

MAY 2022

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# Questa Del Rio News

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

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## Faith, Trust, True Love, and Goals

BY MATTHEW WOHLBERG,  
US ARMY RET. SFC VETERANS  
UPWARD BOUND

It's all about absolute teamwork and faith and trust in each other. This is the story of a youthful and vital couple who now live in Cerro, New Mexico. SFC Adelita "Lita" Mead (known as DeeDee to her family) grew up in the Cerro area and joined the US Army in 1996, right out of high school. At the time she felt the burning desire to get out and travel to faraway places. I can tell you she certainly met her goal.

Following basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, she became a Documentation/Production Specialist or 25V. In my day, they were referred to as combat photographers and Lita says, "We still are!" Per Lita, they use everything from black-and-white film to live broadcasting from the field. As she characterized her job, it was similar to being an embedded reporter with combat units. Lita's husband Korey joined the Army in 1998. He initially was a mechanic in the Army but reclassified to Mortuary Affairs with the MOS designator 92M. These are the soldiers who supervise recovery and collection of those killed in action, establish tentative identification, and then provide escort and temporary interment of the fallen. Theirs is a truly sacred duty.

By coincidence both Lita and Korey were assigned emergency duties at the Pentagon following the tragedies of 9/11. Although they worked in close proximity, they did not meet until 2004. Rather, they met at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii. Korey had just arrived at the unit when they met and soon they both went to recovery sites in Laos in Southeast Asia. Their recovery teams were able to recover teeth and bone fragments and positively identify the remains of servicemen and women for ultimate repatriation. While there and living in tents, Lita's birthday came up and Korey made her a "birthday cake" which, according to Lita was really more like a pancake with some candy sprinkled on top, but that was the "icing on the cake." She fell for Korey and their relationship began to grow.

Following the mission to Southeast Asia, Korey had a couple of recovery missions to North Korea, Belgium, and China. After that,



Courtesy Photo

US Army Veterans Adelita and Korey Mead with their son Jesse, a true military family.

he was sent to Ft. Lee, Virginia for Basic NCO training (Non-commissioned Officer training). Lita planned on getting out of the Army at that point so that they could be together, recognizing that they would constantly be separated due to differing assignments. But Korey encouraged her to stay in and promised they would figure it out. They were married in 2006 in Taos, NM, with Lita coming from Hawaii and Korey from Fort Lee, Virginia.

As is the norm in marriages where both spouses are in the military, Lita stayed in Hawaii for one more year and then went on to a military photojournalism course at Syracuse University while Korey was assigned to the Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Virginia. By the time Lita graduated from Syracuse, she was nine months pregnant. Luckily, upon completion of the training, she was reassigned to Fort Meade, Maryland, which is close to Alexandria. But as fate would have it, Lita was sent to Iraq whereupon Korey immediately took over the care of their newly arrived son, Jesse. At the completion of her tour of duty in Iraq, both Korey and Lita were reassigned to duty in Hawaii. But Korey was then sent to Iraq to help shut down operations there, and Lita was

once again on the deployment cycles to search for POW/MIAs. This is where her father stepped up to the plate by coming from Denver to Hawaii to take care of his grandson.

All in all, Lita deployed to Southeast Asia, Europe, and the Pacific, searching for POW/MIAs from Vietnam and World War II including sites in the Philippines, Wake Island, Vanuatu, Cambodia, and Belgium, for a grand total of 21 missions. She had also been assigned to Hohenfels, Germany from 1997-99, and was able to travel to Italy, France, Austria, and the Czech Republic. Korey had three combat tours under his belt before he met Lita.

In 2013, the couple was assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. At this point, Lita acknowledges that she had to have her mother come help just to keep things together. Lita had a four-month school in Florida to attend Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) and Korey had a deployment to Liberia, Africa to help combat the Ebola epidemic. Finally, they were able to stay together at Fort Campbell, which is astride the Kentucky

MILITARY FAMILY cont'd on page 28

# Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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

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EDITOR'S LETTER

## It's Election Season

Here it is May, and our thoughts and hearts turn to spring, graduation, Mother's Day, and honoring veterans for Memorial Day. We like to devote our May issue to these themes – enjoy!

In the bigger world outside our village, other ideas dominate the airwaves; the war in Ukraine being the most obvious, taking over the number one spot from COVID, which for over two years was the top news story.

And recently, and from here on until November, the American public, and to some extent, the rest of the world, will be bombarded by another news cycle – “The Election.” Some of us have barely recovered from the last one, and now the mid-terms are upon us. For the next six months, anyone paying attention will be hammered by election campaigns.

The TV commercials have started to appear; each candidate boasting about how great he or she is and how they can solve our problems. Sometimes they shamelessly attack their opponent or the opposing party. Elections are like the Super Bowl: two teams, one winner, fierce competition, not unlike the war in Ukraine. The two-party system is like the Crips and the Bloods, two rival gangs, one red, one blue. This polarization is hard on a nation, and the world.

This election cycle, next time you hear a politician blaming the other party or pointing out another candidate's faults, try to remember the Mirror Theory. Rabbi Yisrael ben Eliezer wrote about Mirror Theory in the mid-1700s. The Theory states that whatever irritates us in others is a direct reflection of the same unconscious aspects of ourselves. Judging others is akin to looking in a mirror and seeing ourselves. The faults we see in others present us with opportunities for self-reflection. For example, have you noticed that control freaks are the first to call others “control freaks”? You know that old saying, “It takes one to know one,” or, “You have to be it, to see it”? And perhaps you have heard the saying, “When you point a finger, there are three other fingers pointing right back at you!” By the same token, we can use this theory, not just for altruistic reasons, but to also avoid embarrassing ourselves; when we talk negatively about others, we inadvertently point out our own faults.

Remembering this simple theory will make election season much more tolerable, if not downright entertaining. Next time an annoying candidate starts

putting someone down, simply substitute the words they use, such as, “He, she, or they,” with “I, me, or my,” and you will have an insight into the candidate's true character. If the language of elections were clean, the campaigns would be truly more meaningful, demonstrate integrity, reflect positive values, and become a more effective process. We might even end up with elected officials who deserve our votes.

American elections are about money; billions of dollars are spent on campaigns, some of it taxpayer funded and much of it bankrolled by private interests – the best election money can buy. So, this is what we have in store for us: six months of bickering and backbiting about who is the best politician for the job. For many candidates, and voters alike, it is a game of stamina. By the time Election Day rolls around, if voters aren't diligent, they will succumb to the media blitz and buy whatever product the media sell us.

Does anyone out there follow British politics? There is one thing they do right, and the U.S. would do well to follow their lead: the British election season is six weeks. Not two years, not six months, but six weeks! Just imagine avoiding political commercials until mid-September. That would leave airtime for more drug commercials, because there aren't enough of them, right? If there are any policymakers out there reading this, consider bringing the idea of a six-week election cycle to Washington.

Politics can be painful and election season can be toxic because it can be so polarized and even full of hate. If we get too wrapped up in the news, we can conclude that the world is off its rails. Let's stay positive, gear up for a nice summer and for now, let's give our attention to what is nearest and dearest to us, such as spring, graduation, Mother's Day, the positive local news we bring you through this paper, and honoring veterans for Memorial Day.

*We should always endeavor to look at people in a positive light. But when it becomes difficult, it is an opportunity to look inwards. — Rabbi Yisrael ben Eliezer (1698-1760)*

LOU McCALL

EDITOR, QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS



CHEVRON WATER RIGHTS TRANSFER

Dear Editor,

We saw our letter to the editor published in this month's issue [May 2022], along with the follow-up remarks from Chevron. Your readers may also be interested in the statement below, regarding a meeting between the OSE, Village of Questa leadership, and Chevron that took place on March 30:

State Engineer Hamman and Water Rights District 6 staff met with Village of Questa leadership, including then Mayor Gallegos and Mayor-elect Ortega, as well as representatives from Chevron, in Questa on March 30. Together, they set the

**THANK YOU TO ALL THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR MAY ISSUE!**

LINDA BETZ, ROGER CHAVEZ, JR., PETE CRIDER, CHRIS COTÉ, CLAIRE COTÉ, SUZANNE DONATI, LOUISE GALLEGOS, MARIA GONZALEZ, ERNIE GRIEGO, HILARY HEYL, JONATHAN HUTCHISON, CHRISTIAN ISELY, RACHEL KUC´, CARRIE LEVEN, MARGARET LEJUSTE, KIMBER MACDONALD, GAYLE MARTINEZ, GAEA MCGAHEE, LITA AND KORY MEAD, ANGEL MEDINA, MARIA MEDINA, BENITA MUÑIZ, JIM NAGLE, JOHN ORTEGA, LUIS REYES, JR., TRACEY STONE, DELENA TRUJILLO, US DEPT OF ENERGY, LAURA VALLEJOS, CYNTHIA RAE-L-VIGIL, JOHN WALSH

stage for examining the Village's entire water rights and water use plans with the intention of assisting the Village in meeting its goals, which may or may not include the specific water rights tied to the Chevron claims that are currently a pending matter before the State Engineer. During

the meeting, the State Engineer and others recognized the unprecedented opportunity for the Village of Questa to pursue numerous funding opportunities at both the state and federal levels to address its water, wastewater, and other infrastructure needs. The Office of the State Engineer will

continue to work with Village leadership to assist in assuring that it has a long-term water supply, backed by legal water rights and related return flow credits, to serve the Village's current and future needs outlined in its 40-year water plan.

Maggie Fitzgerald,  
Public Information Officer  
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer

Thank you for the fantastic job your staff us doing! We especially appreciate your coverage of the Amalia and Costilla areas.

Arthur & Francisca Gallegos

OOPS! In last month's QUILT article, we failed to provide contact info, sorry about that!

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Todd Wynward: (575) 770-8681

[toddwynward@gmail.com](mailto:toddwynward@gmail.com)

# 18th Annual Veterans Healing Field of Honor

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  
By LOUISE GALLEGOS

Anyone driving through Questa who sees the Veterans Field of Honor cannot help being moved. Whether you are a local touched by a flag commemorating a loved one, a motorcyclist on your way to Red River, or a motorist unfamiliar with Questa, the field of 1,000 US flags in a beautiful field against the dramatic backdrop of the Sangre de Cristos is a monumental sight. And it says a lot about the community and what it values.

The tradition started as an idea for how the Village of Questa could honor veterans from the community, which grew to include Cerro, Costilla, Amalia, and San Cristobal. The first event was held in 2004. Those 1,000 flags represent locals who served in seven different US conflicts as well as those veterans who served between conflicts, in peacetime and did not fight in combat. Eventually

the display came to include all currently serving military personnel, as well.

This year the flags will go up on May 26 and will be taken down the morning of May 31. This event always revolved around a ceremony held on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. This year the ceremony will be on May 29, at 1:00 pm. It is located on the east side of Highway 522 in the middle of Questa, south of "the light."

The Field of Honor requires many hands. Volunteers are needed to assist in planning, putting up the flags, and taking them down. The display also relies on monetary contributions to buy and replace flags. If you feel the call to honor those who have served our great country, please contact Louise Gallegos at (575) 613-5490 or the Village of Questa at (575) 586-0694. Thank you all again for another magnificent Veterans Field of Honor, may God Bless You and God Bless America.



Photo by Carrie Leven

Questa's Healing Field of Honor, a breathtaking display of 1,000 flags honoring veterans from seven different conflicts, as well as those who served between conflicts in peacetime and are serving now, from the communities of Questa, Cerro, Costilla, Amalia, and San Cristobal.

## Questa Del Rio News

We are an editorially independent local news source published by the Questa Economic Development Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works in the public interest to advance a diversified sustainable local economy.

### OUR JOURNALISTIC ETHICS POLICY

The Society of Professional Journalists declares four principles as the foundation of ethical journalism and encourages their use in its practice by all people in all media. We have adopted these principles as our own:

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

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# New Questa Art Market Joins Farmers Market on Sundays

By STAFF WRITERS

The ever-popular Questa Farmers Market has a new offering: the Questa Art Market. To be held in conjunction with the Farmers Market, the Art Market will also take place every Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm beginning Memorial Day Weekend, May 29, through the Cam-balache Harvest Fest event on October 2.

Last year the Questa Art Market was held on Saturdays.

It will be located adjacent to the sheltered space that houses the Farmers Market, in the Questa Visitor Center parking lot. The Art Market will be connected by a path just north of the mural-painted container.

This new expansion will offer local artisans a venue where they can display and sell their work to residents and visitors, and grow their business while

procuring new followers; it gives art enthusiasts and patrons access to local arts, crafts, and collectibles in a festive and enjoyable outdoor setting; an excellent opportunity to support the arts and to discover the diversity and quality of the growing local arts community.

Market attendees are likely to find handmade leather goods, jewelry, fiber arts, metal and wood-carved pieces, painting, pottery, minerals and gems, one-of-a-kind creative crafts, antiques, and so much more. Each week new and unique items will be offered.

If you are interested in participating as a weekly artist, artisan—or a one-time collectibles merchant (aka: clean-out-the-garage-sale), contact Lynn Skall for information on the very affordable rates and all details; [lynn@QuestaEDF.com](mailto:lynn@QuestaEDF.com), leave a message at (575) 586-2149.



Photo By: E Wilde

Torre Strong, local handmade leather artisan, will be a vendor at the new Questa Art Market to be held on Sundays this summer instead of Saturdays.



## New Trails around Questa? May QBEN Meeting

By LYNN SKALL  
QEDF DIRECTOR

Outdoor recreation is big business in New Mexico! Questa's scenic setting and natural topography make it a prime location for tourism growth around trails and outdoor experiences. The presentation at the Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network Meeting this month, on May 18 at 6 pm at Rael's Store and Coffee Shop and via Zoom, will provide information on how current trails are being promoted and improved, and what new trails are in the planning stages.

Carl Colonius, Director of the Enchanted Circle Trails Association, and Lynn Skall, Director of the Questa Economic Development Fund, will be presenting updates on the Questa to Red River Trail, the proposed new Lar-

go Canyon Trail, Questa hiking map kiosks, and the processes and procedures required to implement these plans.

How do you feel about attracting new hikers, bikers, ATV, and equestrian riders to our wilderness areas? Are there locations that you believe should not be opened for recreation and new trails? Are you interested in being a part of the process to help support, develop, and construct new trails?

For more information, contact [Lynn@QuestaEDF.com](mailto:lynn@QuestaEDF.com) or leave a message at (575) 586-2149. To attend the meeting via Zoom, please see the Zoom link below:

**WHAT:** Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network Meeting, updates on updates on new trails and how trails are promoted and improved.  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 18 at 6 pm  
**WHERE:** Rael's Store and Coffee Shop, 2430 NM-522 in Questa, and via Zoom  
**CONTACT:** Lynn Skall (575) 586-2149 or [lynn@QuestaEDF.com](mailto:lynn@QuestaEDF.com).  
**LINK to Zoom meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87849364259?pwd=Mms0TjBBR1dJR2FyUVlCem44RVVZQT09>  
**CALL IN:** (346) 248 7799  
**MEETING ID:** 878 4936 4259  
**PASSCODE:** 282982



## 5% Lodging Tax Moving Forward

By LYNN SKALL,  
QEDF DIRECTOR

The proposed Questa lodging tax is being received with support from the hospitality community, who understand its importance in generating revenue to attract more visitors to the area. The initiative is now in the hands of the Questa Village Council for the next step.

Earlier in the year, then-Questa Mayor Mark Gallegos and Council members expressed interest in exploring a 5% occupancy tax for lodging properties within town limits. The Questa Economic Development Fund was asked to compile information and a proposal for consideration. After the presentation and follow-up discussions at two separate Council meetings, the newly elected Mayor, John Ortega and Council expressed support for the initiative, believing it was appropriate to introduce it to the lodging properties.

Lynn Skall, Director, Questa

Economic Development Fund, visited Questa motels and RV parks and talked with proprietors about the proposed lodging tax. "The overall response from the lodging community was supportive. They understand that it's a pass-through tax assessed on short term stays (30 days or less) within town limits, paid by lodging guests to the property, then remitted to the Village," explained Skall, "The funds would be used specifically to promote Questa and to fund tourism events and activities, which ultimately attracts additional overnight guests to our lodging facilities."

A community forum on the lodging tax was held on April 13 at Rael's Market as part of the monthly Questa Business Entrepreneurial Networking Meeting. Bobby Ortega, owner of Sierra Hermosa RV Park, attended; he said he was previously against implementing a lodging tax because it was introduced at the same time as a water fee increase that specifically targeted RV parks. "I'm not opposed to the lodging tax, tourism is important," said Ortega.

As for the next steps, a public hearing will be scheduled on the agenda for an upcoming Village Council meeting. The community will have the opportunity to express their views about the lodging tax before a resolution is made to implement it.

