Questeño Luis Hernandez Takes Top Prize At Taos Car Show

Luis Hernandez with his winning 1964 Chevy Truck

By EDWARD H. CAMP

Questa man Luis Hernandez's 1964 Chevy Truck won Best Truck at this year's Taos Autumn Run Car Show. The annual event was held at Kit Carson Park in Taos on Aug. 12-13 and featured classic rides brought in from around the Southwest.

"I was kind of surprised," said Luis. "I've just been cruising it to work back and forth. I always didn't want to stay at a car show too long, but I figured I might as well start using it for what it's made for." Hernandez said he has had his 1964 Chevrolet C10 pickup truck for eight years and spent five years restoring it. "It's got a 5.3 Vortec. I try to keep it as original as possible. I did a modern drive train on it though."

The other winners were:

• Best Chevrolet Tri-5 – Toby Lavadie, 1957 Chevrolet
• Best 1950 to '59 – Clifford Chisum, 1955 Pontiac Convertible
• Best 1960 to ’69 – Moises Medina, 1968 Chevrolet Chevelle Super Sport
• Best pre-1950 – Orlando Archuleta, 1948 Chevrolet Fleetline
• Best-In-Show – Alfred Cordova, 1958 Chevrolet Cameo Pickup.

Win or not, it was a good time for everyone. Lonnie Adrian of Muleshoe, Texas, said he loved the weather. "It's 108 degrees back home!" he said as a cool breeze blew.

Marty Valdez of Pueblo, Colo., said he loved the "comradery of all the car owners. It's nice, easy, laidback – we've been here the last three years. People are so friendly." He and wife Irene have won over 100 awards for their 1934 Plymouth Sedan and plan on trying for another in Taos next year.

The Autumn Run is organized by the Taos County Car Club. Check their Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/Taos-County-Car-Club-100463204896367, for more information on future events.

Hello, Sports Fans!

Thanks for opening up our Back-to-School issue. I know — school started in August — and it is already September. The start of a new school year is a hectic time for educators, students and parents alike. Now that our fearless professionals who step boldly into their classrooms have settled into the new year, we would like to celebrate them, and their profession. It is hard work being a teacher, and a principal and a superintendent and administrators, office people, counselors, maintenance people, coaches, bus drivers and other jobs that are not coming to mind right now. It takes a village to raise a child. The work you all do is second only to parenting in this project called life.

Every year is a new chapter in a student’s life, making up the greater story of who that child will become. Springtime was a welcome relief from the monochrome winter, but new life began for me in the fall. I was lucky because my parents valued education and instilled that in their children. Although they didn’t use the term, “Knowledge is power,” I later came to understand and believe it.

It helps to be curious. One of the coolest things about being curious is that it is never boring. It makes me sad when young people say they are bored. The antidote to boredom is — you may have guessed it: CURIOSITY!

Let’s bring this power of curiosity into our school year whether you are going to school or not. September is a good time to fire up our curiosity and start something new. The most obvious would be the culturally sanctioned step of taking a class or enrolling in a program of your choice. People are like squirrels and bears and other four-legged friends, we all switch gears and bulk up for the winter. Summer was a time for action adventures and the outdoors and now our thoughts and biorythms turn toward slowing down, hibernation and going inside, both literally and figuratively. We curl up with a book and sit by the fire, or maybe we write a book.

Your curiosity may lead you to a new hobby, like knitting, or canning, learning a new language or painting landscapes. Keeping our brains alive and active is a key to health, happiness, and longevity. Learning new things and being flexible in our beliefs brings elasticity and resilience; see yourself as a life-long learner. We can form new habits and change our consumer mindset. You may try getting your news from different sources and explore new points of view.

Being a volunteer is always needed and appreciated. You can share your knowledge and experience and you can also help with something you haven’t tried before. Doing good for others can have a tremendously positive effect, both on individuals and the communities we serve. Did you know that being a volunteer is good for your health and is associated with living longer? Getting out and making friends and feeling a sense of purpose and belonging makes us feel good about ourselves. As the old Chinese proverb states, “When the heart is at ease, the body is healthy.”

Your curiosity may lead you to a new hobby, like knitting, or canning, learning a new language or painting landscapes. Keeping our brains alive and active is a key to health, happiness, and longevity. Learning new things and being flexible in our beliefs brings elasticity and resilience; see yourself as a life-long learner. We can form new habits and change our consumer mindset. You may try getting your news from different sources and explore new points of view.

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If you are young, the start of the new school year is a good time to chart the trajectory of your life. If you are older, you may feel that it is time to get serious about things that matter. Spending time with grandchildren and sharing the wealth of what you have learned is an important way for young people to grow and understand their world. Sunday, September 11 is National Grandparents Day. Don’t forget to celebrate our elders, learn from them, and give back what they have given to you.

If you are a grandparent, congratulations, and Happy Grandparents Day!
Kudos to the Questa Studio Art Tour!
A lot of planning and coordination go into any event and this year’s 7th Annual Questa Studio Art Tour was a seamless success! With new exhibitors and locations, the studio line-up offered something for everyone. It was easy to appreciate the artists’ dedication to create, mount, and share their unique visions. I was inspired by the range of creative expression right here in our area and the collaboration to put on the event. The weekend was a welcome opportunity to meet new people, see friends, and socialize, and the glorious weather was the cherry on top! Big thanks to everyone involved – organizers, sponsors, artists, and attendees. I, for one, was riding a current of joy and inspiration.

Cynthia Najim
El Rito area of Questa

Letter to Barbara J. Vigil, Secretary of New Mexico Children Youth and Family Department
Dear Secretary Vigil,
The New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (FOG) is dedicated to ensuring access to public information in New Mexico, which includes assisting both records requestors and public entities regarding compliance with the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) and assisting those who have concerns about compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA).
I am writing to you following a complaint FOG received on our hotline. The caller stated that a request for a copy of the chat conducted during a recent on-line meeting could not be provided as the chat was not saved and I must question why these records were not retained.
A quick look at the ZOOM website lists simple step-by-step directions for recording the chats. I am providing a link for your IT staff to review: https://on-linezoomappdownload.com/how-to-save-in-meeting-chat-in-zoom-app.

As you know, requests for records may now include official meetings or internal discussions that took place over Zoom, MS Teams or Slack and could involve the video, audio, chat and file transfer elements of those communications. Also, it seems if members of the committee are communicating outside of the view of the public, they should stop.
The best way to ensure transparency is to make the information available to all those in attendance and those who request access to records after the meeting.
Sincerely,
Melanie J. Majors
Executive Director,
NM Foundation for Open Government

How Can I Be A Good Grandparent?

By WILLIAM BEAUSAY II
“Older people are wise and longlife brings understanding” — JOB 12:12
Grandparents have many natural roles. One is to pass on the accumulated history of your life to the next generation. You are the linch-pin connecting the past with the future, and the knowledge you now possess is beneficial to future generations. Another role is that of maintaining family traditions. Yet another is casting your seasoned and wise perspective over the immediate matters of the day. Are you doing all this? If not, let me make a few suggestions:
- Have confidence! I sense that decades of ignoring the wisdom of treasured ancestors is giving way to a fresh new appreciation. Be prepared to render opinions about current and past events if asked. Be upbeat and optimistic and prepared.
- Think of some good things to say! Did you know that it’s possible to live
ENTACT Profile

By MARK URFER, CHEVRON QUESTA SITE MANAGER

I am proud to thank and acknowledge the ongoing restoration work our business partner ENTACT (Environmental Tactics) is performing on Molycorp Miner Memorial Field. Their work will enable the Village of Questa, Chevron, Questa Economic Development Fund, and JA Productions to successfully host the Dia de las Acequias del Norte music benefit concert on Sept. 3. More importantly, their work is laying the groundwork for the use of that park by Questa residents and those in our surrounding communities for years to come.

For folks who are curious about the work they are completing on Chevron’s behalf, I am providing a summary here:

• Installation of new fencing along the perimeter of the outfield vendor areas, and stage
• Installation of new lighting
• Replacement of electric infrastructure including to the main service panel, walls, steps, and benches
• Installation of new fencing along the perimeter of the outfield
• Installation of a gate at the entrance to provide improved security

These improvements total approximately $100,000, which Chevron and ENTACT are pleased to provide as an in-kind donation to the Village of Questa. Chevron’s donation is valued at about $90,000 while ENTACT’s donation is about $10,000.

