCH 2 6:00 pm

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

MARCH 2 1:00-5:00 pm

Vaccine Clinic in Questa. Must be registered with NM Dept or Health (See page 10 for details).

MARCH 4 6:00 pm

Free Passion to Profits Workshop featuring the Regional Development Corporation's Danny Maki presenting resources for entrepreneur training, grants, and funding. Email for Zoom link lynn@questaedf.com.

MARCH 6 Meditation for the Wellbeing of the World and Humanity. For details, please visit <https://blazinglight.net/>.

MARCH 9 6:00 pm

Village of Questa Town Council Meeting online via GoToMeeting. All meetings are open to the public and include an allotted time for public comments. For more meeting information contact the Village office at (575) 586-0694.

MARCH 10 6:00 pm

Questa Business Entrepreneurship Network Meeting, featuring Representative Kristina Ortez with a legislative update. Everyone is welcome to attend. For Zoom link and more information, email lynn@questaedf.com or call (575) 586-2149.

MARCH 12 9:00 am – NOON

Food Distribution at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486. No charge.

MARCH 14 Daylight Saving Time begins—Spring ahead! Set clocks ahead one hour.

MARCH 16 6:00 pm

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

MARCH 17 St. Patrick's Day

MARCH 18 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Free One-on-One Business Counselling with the Taos Small Business Development Center drop-in via Zoom, no appointment needed: <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219>; by phone: (346) 248-7799, Meeting ID: 575 737 6219.

MARCH 20 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Granite Construction Job Fair to work on the Chevron rock pile project; apply in person at 59 State Hwy 38 in Questa, or apply online at <https://www.graniteconstruction.com/careers>.

MARCH 20 6:30 pm

YOU Matter Youth Conference. Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Road, Questa. (575) 741-0805.

MARCH 22 3:30 pm

QPL Book Club on Zoom. The selection for March is anything by author Tana French. Call the library at (575) 586-2023 for invitation and Zoom link.

MARCH 23 6:00 pm

Village of Questa Town Council Meeting online via GoToMeeting. All meetings are open to the public and include an allotted time for public comments. For more meeting information you may contact the Village office at (575) 586-0694.

MARCH 26 9:00 am – NOON

Food distribution and free hams from the Easter Angel! North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-0486. No charge.

MARCH 27 Passover begins at sunset.

MARCH 28 Palm Sunday

MARCH 30 Blood drive in Red River at Red River Conference Center, 101 West River St., Red River, NM 87558 from 10 am - 1:30 pm. Reserve a spot by registering here: <https://www.bloodhero.com/index.cfm?group=op&expand=962785&zc=87558&oti=1>

REPEAT EVENTS IN MARCH

EVERY DAY

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Register for your Covid-19 Vaccination in person: Questa Clinic (575) 586-0315 x2224 or Holy Cross Hospital (575) 751-8950. Register online at www.VaccineNM.org or call (855) 600-3453.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10:00 am - 2:00 pm FREE Drive-Thru Covid-19 Salvia Test at the Taos Youth & Family Center, 407 Paseo del Canon East, Taos. Results in 40-72 hours.

EVERY FRIDAY

6:00 pm New Thirst Christ Centered in-person Recovery Program. Living Word Ministries Fellowship Hall, 12 Llano Road, Questa. (575) 741-0805.

SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH:

- MARCH 1** Women's History Month begins
- MARCH 1** Zero Discrimination Day
- MARCH 2** Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day)
- MARCH 3** World Wildlife Day
- MARCH 4** Hug a G.I. Day
- MARCH 5** National Day of Unplugging
- MARCH 8** International Women's Day
- MARCH 13** Good Samaritan Day
- MARCH 14** Children's Craft Day
- MARCH 20** Spring begins: Spring Equinox
- MARCH 21** Common Courtesy Day
- MARCH 23** Tamale Day
- MARCH 25** National Tolkien Reading Day
- MARCH 29** Vietnam War Veterans Day, Passover begins