To learn more about the lodging tax and to confirm the date of the public hearing, call the Questa Village Office at (575) 586-0694.



## Business Profile

### Wildfire Fit

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Chris Coté, owner and operator of Wildfire Fit, has 20 years of experience fighting fires with the Latir Fire Department with whom he rose to the rank of Fire Chief. Chris has seven years of experience with the Red River Fire Chasers with whom he rose to the rank of Foreman (the second-in-command). He started his own business approximately three years ago.

Coté grew up in New Hampshire. He recalls his inspiration for firefighting: "When I was a kid we went to a 4th of July show and some of the fireworks malfunctioned and started a fire. I remember everyone in the bleachers was running away from the fire except for

Wildfire Fit: Chris Coté  
 (575) 779-5937  
[wildfirefit@gmail.com](mailto:wildfirefit@gmail.com)  
[wildfirefit.net](http://wildfirefit.net)

my uncle and stepfather. They were both firefighters and we were all running towards the fire. That's what makes a firefighter."

Before he moved here in 1992, he had traveled all over the country, doing odd jobs. One day he visited Taos and fell in love with the diversity of cultures he saw here. "It's a place to put down roots," said Coté in a phone interview with the Questa del Rio News. "People come here from all over the world and they bring their cultures with them. It's a beautiful thing."

New Hampshire generally has a very insular culture, with not a lot of movement of people. New Mexico generally has more people coming in and out, making for a richer spring of experiences, which is what he loves about this part of the country.

Coté specializes in wildfire mitigation services, including homeowner fire mitigation, fuel reduction, and prescription burning. He is certified by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and he serves clients throughout northern New Mexico and southern Colorado.

Coté is available for on-site visits to a property. His consultation includes surveying the property, and consulta-



Photo by Dylan Crabb

Chris Coté, of Wildfire Fit, serves with a smile to help you mitigate the wildfire risk at your property.

tion on how to make the property more resistant to wildfires. He also works with Questa's Community Wildfire Protection Plan Core Team as well as the Taos Valley Watershed Coalition, two local organizations dedicated to improving Taos County's wildfire resistance; they are always in need of more volunteers.



# SAVE THE DATE

WHEN: June 03, 2022

Time: 9:30am-11:00am

Where: Taos Mesa Solar Site (Adjacent to the Taos Landfill)



## 100% Daytime Solar!

### TAOS MESA SOLAR ARRAY & BATTERY STORAGE

We invite you to celebrate the commission of KCEC's Taos Mesa solar array and battery storage facility. The project spans roughly 170 acres and has 43,680 solar panels. The Taos Mesa project will power approximately 7,500 homes, not including battery storage and will complete our goal of generating 100% of our daytime power supply from the sun. The 12.5 MW of battery storage will provide KCEC members with reliable and resilient electricity. Please join us for this special event!

Details & invitation to follow. Contact Michael Santistevan for more information, at [msantistevan@kitcarson.com](mailto:msantistevan@kitcarson.com)



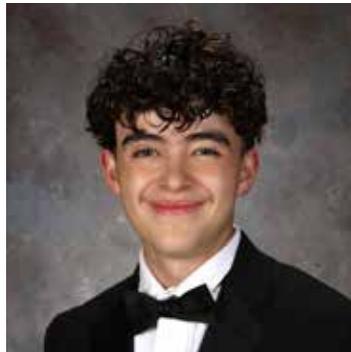
# Questa High School Senior Class 2022



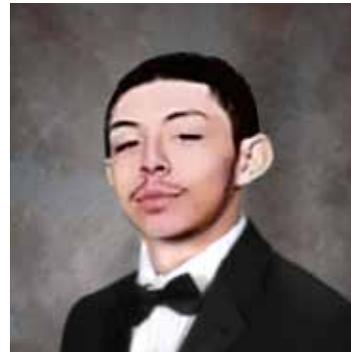
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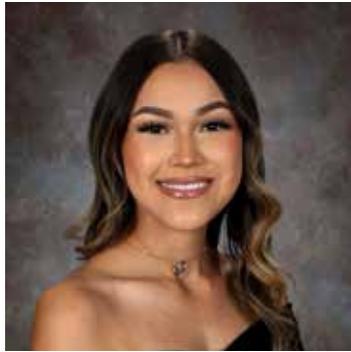
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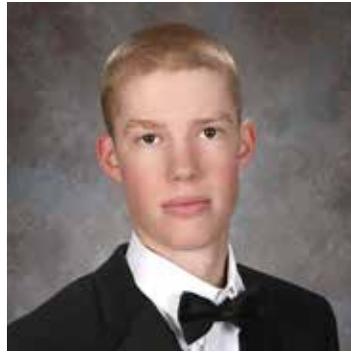
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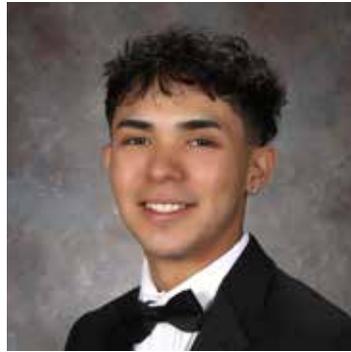
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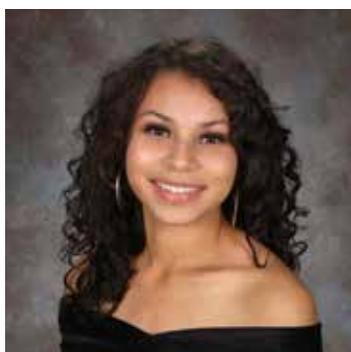
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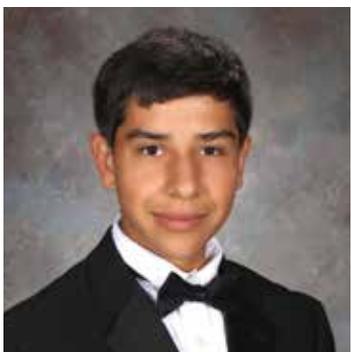
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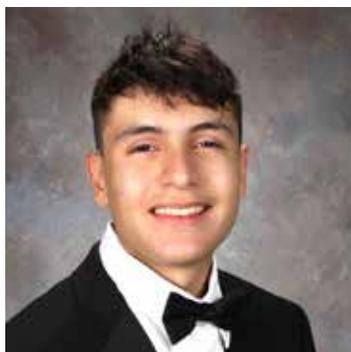
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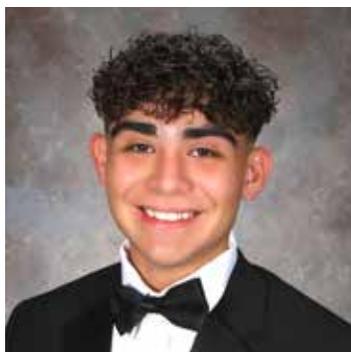
Mateo Ortega



Nataniel Quintana



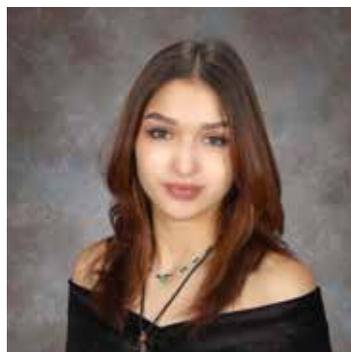
Richard Romero



Matthew Rael



Annaliese Rivera



Kristal Vigil

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**MAY 11: WEDNESDAY**  
6:00 pm  
Christian Baccalaureate  
at Freedom Church in Questa

**MAY 15: SUNDAY**  
8:00 pm  
Catholic Baccalaureate  
at St. Anthony's in Questa

**MAY 20: WEDNESDAY**  
6:00 pm  
Senior Night

**May 21:  
Thursday**  
10:00 AM  
**GRADUATION DAY  
CEREMONY**

*Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.*  
—Harriet Tubman



Photo by Vigil Photography

Top row, left to right: Alianna "BooBoo" Gonzalez, Yesenia Medina, Emelina Medina, Angelica Lovato, Leah Martinez, Annaliese Rivera, Aaliyah Piper, Janae Dominguez. Bottom row, left to right: Jocelyne Ortega, Alyse Lovato, Joshlyn "JayJay" Medina, Kalena Trujillo, Karina Rael, Ashlynn Rael, Ariana Medina, Olivia Martinez.

## The Blue Trophy Came Back to the Q!

By MARIA MEDINA  
AND ANGEL MEDINA

Questa Wildcat Cheer has done it again! For the third time, Questa Cheer has taken first place at State Spirit Championships and made Questa proud!

The team is made up of three seniors, three juniors, two freshmen, and six 8th-graders on the team.

QHS Wildcat Cheer has been through many obstacles this season, such as COVID-19, quarantine, and

multiple sports injuries, to name a few. But, through all this, they came back stronger and were a force to be reckoned with.

This season the team competed in two competitions, one in Albuquerque at the Spirit of Hope Competition, where they placed second, and one in Bernalillo at the Spirit Xpress West Competition, where they came in fifth. In both competitions they competed against AAA, AAAA, and AAAAA schools, which are much larger than QHS.

As coaches, Maria Medina and Angel Medina encouraged the team to go out and give it their all. Not only in athletics, but in academics as well. This season the team had a combined GPA of 3.65!

The team competed at the 2022 State Spirit Competition where they performed two different routines, "Game Day" and "Cheer with Music." Both routines were judged on difficulty, crowd interaction, and cleanliness. At the end of their performances, QHS Wildcat Cheer came out on top with a total score

of 170.54.

Questa Cheer and their coaches would like to thank our family and friends, Questa Independent Schools, the community of Questa, and 365 Spirit. This wouldn't have been possible without their support and encouragement.

[Editor's note: Thank you to prize-winning leadership: Coach Maria Medina and Assistant Coach Angel Medina!]

**QHS MAY SPORTS SCHEDULE ----->**

BASEBALL:  
5/1/2022 1st round state

TRACK:  
5/1/2022 Week of State

# Graduating Seniors Include Three Active8 Members

By MARIA GONZALEZ,  
VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION  
DIRECTOR

Class of 2022 Active8 Members Araceli Gonzalez, Angelica Lovato, and McKayla Martinez have been an integral part of The Active8 Youth Coalition as well as Vida Del Norte Coalition since its founding. The Active8 represents our youth sector, ages 11 to 18. As members of Active8, they gain skills such as public speaking, organizing, and leadership. As youth leaders, they are often invited to volunteer and participate in many community events.

All three of these young ladies decided to join the Coalition after attending the New Mexico Youth Opioid Awareness Summit, in 2019. Since then, they have attended trainings in Washington, DC, and Dallas, TX.

These young ladies have also been part of focus groups, town hall meetings, and police officer luncheons where they presented and held one-on-one conversations. They have helped us understand what our community youth need and have been at the forefront of every youth event we hold. They have become true youth leaders through their work.

Araceli, Angelica, and McKayla never hesitate to volunteer for the crazy things we ask them to do! They help with the food pantry distribution, community egg hunts, summer camps, beautification of the farmers market site, and several municipal park and community clean-ups. Our community has become reliant on them—I get phone calls all the time asking if the Active8 can help with activities in the community. I usually send out a text telling them the dates and times and they



Courtesy Photo

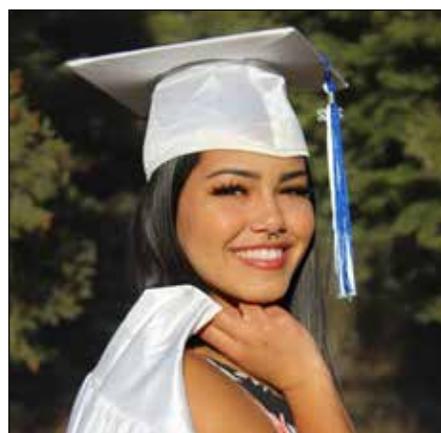
Angelica Lovato

always show up. Regardless of how busy they are, they always make time for Coalition work.

Each are involved in multiple extracurricular activities, they all hold jobs throughout the school year, yet still manage to be in the top five of their class. We are proud of these young ladies and what the future holds for all of them.

**When asked what they will be pursuing next, they all have grand plans.**

Angelica Lovato will be attending the University of New Mexico and majoring in biochemistry with the intent to attend medical school and become an anesthesiologist. When asked how the Coalition has impacted her life, she said “It has opened my eyes to how big of an impact drugs and alcohol has on my community. It also has taught me skills to help those who are struggling with substance abuse.” Angelica has shared these experiences, giving speeches at Taos community events, in videos, and one-on-one conversations with people in our community. She represents a true example of bringing aware-



Courtesy Photos

Araceli Gonzalez

ness to her community and beyond.

Araceli Gonzalez will be attending New Mexico State University, majoring in environmental science. She hopes to return home someday and possibly work in the community in some capacity. She has expressed that she would like to focus on air pollution and air quality. When asked how the Coalition has impacted her life she said, “It has been eye-opening to the issues we have in our community, and when we traveled to DC it became apparent that we are not the only ones who have these issues, and it made me want to come back and make a difference at home.” Araceli has been a tremendous help for the coalition and has not been afraid to share her opinions and insight with the coalition on what she feels needs to happen in order for the adults in the community to support the youth. Araceli has become their voice.

McKayla Martinez will be attending New Mexico State University and majoring in criminal justice. When asked how the Coalition has impacted her life, she said, “It’s made me learn more about



Courtesy Photo

McKayla Martinez

all the issues with our community and youth, and to find ways to help better our community and youth with resources and other things they may need.” McKayla was one of our summer interns last year and planned our youth-targeted events. She was also a camp counselor for the Vida Summer Camp.

All three young ladies will be receiving a Vida scholarship. We encourage you to join and participate in the Coalition. Our criteria is that you must actively serve at least one year throughout your four years of high school in order to receive the scholarship, conduct an interview on how the coalition has impacted their lives in their senior year, and have plans to attend a trade, certificate, or university program upon graduation.

Vida Del Norte Coalition will miss Angelica, Araceli, and McKayla, and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Contact Maria Gonzalez at [mariagonzalez@vidadelnorte.com](mailto:mariagonzalez@vidadelnorte.com) or at (575) 779-2260 for more info.

## Fundraising Pool Tournament for Educational Fund

By ROGER CHAVEZ, JR.

Roger Chavez, Jr. and Berna Trujillo has planned an event to generate funds for the Roger Chavez III Educational Fund. We offer scholarships to worthy graduating QHS students enrolled in college for the Fall 2022 semester.

The scholarship fundraising pool tournament will be held on May 7 at 2:00 pm at Berna's Stop & Go in the village center. We will be offering food, raffles, door prizes, and lots of fun along with gift certificates donated by our local merchants and Stop & Go vendors. The entry fee is \$25. A good cost for a good cause!

Roger Chavez III was my son, who I lost in a tragic auto accident in 2007 on Highway 378 in Cerro. A highway that I adopt to this day, but that's another story...

After my son's death, Berna and I started having events to benefit Santa's Helpers Del Norte for the first two years. I thought about ways to keep my son's name alive. Since my son graduated with a 4.0 grade point average, we agreed to start generating funds for a scholarship to be awarded to a Questa High School student. We have since awarded five \$500 and two \$250 scholarships. This current pandemic has thrown that proverbial wrench into

the sprocket. But we hope to continue with the scholarship event for this 2022 graduating year.

This is how we generate funds. Approximately one month prior to the event I solicit gift certificates from our local merchants like Ace Hardware, Questa Market, etc. These gift certificates are what are given as prizes for a pool tournament at the Tewa Lounge. The entry fee, along with raffles and monetary donations are what create The Roger Chavez III Educational Fund. Leftover donations, if any, are saved, and if a student is in need of educational assistance, such as for field trips, we

are willing to help. That's what makes The Roger Chavez III Educational Fund.

Without the contributions and participation of our beloved community, all this would not be possible. We believe that community awareness is a must, no matter how small or large the contribution. If there is a good deed to be accomplished, Berna and I are willing to help.

Awards will be given out on Senior Night on Friday, May 20.

For further information email Roger Chavez, Jr. at [poolplayerrunout@yahoo.com](mailto:poolplayerrunout@yahoo.com) or (575) 224-4049 or Village Stop & Go at (575) 586-0696.



Photos by John Walsh

## Outdoor Learning at Alta Vista!

Top: Firefighters from the US Forest Service, from left, Sage Polchies and Aaron Livingston, work with Alta Vista students in fire ecology class, trying the gear on for size.

Bottom: Forest Service firefighter Vidalia Vigil demonstrates fire ecology to Alta Vista students. They learned that emergency shelters are hot and sweaty!



## Create-a-Space for Kids at Questa Public Library!



Photo by Nina Silfverberg

BettyMaria Gallegos shows us her happy space.