I will add that the work is being completed despite the heavy monsoon season this summer with nearly daily rains. This is not surprising given ENTACT’s consistent and strong performance managing the operation and maintenance of the majority of the former mine site since 2013. ENTACT continues to hire locally — over 60 percent of its 34 dedicated site personnel are local hires. ENTACT also has a long track record of supporting our local community with all the assistance they provide during Questa’s annual Healing Fields of Honor event Memorial Day weekends. And they have now also agreed to co-sponsor the Dia de las Acequias del Norte.

For those readers unfamiliar with ENTACT’s work beyond Questa, I am happy to say that they are a high performing business partner to Chevron throughout the country. Their expertise includes environmental remediation, geotechnical construction, soil mixing and treatment, ground improvement, and coal ash impoundment and landfill closure.

In terms of additional future work at the field, we are also pleased to thank and acknowledge Arcadis for preliminary design work related to significant site improvements which will build on ENTACT’s ongoing field restoration. Combined with the Village’s ongoing river restoration activity on the Red River and future plans to build a trailhead on the upper portion of adjacent Chevron property, Molycorp Miner Memorial Field is likely to become a significant recreational asset that will improve the quality of life for residents and help diversify Questa’s economy.

Lastly, I encourage everyone to attend Dia de las Acequias del Norte on Sept. 3. All ticket proceeds will go toward local acequia associations. In addition to enjoying the music of Darren Cordova y Calor, Darren Lee, Dynette Marie, and Makayla Antonia, attendees will get to see Chevron and ENTACT’s restoration of the site.

Thank you ENTACT for your professionalism, your skilled and committed team, to your adherence to our strong safety culture, and your commitment to our local community.

Editor’s Note – ENTACT’s good work and rapid progress on restoring Molycorp Miner Memorial Field enabled the Village of Questa to successfully host Musica en la Montana, a four-day Spanish music workshop culminating in two free concerts on August 12 and 13. This event featured Hispanic music bands from New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas.

Severe delays in the transfer of properties in Taos County may finally be coming to an end with the opening of a new title company.

For the past few years, title services could take up to six to seven months due to a backlog in processing real estate transactions through the existing title companies. Up until now, Taos county only had two title companies unable to process the transactions they received, creating a larger and larger backlog.

The process was further aggravated because the county’s records were not organized to the point where someone could build a new title plant from scratch. However, for the past year the county has been working diligently to organize and digitize their records. Now a third title company is opening, this new company should remove some of the burden from the two existing companies and speed up the process.

Pioneer Title and Escrow Services, owned by New Mexico attorney Richard W. Norris, has operated in several New Mexico counties for several years (including Colfax County). It announced that it will be accepting orders for title commitments and closings. This change in the market should bring much needed relief to those wishing to buy or sell property within the county.

Holly Hillenbrand, operations manager at Pioneer, said, “Pioneer Title prides itself in producing title commitments in a timely manner, days not weeks. The company also prioritizes the timing of its closings, so that those contracts with early closing dates get closed on time.”

Even one week is an incredible improvement compared with the months-long waits Taos County clients have had to endure. The frustration among residents, real estate agents, lenders and buyers has become so great that many looked for alternatives to accomplish transactions in a timely manner, including foregoing title insurance and closing directly with local attorneys.

Pioneer Title’s new office will be located at 204 Paseo Del Pueblo Norte, Suite a, Taos NM. They can be reached at (866) 294-4100.
Dia de las Acequias del Norte

Northern NM Music Concert in Questa
By JA Productions
Saturday, September 3
4:00-10:00 PM

Doors open at 2:00 PM | Moly Corp Field, Questa NM
Food Vendors | Watering Hole sponsored by El Monte Carlo Lounge

Purchase tickets
in Questa at the Visitor Center, El Monte Carlo Lounge, in Taos at Pro-Musician Supply,
and on HoldMyTicket.com

Darren Cordova
y Calor

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to local
Acequia Associations, in support of their effective stewardship
of water resources for the benefit of our local communities.

Opening Band!

Chevron is proud to sponsor this ad in support of the Questa Del Rio News
Wild Dogs And Feral Felines

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Mayor John A. Ortega and many other area residents are concerned about packs of runaway or wild dogs and stray cats throughout the Questa area. He asks that all residents, particularly pet owners, be vigilant with their own pets, keeping them fenced or on a leash. He asks also that people report sightings of dog packs on their properties or to Taos County Animal Control at (575) 737-6488.

He encourages Questa-area dog owners to make sure their pets are contained, spayed and neutered and their properties secured.

In a short interview we asked Mayor Ortega how long Questa has had an issue with runaway or wild dogs.

"Probably as far back as I can remember," the Mayor responded. "I don’t really like the idea of leaving pets chained or cabled, but just remember, " the Mayor responded.

Ortega how long Questa has had an issue with runaway or wild dogs.

He encourages all residents to get their pets spayed or neutered.

Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe reports that Taos County will be partnering with Pecos Animal Rescue with their spay and neuter van to offer spay and neuter vouchers up through mid-October. The date for Questa has not yet been confirmed. Any resident of Taos County can register an animal for $10 for two years, making them eligible for spay and neuter services. The animal can be either a pet or any stray that they wish to spay or neuter. Sheriff Hogrefe adds that $10 is a small price to pay, compared to the price of veterinary services or the price of caring for an increased population of dogs or cats. "Spaying and neutering dogs and cats is an important step to slow down populations in shelters. The back-end costs of spay and neutering is well worth the expense to the county, compared to front-end costs of increased work load for animal control and animal shelters."

Suggestions of loose or wild dogs can be reported to Taos County Animal Control at (575) 737-6488. You can also call this number to schedule an appointment to spay and neuter and to register your animal. Leave a message and the Animal Control office will call back early in the morning, at lunch time or in the evening, as they are out in the field most of the day.
New Mexico Public Land Commissioner Stumps With Questa Voters

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

New Mexico Public Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard came to Questa’s Eagle Rock Lake Saturday, Aug. 6, for a “meet & greet” organized by the Taos County Democratic Party. Questa Mayor John Anthony Ortega and Councilor Brett Jaramillo attended along with about 15 others.

The Commissioner stayed at the lake mingling with prospective voters for about an hour and gave a short speech on the duties of her office and how she will continue to utilize the office if reelected.

“If you don’t know about the Land Office, essentially I’m responsible for … your state public land, 13 million acres of it statewide, and I have to use that land to make money for our public schools, universities, and hospitals,” said Commissioner Richard. “We’re trying to take the lead from Questa and highlight and develop destination areas on state land… places where people want to camp, hunt, backpack, hike… all kinds of things you can do on your state land. So that is one of the ways that we are making money. The reason I ran for this office is because I wanted to be in charge of the money to go to schools.”

Referencing office revenue from FY 2019 & 2020, Commissioner Richard went on to explain how it was under her leadership that the State Land Office made its first billion dollars.

“This year, we are set to announce that we have made the Land Office $2 billion in one year,” said the Commissioner.

There will be three candidates on the ballot for New Mexico’s Office of Public Land Commissioner this November: incumbent Stephanie Garcia Richard (Democrat), and challengers Jefferson Byrd (Republican) and Larry Marker (Independent, write-in).

If Commissioner Richard is reelected this November, because of term limits, she will not be able to run for a third term in four years.

Commissioner Richard’s full speech at the event is available at the following web address: https://soundcloud.com/dylan-r-n-crabb/nm-land-commissioner-steph-richard-eagle-rock-lake.

[Editor’s note: This essay was taken from a book about boys, so you will please excuse the gender language. We encourage you to extend these ideas to your granddaughters, as well!]
Another penalty on the opening drive own 28-yard line on a holding call. It was unfortunately called back to their kickoff by Questa special teams that strict opponents.

The game began with a runback on the kickoff by Questa special teams that was unfortunately called back to their own 28-yard line on a holding call. It would set the tone for the night, as the Wildcats weren’t having a good night.

Another penalty on the opening drive

set up 4th and long, which forced the Wildcats to punt. After a short gain on the return, the Yellowjackets managed to march down the field for a touchdown in three plays.