MARCH IS:

Women's History Month
Irish-American Heritage Month

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EVENTS OR CALENDAR LISTINGS! NEWS@QUESTAEDF.COM

HELP WANTED

Vida Del Norte Coalition is excited to collaborate with the Questa Schools to bring the Botvin LifeSkills Curriculum to students. Vida Del Norte is currently seeking an intern to receive the LifeSkills Training and funding to eventually turn this into a full-time position so that we can reach more students with this prevention program. For information contact Vida Del Norte Director Maria Gonzalez at maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com or call (575) 779-2260.

WELDING INSTRUCTOR NEEDED to teach hands-on classes at the new Questa High School Welding Lab. The class will tentatively 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

NOTICES

Did you know you can get COVID-19 Vaccines in Colorado if you are a resident of Taos County? Valley Wide Counseling and Support Center in Alamosa, CO is now accepting appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations for anyone over 65 years of age, health care workers, first responders, and educators. Please call (833) 350-1113 to get started. <https://vwhs.org/> For vaccine appointments, call (719) 587-9610.

North Central New Mexico Food Pantry: Distribution days are the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 9 am - noon. 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. For more information call (575) 586-0486. If you need an emergency food box please call: Jeannie Masters (586-0486 or 779-9194) or Nancy Parker (586-2096 or 505-699-7563). To make a donation on the Food Pantry website go to <https://www.ncfpquesta.com/> or mail donation to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com.

Questa One-on-One Business Counseling Drop-in Hour by the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos with Anwar Kaelin. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL - no appointment needed. Third Thursday of every month, March 18 from 2 - 4 pm. Business owners, independent contractors, entrepreneurs in Questa can drop in for one-on-one business consulting and training. Planning, accessing capital, marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, international trade, and more. <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219> Join by phone: +1 346 248 7799, Meeting ID: 575 737 6219. For specific appointments call (575) 737-6219.

LOVE NOTES FROM LISA "One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar." —Helen Keller

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a writer, photographer, social media whiz, fundraiser or grant writer? We are always looking for contributors to the Questa Del Rio News! Wanna help? Contact us at news@questanews.com or check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/QuestaNws/>

**Need Something?
Have Something?**

LIST IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
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Do you know someone who lives out of town who misses the feel of the *QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS*' real paper?

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(575) 586-2258

QuestaNewsSubscriptions@gmail.com

Questa Del Rio News PO Box 1072,
1 Highway 38, Questa, NM 87556

MARCH SCHEDULE AT YOGA SALA

ALL CLASSES REQUIRE REGISTRATION.

See website for class prices and payment information.

<http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/classes-2/classes/>

MONDAY

8:00 AM, Yoga, rise up! online only: Jaide

TUESDAY

4:00 PM Kids Ballet, online only: Miss Tuesday

5:30 PM, Gental candle-lit yoga: Jaide

WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM, Yoga, gentle morning: Gaea

4:30 PM, Jazz / hip hop, ages 12+: Miss Ange'l

6:00 PM Yoga for Strength, Online Only: Gaea

THURSDAY

10:00 AM, Gentle Morning Yoga: Jaide

5:30 PM, Yoga, slow flow: Gaea

FRIDAY

9:30 AM, Intro to qigong: Martha

SATURDAY

8:30 AM, Zumba: Valerie



MARCH 6 WRITING WORKSHOP (ONLINE)

WITH AUTHOR AND MUSICIAN NICK JAINA (ZOOMING IN FROM CA)

<http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/writing-with-nick-jaina/>

MARCH 13 & 27 FREE BOOK CLUB

Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea

<http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/march-book-club/>

Classes are free to those in recovery, to those coping with addiction in their family system, and to veterans. Kids classes are always free (donations accepted).

Classes require registration and COVID-safe practices are observed.