By SHARON NICHOLSON,  
QPL DIRECTOR

Create-A-Space, a collaboration of the Questa Public Library, Youth Heartline, and Twirl, presented a three-Friday series for our kids in March and April. Recognizing that everyone needs a space they can call their own, filled with what makes them feel safe, happy, content, or cozy, the Twirl team helped attending children identify what they need in their space to make them feel safe, happy, content or cozy. Leading them to create that very space in their own lives.

Fifteen children and their families created small-scale diorama boxes, through which STEAM modalities (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics) were used. This fun project is STEAM with social-emotional learning all wrapped up in a nice box!

The small-scale model also involved activating the following disciplines in education: design principles, iteration thinking, technology with moving parts and lights, engineering principles to work through the structure artistically and creatively.



## The Wildcat Kitty Club is BACK!

By SHARON NICHOLSON,  
QPL DIRECTOR

“Once upon a time...”

And so, it begins—let the stories roll! After the long season of COVID, we are ready to gather parents and children in the library for story time. Wildcat Kitty Club is back!

Kitty Club is designed for children ages infant to 3 years old (and their caregivers and parents!). Hearing stories is one of the most important learning ex-

periences for every child’s development. Hearing stories helps them develop their natural ability to make sense of their world and supports cognitive development and emotional growth. Story time is also great for kids to be around other kids for social growth, and for parents to be around other parents for sharing and support.

In Kitty Club we provide snacks for all, and have simple songs, games, and stories. There will be tips for parents on occasion, too.

Mark your calendar for Wednesdays at 11:30 am, invite your friends with babies, and load up the kids. We will be waiting for you at the library. We are located at 6-1/2 Municipal Park Road, Questa, NM 87556. Call us at (575) 586-2023 for more information.



## BODY MIND SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

### Re-Dreaming

Many of us have had dreams of how life could be. As a small child it is possible that there was something you wanted and perhaps because you made your wanting known, it may have become a reality. Perhaps your parents bought it for you or took you to a certain place. Because there was a true desire not of the mind, but of the heart, to have this thing that you wanted, it manifested in your life.

For me it was a spelling bee in elementary school. I remember that all the participants had been eliminated except for two of us. This was a time in my life I felt inferior to others and so lived rather in the background of life. But on this day, I was surprised to find myself to be one of two finalists. As we stood there, I remember a deep, deep desire to win the spelling bee and silently prayed I would win. I don't remember the word, but it was given to the person next to me first. She spelled it incorrectly and so it was my turn. I remember my face burning with blood, rushing through my body, and my nervous system was on overload. I took a deep breath and spelled the word and, I spelled it correctly. To some this may not seem that

important, but to the little wallflower I was at that time, it was a dream come true. I was so excited I could hardly keep from jumping up and down. There were no great hurrahs or kudos other than the "well done" from the teacher, but for me, there was this precious energy moving through my body that I can only describe as love.

Mind presents options  
Heart offers recognition  
Mind imagines  
Heart reveals  
Mind strays  
Heart stays  
Mind thinks  
Heart knows  
Mind is becoming  
Heart is being  
Mind introduces creature comforts  
Heart introduces the Creator

—From *White Fire* by Mooji

It was a heartfelt focus—that was the energy it took to create what I wanted. We all have that gift within us, the ability to re-dream our world to meet our heart more deeply. And when I speak of wants and desires, I am not speaking of greed and grab from the world, but the wants and desires of the heart to manifest a life within that is freer from the constraints of opinions and beliefs that life has put upon us. To look, to take a deep look at ourselves and re-dream how we see the world through the feelings within us. If the world appears to be dull and boring, re-dream that world through heartfelt focus. See that world as you would truly like it to be and stay with it. Write about it, meditate upon it. Be sincere about it.

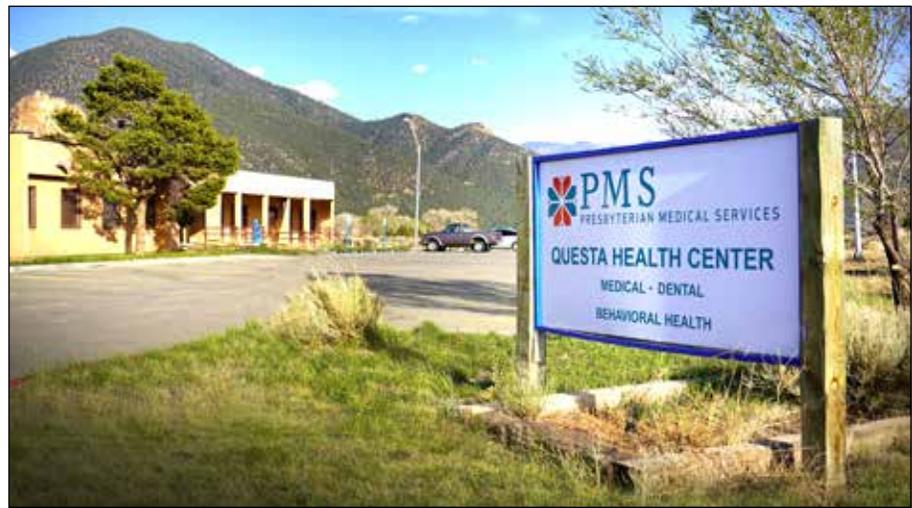


Photo by E. Wilde

### Questa Health Center; Here to Stay

By SUZANNE DONATI

Questa Health Center was one of the first outreach clinics established by Presbyterian Medical Services nearly 50 years ago. Our goal was to bring much needed health care to our rural communities. The Questa Health Center team continues to work tirelessly to help our patients and the community through good times and bad. Over the past two years, we have provided over 5,300 COVID vaccines to adults and children and countless COVID tests at our testing events. All this while continuing to provide patient care services of medical, dental, and behavioral health. The smiles on faces and thanks for our work are what keep us going every day. We are grateful to be a part of this wonderful community.

Thanks to the availability of effective vaccines and treatment, the pandemic is slowly becoming less of an issue in our daily lives. We now must focus on

reassuring and encouraging patients to return to our health center to receive preventative care that may have been put on hold for the past 25+ months.

Preventative care means catching potential problems before they become real problems. At the Questa Health Center, we provide many physical health screenings that people should be getting, depending on their gender, age, and health history, including:

- Type 2 Diabetes
- Cervical Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Prostate Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- High Cholesterol
- Osteoporosis

Contact us today to get up to date on your health screenings, vaccines, and wellness exams! (575) 586-0315. We are located at 2573 NM Highway 522, Questa, NM 87556.

<https://www.pmsnm.org/locations/questa-health-center/>

The Easter Bunny greeted lots of kids and their families at Questa's Easter Egg Hunt on April 16. There were eggs, prizes, games, and food for all in abundance.

Photo by Rachel Kuc



# The Greatest Fear of Getting Older



**LIVE  
LOVE  
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood  
a.k.a. Maruška

What is it we fear most about aging? It's not wrinkles or sagging skin, not loneliness, not joint aches and pains—it's loss of cognition and memory. Believe me, I know.

As I've mentioned in previous articles, when I was in my early to mid-60s, my memory loss and cognitive decline were so evident that even my children noticed—and they weren't living with me.

It's a lonely, terrifying feeling when

you know your brain functioning has declined. I don't mean the normal lapses of not being able to find your keys or remember where you parked or what you went into the other room for—that's more about mental focus or brain overload.

I mean obvious, gradual, and progressive decline in short-term memory and cognition—the kind I became aware of at the turn of this century. It so scared me, especially after Alzheimer's ravaged my mother's brain and I knew for sure my own was sliding downhill.

How's my memory today? It's far, far better than in the early 2000s. I'm not frightened about it anymore because I know it's up to me to create those new neurons and keep the Alzheimer's gene that I have—APO-e4—from expressing itself. It's no longer some monster

disease that's going to slowly destroy my brain while I stand by and just watch.

But I have to tell you truly, today I recognize that my memory is not quite as sharp as it had been before I reached 60. I realize that I can't breeze over some of my daily practices or allow myself to skip some of them. I need to make extra efforts to stimulate my brain. I deeply value having a clear, agile mind and plan to keep it that way.

There are numerous ways to create more neurons and neural connections. Here's one: use your non-dominant hand to perform routine tasks, such as eating, drinking, and writing.

Most of us do not eat consciously. Instead we use muscle memory. You can also freshen up your brain by putting your computer mouse or touchpad on the opposite side of your keyboard

and use your non-dominant hand to operate it. I find this very difficult, but so worthwhile!

Using our non-dominant hand creates new neural pathways: activating existing neurons into a new “firing” pattern. When we regularly create new neural pathways, by having a new experience, or learning a new skill like a foreign language or learning to play a musical instrument, we develop flexibility in our brain. It's like yoga for our nervous system.

*Ellen Wood of Questa is an award-winning author as well as an artist using the name, Maruška. The website for her books and paintings is [www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com/ellen-wood](http://www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com/ellen-wood). Contact Ellen at [ellen@howtogrowyounger.com](mailto:ellen@howtogrowyounger.com).*

*Translation by Teresa Dovalpage*

## El mayor miedo a envejecer

VIVE AMA RÍE  
Por ELLEN WOOD

¿A qué le tenemos más miedo del envejecimiento? No es a las arrugas ni a la flacidez de la piel, ni a la soledad, ni a los dolores y las molestias en las articulaciones: es a la pérdida de la cognición y la memoria. Créeme, lo sé.

Como he mencionado en artículos anteriores, cuando estaba en la década de los sesenta años, la pérdida de memoria y el deterioro cognitivo que tuve fueron tan evidentes que hasta mis hijos se dieron cuenta—y no vivían conmigo.

Es un sentimiento de soledad y terror cuando sabes que el funcionamiento de tu cerebro ha disminuido. No me refiero a los lapsos normales de no poder encontrar las llaves o no recordar dónde estacionaste el coche o para qué fuiste a la otra habitación—esto tiene más relación con el enfoque mental o la sobrecarga cerebral.

A lo que me refiero es a una disminución obvia, gradual y progresiva de la memoria y la cognición a corto plazo—algo de lo que me di cuenta a principios de este siglo. Me asustó mucho, especialmente después de que el Alzheimer devastara el cerebro de mi madre, y cuando supe con certeza que mi propio cerebro iba cuesta abajo.

¿Cómo tengo la memoria hoy? Mucho,

mucho mejor que a principios de la década del 2000. Ya no tengo miedo porque sé que depende de mí el crear esas nuevas neuronas y evitar que el gen del Alzheimer, APO-e4, que tengo, se desarrolle. Ya no es una enfermedad monstruosa que va a destruir lentamente mi cerebro mientras me quedo mirando sin poder hacer nada.

Pero tengo que decirles sinceramente que hoy reconozco que mi memoria no es tan buena como lo era antes de llegar a los 60 años. Comprendo que no puedo tomar a la ligera mis prácticas diarias o permitirme el dejar de hacerlas. Necesito hacer esfuerzos adicionales para estimularme el cerebro. Valoro profundamente el hecho de tener una mente clara y ágil y planeo mantenerla así.

Hay muchas formas de crear más neuronas y conexiones neuronales. Aquí va una: usa tu mano no dominante para realizar tareas rutinarias como comer, beber y escribir.

La mayoría de nosotros no comemos conscientemente, sino que usamos la memoria muscular para hacerlo. Te recomiendo que ejercites el cerebro comiendo con tu mano no dominante. También puedes refrescar el cerebro colocando el ratón de la computadora en el lado opuesto y usando tu mano no dominante para mover el ratón o el panel táctil. ¡Encuentro esto muy difícil, pero

vale la pena!

El uso de la mano no dominante crea nuevas vías neuronales: activa las neuronas existentes al darles un nuevo patrón de “acción.” Cuando creamos con regularidad nuevas vías neuronales, gracias al uso de la

mano no dominante o por medio de nuevas experiencias o el aprendizaje de una nueva habilidad como un idioma extranjero o un instrumento musical, estamos dándole flexibilidad al cerebro. Es como hacer yoga para el sistema nervioso.

**JR (Malaquias) says:**  
**“It's not political if your car is pulling to the left or right!**  
**Let us check it out.”**



We give great service to people of all political leanings. Sense of humor not necessary.



575-586-0561 • 2460 State Road 522, Questa NM

*Ellen Wood de Questa es una autora galardonada y una artista que usa el nombre Maruška. El sitio web de sus libros y pinturas es [www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com/ellen-wood](http://www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com/ellen-wood). Póngase en contacto con Ellen escribiéndole a [ellen@howtogrowyounger.com](mailto:ellen@howtogrowyounger.com).*

*Traducido por Teresa Dovalpage*

# Spring Cleaning Questa's Outdoor Markets and Parks

By CLAIRE COTÉ  
AND GAEA MCGAHEE

Join this year's second Community Connection Day on May 14 to beautify the shared community spaces around the intersection of Hwy 38 and 522. Ahead of graduation and the summer season, we will clean up the Veterans Memorial Park, the Questa Farmers Market and Visitor Center site, and nearby areas. And you are invited!

Community Connection Days are collaborative, intergenerational work days supporting community action and celebration in and around Questa. When everyone—elders and youth—team up to accomplish projects together, we renew connections and a sense of belonging. We completed our first event for 2022 on April 30 at the Questa Municipal Park.

There are three more Connection Days planned this year; each is an opportunity to be with friends and make new ones, to care for and improve our public spaces, and envision together what we want for our community.

## Action Plan and Work Zones

### Veterans Memorial Park, Perovich Property, and Visitor Center

An important part of the cleanup day will be sprucing up the Veterans Memorial Park, the corner across the street, and the Visitor Center, all highly visible and visited areas during Memorial Day and throughout the summer season. Trash pick-up, raking, cutting back elm trees, sweeping sidewalks, and clearing garden beds of last year's growth will make these spaces beautiful. "These areas at Questa's main intersection are typically the first impression on visitors to our area; thanks to everyone for coming out to help make

**WHAT:** Downtown Questa clean-up and beautification. Bring gloves, sun protection, and a water bottle. We'll have tools (shovels, rakes, etc.) and a hot prepared lunch for volunteers. This is part of a community wide clean-up effort.

**WHERE:** Meet at the Questa Visitor Center at 9:30 am.

**WHEN:** Saturday May 14, 9:30 am – 2 pm.

**WHO:** Everyone welcome!

**COST:** Free

**CONTACT:** [www.LEAPsite.org](http://www.LEAPsite.org)  
Claire Coté, [emailforleap@gmail.com](mailto:emailforleap@gmail.com),  
(575) 224-9066

Questa shine," said Lynn Skall, Director of the Questa Economic Development Fund.

### Questa Farmers Market

For over five years now, community volunteers, Questa Farmers Market interns, youth campers, and local and visiting organizations have put their time and energy into developing and improving the market site. This continual effort bears results; we renew and expand gardens each season to create inviting spaces for vendors and customers. This year we're continuing improvements to the area just north of the established market to prepare it for the Questa Art Market. Garden projects will include tree planting, creating pathways, spreading wood chips, and weeding and planting.

### Casa de Cultura

Adjacent to the market and Visitor Center is an historic home (with a huge beautiful apricot tree that started growing around 1902), an active acequia, and various outbuildings—future site for Casa de Cultura, a "center for creativity, consciousness, and community." This property is owned by Estevan Rael-Galvez, who is working with local nonprofit Localogy and artist and landscape designer and Casa de Cultura site leader Scott Sutton, to bring about the vision for Casa de Cultura. Part of the long-term plan is to develop a community orchard and garden, an outdoor kitchen for farm-to-table events, and a nature-based outdoor classroom with a small amphitheater for music and film screenings. There is much to be done on the property but we'll begin on May 14 by "working the grounds and planting trees," says Scott.

### Long-term Efforts

Beautifying our public and community spaces takes many hands and ongoing, collective effort. Acknowledging the people who work to keep our community clean is important; from Good Samaritans who pick up litter along roadsides, to leaders with vision and fortitude to create community spaces on otherwise unused land, such as the Veterans' Memorial Park or Questa Farmers Market. Sometimes individuals themselves are unknown, but their impact is broadly felt. Working together to keep our community beautiful means making small, individual choices in our daily lives; finding a trash can for our litter, pitching in to pick up others' refuse along roadsides, reusing a refillable bottle instead of buying plastic water bottles, or carefully tarping our loads on the way to the dump.



Photo by Claire Coté

Youth participants weed the iconic QFM truck bed garden during last May's Community Connection Day.

We celebrate **Larry Sanchez** as part of the organizing team for this collaborative clean-up event. He's a past civil servant and long-time community and veterans advocate. From 2002-06 Larry was on the Questa Village Council and in 2009 he was appointed to the Taos County Commission by Governor Bill Richardson. During this time, he was involved with Questa's Community Clean-up and Beautification Committee. "I started with the cleanup effort in the Questa area and then got on board with acknowledging the veterans and worked to establish the Veterans Memorial Park," says Larry. The Committee was established when Emanuel Romero was Mayor of Questa (1998-2002) and that's when Larry joined. Current Mayor of Questa John Ortega and his fellow council members are revitalizing the dormant Community Clean-up and Beautification Committee and they've asked Larry to be involved again. "We've got such a beautiful place and we're a close-knit community," says Larry. "The cleanup helps us prepare for tourism and visitors, and also welcomes people who are coming home to celebrate graduation, Memorial Day, visiting, or vacationing."