The pattern repeated with the Wildcats offense unable to advance the ball and the defense unable to contain the Yellowjackets’ advance. The Wildcats’ only score came with a safety in the second quarter. The Questa team played a spirited game and never gave up, even as the Yellowjackets approached the 50-point cutoff for high school games. Clayton, though, had the advantage of simply being a bigger school. The final score was Questa 2 – Clayton 52.

The Wildcats will play Dulce High School at home on Sept. 10 at 1 pm and Sept. 23 at Dulce High School at 7 pm.

FOOTBALL:

Mark your calendars for Questa High’s Homecoming game versus Menaul High School on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 7pm.

SOCCER:

The boys varsity soccer team played a neutral-ground opening match against Hot Springs High School from Truth or Consequences at Bernalillo High School on Aug. 18, losing 1-9 against the Tigers.

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The Varsity opening match was played at Questa against St. Michael’s High School Junior Varsity. The Wildcats lost 2 - 4. Both Questa goals were scored by freshman Alyse Lovato.

The Varsity team will be playing seven home games in September, including East Mountain High School Sept. 7 at 4 pm, Taos High Sept. 8 at 4 pm, and Academy for Technology and the Classics from Santa Fe Sept. 13 at 4 pm.

Check the Fall Sports Calendar for more upcoming games.

VOLLEYBALL:

There’s a big Volleyball line up this fall, running through Nov. 5, including Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Seventh and Eighth Grade Middle School Games.

See the September Sports’ Schedule on page 9.

EDUCATION

New School Year With QISD Superintendent John Maldonado

By DYLAN R N. CRABB

Questa Del Rio News interviewed Questa Independent School District Superintendent John Maldonado about new employees, the district’s new technology company, job duties between the school board and principals and safety procedures at the schools.

“We hired 14 new employees; eight at the elementary school, two new teachers at the high school,” Maldonado said. One applicant is also waiting to be confirmed as a high school history teacher.

The district has a new technology company, Elite Customer Centered Solutions of New Mexico, L.L.C. Maldonado noted this new tech company is much more communicative than the district’s previous company. Elite is in the process of upgrading the infrastructure including the schools’ fiber optics lines. They are also transitioning from Apple computers to Chromebooks.

“... Within two weeks we should have those ready to go out to our students.”

Questa Del Rio News moved onto a more structural question regarding the different duties between the school board and school principals.

“The school board is in control of policy and budget,” Maldonado said. “So they approve policies and … our operational budget, as well as … big projects. Principals… do work on the handbook, things like that… as long as it follows school board policy…”

During the Aug. 3 board meeting the board voted to require transparent backpacks for all students. “It was a safety decision from our safety committee,” Maldonado said. “Last year, we had to bring in the dogs a few times to walk around the campus. That was with the Sheriff’s Department…. Especially with what happened in Texas, it prevents students from being able to bring things in with their backpacks.

“[Last year] we did searches of backpacks that led to suspensions. We want to avoid that. And I think our teachers and our staff felt like it gave them that ability to see, there might be a possibility of a student bringing in either drug paraphernalia, or some type of weapon. It gave them that feeling of, ‘we feel like we’re okay with being able to see what’s inside these backpacks.’”

When asked about concerns about weapons and drugs, Maldonado said, “It’s probably more on the drug end. And, you know, and we did pass a policy to randomly test our student athletes. We were one of the few districts that hadn’t passed that; it had gone through a lot of other districts already; and so we brought it back to the table…. “Anytime there’s any type of school shooting, we start seeing the high security alert … so [the new safety policy] alleviates that fear and that worry of which students are really going to do that.”

Providing mental health support

“We have two counselors on staff, we have a social worker on staff,” Mal
donado said. “And then we do contract out with Taos Behavioral Health, addi
tional community support workers…. So that’s been a big part, keeping those counselors on board and keeping the communication with Taos Behavioral Health as well.”

QDRN: “What do you think is the biggest challenge for trying to get students to open up?”

“Biggest challenge is making that connection, both the teacher and counselor,” Maldonado said. "It’s making that connection. Ultimately a student is only going open up to you if they can trust you. And building that trust amongst students is always a big thing and that goes for everything. And sometimes you see students open up to coaches, to custodians to cafeteria workers to, whoever it may be, because they have built that trust with that student.

“We sent out about 12 teachers to a training in Las Vegas, Nev., and it really touched on that. It was social/emotional learning. A PhD brought that back to the rest of the staff and it changed my way of thinking. I was always thinking, well, we need to worry about cur
culum and not worry about this. It brought me the understanding of what our kids go through, understanding that there’s more to life than just the school setting, and how we can relate. One of my teachers says, ‘The comment that I kept hearing is that our students are only...”

NEW SCHOOL YEAR cont’d on next page
NEW SCHOOL YEAR cont’d from page 8

go to respond to us if they can trust
us and that if they feel that we’re respect-
ing them then they can give us the same
respect back.” To hear the things that they
brought back was really positive.”

Questa Del Rio News then pivoted to
housing insecurity, to which Maldonado
responded, “We have about 12 families
that would be considered homeless and
homeless is kind of a broad term that
the state uses; if you have a student that
sleeps on a couch outside of their own
home for one night, that student now
becomes considered homeless.

“But when we look at families…
living outside of their homes… We look
at struggles with water, electricity, things
like that, some of these families have two-
plus kids. So it impacts a number of our
students. Our homeless liaison, her job
is basically to get resources, it’s getting
supplies, things that are needed in the
house - blankets, even food, gift cards,
vouchers… And there’s community
resources that she reaches out to, and she
works with [families] to try to help them
get back on their feet….”

QDRN: “And this district is even pro-
viding housing in some cases.”

“So we provide housing for our staff,”
Maldonado affirmed. “We have a couple
of staff members who have come to us
from out of the country so we provide
housing for them. And then we have
other staff members that have secured a
job here but haven’t been able to secure
housing. We do have a couple of teach-
erages [referring to district-provided
teacher housing], and they do pay a little
bit of rent that comes directly out of their
paycheck. That’s an issue that we’re still
working on with the Village, as well as the
county, is to try to bring some additional
affordable housing to the district. We’ve
been working with other organizations
to see if there’s any possibility of bringing
additional housing for our employees.”

QDRN: “What’s the challenge with
trying to bring something new to
each new school year?”

“The biggest challenge is that some-
times change is hard… we have to look
at the impacts that it’s going to have, not
just on us as adults, but the impacts that it
has on our students… We have to look at
every impact that it has from the smallest
to the biggest, anytime we make a change.

“Another one that we’re working on
right now is putting a new playground
in… After getting it approved, we knew
that even ordering a playground at the
beginning of the summer that… we prob-
obably weren’t going to have it installed by
the time the school year starts. So we had
to look at the impact that it was going to
have on our little kids… Again, it was a
safety issue. We had pieces of our play-
ground that had been red flagged by our
insurance authority, we wanted to make
sure that those were safely removed. The
biggest thing is looking in all directions
and making sure that the negatives don’t
supersede the positives. I think that’s
been the biggest challenge.”

The full interview is available here:
https://soundcloud.com/dylan-r-n-crabb/
interview-john-maldonado.

Questa Wildcat’s September Sports Schedule

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Soccer

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Volleyball: High/Middle School

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**Back To School At Roots & Wings**

By JON ORRIS, RWCS DIRECTOR

Roots and Wings Community School (a free, public, state-authorized charter school) started its 23rd year Aug. 15 and welcomed back 57 students in K-8 grade. RWCS’s mission is to inspire students to academic and personal excellence. Our innovative learning community creates classroom, farm and wilderness adventures – engaging the head, hands and heart – enabling students to achieve more than they think possible and to take an active role in our ever-changing world!

**COVID-Related Info**

We have returned fully in-person and masks are optional while indoors. We are still using our enhanced air filtration system and asking parents to be cautious if their child is feeling sick before sending them to school. Again this year, our GOAL is to keep the school open all year, with students learning in person, which will take the whole community working together.

**Fall and Spring Trips-go7**

A unique piece of our curriculum is students do at least one fall and one spring multi-day trip with their classes, and use a local summer camp for their three-day trip to learn the basics of camping and ease them into being away overnight.

**Exciting News**

RWCS was awarded a direct appropriation from the NM Legislature during its last session to help purchase the current school facilities and grounds. We are in negotiations currently, so the school will own its campus! In addition, the school owns land adjacent to the current school facility and has submitted an application with the county to add two portable classrooms to the campus. The addition of these buildings will allow the school to have larger classrooms for our 60 students, and provide better breakout rooms for students and staff.