2331 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556 yogasalaquesta.org



Many NCRTD Routes Now Operating on Regular Route Schedules

FROM JIM NAGLE

Many North Central Regional Transit District Blue Bus routes have begun to operate on their regular route schedules. Seating remains limited to provide social distance and adhere to the limiting of persons to groups of five or less.

Please visit the routes section at RidetheBlueBus.com for the latest information on all routes.

Face coverings are required to ride the Blue Bus and must remain on for the duration of one's trip. The NCRTD continues to take aggressive measures to clean and disinfect passenger vehicles daily. The District's top priority is to continue service to the public, and to keep them and our employees healthy and safe. We ask that anyone experiencing flu symptoms refrain from boarding our vehicles.

For more information, please visit

www.RidetheBlueBus.com

or call (505) 629-4725 ext. 2, or toll-free (866) 206-0754 ext. 2.



Public Health Order announced on August 27, 2020:
Houses of worship may operate at 40% capacity indoors.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH

Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470
Saturday 6 pm, Sunday 7 am in Spanish,
11 am in English

MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:

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

HARVEST QUESTA

Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales
2558 Hwy 522
Sunday 11 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesday Women's Bible Study on Zoom 6 - 7 pm
Check newspaper calendar for evening prayer dates
Message us for Zoom links
Phone (575) 770-1714
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 pm
www.lwmsite.org
(575) 586-1587

PATH OF LOVE

Sunday 7:30 am class and meditation
Introductory Meditation Class Sunday 3 pm
(575) 586-1454, Hilece

THEOSOPHY

Sunday 10am Alice Bailey Theosophy Study Group
(575) 586-4641, Francis

QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 miles north of Questa on State Road 522
Sunday Bible Class Sunday 9:30 am
followed by worship at 10:15 am

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

Tibetan Buddhism
Thursday 4 pm - Chenrezig
Friday 8 am - Green Tara
gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com
www.earthjourney.org
(575) 586-1454

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

(575) 586-1947

AMALIA

SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH

1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

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

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 (575) 754-2882

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

North end of Silver Bell Trail
Saturday 6 pm (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470



Next QBEN Meeting
Wed., March 10, 2021
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 US ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH VIA ZOOM

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).

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Questa Del Rio News



Have a voice in your town's future

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

VILLAGE OF QUESTA

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

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

Mark Gallegos,
Mayor

mgallegos@villageofquesta.org

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

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

RED RIVER

<https://redriver.org/>

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

Linda Calhoun,
Mayor

mayor@redriver.org

Georgiana Rael,
Town Administrator
grael@redriver.org

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



AA MEETINGS

THE KEY IS WILLINGNESS

Once we have placed the key of willingness in the lock and have the door ever so slightly open, we find that we can always open it some more.

—*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 35*

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

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**Living Word
Ministries**

12 Llano Road, Questa
NM 87556
www.lwmsite.org

MARCH ~ Online and in person

YOGA • QIGONG • ZUMBA
KIDS BALLET - free
JAZZ~HIP HOP - free
WRITING WORKSHOP
BOOK CLUB

575.224.2102



Register: YogaSalaQuesta.org



KEITH D. JAMESON, D.D.S.

Questa Dental Center
2451 Highway 522
575-586-0259

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- Meeting Space for Small Groups •

QUESTA, NEW MEXICO • AT THE LIGHT



575-586-0561

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Now available at El Monte Carlo

WWW.ROOTSANDHERBSFARM.COM

Jones Custom Boots & Saddles

Leatherwork
and
Repair



Jeff Jones
Owner

PO Box 401
Red River, NM 87558

Call (575)740-0565
stich5jones@gmail.com



ELITE FITNESS

Call us: 575-586-6006 www.EliteFitnessQuesta.com

Discounted Monthly Rates:

\$35 Auto Debit Plan (1)

\$65 Buddy Plan (2)

\$120 Family Plan (4)

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2457 Hwy 522 Questa, NM 87556

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**LOCALS
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