Community Connection Days were born out of the youth-centered beautification day a year ago at Questa Park; six monthly Community Connection Days followed in 2021. This consistent coming together, people showing up for one another and our shared spaces, is part of ongoing, collaborative, community-wide "creative placemaking," which is about collectively creating quality public spaces that support our health, happiness,



Photo by Gaea McGahee

Bennie Gallegos removing elm shoots behind Visitor Center, during last September's Community Connection Day.

and well-being.

### Thanks to all involved for making this community effort possible.

Thanks to these collaborators: LEAP, Questa Farmers Market, Village of Questa Clean-up and Beautification Committee, Localogy, Questa Economic Development Fund, Vida del Norte Coalition, North Central Food Pantry, Taos Bakes, and many community volunteers. And thanks to these funders: Chevron Grants for Good through the Taos Community Foundation and individual donors.

*Claire Coté is a multidisciplinary artist, community archivist and director of LEAP (Land, Experience, and Art of Place), and Questa Stories, which are both programs of local nonprofit Localogy. Born and raised north of Questa, Claire lives with her husband Chris and two daughters in Sunshine Valley.*

*Gaea McGahee owns Yoga Sala at the south end of Questa. She leads two programs of the nonprofit Localogy: Sala Reach, which aims to cultivate health through movement, and Questa Farmers Market, working to support local livelihoods. She was born and raised in southern New Mexico, and migrated to Questa in 2013.*

# Questa Farmers Market Starts Up May 29

By GAEA MCGAHEE

Questa Farmers Market (QFM) is strengthening local livelihoods in northern Taos County by supporting agriculturalists, entrepreneurs, and the next generation of local food business leaders, by offering youth internships. Our program hosts a seasonal market every Sunday from the end of May to early October. We develop and improve a physical marketplace, guide paid youth internships, and partner with local organizations in order to connect community members to local food and one another.

NEW! Questa Arts Market (QAM) will share this same day and time. Previously it was held on Saturdays. QAM operates as a separate market, so that QFM can offer SNAP/EBT (food stamps) and other food benefits to our community. Eligible farmers markets must sell food, primarily: that's local agriculture and some prepared food—but very limited handmade

nonfood items.

Questa Farmers Market is offering paid youth internships this year to provide; work-based learning, mentorship and skill development focused on local farm-to-market economics.

The long-range goal of Questa Farmers Market is to establish a marketplace that supports the local food economy by supporting growers, craftspeople, and customers. Mission Statement: to strengthen the local food system in northern Taos County by supporting small land- and home-based businesses, and youth through market internships, mentorship and skill building. We are a program of Localogy, a local nonprofit 501(c)(3).

For more information about the internship and QFM in general: call or text (575) 224-2104 or email [growers-makers@gmail.com](mailto:growers-makers@gmail.com). For info on the QAM, contact Lynn Skall at [lynn@QuestaEDF.com](mailto:lynn@QuestaEDF.com), leave a message at (575) 586-2149.



## A Better Beaches Bracelet

An Indonesian vacation to Bali in 2015 changed the lives of surfers Andrew Cooper and Alex Schulze. It also changed the quality of oceans and beaches around the world.

Seeing the Bali beaches covered in plastic trash haunted them so much that a year after their trip they founded their company 4Ocean, on a simple idea: sell bracelets and other recycled plastic products to fund ocean cleanup efforts. For every item sold, they'd remove one pound of trash from the ocean.

The concept got a tidal wave of support! By early 2021, 4Ocean had removed over 14 million pounds of trash and created hundreds of jobs.

While cleaning up the precious seas helps the planet, the company's ultimate goal is to put itself out of business, by eliminating pollution at its source—the consumer. Education is key, and their 4Ocean.com site is chock full of ways you and I can help.

They are working on raising global

awareness through their products and holding "beach cleanup parties" in countries across the globe. These events encourage local community members to lend a hand in the ocean plastic crisis while learning about the different types of plastic collected.

4Ocean purchases boats and hires professional captains and crews to remove ocean debris seven days a week. They also install river boom systems that prevent inland plastic from ever reaching the ocean.

Taking their mission even further, the company is invested in a closed-loop product system, turning the plastic they collect into an expanded product line that includes reusables, like water bottles and shopping bags.

4Ocean's cleanup efforts continue in Florida, Bali, and Haiti. New cleanup projects are starting in Central America. This award-winning B-Corp was founded on the belief that business can be a force for good, be successful, and have the power to change the world.

*This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live. "Building community through creativity." <https://SecoLive.org>*

Audio Story

[https://mcusercontent.com/6dd23531465f1c13f80eb7d84/files/a196435f-e7ce-426e-cbb1-24fa8be01cb2/GN\\_7.38\\_BetterBeachesBracelet.mp3](https://mcusercontent.com/6dd23531465f1c13f80eb7d84/files/a196435f-e7ce-426e-cbb1-24fa8be01cb2/GN_7.38_BetterBeachesBracelet.mp3)

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# Community Development Workshop Recap

By HILARY HEYL

On Saturday, April 9, 31 community-concerned citizens of the Questa area attended a day-long workshop on Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), facilitated by Ruben Medina of The Denver Foundation. The event began with a meet and greet the previous evening. Benita Muñiz, a volunteer for the Questa Del Rio News, was inspired to set up this workshop in Questa, having had previous experience with ABCD and Ruben.

The Denver Foundation (per their website) is “the largest and most experienced community foundation in the Rocky Mountain West. For nearly 100 years, people in Metro Denver and across Colorado have trusted The Denver Foundation to steward charitable funds to meet today’s needs and tomorrow’s opportunities. In partnership with generous donors and community partners, we lead a community-wide effort to build a better future for everyone.”

Saturday’s participants represented a cross-section of individuals from many parts of our community: business, recovery efforts, mothers, veterans, construction workers, non-profit leaders, faith-based participants, school board members and village staff. In their introductions, participants spoke passionately about “improving the motherland,” “creating a community where our kids can thrive right here and not have to leave,” implementing the idea that “it takes a village to raise a child,” and “coming together in unity” rather than despairing or isolating over issues such as alcohol and drugs, hopelessness, division, and differences.

Ruben led the group through various hands-on exercises in groups of two (dyads) to develop relationships and connections and then in small groups to perform “asset-mapping” in the areas of individuals, associations, institutions, physical aspects, the marketplace, and cultural stories of the Questa area.

These existing groups of informal associations in our community included knitting, Bible study, or “women who travel,” and institutions of the community, such as non-profits, school systems, and village governments. Collectively, groups identified 102 associations and institutions, albeit with much overlap. Then he invited small groups to identify specific physical assets, such as unused open spaces or buildings, marketplace exchange (including alternatives, such as



Photo by Gayle Martinez

**Members from all sectors of the community came together for the ABCD workshop to grow relationships in the community and map its assets, and learn many skills for building community.**

time banks, instead of currency exchange and business cooperatives) and cultural stories.

Cultural stories includes integrating traumas of discrimination with transformative stories that strengthen the community. Ruben stressed that asset mapping as an ongoing process is a “means of community affirmation, a guide to relationship building, and creating a different basis for institutions’ sharing power.”

## **ABCD represents an approach to community development that emphasizes**

- a) the power of citizens through ever expanding relationships;
- b) identifying and building upon six different kinds of community assets; and
- c) not allowing “others” (such as institutions, government, outside influences and corporations) “write the narrative” of a community.

First and foremost, Ruben emphasized the foundational building block of relationship-building through knowing individuals in a meaningful way, to identify their gifts and passions. Working again in dyads, the group learned of others’ “gifts of passion, wisdom, creativity, knowledge and life challenges that have created passages to new understanding. All community members at the ABCD table come each with unique gifts.”

Ruben urged participants to “expand circles of passion and influence.” He gave the image of reversing the traditional power model—a CEO or leader on top of a triangle making decisions that “trickle down to constituents.” Instead, citizens who have “skin in the game” come together in large numbers of civic engagement to create change that flows upward towards traditional leaders who then have to say, “yes.” It may seem that Ruben is working against municipal governments, when in fact, he is a city

councilor of Aurora, CO, and in using ABCD models, is enacting change from the inside out!

Ruben offered a moving example of ABCD community development from Moorhead, a predominantly African-American neighborhood of Aurora, Colorado. Here the Moorhead Park Recreation Center was built slowly over seven years and became “the hub of the wheel of the community,” growing to host 40,000 visitors per year and employing 50 community members, including marginalized citizens, such as a formerly unhoused man with the unique gift of teaching boxing. He emphasized the importance of problem-solving obstacles that arose, rather than accepting “no’s” or giving the city government “power over community desire.”

As a way forward from all the new learnings through this ABCD workshop, Ruben offered a process that could be facilitated by an organizer with connections inside and outside the community. That process would include

- a.) the coming together of community vision,
- b.) strategies to make it so,
- c.) problem-solving of barriers,
- d.) evaluation, and celebration as it progresses, and
- e.) continuous community member engagement and leadership development. He also offered the possibility of block captains and small community action project development within that larger vision.

Many thanks to those who made this invigorating and hopeful workshop possible: Benita Muñiz, the LOR Foundation, the Taos Community Foundation, and Lynn Skall of Questa Economic Development Fund. A special note of appreciation goes out to Pastors Gayle and Peter Martinez of Living Ministries for hosting the workshop and helping to organize it.

# Enchanted Circle Electric Vehicle Stations

FROM KIT CARSON  
ELECTRIC CO-OP

KCEC has installed 26 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the Enchanted Circle. They will install an additional 22 EV charging stations this summer to prepare for the vast adoption of EVs. EVs will reduce carbon emissions while providing a new opportunity for rural communities to invest in more carbon-efficient vehicles.

With demand up and supplies down, costs for everything have increased. Passing along those higher costs to consumers causes financial pressure on KCEC members. The cost of fuel and utilities (gas, diesel, natural gas, propane) continues to increase with no sign of relief. This summer, KCEC will be 100% Daytime Solar. Members will see a decrease in their electric bills through the fuel adjustment line item. The lower rates will give KCEC members financial relief during these difficult times.

KCEC is creating a clean environment for our communities to preserve the natural beauty of Northern NM. Creating a carbon-free climate will raise the standard for a better quality of life for our younger generations.

Sincerely,  
Luis A. Reyes Jr., CEO of KCEC

[Editor’s Note: Questa has an operational EV station at the Family & Youth Center, and a second EV station will be installed at the Questa Visitor early this summer.]



# Questa; Only Community in New Mexico Awarded Clean Energy Tech Grant

FROM THE US  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Justice and Energy Communities Leverage Tools to Lower Energy Bills, Develop Plans for Sustained Economic Empowerment

The US Department of Energy (DOE) announced on March 29, 2022, the 22 inaugural communities selected as part of the Communities Local Energy Action Program (Communities LEAP—not the same LEAP as we know here in Questa, the non-profit run by Claire Coté), a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to help energy-overburdened communities take direct control of their clean energy future.

Questa was the only community in New Mexico that was awarded, alongside other much larger cities, such as Seattle, Pittsburgh, San Jose and more. The 22 communities will receive support from DOE to create community-wide action plans that reduce local air pollution, increase energy resilience, lower utility costs and energy burdens, and provide long-term jobs and economic opportunities.

DOE's pilot program reflects the

Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to assist community-led transitions to a clean energy economy, and to build a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable future. "The President is committed to making a historic investment in our clean energy future and environmental justice," said Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. "With Communities LEAP, we will use the power of the Federal government, DOE's National Labs and other experts to help our communities develop clear, actionable plans to reimagine their energy future and protect the health and safety of all residents."

By providing targeted technical assistance, Communities LEAP will open the door for communities to access significant, additional DOE and other federal government programs, including those included in the \$1.3 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Communities LEAP also implements the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 commitment, which aims to ensure that federal agencies deliver at least 40% of benefits from certain investments to disadvantaged communities and advances the work of the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities, which

focuses on delivering federal investment to hard-hit energy communities.

"Communities across the country must be able to take advantage of these historic investments in clean energy infrastructure, energy efficiency, and clean transportation," said Mitch Landrieu, White House Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Coordinator.

The transition to a clean energy economy lowers local air pollution and energy burdens and is also poised to bring billions of dollars in continued investments to communities across the country while generating good paying jobs. In 2019, renewable energy investments in the US reached \$55 billion and clean energy jobs paid 25% more than the national median wage. Workers in clean energy earned a median hourly wage of \$23.89 compared to the national median wage of \$19.14.

The 22 selected communities will work with DOE and its network of technical assistance providers, government and non-governmental partners,

community-based organizations, utilities as well as environmental justice, economic development, and equitable investment organizations to develop roadmaps for clean energy economic development pathways. The inaugural Communities LEAP localities will pursue strategies for planning and investment in:

- Energy-efficient buildings and beneficial electrification
- Clean energy development
- Clean transportation and enhanced mobility
- Carbon capture and storage
- Critical minerals recovery
- Resilient microgrids and energy storage
- Manufacturing and industry opportunities

"Tribal communities must be included in the urgent fight to combat the climate crisis through innovative strategies that protect health, generate jobs and reduce utility expenses," said U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR).

"In the years since the closure of the Questa Molybdenum Mine, local leaders in Questa have worked incredibly hard to transform their community into a real model for sustainable economic development and diversification," said U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM). "In the last decade, the Village of Questa has become a gateway community to the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and helped local, clean energy-powered businesses like Taos Bakes grow their manufacturing base. I'm excited to welcome this major investment to help Questa plan for future growth and continue its momentum as a leader in the clean energy economy."

"I commend the Department of Energy for their decision to provide support to Questa and other communities across the country to create new, good-paying clean energy jobs," said U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM).

"From its deep Hispano roots to the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains in its background, the Village of Questa is a pillar of northern New Mexico," said US Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM-03). "Today's DOE announcement recognizes the unique economic and environmental challenges Questa has faced."

"It is crucial that the federal government prioritizes support for low-income communities and communities of color to make the clean energy transition," said U.S. Congressman Adam Smith (D-WA-09)

Communities LEAP is supported by six DOE offices: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Electricity, Indian Energy, Policy, and Economic Impact and Diversity.

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# Toward More Sustainable Fashion: Part 2 of 3

By JONATHAN HUTCHISON

The first installment on Sustainable Fashion (<https://questanews.com/the-clothing-industry-and-environmental-sustainability/>) examined the wasteful and manipulative business model of the fashion industry, its rapid-fire succession of designs, and the environmental impacts of toxic manufacturing methods and materials and waste.

Forward-thinking elements within the fashion industry, who have labored for decades to promote durable, ecologically sustainable clothing, acknowledge that this goal is incompatible with the industry's drive for unlimited expansion of markets and sales. The industry is

## Resources on sustainable fashion:

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/fashion-clothing>

<https://fashinnovation.nyc/sustainable-development-goals-how-can-the-fashion-industry-support-it/>

## Sustainable fashion tips:

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/fashion-clothing/10-tips-turn-your-back-fast-fashion>

## Directory of sustainable fashion

brands: <https://goodonyou.eco/>

## Local organizations that accept donated clothing:

**CAV** - Proceeds provide services for women and families in crisis. 1509 Paseo Sur, Taos, NM 87571 <https://taoscav.org/> 575-751-4824

**Habitat Restore** - Proceeds help build low-cost, affordable-mortgage housing for qualifying families. Southside: 206 Paseo Del Cañon East Taos, (575) 999-6437. Northside: 16 State Road 522 El Prado, (575) 776-2165

**Dream Tree** - Donations support area youth in crisis. (575) 758-9595 Drop-off: 128 La Posta Rd., Taos.

**Giving Tree** - Donations distributed free to local residents in need. (505) 980-3387 Drop-off: Behind Subway 1128-C Paseo Sur, Taos, next to Viva Sports

**Big Brothers/Big Sisters** - Pairing at-risk youth with adult mentors. Green donation boxes at: Super Save Discount Foods, 519 Paseo Sur; Del Norte Lounge, 1574 Paseo Sur.

unlikely to change. So, what can we do about it on our end?

**Mindful consumption:** Can we free ourselves from endless rounds of externally driven consumerism and engage with clothing more responsibly? Can we be more conscious of our shopping habits and distinguish what the industry tells us we want from what we need? How is our self-image and presentation conditioned by what others consider stylish or desirable? Does shopping for clothes give us an emotional boost that substitutes for real fulfillment?