**Enrollment**

RWCS enrollment is capped at 60 students in our multi-grade classrooms. RWCS utilizes three grade cohorts that are divided into K-2nd, 3rd - 5th, and 6th - 8th. Our K-2 and 3-5 classrooms are full, with waiting lists. We do still have a few spots available for new students in our 6th – 8th grade classroom. If interested in attending RWCS call the school office at (575) 586-2076.

Students in grades K-2 head out for their adventure right from the school, and use a local summer camp for their three-day trip to learn the basics of camping and ease them into being away overnight.

“Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children,” says Library Director Sharon Nicholson. “We have library programs that serve students of all ages and backgrounds such as Library visits from AVE, STEAM Fun Fridays, Wildcat Kitty Club, and Summer Reading Programs. This year, Tony Award-winning performer, actress, singer-songwriter and philanthropist Idina Menzel (Frozen, Wicked) and her sister, author and educator Cara Mentzel, will serve as honorary chairs of Library Card Sign-Up Month. Idina and Cara are excited to remind everyone that one of the best places to find your voice is at the library. During Library Card Sign-Up Month, they want us to explore all the library has to offer, like new children's books, access to technology, and educational programming.”

**The Questa Public Library Celebrates Library Card Sign-up Month!**

By SHARON NICHOLSON, QUESTA LIBRARY DIRECTOR

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, when libraries nationwide join the American Library Association (ALA) to remind parents, caregivers, and students that signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Libraries play a crucial role in the education and development of children using a variety of programs that spark creativity and stimulate an interest in reading and learning. Through access to technology, media resources and educational programs, a library card gives students the tools to succeed in the classroom and provides opportunities for people of all ages to pursue their dreams, explore new passions and interests, and find their voices.

At our Questa Public Library patrons of all ages can find a variety of educational resources and activities including, Book Club, Dropped Stitch, computer classes, and Exploring 3D Printing.
New Year With More Space At Red River Charter School

By ELLEN MILLER-GOINS

Like so many school administrators before her, Kimberly Ritterhouse, Red River Valley Charter School Director, is diving into the 2022/2023 school year with excitement — tempered by hurdles.

By far, the biggest challenge is a lack of space. “We’re starting the school year in close proximity again,” Ritterhouse said.

According to Ritterhouse, construction on a new building that will house grades 5 through 8, plus a special education resource room, is still underway. She noted that Cordova Contracting & Development, LLC out of Albuquerque experienced delays last summer and fall that meant the foundation was not poured until April. “Things were held up but they’re moving forward. They’re saying mid-September.”

Despite the cramped quarters, Ritterhouse is excited to introduce two new teachers. “Blake Stogner teaches first and second grade,” Ritterhouse said, “and Cora Pearson will teach third and fourth. She’ll start after Labor Day. She’s fulfilling her contract in Taos and will begin Sept. 6.”

Returning staff include Jackie McCullum, pre-K; Melissa Smith, kindergarten; and Suzy Polk, grades 5-6. Kinsey Webb and Becca Pockrands will be sharing grades 7-8. As parents of young children, “they’re splitting the day,” Ritterhouse said. Rounding out the staff are Sarah Parker, student services/special education director; Jayme Reger, special education teacher; Crystal Lancaster, educational assistant; Susie Northern, educational assistant; Alex Judycki, educational assistant; Tonya Lewis, office manager; Lorie Hawks, art; Teresa Mandonado, cook.

Since its initial charter, the school has focused on the “knowledge-based” teaching and curricula offered by the Core Knowledge Foundation, which was founded by E. D. Hirsch, Jr. According to its website, as an author of several acclaimed books on education, Hirsch ardently believes in cultural literacy—the idea that reading comprehension requires not just formal decoding skills but also wide-ranging background knowledge. This includes the belief that “literate citizens are better able to contribute to a democratic society.”

“We’re excited to be continuing with our Core Knowledge curriculum,” Ritterhouse said. “The program helps students learn content with a deeper perspective instead of just scratching the surface.”

Referring to the foundation’s website, Ritterhouse noted, “They have online resources.” Plus, “We’ve been purchasing Core Knowledge language arts curricula. Those integrate science and social studies.”

Anecdotally, Ritterhouse said, “We hear that when they go to high school, they have a greater wealth of knowledge. Our focus is on the individual learner and how we help them to advance. That’s what’s nice about the Core Knowledge curriculum. It provides a lot of opportunities for critical thinking and problem solving. We meet them where they are but also accelerate them to get them at or above grade level. Extra help where needed, tutoring, that kind of thing.”

Additionally for students in some subjects, “We advance them and then challenge them according to their talents. Cora, who’s joining us Sept 6, is finishing her gifted and talented training.”

Currently 80 students are enrolled: 10 in pre-K (which is the maximum) and 70 are in grades K-8.

See https://www.coreknowledge.org/ for more information about the Core Knowledge Foundation, to access its free resources or to donate.

NYC comes to Red River Youth

Artists with the Tobias String Quartet from The Juilliard School in New York City perform for students of Red River Valley Charter School on Monday, Aug. 22, at the Red River Community House. Music from Angel Fire’s Young Artists offers a hybrid of musical performance and education for the festival’s Music in Schools program.

Performing, left to right: Clara Neubauer, violin, Oliver Neubauer, violin, Sterling Elliott, cello, and Samuel Rosenthal, viola.

Red River Valley Charter School students get into the groove during the performance on Mon. Aug. 22, at the Red River Community House.

Left to right: Samuel Rosenthal, viola, Sterling Elliott, cello, Oliver Neubauer, violin, and Clara Neubauer, violin, field questions from the K-8 students in attendance.

New Mexico Ranks Last For Child Well-Being

By JULIA GOLDBERG, SENIOR CORRESPONDENT, SANTA FE REPORTER

Despite improvements in most indicators, New Mexico ranks 50th in the US for child well-being, according to the 2022 Kids Count Data Book, a 50-state report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation released on Aug. 8. The data book examines 16 indicators, including child poverty; high school graduation rates; and teen birth rates, grouped in the larger brackets of economic well-being; education; health; and family and community.

This year, the book also includes data on the increases in children who experienced anxiety or depression during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent rankings use data from 2016 to 2020, which show the COVID-19 pandemic offset many of the state’s improvements, and also does not incorporate recent policy changes (the state ranked 49th last year, and 50th for three years prior).

“Recent years, New Mexico has been a leader in putting children first in public policy,” Amber Wallin, executive director of New Mexico Voices for Children, which runs the state's KIDS COUNT program, said in a statement. “However, the COVID pandemic caused major challenges for families that blunted the progress New Mexico had been making to improve child well-being. Fortunately, we expect that the many good-policy decisions enacted since 2019—including tax credits for workers with children and expansions in high-quality affordable child care—will put us back on the path to improvement and create opportunities for all New Mexico children to thrive.”

Voices for Children held its Annual Kids Count Conference, which reviewed the new data and policy issues, on Aug. 18.

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It’s a Wrap!

2022 Questa Studio Art Tour

By PEGGY TRIGG

After some apprehension, it was a strong year for the Questa Studio Art Tour. With personal income tight, the tour still brought much needed dollars into the Questa community. With over 52 artists participating at 16 hubs, visitors got quite a treat. They appreciated and purchased multiple genres of art and traditional crafts. This year the tour also promoted multiple genres of art and traditional crafts. The average artist’s sales over the two-day event were strong with over one fourth of their local projects and for helping us with grant funding and the use of their skilled staff. Thanks also goes out to the Village of Questa and the Questa Economic Development Fund for the use of the Visitors Center during the tour, and for all their support and encouragement. We would also like to thank St. Anthony’s Church for the visitor tours. Finally, we would like to thank the Questa Del Rio News for their publicity and promotion.

Please forgive us if we left someone out! It was a huge team effort!

Last but certainly not least, a great thanks goes out to all the wonderful artists who participated in this year’s tour!! Without all of you, this wonderful event wouldn’t have been able to happen!