We can limit our consumption, based on need, not impulse, making sure new clothing is durable, not too trendy, and likely to get frequent use. We can make clothes last longer by caring for them and repairing them. We can receive and give hand-me-downs, exchange clothes with friends and neighbors, and rent or borrow clothes for one-time events. We can buy quality used clothing from thrift stores and sell or trade unneeded clothes to such shops or donate to charities.

And, we can make do with what we already have. Elisabeth White is the founder of *Rediscover Your Closet* <http://www.rediscoveryourcloset.co/>. She helps clients identify neglected clothing that, when paired with other pieces or accessories, can gain a new lease on life. Clients are encouraged to keep unwanted but useful clothes in circulation by gifting or donating. She is available for phone or online consultations.

**Alternative Fashion:** It's possible to be fashionable and still reduce our impact on the planet, finding treasures and keeping useful clothing out of the waste stream. Where hand-me-down and second-hand clothes were once considered tacky, they are now seen as emblems of sustainability. *Ethical Consumer Markets Report* found that environmentally motivated spending on desirable second-hand clothing increased by 42% in three years. Resale clothing site [depop.com](https://depop.com) reported a 200% rise in traffic over the previous year and eBay sales have also increased.

Taos County has a wealth of second-hand/thrift shops, offering good bargains on quality pieces. Promoting reuse and reduction of waste is central to their mission statements. The village of Questa alone has three such shops.

**Twice As Nice Thrift Store**, a project of local non-profit, Artesanos de Questa, is located at 41 NM 38, next to the Questa Post Office. It has a wide selec-

tion of clothing (as well as household items) and is open from 11 am to 4 pm, Thursday and Saturday. They are often open on other days, too. If you see a car there, drop in!

**Jay's Unique Thrift Store**, located at 2 NM 38, offers some clothing, often brand new. Much of Jay's inventory comes from the contents of abandoned storage units. Most of the clothing they offer are boots and jackets and other higher end products. Unsold clothing is distributed to local churches and charities or placed in a free box. Hours: Tues-Sat, from 10 am to 5 pm.

**The Kiowa Thrift Store**, next to Car-Questa, is in transition, with all clothing on clearance through mid-May, specializing in baby and children's clothing. Clothing is donated to people in need and stored for future demand. Hours by appointment. Call (575) 224-6661.

**The Uptown Thrift Store**, at 313 Paseo Norte, Taos, stocks quality used clothing and offers cash or store credit for clean, serviceable items. Fabric from deconstructed garments is available to craft-makers and those who sew. Unsold items donated to charity. Hours: 11 am to 5 pm, M-F, Saturday 11-3.

**Rethreads**, located at 302 Paseo Sur in Taos, near Smith's, offers select, affordable used clothing. Submit up to 12 "softly used" items per week for store credit. Rethreads sponsors a kids and infants clothing swap on the last Sunday of every month. By arrangement, free clothing is provided to clients of Dream Tree and the men's shelter. Hours: M-F, 10 am to 5:30 pm, Sat, 10 am-5 pm, Sun, 12-5 pm.

**Reneux** is an upscale consignment boutique at 126A West Plaza in Taos. Mindful of the environmental impact of synthetic fibers, it features durable, seasonal, trending and classic items in natural fabrics; cotton, linen and flax. Reneux Home features everything for the home and is connected to the cloth-

ing boutique. It has a separate entrance at 121 Camino de la Placita. Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm.

**Community Against Violence Thrift Store (CAV)**, in their new location, 1509 Paseo Sur, has an expanded clothing selection. Proceeds provide shelter and other services to women and children in need of safe haven. Unsold items go to other charities. Hours: Tues-Sat, 10 am to 6 pm. Donations accepted Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm.

**Habitat Restore's** proceeds help build low-cost, affordable-mortgage housing for qualifying families. Southside: 206 Paseo Del Cañon East Taos. Northside: 16 State Road 522 El Prado.

**Fernandez Plaza**, just off Paseo Sur in Ranchos de Taos on NM 518, offers gently worn western wear, children's clothes, and other items, sourced from estate, storage sales, and wholesale buys. Open Monday and Thursday through Saturday, 1-5 pm.

Another emerging approach to buying and selling quality used clothing is through online vendors, such as eBay, ThredUP, Craig's List, Facebook Marketplace, and depop.com .

Let's get off the fast fashion carousel and care for our planet by limiting new clothing purchases to what we really need, buying durable, well-made natural-fiber garments and by seeking out gently worn treasures in thrift shops. Exchange clothing with friends, hand it down to family members, consign or sell it, and donate it to charity—putting clothes on the backs of less fortunate souls and enabling good work.

In next month's final installment, we'll visit with area artists engaged in "upcycling," using recycled and repurposed fabrics to create new products, as responsible stewardship of our environment opens new frontiers of fashion.



## QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL



### P<sup>3</sup> - Pandemic Poetry Project

The Art for All workshops continue into the summer of 2022! Introductory Weaving was held two Sundays in April, and it was so much fun and there was so much to learn, we extended it for two more Sundays!

And now we're excited to announce our next workshop, spearheaded by QCC member (and our funding manager) Betsy Irwin, with Carissa Ervine—it's called The Pandemic Poetry Project, or P<sup>3</sup>.

According to P<sup>3</sup> coordinator Betsy Irwin, "We want to illuminate how poetry flows through our lives—from nursery rhymes to rap music. We'll share different poetry forms and techniques to help writers create a format for their work. Using the pandemic as a general topic, I believe writers can offshoot into infinite forms. That said, we'll encourage students to anchor their poems on positive outcomes such as our innate

strength during difficult times, the process of surrender, lessons we learn, or changes in our collective beliefs."

Each workshop has two sessions. Morning sessions are geared towards teens while afternoons are reserved for adults. Aspiring poets will be coached in the many ways that exist to express themselves in writing.

The second set of workshops will take the pandemic poetry off the paper—and will focus on presentation. "Performance, or even how a poem can be intertwined into other art forms, is as important as putting pen to paper," says Irwin. Future workshops will explore the concepts of sound (phonetics) and meaning (morphs) separately, circling back around to connect them. Body language, costuming, and combining poetry into visual arts are other topics we will introduce as students decide the best approach to performing their writings.

Questa Farmer's Market will host P<sup>3</sup> poets on the first Sunday of each month, starting June 2. "Having recitals at local farmers markets is a great way to get the public and our poets ready for a hoped-for larger performance, as plans shape up into the fall," Betsy says.

P<sup>3</sup> also hopes to host a countywide poetry effort as the project expands,

inviting poets to submit their work for jurying. Betsy and Carissa are developing accompanying lesson plans, making it easy for teachers to introduce the idea of submitting their work while adhering to New Mexico's curriculum guidelines. "We also want home-schoolers involved in the project," Irwin remarked. "This will be a great way to help parent-teachers to round out their kids' English program in a unique, community-oriented way."

According to Alberta Bouyer, board director for the Questa Creative Council, "We are so happy to re-start our Art-for-All workshop series at the Youth and Family Center after a long pandemic hiatus. This summer is shaping up to be varied and exciting. The P<sup>3</sup> workshop will be a terrific one, with much potential for related efforts. Stay tuned!"

**WHAT:** Pandemic Poetry Project

**WHEN:** Saturdays, May 14 and May 21. Morning sessions for teens meet 9:30 am - noon, afternoon session for adults meet 1:30 to 4:30

**WHERE:** Questa Youth Center, next to Questa Public Library, Municipal Park Drive, Questa, NM

**COST:** Free

**CONTACT:** [questacreativecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:questacreativecouncil@gmail.com) to register and for more info.

### National Trails Day is June 4, and it's our trail day, too

Come celebrate National Trails Day on the Questa History Trail. If you haven't yet experienced the easily walkable .6 mile route, this will be the perfect time, so come along! Enjoy traditional treats, music, guest experts, and the company of your neighbors.

This trail was built for you. Its signs put into words what every Questeño can be proud of. The history and culture of our small village, interestingly, includes almost every topic in the bigger picture of northern New Mexico's story. Come discover this for yourself.

**WHAT:** Questa History Trail annual walk

**WHERE:** Questa traffic light corner, near the QHT kiosk

**WHEN:** 11 am, Saturday June 4, 2022

**COST:** Free, but bring sunscreen, water, and a hat

**CONTACT:** [QuestaCreativeCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:QuestaCreativeCouncil@gmail.com)

**SAVE THE DATE...** great local art coming our way in August!

The Questa Studio Art Tour will be held the weekend of August 13 -14. See more at [www.northernnewmexicoartists.com](http://www.northernnewmexicoartists.com).

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87849364259?pwd=Mms0TjBBR1dJR2FyUVlCem44RVVZQT09>

**CALL IN:** (346) 248 7799

**MEETING ID:** 878 4936 4259

**PASSCODE:** 282982

For more information,  
contact [Lynn@questaedf.com](mailto:Lynn@questaedf.com)

# June 4: Questa Free Fishing Day Festival



Photo By Lynn Skall

Local youth enjoy a perfect fishing day on Eagle Rock Lake, where the Questa Free New Mexico Fishing Day Festival will be held. We hope to see you there.

By LYNN SKALL

Questa is joining the whole state to promote the New Mexico Free Fishing Day on Saturday, June 4, by hosting a fun-for-all Fishing Festival at Eagle Rock Lake Park from 10 am – 2 pm. This is a celebration of everything fishing, and a day when no licenses are required to cast a line.

To help initiate a love for the outdoors and fishing that will last a lifetime, the first 50 kids under the age of 12 will receive a free fishing pole and tackle kit. Since children eleven years old and under don't require a fishing license in New Mexico, this will ensure they are fully equipped for a summer of fishing and can enjoy the Festival day when everyone fishes for free!

Questa's Eagle Rock Lake will be stocked prior to the event by NM Game and Fish with 1,500 trout from the Red River Fish Hatchery, just down the road; this will ensure that everyone catches a fish!

There will be fishing guides on hand for free lessons, tips, and assistance. Attendees will enjoy giveaways; informa-

tion booths about fishing and recreation in the Questa area; live music, items for sale, a visit from Smokey Bear, and of course, food!

For lunch, Frito Pies from Evelyn's Treats will be available to purchase for a \$5 donation which will benefit NM Trout Unlimited initiatives. Other food will also be available for sale. Bottled water will be provided at no charge to keep everyone hydrated and all plastic will be recycled through the Questa/Taos Repurposing Plastic Project (<https://www.repurposingplastictaos.com/>), where plastic waste is recycled into new structures such as walls, benches, and sheds.

Eagle Rock Lake is part of the Carson National Forest; it is easy to get to, located one mile east of the Questa town center on NM-Hwy 38. The park is fully ADA-accessible with walking trails, vault toilet, and handicap parking; there are picnic tables, shade trees around an 8-acre lake, and spectacular views in all directions.

The Questa Fishing Festival is sponsored by the Questa Economic Development Fund, the Village of Questa,

Chevron, Taos Community Foundation, the US Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, NM Game and Fish, and the Questa Visitor Center.

Fishing licenses are required to enjoy fishing the waters of New Mexico every day, except for this free day, for individuals twelve and older. Licenses can be purchased locally at Questa Lumber and Hardware Co., located at 2349 NM-Hwy 522, or online at: <https://www.takemefishing.org/new-mexico/fishing-license>, where state regulations and resources can also be found.

For more information about the event, and to sign up to sponsor a booth at no charge at the Fishing Festival, please contact Dina Coleman at [Dina@questaedf.com](mailto:Dina@questaedf.com) or leave a message at (575) 586-2258.

**WHAT:** Questa Free NM Fishing Day Festival. No fishing licenses required. First 50 kids under 12 get a free fishing pole & tackle kit!  
**WHEN:** Saturday, June 4, 10am – 2pm  
**WHERE:** Eagle Rock Lake Park, NM-Hwy 38  
**COST:** Free  
**CONTACT:** (575) 586-2258

## Taos Ski Valley Foundation Grants Nature Conservancy Water Fund

By TRACEY STONE

The Taos Ski Valley Foundation (TSVF) announced a \$125,000 grant for The Nature Conservancy-led Rio Grande Water Fund (RGWF) on March 22, 2022. The RGWF is designed to restore 600,000 acres of forest across northern New Mexico and southern Colorado to reduce wildfire risk and protect water for one million people. TSVF has been a pivotal partner since the effort launched in 2014.

The new funding will bolster more controlled burning—the practice of deliberately setting and carefully managing fires under strict conditions. A centuries-old tradition, the resurgent practice is used to protect and restore forests by reducing the dense, overgrown understory that fuels wildfires, germinating critical new growth, and promoting thriving indigenous plants and wildlife. This ensures a diverse and resilient ecosystem. Funding will also support inclusivity and increase capacity within the Rio Grande Water Fund's work.

Waconda will lead the effort to facilitate learning exchanges with two new or existing tribal communities in New

Mexico who are part of the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network, a collaborative effort designed to support cultural burning. Additionally, workshops will be held to educate fire practitioners on prescribed fire liability, burner certification, and training to increase capacity to get more work done on the ground.

“Rising temperatures, severe drought, and catastrophic fire events across the entire southwest make proactive projects of the Rio Grande Water Fund more necessary than ever,” said Louis Bacon, owner of Taos Ski Valley and founder of Taos Ski Valley Foundation. “Preventing and mitigating fires is the highest con-

servation priority. We commend Nature Conservancy New Mexico and the Rio Grande Water Fund public and private partners on their collaboration to address these challenges.”

“We're grateful to Taos Ski Valley Foundation for its ongoing and generous support. Contributions have helped us triple our annual thinning average, prevented four severe fires, supported hundreds of jobs, and provided tens of millions of dollars in economic outputs,” said Terry Sullivan, The Nature Conservancy's state director for New Mexico.

The Taos Ski Valley Foundation supports conservation nonprofits that focus

on protecting threatened landscapes, habitats, wildlife, and waterways.

With 100 signatories, an increasing number of people see the value in restoring our forests in the face of climate change.

**About the Nature Conservancy New Mexico:** The Nature Conservancy has been working in New Mexico for almost four decades. Guided by science, we have permanently protected 1.5 million acres, secured voluntary land conservation easements on more than half a million acres and improved land and water management on an additional 18 million acres. We create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together.

**About the Taos Ski Valley Foundation:** The Taos Ski Valley Foundation, an affiliate of The Moore Charitable Foundation, founded by Louis Bacon in 1992, supports conservation nonprofits that focus on protecting threatened landscapes, habitats, wildlife, and waterways. The Taos Ski Valley Foundation also supports educational and community programs in the region.

*“Indigenous Peoples have been putting fire on the ground since the beginning of time, however, that right was taken away by European settlers,” says John Waconda, Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program Director. “Now we've seen a shift to revitalize controlled burning because it helps build community and forest resilience.”*



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## BIRD IS THE WORD

By BRYCE FLANIGAN

### Here Come Hummingbirds

As temperatures climb, expect to see more and more beautiful hummingbirds as they migrate north. Here are a few tips for feeding hummingbirds and how to attract more of them to your yard.

For feeding hummingbirds, create a mixture of one part water to four parts refined white sugar—that's all you need

to keep them happy and give them the energy they need. Refined white sugar is the only acceptable sweetener for them. Brown sugar contains molasses which is harmful to their delicate digestive system. While unrefined organic sugar may be healthier for humans, it is not good for these little guys. Flower nectar is naturally clear so don't add any coloring or dyes to the mixture; it's the bright flower colors that attract hummers, so the red plastic on your feeder will do the job just fine. You can plant native flowering plants, too.

When placing your feeders, find a shady spot, to give our tiny friends a reprieve from the sun, and space feeders out to help prevent squabbles, as male hummingbirds are notoriously territorial. Several smaller feeders placed around a yard is better than just a few large feed-



Photo by E. Wilde

Possibly a Rufous female photographed in the El Rito area last year.

ers. You can leave feeders out for 3 to 4 days in temperatures below 90° before refilling them. To keep them clean, once a month soak the feeder in a bleach mixture of one tablespoon bleach per quart

of water to prevent any bacteria buildup. (And, of course, rinse very thoroughly after this soak.)

Hummingbirds also like to bathe, so providing a shallow bird bath is sure to make you popular with them—opportunities for bathing in the wild are rare and they'll appreciate it.

#### A few fun facts about hummingbirds:

- They are the only bird capable of hovering and flying backwards, but they cannot walk or hop.
- Hummingbirds survive freezing temperatures by entering "torpor," a state of dormancy where they slow their heart rate and drop their body temperature up to 50 degrees lower than average.
- Males attract mates by performing large, arcing dives, showing off their brightly colored throats.



### The Gift of Beavers

By TONER MITCHELL

The beaver is what is known as a keystone species, an organism that can shape or define an ecosystem with its behavior and habits. There is a beautiful diversity of creatures that serve a keystone function, from elephants to bees.

Wolves, for example—by forcing herds of grazing animals to keep moving from fear of being eaten—enable grass growth and promote lush streamside vegetation. Otters, a recent concern of Questa fishermen, appear to prefer eating crayfish, carp, and pike, prey that are detrimental to trout (crayfish eat trout eggs and newborns) and easier for otters to catch. Perhaps a result of otter impact on these species, trout populations in the Rio Grande appear to be increasing.

The keystone species we're most familiar with is ourselves. Humans affect ecosystems in many profound ways, overconsuming carbon-based fuels, for example, even staring obliviously at cell phones.

Beavers make messes for a living.

They cut down trees and leave them all over the place. They eat some of the trees, mainly the bark, and as we all know, they use wood and logs to dam up streams and spread water. Understandably, beavers' tree cutting and flooding have won them no shortage of enemies among farmers and homeowners, particularly folks who build houses too close to streams and rivers.

But even the thinnest tortilla has two sides, something we should keep in mind when pondering the origin of our rural communities in the first place. Take the gently sloping lowlands and fields around the junta of the Red River and Cabresto Creek. That this area is suitable for farming is testimony to centuries of human populations bending nature to their need for food and other materials.

Previous and parallel to human occupation, beavers were working, too. Erosion, including extreme events such as post-fire debris flows, accounts for almost all of the valley's abundant fertile soil in our watershed, but what kept it from washing away?

Beavers did! Through a process repeated throughout North America, chewed-down trees and beaver dams strewn across the valley trapped eroded material. Over time, each mess got buried and a new one was made on top of it. With their dams, beavers not only lifted water tables and captured sediment, they enabled small-scale agriculture in northern New Mexico.



Photo by Toner Mitchell

In the late 1800s, when we declared open season on the nation's natural resources, beavers were among the worst casualties. Trapping promised big money, especially for beavers but it reduced beaver populations from more than a billion to just thousands. No longer stabilized by interconnected beaver networks, rivers paid the price, unnaturally straightening, flowing high one day and low the next. Once serving as firebreaks, water purifiers, food pantries, and maintainers of groundwater levels, stream systems became diminished and weak.

The Galisteo River, Rios Puerco, Gallina, and San Jose; these New Mexico streams once reached larger rivers, but

now are merely ghosts that only come out when it rains hard.

Beavers were still around then, when the stream beds were up here instead of down there, when the cottonwoods grew, and willow flycatchers flew... when the water flowed out of the ground instead of into it. We've learned a lot about beavers in recent years, most of it helpful, particularly in these times of biting drought, low stream flows, and worsening erosion.

Addressing our problems will require more than just money. We need good ideas, and beavers are—and always have been—the best idea there is for fixing rivers. Plus, they work for free.

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*This event takes place in Carson National Forest. QEDF is an equal opportunity provider.*

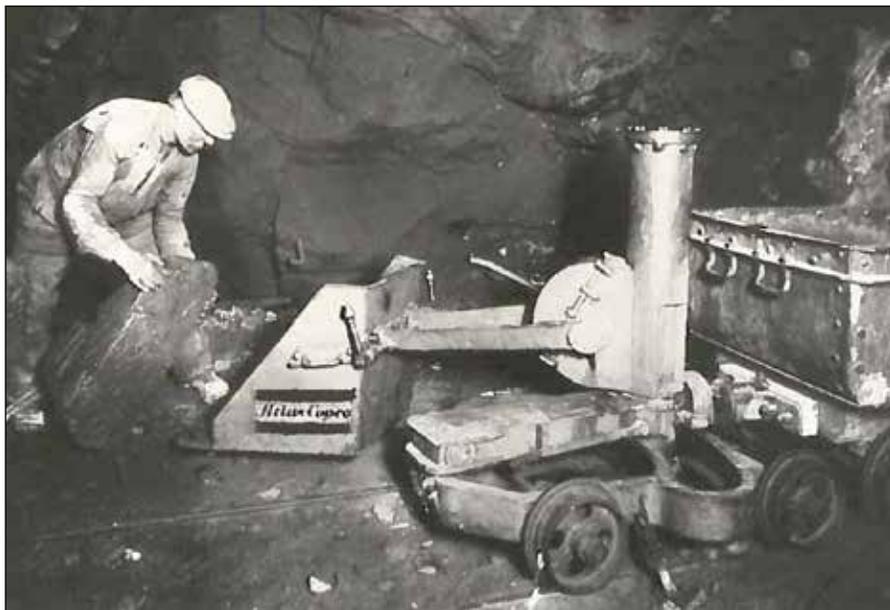
# Questa and the Questa Mine: Part 3

By MARTHA SHEPP AND MANY OTHERS

*This community paper is endeavoring to offer a Questa mine history series over the next few issues, to bring you stories from the earliest discovery of molybdenum right up to the present with the goal to review, freshen up the facts, and celebrate the story of our place.*

## From Part 2:

In the 1930s, molybdenum's usage grew beyond its early application for strengthening armor plate and automotive steels into uses for stainless steels, cast iron, and cast steels. With the advent of war in the 1940s and subsequent tungsten shortages, the increased need for high-speed tool steels and ship plate swelled markets.



Courtesy Photo: From the Red River Historical Society clippings

Hard work! Loading ore into an automated shovel, one hunk at a time. (date unknown)

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October 12, 1931 - Engineering and Mining Journal

Courtesy Photo: From the Red River Historical Society clippings

Only \$90 for your very own mining cart! From the October 12, 1931 issue of Engineering and Mining Journal.

## Part 3: Mining Scales Up

As mining operations continued to expand in Questa, costs for haulage, drainage, and ventilation increased significantly, so in 1941 a mile-long tunnel was driven north from Red River canyon (Questa) to the ore deposit. Not until 1935 had electricity come to the Questa mill—pulleys and water power had sufficed just fine! While electricity and computer technology made dramatic changes in the efficiency and monitoring of mill processes, the crushing, grinding, and flotation techniques were much the same as those used in the early days.

By the 1950s molybdenum had become the essential steelmaking commodity with annual world production doubling during that decade, 90% of it in the US. Employment levels at the mine ranged from 30 to 50 workers. Because of increasing difficulties of maintaining the small-tonnage, high-grade production, an intensive exploration program was initiated in 1953. The surface geology was mapped and metal distribution determined by soil sampling. Underground headings were advanced into target areas, and diamond drilling was initiated. By 1957, it was apparent that the Questa mine held promise of large reserves of low-grade molybdenite ore.

**1957** Underground mining ceases at Questa and exploration and delineation efforts continue under a \$255 million Defense Minerals Exploration Administration (DMEA) matching funds contract. Molybdenum Corporation of America (MCA)'s Washington, Pennsylvania plant built two large ventilation stacks to carry off-gases to the upper atmosphere. During the previous 60 years these gasses were vented directly to the atmosphere in accordance with standard operating practices of the times, but times were changing.

**1964** After 170,000 feet of drilling and considerable bulk sampling, MCA proceeds with the development of an open pit mine west of the underground workings. The old mine camp is removed, including the 1955 mill, and a 10,000 ton per day mill is constructed. Pre-mining stripping began for the future open pit.

**1965-1983** Open pit mining operations time! During this period, the mill capacity was expanded to 18,000 tons per day and the stripping rate was expanded to 120,000 tons. The mine and mill operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with three shifts working per day. At this time, the mine employed approximately 500 workers.

**1968** A major landslide (over 500,000 tons) caused MCA to redesign the mining plan. It was necessary to refinance the operation and over the next three years implement a major stripping program by

adding three 17-yard shovels, additional 60R blast hole drills, and a complement of 120-ton trucks. A screening plant was installed to remove gangue (barren material) from the molybdenite vein material, thereby significantly upgrading mill feed.

**1970** The road between Questa and Red River is rebuilt.

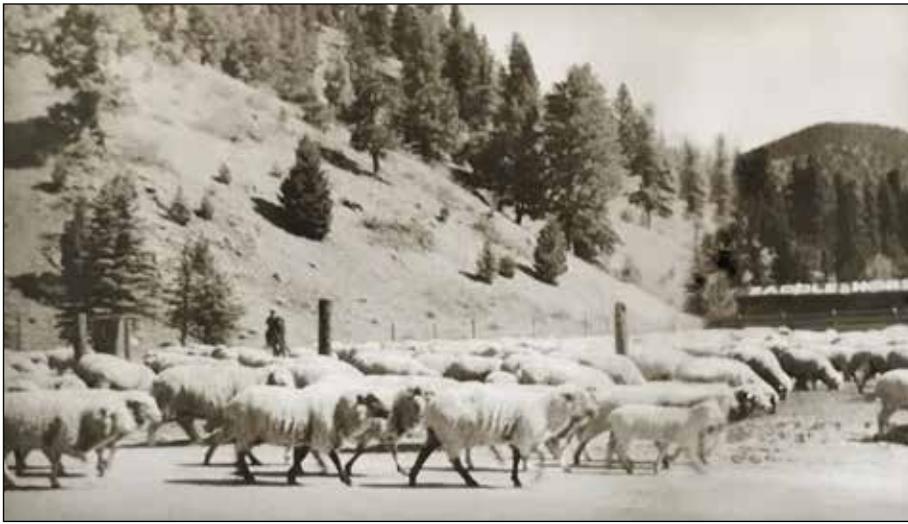
**1971** Mine production at Questa reached 200,000 tons per day.

**1973** New Mexico Mining Act calls for more stringent requirements for clean-up and remediation of mining sites.

**1974** MCA's name formally changed to Molycorp, Inc.

**1975** Exploratory drilling revealed a deep high grade deposit that could be mined economically only by underground methods. So the decision was made to temporarily phase out open pit operations in favor of this new deposit. The transition was complete by 1985.

**1977** International Mining Company was involved in a hostile takeover. To avoid being taken over as well, Molycorp looked for a "white knight," and subsequently merged with Union Oil Company of California. It continued to operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Union Oil and was responsible for all of Union's mining related activities (except for oil shale and uranium). To better implement the merging of Molycorp into the corporate structure of Union Oil, Molycorp's



Courtesy Red River Historical Society

During the 1940s it was common for Questa shepherds to herd their sheep into Red River and up Mallette canyon. Sometimes they took a detour.

headquarters was moved in 1979 from White Plains, NY to the Unocal Center in Los Angeles.

**1978** Questa mine begins phasing out its open pit operations and begins construction related to new underground mining. One of Molycorp's two molybdenum roasting furnaces in PA is shut down as part of a consent decree issued by a Pennsylvania Air Quality Agency due to exceeding sulfur dioxide standards. That roaster had been in operation since 1936.

**1979** Development of the underground mine was begun with two vertical

shafts bottoming out at approximately 1,200 feet where the haulage level would eventually be, and a mile-long decline was driven from the mill area to the haulage level. The mill flotation area was modernized to accommodate higher grade underground ore. This development effort cost over \$350 million.

Primary producers such as Colorado's AMAX, with the world's two largest mines, and Molycorp, now the 3rd largest, must choose between shutting down or gearing up for the expected turnaround. Molycorp chooses the latter route. Even

though no moly mines are producing in the US, only Molycorp embarks on a massive development effort in anticipation of better times. Operating costs are held constant and labor and supplies are kept under control. Through careful planning and an intensive training program, Molycorp avoided the layoffs often experienced between the phasing out of one mining project and startup of another. Employees are retrained. Mechanics, mill operators and laborers all become construction employees to rebuild the mill after it was closed in 1981.

Nationally, mine turnover is 30 percent and higher, but at Molycorp, it was less than 5 percent, due to the commitment and uncommon flexibility of the workforce. The oil, chemical and atomic workers union has supported Molycorp in their efforts to keep people employed. Average annual income in was \$22K. Local contracts and materials – mining equipment and supplies, automotive parts, sand, gravel, and timber were procured from vendors in the Taos and Questa areas.

To be continued...

## O B I T U A R I E S

### FOR PETER MELLEN

DECEMBER 1, 1934 – JANUARY 28, 2022 • GOD SPEED, MY LOVE, ON ANGEL'S WINGS

Pete moved to northern New Mexico around 50 years ago when he purchased Frank and Polly's Cafe in Red River. He left Oklahoma and never looked back. Frank & Polly's became Fric & Frac's Cafe. Pete said he lived his best life here. He loved skiing and horseback riding in the mountains. During the off-season, like many, he wore many hats! He worked at the Moly Mine and in construction which led him to his specialty, master tiler, affectionately known to many as "The Tile Guy." He mentored many folks on job sites over the years, including myself!

Pete volunteered as an EMT in Red River and was the only one up there for a while. His outdoor skills came in handy while rescuing people from the slopes or down in the canyon. He was a first responder when a fire broke out in one of the lodges and people were jumping out of windows, YIKES!!! Later on, he was a fireman with the Latir Volunteer Fire Department.



In more recent times he was my partner at The Willow Bakery in Questa and we were year-round vendors at The Santa Fe Farmers Market.

Pete's true love was canoeing, the sights and smells of the river, and fondness for his canoe buddies on their annual adventures!

He was a man of quick wit and great sense of humor, delivered in classic deadpan style which allowed him to say things that made you think twice about it!

He loved his land that he purchased in El Rito, now almost 47 years ago. He felt blessed to have found his spot; he built his own cabin and lived his life as a very singular man, caring deeply for Mother Earth. An animal-whisperer, he literally talked a bear who hopped into our cabin in the middle of the night, into leaving the way he came in, undisturbed—what a sight that was!

Pete's Time Got Over on January 28, 2022, when he shed an old and well-worn body, like when a Butterfly is Born, untethered and flying free.

I wish to thank our El Rito and Questa neighbors for all the kind and caring support shown to us over this past year. It truly takes a village and two simply wonderful sons: his son, Byron and my son, Kurt.

We keep on keepin' on with love in our hearts and fond memories, Lisa Fox

*Paid for by Lisa Fox*

O B I T U A R I E S



LEO MARTINEZ

Leo Martinez, 75, of Costilla, New Mexico passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at his home. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 26 years, Teresa Martinez; his parents Fidel and Eutilia Martinez; and brother Fidel Martinez.

Leo was born December 9, 1946 in Costilla, New Mexico. He graduated from Costilla High School in 1965. He then moved to Casper, Wyoming where he married Teresa Roybal in 1966. They lived in Casper for nine years where he worked at Coliseum Motors, becoming an expert at painting cars. They moved back to Costilla, New Mexico in 1975.

They had two beautiful daughters, Stephanie and Jaylene, and lived several years in Costilla until they moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico. In 1989, they moved back to Casper, but his life was shaken by the sudden loss of his wife in 1992. He eventually moved back to Costilla but visited Casper often to be with his daughters and grandchildren.

Leo was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and compadre to so many people. He was a "Good Guy" who made people laugh throughout his life. He had friends wherever he was and

will be missed dearly by all who knew him. He was the favorite uncle and godfather to so many. He loved fishing and spending time with friends and family. He also enjoyed beating most everyone in cards or games, which he picked up so naturally.

Leo is survived by his loving daughters Stephanie Colling (Blaine) of Casper WY and Jaylene Roybal of San Diego CA; brother Ray Martinez (Rita) of Albuquerque NM; sisters Erlinda Maes of Pueblo CO, Grace Salazar (Larry) of Amalia NM, granddaughter Brezlyn, and grandson Zaine of Casper WY, and many nephews and nieces.

A rosary and funeral liturgy was held Saturday April 9, 2022 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Costilla, NM. A Funeral Interment service will be held at a later date, at Wyoming Memorial Gardens in Casper, WY. The family of Leo Martinez has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



EDUVIGEN R MEDINA, JR.

Eduvigen "Eddie" Medina was born April 30, 1931. He passed away peacefully on April 02, 2022, surrounded by his family. He is preceded in death by

his wife, Guadalupe "Lupe" Medina; son Felimon Cisneros; grandson Roman Cisneros; parents Eduvigen Sr., and Andrietta Medina; brothers, Urban and Tim; sisters, Benny and Pearlina. He is survived by his granddaughters: Faith (Jacob) Montez and Desiree Martinez, multiple great grandchildren, special great-granddaughter Cheyenne Montez, sisters Rose and Connie, special nephew Wayne Harris, children Ronnie (Gina), Regina, Edwina, and Peggy, and adopted sons Amos and Virgil Martinez.

Rosary was recited on Friday April 8, 2022 at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cerro with funeral mass and interment at the Cerro Cemetery. Arrangements were by Rivera Family Funeral Home, Taos.



THERESA A. PADILLA (TERRY)

Theresa (Terry) A. Padilla age 79, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully on April 6, 2022. She is preceded in death by her parents Fidel and Filomena Martinez; brother John (Shorty) Martinez; grandfather Eduardo (Pappi) Martinez; grandmother Agapita Gonzales; and grandson David Martinez, Jr.