Vida Del Norte Coalition Loses Key Funding

By EDWARD H. CAMP

Vida del Norte Coalition has been vital to providing substance misuse prevention education and events for northern Taos County teens but the coalition recently hit a huge bump in the road: “Unfortunately, we reapplied for our funding and there were some issues with the application, so we weren’t able to re-apply for our grant in time,” said Maria Gonzalez, coalition director. “We’re losing our funding this year with the hope to reapply next year.

“We’re hoping to do a GoFundMe. We’re basically just trying to keep the doors open until we can reapply, at least pay for the building and the utilities. I’ll lose my employment, and so will my media person.”

Despite the prospect of a year without pay, Vida del Norte’s work continues. On the evening of Aug. 22, they held a Town Hall meeting with representatives from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Field Office in El Paso, TX, Scott Garland and Carlos Briano; legislative aide to Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez, Rachel Montoya; along with Mayor John Ortega, Councilman Jason Gonzalez, Sheriff-elect Steve Miera, and Miles Bonny of Taos Alive.

Tentative plans were made for Carlos Briano, a former candidate for Texas Teacher of the Year, to return to Questa Independent School District to teach students the extreme dangers of today’s drugs, where even doses as low as 2 mg can be lethal.

In 2020, 801 New Mexicans died of narcotics overdoses. 963 people died of alcohol-related illnesses, and the state saw 134 DWI-related deaths. Those figures do not count all the other tragedies caused by substance abuse.

Vida del Norte’s Beginnings: Inspired by Tragedy

In 2014, when a Questa toddler ingested his father’s illicit buprenorphine tablets, possibly mistaking them for candy. The child suffered permanent brain damage and still requires constant care.

It was a wake-up call for Questa. At an initial meeting in June 2015, community members chose the name Vida Del Norte, or “Life of the North” for a new coalition tasked with preventing substance misuse among northern Taos County youth.

“That’s when the community came together,” Gonzalez said. “They got the core group together and started applying for funding for the Drug Free Communities Grant, from the federal government. It’s a [prevention-based] $500K grant that goes for five years…. [and] allows us to work with 6th grade through 12th graders.

“We do education and awareness, we do workshops… Our charge is to start changing the way the community interacts with substances so we can create long-term change… We did a focus group in May with about 14 students. Our main focus is vaping and alcohol, since those are the ones that show up in our area the most, and … they said when caught vaping, they send us home. ‘What happens when you get home?’ ‘Well, we vape more.’ “So, we’re working with the school districts and with counselors to figure out the best way [to combat substance abuse.] We’re trying to provide more information about the effects of vaping, too.

In 2021, [for the 9th and 10th grade health classes at Questa High School] I did a life-skill curriculum called “Botvin’s,” said Gonzalez, that’s proven to decrease substance use among youth.”

Vida formed a youth coalition called Active 8, which is now in its third year, Gonzalez noted. They’ve been an integral part of Vida del Norte. They come to our meetings, they give their input and tell us what the youth need, what the youth do – they’ve been key in spreading information for us.”

In January 2021, Active 8 had a meeting about creating a skate park in Questa, a project led by Questa’s youth, which has become a big focus for the entire community. “It got so much traction that the next morning when I came in, there were, like, 30 emails saying ‘we want to support this project.’ So, we developed a whole committee for the Skate Park Project.”

Other Active 8 programs include youth/police luncheons, music festivals, and substance-free parties at Vida del Norte’s one-acre property.

For more information on how you can get involved, visit https://vidadelnorte.com/; Contact Maria Gonzalez at (575) 779-2260 or maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Taos Community Foundation is proud to serve the unique needs of Taos County by linking the charitable goals of donors to the causes that mean the most to them. Together we make a powerful difference.

Taos Community Foundation has awarded over $2.5 million in grants and scholarships this fiscal year. We are honored with the trust bestowed upon us from so many who partner with us to make a difference.

Contact us to learn more: 115 La Posta Road, Suite A, Taos, NM (575) 737-9300

taoscf.org

Photo Courtesy Geraint Smith Photography
Freedom Center Church Annual Candlelight Vigil

By PASTOR KRISTI GONZALES

We are calling on our community leaders, law enforcement, faith leaders, and all people to help promote substance abuse awareness at our annual Community Candlelight Vigil. The Candlelight Vigil is for all who have been affected by drug addiction.

National Recovery Month is observed every September, so the timing of this vigil is perfect. We have offered this Candlelight Vigil for the past four years in observance of Red Ribbon Week, which is celebrated the last week of October. We hope hosting the candlelight vigil a month earlier will invite warmer weather!

Many opportunities to experience happiness or a sincere smile inside and out can be missed when we forget that "things" or other people can fill the bill for us. True happiness never comes from what lies outside of us, but what we are experiencing inside. That is our true touchstone of happiness.

I spoke to one person and asked where their true happiness lies. He couldn't name anything other than things and people that make him happy. When I suggested he look inside to see if he could set aside things and people, he said he couldn't. Seeing that we were not going to move away from things and people, I asked him to focus on what the feeling was regarding a person or a thing and, when he had touched into his feelings, it brought a big happy smile to his face. I didn't ask what he had discovered; the smile was enough.

Such a simple thing to ask of ourselves, but so very rewarding and revealing it can be.

SEPTEMBER SENIOR MENU

**Thursday, Sept. 1**
- Beef Stroganoff over Noodles
- Green Beans
- Roll
- Fruit

**Friday, Sept. 2**
- Pork Posole
- Mexican Blend Vegetables
- Pinto Beans
- Tossed Salad
- Mandarin Orange

**Monday, Sept. 5**
Closed for Labor Day

**Tuesday, Sept. 6**
- Beef Patty
- Onion Gravy
- Spinach
- Roll
- Cake

**Wednesday, Sept. 7**
- Chef Salad w/Turkey
- EggCheese
- Beef & Onion Salad
- Crackers
- Fresh Fruit

**Thursday, Sept. 8**
- Baked Pork Chops
- Roasted Potatoes
- Green Peas
- Cornbread
- Jell-O

**Friday, Sept. 9**
- Fried Fish
- Lemon Wedge
- Tarter Sauce
- Potato Wedges
- Carrots
- Sherbert

**Monday, Sept. 12**
- Riggaton w/Meat Sauce
- Broccoli
- Salad
- Garlic Bread
- Fruit

**Tuesday, Sept. 13**
- Salisbury Steak
- Scalloped Potatoes
- Mushroom Gravy
- Mixed/Vegetables
- Roll
- Peas

**Wednesday, Sept. 14**
- Chicken Pot Pie
- Carrot Raisin Salad
- Diced Green Chile
- Apple Crisp

**Thursday, Sept. 15**
- Red Chile Beef Enchiladas
- Spanish Rice
- Pinto Beans
- Lettuce/Tomato
- Pudding

**Friday, Sept. 16**
- Tuna Sandwich
- Salad/Dressing
- Banana

**Monday, Sept. 19**
- Hot Turkey Sandwich w/Grey
- Broccoli
- Cranberry Sauce
- Apple

**Friday, Sept. 23**
- Frito Pie
- Garden Salad
- Chuckwagon Corn
- Cheese Biscuit
- Goulash

**Tuesday, Sept. 20**
- Green Chile Cheese Enchilada
- Spanish Rice
- Pinto Beans
- Lettuce/Tomato
- Pudding

**Wednesday, Sept. 21**
- Lasagna
- Caesar Salad
- Italian Vegetables
- Roll
- Cake

**Thursday, Sept. 22**
- Baked Chicken
- Parsley Potatoes
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Broccoli
- Orange

**Friday, Sept. 29**
- Green Chile Beef Stew
- Dinner Roll
- Apple Slices

**Tuesday, Sept. 27**
- Chicken Alfredo
- Pennie Pasta
- Winter Blend
- Vegetables
- Garlic Bread
- Gobbler

**Wednesday, Sept. 28**
- Ham and Cheese Sandwich
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Broccoli
- Peaches

**Thursday, Sept. 29**
- Frito Pie
- Garden Salad
- Chuckwagon Corn
- Cheese Biscuit
- Goulash

**Friday, Sept. 30**
- Chicken Salad Sandwich
- Macaroni Salad
- Sliced Tomatoes
- Sun Chips
- Fresh Fruit

**Wednesday, Sept. 28**
- Ham and Cheese Sandwich
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Broccoli
- Peaches

Taos County Senior Program
575-737-8827
PLEASE NOTE THAT MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

LARGER PRINTABLE MENU ONLINE at QuestaNews.com

**BODY MIND SPIRIT**

By BARBARA TRACY

Happiness

We have all been asked at some time in our lives, “What truly makes you happy?” Seems like a simple question and, to many, a familiar one. I have recently asked this question of others and was not surprised to find their happiness linked to things and people. Nothing wrong with that, but it seemed to be so familiar among those whom I asked. And, of course, there is happiness to be found in things and people. But when we eliminate those two things as possibilities for our happiness, what are we left with? I sat with this for quite a while and slowly came to realizations apart from things and people. In fact, those realizations were much deeper in feeling and emotion than things and people. I will not share with you what I discovered because I don’t want to influence your personal experience should you choose to see for yourself.