Terry is survived by her husband George Padilla, Sr.; her children Reena Garcia (Abe), Pamela Anderson, George

Padilla, Jr., and James Padilla; beloved grandchildren Sarah Garcia (Conrad) and Alysia Valencia (Daniel); one treasured great-grandbaby Jed Valencia; sisters Tina Rael (George), Rose Gonzales (Art); cherished aunts Isabel Gomez, Mabel Gonzales, Reynie Gomez and Rose Garduño; special cousins Elaine Gomez and James Gonzales, along with family and friends too many to mention. She will forever live in our hearts and memories. Terry will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace.

A burial service will take place on Saturday May 7, 2022 at 11:00 am at El Pueblito Cemetery in Questa. The family of Theresa A. Padilla has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

CARSON PARK

Carson Daniel Park, age 35, a resident of Latir, passed away on March 20, 2022. A full obituary is pending at this time and will be posted as soon as it becomes available. The family of Carson Daniel Park has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

**Special Obituary Spaces Available**

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**Blue Bus Questa Route Resumes**

The RTD Blue Bus 320 Questa route had been operating as an "on-call demand" response service over the past few months but we are happy to

see the route resumed full service on Monday, April 18 with a modification for improved service for riders between Cerro and Costilla.

The morning and evening commuter service from Costilla to communities along the way to Cerro and on to the Town of Taos has been modified due to lack of riders. It now provides a later morning departure and mid-afternoon return option to allow for a shorter window in Taos.

Please note that the final trip from Taos to Questa and on to Cerro will now depart at 5:00 pm.

To view the new 320 Questa schedule and all routes, visit [www.Ride-theBlueBus.com](http://www.Ride-theBlueBus.com)

MAY'S FEATURED PHOTO: By Anonymous



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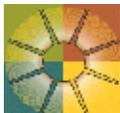
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# New Mayor and Councilors Sworn in at Village of Questa

By STAFF WRITERS

The Village of Questa's new mayor and councilor were sworn in during an evening ceremony at the Village's administrative offices on Friday, April 1.

John Ortega took the oath of office as mayor and Jason Gonzalez was sworn in as a new councilor. There were 72 people in attendance including several elected officials.

"I am very proud to be sworn in as Questa's new mayor," said John Ortega. "I look forward to serving all the citizens of Questa."

Earlier that day Louise Gallegos was sworn into her fourth term as a councilor.

Ortega replaces Mark Gallegos who served as Questa's mayor for the past eight years. Jason Gonzalez replaces Charlie Gonzales whom he defeated in March's municipal election.

After the swearing in ceremony, the new council held its first meeting, during



Courtesy Photo

New councilors and mayor of the Village of Questa were sworn in on April 1. From left, Councilor Jason Gonzalez, Mayor John Ortega, interim Councilor Katrina Gonzales, and incumbent Councilor Brent Jaramillo. Not pictured is returning Councilor Louise Gallegos, who was unable to attend the evening meeting. She was sworn in earlier in the day.

which Katrina Gonzales was appointed to the vacant council seat created by Ortega's election as mayor. Mrs. Gonzales will serve the final two years of Ortega's councilor seat. She was born in Taos County and, after some time out of state, is excited to serve the community of Questa as a political leader.

The Village of Questa Council during the meeting on April 12 discussed and unanimously approved the rotation for the position of Mayor Pro-tem, an extension to the Cabresto water line project, as well as the mayor's intention to update the Village of Questa's zoning regulations.

The Village of Questa Council meetings for May will be held on Tuesday (5/10 and 5/24) at 6:00 pm at the Questa Village Council Chamber: 2500 Old State Rd. 3, Questa, NM. For more information, contact the village offices at (575)586-0694.

## "Cabinet in Your Community" at VFW on March 30



By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

A meeting of New Mexico state officials at Questa's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) headquarters on Wednesday, March 30, entitled "Cabinet in Your Community" attracted about 30 locals: residents of Questa, Red River, and Taos. A total of 28 state officials were ready to help, set up at nine tables around the perimeter of the room.

**The state agencies present included:**

- Office of Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham

- Office of the State Engineer
- Higher Education Department
- Workforce Connection
- Human Services Department
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Economic Development Department
- Department of Transportation

Mayor John Ortega stood up for Questa at the event. "One of the biggest issues I encountered while campaigning in Questa was the lack of law enforcement." Mayor Linda Calhoun of Red River was in attendance and spoke of

her interest in seeing the completion of new hiking trails between Red River and Questa to better connect the two communities. The Questa Independent School District Board President, Jason Rael, was also in attendance and spoke up about his interest in providing more vocational opportunities at our schools.

The main issues brought up by state officials and citizens alike were economic development, job creation, education recruitment, law enforcement recruitment, housing, addiction services, vocational training, water issues, and petty crime..



Photos by Rachel Kuc

Locals and representatives interacted fruitfully during the Saturday event at Questa's VFW.



**MICHAEL'S MOVIE MOMENTS**

**West Side Story**



In 1957, Jerome Robbins (concept and choreography), Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), Leonard Bernstein (music), and Arthur Laurents (book) collaborated to develop Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet story in a decidedly American way. Set in contemporary New York City it is retold in the format that was then sweeping the New York cultural scene—a Broadway musical. The love of the two main characters was still the main plot line, but the decisive force that prevented their union and ultimately caused the tragedy was the battle between rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. By turning it into a musical, the terrific music and sophisticated dancing provided stark emotional contrast to the dark themes of the story.

Despite ten Oscars and its financial success, the movie had its flaws, said Roger Ebert, reviewing this classic much later, in 2004: "West Side Story remains a landmark of musical history. But if the drama had been as edgy as the choreography, if the lead performances had matched Moreno's fierce concentration, if the gangs had been

more dangerous... if the ending had delivered on the pathos and tragedy of the original, there's no telling what might have resulted." In short, a musical success, but not so good as a romantic tragedy.

Now fast-forward 50 years or so to the mind of Hollywood's icon Steven Spielberg. Creator of countless films, he has been nominated for 19 different Oscar awards and taken home four of them. Despite his prolific history, he has always wanted to do a musical; and it so happens that he's had a tickle for West Side Story for many years. So, with a budget of \$100 million, Spielberg gathered his vast technical resources leading to expectations of high movie craftsmanship. As Brian Tallerico (modern day RogerEbert.com) notes: "The camera doesn't just capture action on a set, it glides with the performers." A. O. Scott (New York Times) reviewed "It's a dazzling display of filmmaking craft that also feels raw, unsettled, and alive."

BUT (you sensed a BUT coming, didn't you?) the problem is not with the dancing, nor the music. The problem is with the romance and tragedy. In the 1961 version, neither of the lead actors were nominated, although Rita Moreno in the role of Anita received the Oscar for Supporting Actress. Only Ariana DeBose (playing Anita) received a nomination for Supporting Actress and she was inspired! Spielberg brought Moreno back in a new role, Valentina, Tony's employer and landlord. I can't say enough good things about Rachel Zegler as Maria. Although she is young and this is her first feature film, she can sing (Natalie Wood, in the original production, was dubbed). She was fun to watch, both emotionally and musically.

But (there's that word again) the real problem is with Ansel Elgort as



Courtesy Photo

Tony. Yes, he is tall and handsome and looks every bit the Pole that he is supposed to represent, but his performance was stiff and cold—even icy—which worked very well for him in Baby Driver. But as Tony, he is supposed to be torn by his roles as former convict, an ethnic minority, ex-leader, and intoxicated romantic. But he's none of that here and, despite his insistence that he sing his own songs, he can't really sing either. I'm not alone in this feeling: Tallerico writes, "These characters need to be almost jittery with the adrenaline of youth... Everyone gets that but Elgort."

So, after all that, go back up several paragraphs and re-read what Roger Ebert wrote about the first West Side Story movie. Replace "Moreno's" with "DeBose's" and you pretty much have the same critique of Spielberg's film. In short, Spielberg delivered us a remake, and updated the technology, but didn't give us anything new. Maybe the next version will deliver. To quote Tallerico's review again, (and one of my favorite songs): "Somehow, someday, somewhere!" (3.5 \*)



**ENCHANTED EATS**

By Elizabeth Brunazzi

**Elizabeth's Apple Ricotta Pancakes**  
**For all my favorite mothers**

- 1 C flour, sifted
- 1/4 t salt
- 1 T sugar
- 1 T baking powder (yes, that's right!)
- 1 egg
- 1 C milk
- 2 heaping T Ricotta cheese
- 2 T applesauce (your favorite. I enjoy making my own these days)
- 2 T melted butter or plant substitute, cooled

Resift flour with dry ingredients into a mixing bowl. Beat together egg, milk, Ricotta cheese, and applesauce. Stir into flour mixture. Add melted, cooled butter and beat with whisk until smooth. Cook in dollops on a hot griddle or in an iron skillet. If too thick, add milk, starting with one tablespoon. Makes 10-12 pancakes. Recipe can be doubled and stores well overnight.

Suggested to serve with maple or a compatible berry syrup, and a choice of breakfast ham and/or fruit, fresh or compote.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! "Everybody's somebody's mother" (or mother to/of something!).

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**MILITARY FAMILY** cont'd from page 1

/ Tennessee border, for about four years when Lita retired from the Army in 2016. Korey then retired two years later, and they moved to Cerro.

Despite retiring from the Army at a very youthful period in their lives, they both keep incredibly busy raising their son and working at a variety of jobs. Lita has a photography business and also has her sights set on completing her bachelor's degree remotely through Thomas Edison State University. Korey, in his little spare time, enjoys the hunting and fishing opportunities here in northern New Mexico.

As a finale to this most interesting interview, I asked Lita what the secrets

were to a successful marriage despite the repeated and prolonged separations on assignments. She immediately listed four things which assured success. First and second, they had to have eternally enduring faith and trust in each other. Secondly, they had to set long-term goals such as moving to Cerro on retirement from the Army. And finally, they had to WORK AS A TEAM. I will let you guess where they learned the critical value of teamwork. Could it have been from their careers in the Army? And, oh yes, Korey and Lita wish to extend everlasting thanks to her parents Charlene and Ruben Charvarria for their enduring faith and support in helping with their most important achievement, their son, Jesse Daniel.



Courtesy Photo

A proper welcome home.

## Cerro VFW Post #9516 Elects New Officers

By ADELITA MEAD

At their monthly meeting on Friday, April 22, the Cerro VFW Post #9516 nominated new officers. Their positions will go into effect in 30 days.

**Commander:**

Korey Mead

**Senior Vice Commander:**

Chris Williams

**Junior Vice Commander:**

Maria Ortega

**Quartermaster/Adjutant:**

Adelita Mead

**Honorary Trustee:**

David Cisneros

(was post commander for over 20 years!)

The post will hold a craft fair on April 30 and May 1, from 10 am to 4 pm, which will include a silent auction and a raffle that will be closed out on Sunday, May 1 at 4 pm. The post is located at 108 Highway 378 in Cerro. For more information, contact (575) 586-1112, or [litameadphoto@gmail.com](mailto:litameadphoto@gmail.com).



## Successful Fundraiser Featuring Artist Ed Sandoval

*Funds for St. Anthony's Church*

More photos online @ [QuestaNews.com](http://QuestaNews.com)



Photos by E. Wilde

St. Anthony's Church



Organizers Cynthia Rael and Louise Gallegos with Artist Ed Sandoval at the fundraiser held in Rael's Coffee Shop of Questa.



Donating his time and the rights to the art prints, artist Ed Sandoval signing his prints.



Connie Manzanares holds down the fort at the sales desk with Armando (Manders) Vigil standing off to the left and Cynthia on the right.

# ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson  
MAY 2022

## LUNAR ECLIPSE

**"Nations, like stars, are entitled to eclipse. All is well, provided the light returns and the eclipse does not become endless night." —Victor Hugo**

On May 16 our full Moon will include a complete lunar eclipse. It will be visible everywhere in North America. Full moons are always a time for bringing plans to fruition. Eclipses are opportunities for change. This particular full Moon/eclipse is also a test: the Sun is in the sign of Taurus, and both the Earth and Moon are in the sign of Scorpio. Like most opposites, these two signs rule very similar things. Taurus rules money and energy, such as gasoline, and gripping/squeezing while Scorpio rules other people's money, blocking/obstructing, and the energy that gets things done. So it goes with all oppositions, but these qualities come out more when the Moon is full. Certainly, we can see where these issues of energy and money, obstructing and squeezing are already occurring in our world today.

The eclipse may bring this to a head and/or it could show us the change that needs to occur.

When a lunar eclipse occurs, the full moon passes through the Earth's shadow so the light will seem to go out. Gradually the moon will take on a rusty, blood red color, the color of Scorpio. While Scorpio sometimes gets a bad rap, it is also the sign of rebirth after being tested. Perhaps we can use this powerful energy of the eclipse to join together in resolving to come out of global conflicts, like the Phoenix rising from the fire, immortal, and with tears that can heal.

**ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19**

**Dynamic:** The ideas and choices are popping!  
**Direction:** You will have to choose one.  
**Soul Thought:** But, beginner beware.

**TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♀ APRIL 19 – MAY 20**

**Dynamic:** The limitations you've been experiencing should fall away.  
**Direction:** It might be your tongue which is loosened.  
**Soul Thought:** "You are what you do, not what you say you'll do." —Carl Jung

**GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20**

**Dynamic:** A powerful time to begin something new.  
**Direction:** Light the fire!  
**Soul Thought:** Who was the first woman?

**CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22**

**Dynamic:** If you feel like a martyr, there is good reason for it.  
**Direction:** But it's still a choice.  
**Soul Thought:** "Life is a matter of choices and every choice you make, makes you." —John Maxwell

**LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22**

**Dynamic:** The duality of life comes so clear this month.  
**Direction:** This or that, here or there, me or you.  
**Soul Thought:** "Stress is caused by being here but wanting to be there." —Eckhart Tolle

**VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22**

**Dynamic:** While your face is veiled, you can be anyone.  
**Direction:** Decide: Who do you want to be?  
**Soul Thought:** I Am.

**LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22**

**Dynamic:** Time to end one thing so you can begin another.  
**Direction:** Do it well.  
**Soul Thought:** Birth is often more painful than death.

**SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21**

**Dynamic:** You may get tested this month.  
**Direction:** Determine what is pass and what is fail.  
**Soul Thought:** You ARE the obstacle.

**SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ☷ NOV 21 – DEC 20**

**Dynamic:** A lot of hard work now brings things together.  
**Direction:** Pat yourself on the back.  
**Soul Thought:** From the Sacred Marriage to the Testing Ground.

**CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19**

**Dynamic:** You will be particularly affected by this eclipse.  
**Direction:** Be prepared for enlightenment.  
**Soul Thought:** Or, blinded by the light?

**AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18**

**Dynamic:** It's a big shift in energy for you; the eclipse is just a highlight!  
**Direction:** It might be time to become the leader of the group.  
**Soul Thought:** Or at least to lead the way, whether anyone follows or not.

**PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20**

**Dynamic:** The affairs of the world suddenly come into focus for you.  
**Direction:** Work with the symbol of initiation.  
**Soul Thought:** "Naked and exposed on the mountaintop." —Dr. Douglas Baker

To discover your Rising Sign, or for more information, contact Charlene R. Johnson,  
[www.SkyDanceAstrology.com](http://www.SkyDanceAstrology.com), or email: [SkyDance@SkyDanceAstrology.com](mailto: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.



**"People will stare.  
Make it worth their while."**

- Harry Winston

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR • MAY 2022

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN MAY!

**MAY 7: SAT 2:00 pm**  
**Fundraising Pool Tournament at Village Stop and Go** to benefit The Roger Chavez III Educational Fund. Contact Roger Chavez, Jr. at [poolplayerrunout@yahoo.com](mailto:poolplayerrunout@yahoo.com) or (575) 224-4049 or Village Stop & Go at (575) 586-0696. (See story page 8)

**MAY 9: MON 12:00 pm**  
**Questa Economic Development Fund Board Meeting.** In person at the Questa Visitor Center and via Zoom, for link: [lynn@questaedf.com](mailto:lynn@questaedf.com)

**MAY 10: TUES 6:00 pm**  
**Village of Questa Town Council meeting** in person at Village Council Chambers, for agenda call (575) 586-0694.

**6:00 pm**  
**Questa Independent Schools in-person board meeting. Live-streamed:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuLsXpB9iyfDrfW0iuG> (575) 586-0421.