Just for fun, I have started a journal listing those things that make me truly happy, apart from things and people, and, surprisingly enough, the list has grown to include not only what makes me truly happy, but what feels pleasurable, what sounds pleasurable, what sights are pleasurable. Those things that bring a smile to my face. In one instance it was the beautiful sensation that I was perfectly content with the moment I was in, the event that was taking place and the role I was playing in the event. An encompassing feeling of ease and comfort swept over me that brought a smile.

Taos County
6-7:30 pm, Saturday, Sept. 24, at NE Corner of the Questa Traffic Light.
KALL 911!

It's not always obvious that someone has suffered a stroke but knowing how to detect a stroke and getting help immediately can prevent death or disabling damage.

Earlier this year, New Mexico's Senator Ben Ray Lujan suffered a stroke. He was only 49 but it can happen to anyone. Thank God he's doing well now, but it's never too soon to be aware of the life-threatening signs of a stroke.

Here they are – cut this out and put it on your refrigerator with some magnets:

**SIGNS OF A STROKE**

**SAVE A LIFE!**

First you tell the person:

S — “Smile.”
T — “Talk to me. Say, ‘Mary had a little lamb.’”
R — “Raise both arms.”
O — “Open your mouth and stick out your tongue.”

Then you:

K — Kall 911 if the person has trouble talking.
E — Educate others on these signs.

A forwarded email I looked at recently was one of the important ones: ways to identify a stroke and save lives. But it’s four pages (!) – not a short, concise thing I can put on my refrigerator. Whoever wrote the email made a valiant attempt to make it easy for us to memorize by having us remember the first three letters of STROKE. Then I got the idea to use ALL the letters and to share it with my readers.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within three hours, he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke. TOTALLY. The trick is recognizing the signs of a stroke and then getting the patient medically cared for within three hours, which rarely happens.

If someone falls and seems somewhat disoriented or a bit shaken up, use these tips immediately. Look for slurred speech and weak muscles. When they stick out their tongue, if it’s crooked or goes to one side, that also indicates a stroke.

Yeah, so I can’t spell – but Kall 911 gets the point across. Know how to recognize the signs of a stroke and you may be able to save a life. Pass it on.

**Cómo detectar un derrame cerebral**

Aquí tienes una lista de estas señales.

Si alguien se cae y se ve un poco torcido o hacia un lado, eso también indica que hay un derrame cerebral.

Y cuando saquen la lengua, se verá si está torcida o va a un lado, lo que rara vez sucede.

Aprende a reconocer los signos de un derrame cerebral es posible que puedas salvar una vida y ayudar a alguien a evitar un daño cerebral grave. Comparte esta información.

**¡LLAMA AL 911!**

No siempre es obvio que alguien ha sufrido un derrame cerebral, pero saber cómo detectar un derrame cerebral y obtener ayuda de inmediato puede prevenir la muerte o daños que resulten en incapacidad.

A principios de este año, el senador de Nuevo México Ben Ray Lujan sufrió un derrame cerebral; solo tenía 49 años, pero lo mismo le puede pasar a cualquiera. Gracias a Dios, ahora él se encuentra bien, pero lo mismo le puede pasar a cualquiera.

Aquí tienes una lista de estas señales. Recórtalas y pégálas al refrigerador con ayuda de imanes:

**SIGNOS DE UN DERRAME CEREBRAL**

**¡SALVA UNA VIDA!**

Dile a la persona:


Abre la boca y saca la lengua. Levanta los brazos.

Llama al 911 si la persona tiene dificultad al hacer estas cosas.

Educa a otros sobre los signos de un derrame cerebral.

Un correo electrónico que recibí hace poco resultó muy importante: trataba sobre distintas maneras de saber si alguien está sufriendo un derrame cerebral y así salvar vidas. Pero el mensaje tenía cuatro páginas (!) No era algo breve y conciso que pudiera poner en mi refrigerador.

Quien lo escribió hizo un intento digno de elogio para hacernos más fácil la tarea de memorizar estas señales haciéndonos recordar las primeras tres letras de la palabra STROKE. Luego, a mí se me ocurrió la idea de usar todas las letras de esta palabra y compartirlas con mis lectores.

(Nota de la traductora: en español no es posible hacer la traducción literal de cada letra, de modo que he copiado sólo lo que debe hacerse en este caso.)

Un neurólogo dice que, si él puede auxiliar a la víctima de un derrame cerebral en tres horas, logrará revertir totalmente sus efectos… TOTALMENTE. El truco es reconocer las señales de un derrame cerebral y obtener atención médica para el paciente dentro de las tres horas siguientes, lo que rara vez sucede.

Si alguien se cae y se ve un poco desorientado o agitado, pon en práctica estos consejos inmediatamente. Nota si tiene dificultad para hablar y los músculos débiles. Cuando saque la lengua, si está torcida o hacia un lado, eso también indica que hay un derrame cerebral.

En esos casos ¡llama enseguida al 911!

**FOR BEN & BELLA, MY GRAN DKIDS**

Facial wrinkles are really little stars
A Star for each of life’s journeys — mishaps — lessons — love — happiness —
Play and fun times …

ALL ADO UP!
And keep adding until they look like WINKLES …
Twirling Brightly at the very thought of you, my dears

Lisa Fox

**Improve inflation cost you money.**

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

Ellen Wood de Questa es una autora galardonada y una artista que usa el nombre de Maruška. El sitio web de sus libros y pinturas es www.NorthernNewMexicoArtists.com/ellen-wood. Para ponerse en contacto con Ellen escriba a ellen@howtогrowyounger.com. Traducido por Teresa Dovalpage

JR (Malaquias) says:

“**Inflation pressuring you?**

We’ll make sure your tires are properly inflated to the correct pressure.”

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. Contact Ellen at ellen@howtогrowyounger.com.
My Bucket List

When I ran a fly shop long ago, I'd look at fishing magazines and see myself in all the pictures. I hadn't heard the term “bucket list” yet, and if I had, it would have been meaningless. My bucket was always empty, after all, since working in the fly-fishing industry meant that everything – the Amazon, Mongolia, Argentina - was always within my reach. I could send myself to the places I wanted to see and make the adventure pay for itself. I thought that life would never be any different.

It’s silly of me though, especially as I get older, to forget that unless my time on Earth becomes infinite, I will be forced to live in vicarious space, which means fishing magazines and bucket lists. Here’s one for you:

I want to fish for golden dorado on a Bolivian stream no larger than the Red River. I think I still have time to do this, though I’m concerned that if COVID doesn’t stop mutating, I’ll be too phobic to risk a voyage to a jungle where spiders catch birds in their webs and there may be diseases or crawly critters yet to be discovered by humans, namely me.

Since Alaska’s too crowded these days, I want to reexperience catching big rainbow trout in their least trammeled native habitat. If a Hefty sack full of cash falls on my head, and if someone nicer than Putin ever leads Russia again, let me die having skated mouse flies in Kamchatka.

When my wife and I took our baby son to the Pyrenees for her fortieth birthday, I missed my chance to catch an actual native brown trout. I like the idea of browns swimming near ancient European castles, where men wore chainmail to work and drank terrifying alcohol from four-pound vessels made of crude metal.

One day in the far northern Rockies, a colleague of mine went snorkeling and saw a 30-inch bull trout resting under an enormous log jam, like a witch in a forest cabin waiting for a couple kids to amble by so she could roast them for dinner. I’d like to catch such a witch in the northern Rockies.

I considered my ocean flats fishing career to be unfinished business. If I never get to the Yucatan again, I’ll gladly settle for a few more redfish hunts on the Gulf Coast.

The thing about this late afternoon time of life is being caught between what my body and bank can withstand, and the chance of losing my appreciation for the winding road I’ve traveled to arrive at so much passion and desire. “Get out early and often” should be my credo from now on. It’s gotten me this far, and soon the magazines will be all I’ve got.

Here’s another one for the not-so-distant bucket: a warm house and a cat sleeping on my lap. Thank heaven, I’ll think, for so many talented fishing writers and visual artists, and for the rivers and fish that will hopefully still run. Eventually, I feel the cold in my earlobes and smell tobacco on the breeze, and snort myself awake when the cat jumps off.

Red River Tree Stumps Repurposed Into Fish Habitat

By ROB SWAN

The Dec. 15, 2021 storm left many neighborhoods in the Upper Red River Valley with a lot of devastation and cleanup work to be done, much of which centered around the disposal of large tree stumps. Sadly, the majority of the stumps end up at the landfill, but one local entrepreneur has found a more constructive purpose: fish habitat.

Andamo Sanchez, owner of Sanchez Excavating & Trucking in Questa, has a history of working with environmental engineers and government agencies restoring and improving waterways around New Mexico. Much of the restoration revolves around restoring fish habitat. Fish thrive better when they have sheltered areas in which to take refuge. Tree stumps with their tangled ball of roots offer the perfect solution, providing shade, cover, and an environment where additional marine life can exist which, in turn, helps to rebuild and strengthen the ecosystem.

So out of all the bad things the storm brought, there is at least one positive outcome.

Phillip Mancell of Sanchez Excavating & Trucking stands with root balls waiting to be repurposed into fish habitat.
Fall Migration Begins in the Summer

Yep, despite summer being far from over, several species have already begun their journey to Central America. During this migration season, there are opportunities to see a rainbow of different birds not commonly seen in northern New Mexico year-round, as well as chances to help them on their way by providing bird feeders and limiting outdoor light use.

A quick primer on bird migration: Birds migrate primarily for resources and nesting locations, but the trigger for migration is hormonal. As winter approaches and sunlight decreases day by day, their hormones tell them it’s time to get a move on. There’s a word for this, “Zugunruhe,” German for restless migratory anxiety. Migratory birds begin to feel restless and will stock up on food to build fat reserves for the coming journey to the monsoon lands of Mexico, where insects and fruit are abundant. While our trees have begun to lose their leaves, the lush foliage and dense forests of Central America will provide ample nesting spots. A species’s tolerance of high and low temperatures also plays a role in migration, and while many birds can survive even freezing temperatures, the amount of food required to do so is not sustainable.

Birds follow ancestral paths known as “Flyways.” Think of them as the avian equivalent of a super highway—used by birds large and small because they’re relatively safe from predators and supply food along the way. New Mexico is considered part of the Central Flyway, and birds’ migratory paths take them over rivers like the Rio Grande and through mountain chains, the same routes used by early human settlers in our state. This route isn’t pre-programmed into birds’ instincts, however. Scientists still don’t understand the full complexity of how birds navigate, but what is known is they use a combination of techniques: using the sun and stars as compass guidance, sensing the Earth’s magnetic field, and tracking landmarks they passed on their earlier journeys.

Unfortunately, modern human development has made this already difficult journey even more perilous. Powerlines and buildings are the leading cause of bird deaths from collisions, and light pollution can confuse birds and take them off course. Some of these birds are killed by poachers, a sick cycle wherein their plumage becomes increasingly valuable as the species becomes more and more rare with each bird that’s killed until they’re extinct and exist only as taxidermied replicas sitting in a museum.

You can help migratory birds with a few simple actions. Over half a billion birds are killed from residential window collisions each year but preventing this is easy. Decals like bird silhouettes or circles, sticky notes, or white tape are all effective. Prayer flags are especially effective. The key is spacing; birds see spaces instead of patterns, and by keeping the space between each decal or line of tape to 2” it will appear too small a gap for birds to fly through. This can be an artistic endeavor too, as non-toxic tempera paint works great and can be easily removed. You can even use a bar of soap to draw a pattern if paint isn’t your strong suit.

Window screens are another solution that double as mosquito and fly prevention during hot summer months, and if your screens don’t cover the whole window there are specially made bird screens that work just as well. Turning off outdoor lights around sunset is another easy way to help as this will prevent birds from getting distracted and falling off course. Of course, just putting out bird feeders and suet feeders will provide birds the sustenance they need for the flight ahead.

I encourage readers to use the Cornell Lab’s handy migration tracking tool BirdCast to track nightly movements of birds, see real-time analysis of their movements, and much more, including what birds will be migrating near you. You can access this free service at BirdCast.info. You can submit your own bird sightings at eBird.org/sightings.

Here’s to another migration season and the chance to see some new feathered beauties!
Monarch Butterflies Now On Endangered List

STAFF WRITERS

The migratory monarch butterfly is the newest member of the endangered species list. Dwindling numbers accelerated by climate change, overdevelopment, and pesticide use bring the iconic insect closer to extinction.

On the West Coast, Monarch populations dropped by 99.9 percent from roughly 10 million in the 1980s to fewer than 2,000 in 2021. On the east coast, the population decline is closer to 84 percent. On July 21, 2022, Monarchs were officially added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List, where they are classified as endangered. The IUCN is a coalition of government, nonprofit and private organizations that work on conservation issues.

Monarch butterflies are one of the most beautiful and recognizable species, known for their large and brightly colored black and orange wings. These butterflies are native to North America, where they can be found in many different habitats, including forests, meadows, and gardens.

Every year, Monarch butterflies travel about 4,000 miles from Canada down into Mexico during the winter months in large flocks. This long, difficult migration is just one reason that their population is dwindling. Recommended reading: “Flight Behavior: A Novel” by Barbara Kingsolver

Why Monarch Butterflies Are Endangered:

1. **Loss of Habitat.** National Geographic says that monarch butterflies need three things to survive: their food source of milkweed plants, warm temperatures, and daylight. Their habitat has been dramatically shrinking in North America. Because of development, deforestation, and toxicity from herbicide, pesticide and other chemicals, milkweed plants are in steep decline. Without milkweed, their larva would not be able to develop into butterflies. This loss of habitat is most sharply pronounced due to deforestation in Mexico. At one time, all Monarchs would migrate to Mexico annually after their summer in southern Canada and the northern United States. Illegal logging in Mexico further threatens Monarch’s migratory cycle.

2. **Climate Change.** As the Earth’s temperature increases, Monarchs are unable to migrate to colder climates as they have done in the past.

3. **Parasites and Diseases.** Monarch butterflies are at mortal risk from parasites and diseases. According to National Geographic, the biggest danger to Monarchs is a tiny parasite called Ophryocystis elektroscirrha (OE), spread by infected butterflies. This parasite can cause deformation of their wings, affecting their ability to fly.

4. **Illegal Trade.** Is a major threat. The World Wildlife Fund says that “millions of Monarchs are illegally collected every year and traded across borders for use in traditional medicines, as wedding decorations, or placed in children’s gardens as pets.”

5. **UV Radiation** harms Monarch Butterflies. “The thinning of the ozone layer allows more harmful UV radiation to reach the earth and damage the wings of Monarchs and their larvae,” says the National Geographic Society.

6. **Air Pollution.** Rural populations in North America often burn crop residue, releasing smoke containing high amounts of ozone. When butterflies fly above urban areas, ozone enters through cracks in butterfly wings, increasing mortality rates.

7. **Pesticides.** Some pesticides released into the environment may not directly affect Monarch butterflies, but they do play a significant role in population decline. According to the World Wildlife Fund, “When a pesticide is sprayed, a certain amount of the chemical enters the environment and persists for long periods of time. Plants and animals can absorb them through their system or leaves.” Monarchs drinking polluted water from milkweed plants are at risk. Overall, loss of habitats, climate change, parasites and diseases, illegal trade, UV radiation, air pollution, and pesticides have contributed to the decline of Monarch Butterflies. If humans want to ensure that Monarch Butterflies survive for future generations to enjoy, we must take action and help restore these habitats by planting milkweed plants and reducing our carbon footprint.