**MAY 11: WED 6:00 pm**  
**Christian Baccalaureate at Freedom Center Church,** 2558 NM-522 in Questa. (575) 770-1714.

**MAY 13: FRI 9:00 am – Noon**  
**Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry,** come celebrate Friday the 13th with us at 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. (575) 586-1807 or (505) 238-1145; [www.questafoodpantry.org](http://www.questafoodpantry.org)

**MAY 14: SAT 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
**Tree Planting, Park Beautification & Volunteer Lunch,** Questa Visitor Center. Everyone welcome, FREE! [www.LEAPsite.org](http://www.LEAPsite.org), [emailforleap@gmail.com](mailto:emailforleap@gmail.com), (575) 224-9066. (See story page 12)

**MAY 15: SUN 8:00 am**  
**Catholic Baccalaureate** for graduates at St. Anthony's Church in Questa. (575) 586-0470.

**MAY 15-16: MON - SUN**  
**Full moon** – full lunar eclipse

**MAY 17: TUE 9:30 – 10:30 am**  
**Bookmobile at Questa Post Office;** (575) 376-2474 or [laura.gonzales@state.nm.us](mailto:laura.gonzales@state.nm.us)

**10:45 – noon**  
**Bookmobile at Roots & Wings Community School in Lama.** For information: (575) 376-2474 or [laura.gonzales@state.nm.us](mailto:laura.gonzales@state.nm.us)

**MAY 18: WED 5:30 pm**  
**Gentle Yoga,** deep stretch, with Gaea and guest musician cellist Mark Dudrow, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

**6:00 pm**  
**Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network featuring Carl Colonius,** Enchanted Circle Trail Association. in person at Rael's Store and Coffee Shop and via Zoom, email for zoom link: [lynn@questaedf.com](mailto:lynn@questaedf.com) (See story page 4)

**MAY 16: MON 6:00 pm**  
**Questa Community Watch meeting** at the Vida del Norte office 62 HWY 38, (575) 779-2260.

**MAY 19: THURS 2:00 – 3:00 pm**  
**Questa One-on-One Business Counseling** drop-in hour by the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos with Anwar Kaelin. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219> Join by phone: +1 346 248 7799. For appointments call (575) 737-6219.

**MAY 20: FRI 1:00 – 3:00 pm**  
**FUN FRIDAYS with TWIRL** at the Questa Public Library! (575) 586-2023. (See story page 9)

**3:00 pm**  
**Cerro VFW Post #9516, monthly meeting** at 108 NM Highway 378 in Cerro. (575) 586-1112 or [litameadphoto@gmail.com](mailto:litameadphoto@gmail.com).

**6:00 pm**  
**Senior Night at Questa High School** in the "Mini-Pit" of QHS gymnasium. Award ceremony for Roger Chavez III Educational Fund and more! Contact QISD at (575) 586-0421. (See story page 8)

**MAY 21: SAT 10:00 am**  
**QHS Graduation Ceremony!** At the "Mini Pit" of QHS Gymnasium. Seniors: please be at the gym by 9:30 am. Contact QISD for more information: (575) 586-0421. (See story in pages 6)

**10:00 am**  
**Writers Group,** free, online only, register at Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

**MAY 23: MON 3:30 – 5:00 pm**  
**Questa Library Book Club.** Join the conversation. Call for the topic of the month: (575) 586-2023. Read on!

**6:00 pm**  
**Vida Del Norte Coalition monthly meeting** at Vida office, 62 Highway 38. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82819602608> (575) 779-2260; [maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com](mailto:maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com).

**MAY 24: TUE 6:00 pm**  
**Questa Independent Schools in-person board meeting.** Live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuLsXpB9iyfDrfW0iuG> (575) 586-0421.

**6:00 pm**  
**Village of Questa Town Council meeting** in person at Village Council Chambers, for agenda call (575) 586-0694.

**MAY 26: THURS 9:00 am**  
**Red River Valley Charter School Awards Ceremony** for Pre-K through 7th grade, followed by 8th grade graduation. Location to be announced. Contact (575) 754-6117.

**MAY 26 – 30**  
**Healing Fields flag display,** Hwy 522 in Questa. (See story in page 3)

**Red River 40th Annual Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally,** in Red River. More info at [www.redriver.org](http://www.redriver.org).

**MAY 27: FRI 9:00 am – Noon**  
**Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry,** 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. (575) 586-1807 or (505) 238-1145; [www.questafoodpantry.org](http://www.questafoodpantry.org)

**MAY 29: SUN 10 am – 2 pm**  
**Opening day of Questa Farmers Market & the new Questa Art Market,** next to Questa Visitor Center. Every Sunday through October 2. <https://questafarmersmarket.org/>; (575) 224-2102. (See story in pages 4 & 13)

**1:00 pm**  
**Veterans Field of Honor Ceremony,** contact Louise Gallegos at (575) 613-5490 or the Village of Questa at (575) 586-0694. Opening Day at Lama Foundation. <https://www.lamatogther.org/events> (See story in page 3)

**MAY 30: MON**  
**Memorial Day,** federal holiday

## MARK YOUR JUNE CALENDARS!

**JUNE 4: SAT 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
**Questa Free NM Fishing Day Festival** at Eagle Rock Lake, free fishing poles to the first 50 kids under 12. (See story page 18 & 21)

**11:00 am**  
**Questa History Trail Celebration on National Trails Day;** walk the in-town trail with interpretive guides, enjoy traditional treats and live music. Contact [questacreativecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:questacreativecouncil@gmail.com). (See story page 17)

## MONDAYS

**9:00 am**  
**Magical Passes: Breath Work & Movement** with Julian, in-person only, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

**4:30 pm**  
**Free Community Yoga,** Gentle Practice with Rae, in-person only, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/> May 2 and 9 only.

**7:00 pm**  
**Kickboxing with Reto,** in-person only, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

## TUESDAYS

**9:00 am**  
**Seated Moving Meditation with Ola,** in-person only, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>.

**10:00 – 11:00 am**  
**Chair Yoga** Join us for a DVD-guided gentle exercise class at Red River Community House, appropriate for all ages and ability levels; please verify at <https://www.redrivercommunityhouse.org/calendar>; (575) 754-2349.

**5:30 pm**  
**Yoga, power flow,** with Gaea, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

## WEDNESDAYS

**9:00 am**  
**Gentle Morning Yoga,** with Gaea, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
**Repurposing Plastic Project:** Come smash plastic and make wire walls! Meet the team, work your body, lift your spirit, and help the planet! At the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Supermarket on Hwy 522. Call (575) 770-8681 or (575) 224-7386 for more information.

**10:00 – 11:00 am**  
**Ladies Coffee** Join us for coffee and conversation at Red River Community House; please verify at <https://www.redrivercommunityhouse.org/calendar>; (575) 754-2349.

**11:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
**Wildcat Kitties Club** at the Questa Public Library, for our younger population, ages 0-3. Stories, songs, and play. The fourth Wednesday of the month (575) 586-2023. (See story in page 7 & 25)

**5:30 pm**  
**Gentle Yoga, deep stretch,** with Gaea, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

**7:00 pm**  
**Kickboxing with Reto,** in-person only, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

**7:00 – 8:00 pm**  
**Bible Studies Series, Freedom Center Church** 2558 Hwy 522, Questa. Facilitated by Pastor Johnny. All are welcome to join on Zoom or in person. For link contact Pastor Kristi (575) 770-1714.

## THURSDAYS

**10:00 – 11:00 am**  
**Chair Yoga** Join us for a DVD-guided gentle exercise class at Red River Community House, appropriate for all ages and ability levels; please verify at <https://www.redrivercommunityhouse.org/calendar>; (575) 754-2349.

**2:30 – 5:00 pm**  
**Dropped Stitch Club at the Questa Public Library.** We knit. We crochet. We Laugh. We teach. We learn. Bring your latest project. If it has a fiber, it counts! All skill levels are welcome. Call the library at (575) 586-2023.

**6:00 pm**  
**Thursday Night Jam Session at Rael's Market & Coffee House;** bring your instrument to jam or just bring yourself and enjoy. Free! 2430 NM-Hwy 522 in Questa (575) 779-9249.

## FRIDAYS

**9:00 am**  
**Seated Moving Meditation with Ola,** in-person only, Yoga Sala. <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>. NO CLASS on April 29.

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
**Repurposing Plastic Project:** Come smash plastic and make wire walls! Meet the team, work your body, lift your spirit, and help the planet! At the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Market on Hwy 522. Call (575) 770-8681 or (575) 224-7386 for more information.

**3:00 pm**  
**Kids Ballet (ages 3-8),** with Miss Tuesday, online and in-person, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

**5:00 pm**  
**Qigong with Julian,** in-person only, Yoga Sala, <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>

**6:00 pm**  
**New Thirst Group:** a Christian Approach to Recovery at Living Word Ministries, 14 Llano Rd., Questa. (575) 613-8010.

**6:00 – 8:00 pm**  
**Live Music every other week with Chris Arellano and family and friends,** 101 Bar & Grill (formerly The Crazy Beaver), 101 County Rd 13.2, Garcia, CO 81152, (719) 672-9022. Please call to confirm.

## SATURDAYS

**10:00 am**  
**Tai Chi with Reto,** in-person only, Yoga Sala. <http://www.yogasalaquesta.org/>.

## SUNDAYS

**9:00 – 10:00 am**  
**Bible Study with John Hughes at Red River Community House;** please verify at <https://www.redrivercommunityhouse.org/calendar>; (575) 754-2349.

Visit our online calendar at <https://questanews.com/events/>

**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR?** FREE LISTINGS! Please send us your event and include the date, time, place, and contact information (575) 586-2149 or [news@questaedf.com](mailto:news@questaedf.com)

Share the stories you like! [QuestaNews.com](http://QuestaNews.com)

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**HELP WANTED**

**House cleaning one time per month**, for an older couple. 3 bedroom home in El Rito Latin area. Must be a trusting and reliable individual. For more information contact Agatha Ramirez at (575)586-1370

**The Questa Del Rio News looking for that special someone to be our Community Calendar Coordinator.** Part-time, possibly 10-15 hours per month. This position requires some technical skills, familiarity with software, etc. Pay depends on experience. Call us or email us! (575) 586-2149 or [news@questaedf.com](mailto:news@questaedf.com).

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Do you have skills, talents, or time and willingness to serve?** Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer with our *Questa Del Rio News*. Training will be provided. Call Benita Muniz at (720) 662-9652 or email her at: [bmuniz3@gmail.com](mailto:bmuniz3@gmail.com). "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill

**NOTICES**

**Not Forgotten Outreach** will be hiring for VetCorps Spring/Summer crews! This is your opportunity to learn about farming, while receiving compensation and other skills. Applications will be announced soon. [notforgottenoutreach.org/vetcorps](http://notforgottenoutreach.org/vetcorps)

**HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM GRANTS** New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture funding opportunity for Fiscal Year 2023. Healthy Soil Program grant applications are open until Thursday May 12, 2022 at 5:00 pm MST. [www.nmda.nmsu.edu/nmda-homepage/division/apr/healthy-soil-program/](http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/nmda-homepage/division/apr/healthy-soil-program/)

**Questa Studio Art Tour Call for Artists!** Coming this summer, August 13-14, get your application at Rael's Market & Coffee House, ArtQuesta, or Questa Post Office. [northernnewmexicoartists.com](http://northernnewmexicoartists.com)

**FREE COVID AT-HOME TESTS** Every home in the US is eligible to order four at-home COVID-19 tests. Sign up at <https://www.covidtests.gov>.

**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, go to <https://www.ncfpquesta.com/> or mail to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email [wmesquire2@gmail.com](mailto:wmesquire2@gmail.com). If you would like to volunteer, please call Jeannie (numbers above).

**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, on the third Thursday of every month, May 19 from 2 – 3 pm. Business owners, independent contractors, entrepreneurs in Questa can drop in for one-on-one business consulting and training in planning, accessing capital, marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, international trade, and more. <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219> Join by phone: +1 346 248 7799. For appointments call (575) 737-6219.

**MAY QUOTE FROM LISA FOX**  
"I am strong when I am on your shoulders, You raise me up to more than I can be!"  
—Brendan Graham

**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

**FREEDOM CENTER CHURCH**  
(previously Harvest Questa)  
Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales  
2558 Hwy 522, Questa  
Sunday Service 11 am – 12:30 pm  
(575) 770-1714  
Visit us online: [freedomquesta.com](http://freedomquesta.com)

**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](http://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  
Tuesday, 11 am, Green Tara  
Friday, 1 pm,, Chenrezig  
[www.earthjourney.org](http://www.earthjourney.org)  
(575) 586-1454, Hilece

**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**

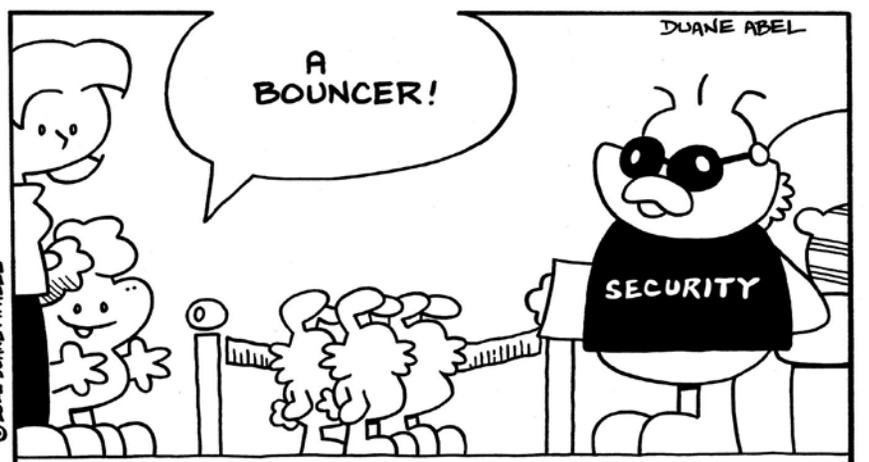
**FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP**  
Corner of River Street and Copper King Trail  
Sunday 10:30 am  
First Baptist Church of Red River  
103 High Cost Trail  
Sundays 8:15 am and 10:30 am  
Pastor Joe Phillips (575) 754-2882

**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

**Need Something? Have Something? LIST IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**  
Email Dina for Rates [Dina@questaedf.com](mailto:Dina@questaedf.com)

**AA MEETINGS**  
HEALING HEART AND MIND  
Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.  
—TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 55

LOCAL AA MEETINGS  
Sundays 10-11 am  
Open Meeting  
Questa Youth Center



**zed by duane m. abel**

[www.corkeycomics.com](http://www.corkeycomics.com)

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**



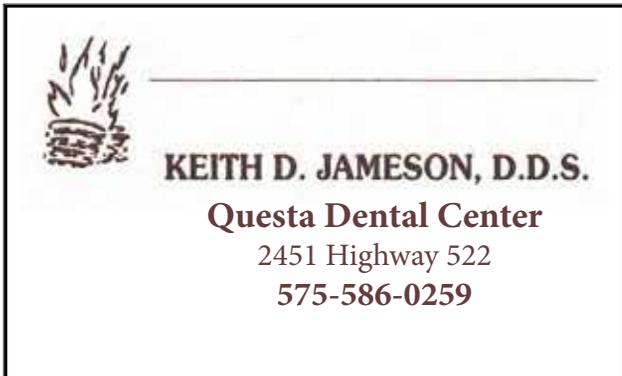
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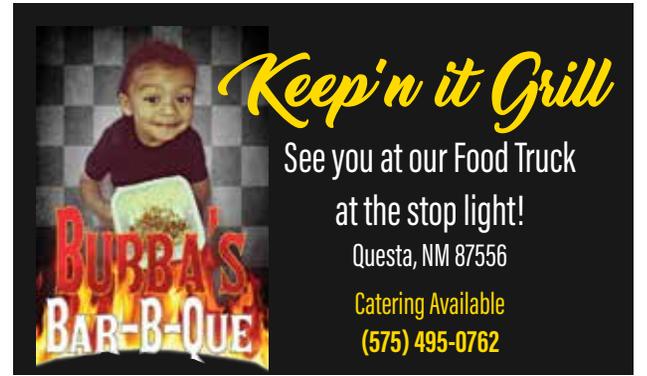
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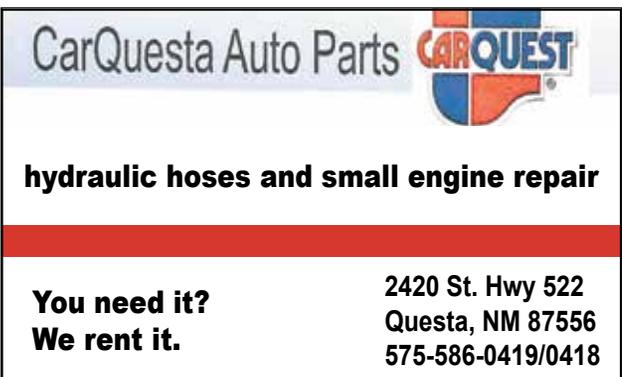
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 (575) 770-7898 (505) 328-4052  
 32 Sagebrush Rd. (next to Questa High School)



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 June through October  
 Vegetable and Flower Seedlings  
 For Sale in May and June  
 Wednesday Afternoons 3 pm to 6 pm