**How to Help Monarchs:**

1. **Plant Milkweed.** The main reason that these butterflies are endangered is because their habitat is being destroyed. By planting milkweed, you’re giving Monarchs a food source, a place to lay their eggs and reproduce. There are several different types of milkweed plants, be sure to check on which type the Monarch prefers before planting (see sidebar).

2. **Do Not Use Pesticides or Herbicides.** Chemicals make their way into the food chain, causing serious health problems. They can only hurt the Monarch butterflies and also affect other wildlife, especially birds and bees.

3. **Join a Citizen Science Project.** There are several organizations that track the Monarch butterfly population. By collecting data on their migration patterns and numbers, scientists can better understand why their population is dropping and find ways to protect them.

4. **Avoid Buying Genetically Modified Crops.** Some crops, such as corn and soybeans, are genetically modified to resist herbicides. If you buy these types of crops, it could mean more herbicides being used in your area which will kill off any milkweed plants that are growing nearby.

5. **Educate Others about Monarchs.** Most people don’t know about the Monarch butterfly’s endangered status. Please educate them by sharing this article on social media. If an organization you belong to works to protect Monarchs, ask them to increase their education efforts.

6. **Creating a Butterfly Garden at Home and Work** will attract butterflies and allow friends, family, and employees to take an active role in saving these beautiful butterflies. Support all pollinators, including birds!

7. **Report any Illegal Activity.** If you see someone illegally catching or selling Monarch butterflies, report it to the authorities. By doing this, you could help to protect their breeding grounds and stop the sale of these endangered creatures.

**Volunteer at a Habitat Restoration Site.** There are many local habitat restoration sites that need volunteers to help plant milkweed and other native plants. They often have information about Monarchs and what you can do to help them.

**PLANT MILKWEED TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES!**

Due to loss of habitat caused by development and deforestation, Monarch Butterflies need our help. They rely on milkweed as their sole food source, and we can plant milkweed for them.

If you send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Live Monarch Foundation, they will send you milkweed seeds that are native to your area, for FREE!

Live Monarch Foundation
PO Box 1339
Blairsville, GA 30514
Livemonarch.com

**HOW TO GROW MILKWEED**

Choose the right spot for your milkweed plant. Make sure there is plenty of sunlight. Milkweed needs at least six hours of sunlight each day. Water your milkweed plant regularly. Milkweed plants need regular watering. Depending on your climate, water your plant every other day, or when the top inch of soil feels dry to the touch.

Fertilize your milkweed plant. Add a nitrogen-rich fertilizer, all natural fertilizer to your garden twice a month to help your milkweed plants grow big and strong.

Remove competing plants from the area around your milkweed plant. Pinching off the flowers or “deadheading” after their first bloom will promote a second crop of blooms. Then allow the plant to go to seed.

Hang a Feeder. The Monarch migrates from Canada all the way to Mexico every year, so chances are they’ll pass through our area. Milkweed seeds can be added to the feeder for an extra treat while the butterflies are refueling and they can lay their eggs before continuing their journey.

**Milkweed painting by Questa artist Peggy Trigg**
Plastic Pick-Up Solar Barges

Every year, two million tons of plastic flow into the ocean from polluted rivers, damaging the environment and threatening marine life and economies around the world. But what if you could stop the trash before it even reaches the sea? Ocean Cleanup, a Dutch company, is doing just that with the "Interceptors," a Roomba-like robotic barge that skims plastic waste off the surface of the river as it flows downstream. This houseboat-sized vessel is also 100-percent solar-powered, extracts plastic on its own, and can operate in the world’s most polluted rivers. The vessel is designed to catch plastic pollution while allowing water to flow through it. It uses the river's currents to move the debris onto a conveyor belt where it’s sorted into dumpsters. Once full, on-board sensors trigger a text message to local recyclers to come and collect the waste. The dumpsters are removed, emptied, and returned to the hull of the Interceptor to continue its cleanup mission.

On a typical day the device extracts about 50 tons of plastic waste from polluted waters. Ocean Cleanup estimates the Interceptor could collect as much as 100 tons per day depending on the currents, tides, and how much plastic is in a given river.

"Ultimately, we need to move all the way upstream and reduce consumption of unnecessary plastics, and we need to better collect and recycle plastics," says Nick Mallos of The Ocean Conservancy. "In the meantime, it’s far more efficient to stem the tide of plastic pollution in the rivers rather than trying to tackle it in the middle of the ocean."

Currently, four first and second-generation 'Interceptors' are at work, cleaning rivers in Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Dominican Republic.

Their goal is to have a fleet of solar-powered barges cleaning up the world’s one thousand most polluting rivers within five years, all the while cleaning the oceans at the same time.

Kit Carson Co-op Completes First Phase Of Energy Plan

By REGAN PETERSEN

After six years later and $37 million in exit costs fully repaid to Tri-State Electric, Kit Carson Electric Co-op has lower electricity rates than any Tri-State member co-op and will reach 100 percent daytime solar powered in 2022.

After the six-year process, KCEC has reached a significant milestone in its plan to become one of the cleanest, most cost-effective energy cooperatives in the US. To stabilize and lower rates while shifting to more renewable, locally generated power, KCEC has made the final $37 million payment to exit its decades-long contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission.

A Distribution Cooperative Exit

Since 2013, KCEC’s member owners have set on creating change when the co-op experienced 12 wholesale power rate increases in 13 years. It was serving a costly, fossil-heavy power mix to its members, and its ability to self-generate renewable power was capped at five percent. KCEC chose price stability, cost decrease, and the ability to serve additional renewable energy resources, and to restore local decision-making ability to better serve its member owners.

“Wanting to prepare for a new energy transition and serve our members' specific needs,” said Luis A. Reyes, Jr., CEO of KCEC. “We wanted to take direction from our community on what they wanted from us, and within the contract with Tri-State we were unable to deliver.”

At that time, KCEC requested changes from Tri-State on these issues, but the changes were denied. Instead of resorting to litigation, in 2016 the co-op reached an agreement with Tri-State that allowed it to exit its contract for $37 million. The methodology used to calculate the $37 million figure was based on KCEC’s portion of Tri-State’s generation-related debt. KCEC remained a Tri-State Transmission customer. In essence, KCEC pre-paid its financial obligation as a member-owner of Tri-State at that time. Remaining Tri-State member co-ops still owe their portion of Tri-State financial obligation. In this exit model, all remaining Tri-State members were kept whole.

KCEC partnered with Guzman Energy, a wholesale power provider to help finance the exit costs and signed a new, 10-year wholesale power supply contract. The agreement with Guzman Energy provides for lower, fixed wholesale power rates – estimated to save the co-op $50-70 million over the term of the contract; no limits on local renewable energy generation; and a return to local decision making that is focused on members and local economic growth.

Phase 1 Transition Delivers Cheaper, Cleaner Power Milestones

In the first six years since the shift KCEC has achieved the following milestones:

- KCEC has lower power rates than any Tri-State member co-op and has some of the lowest power rates among all New Mexico co-ops.
- Distributed 41 megawatts of local, solar power throughout KCEC’s service territory.
- Reached its goal of providing 100 percent of daytime energy through solar power.
- Developed 15 MW of accompanying battery storage for reliability and resiliency.
- Made significant progress toward New Mexico’s statewide objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent by the year 2030.
- "We gave our members a voice to influence the cost and type of power they are served," Reyes said. "We paid a formula-based exit cost with nothing extra. This is what energy independence and restoration of local community decision-making looks like."

Jeffrey M. Heit, Principal and Managing Director, Guzman Energy, added, “KCEC has provided a blueprint for all local co-ops and their members to be ready for the energy future. We are moving into a world that is going to be more focused on local distributed generation. Guzman is incredibly proud to be part of KCEC’s energy transition, and we look forward to helping them continue to innovate and move toward their next phase.”

Looking ahead to Phase 2, KCEC will continue to work with Guzman Energy on developing modern, resilient, and renewable energy initiatives. KCEC is putting 40 electric vehicle-charging stations in place to help reshape the local energy economy in the vision of its member-owners. It will also continue to expand distributed energy resources along with local storage.

Audio Story

https://beta.prrx.org/stories/363507

Full Transcript PDF:
https://mucusercontent.com/6dd255314651fc139b0eb7d84/files/2bca2d91b-8a84-f70b-9bf-2d9f3b05b584/GN7.23_PlasticPickUpSolarBarges.pdf

“This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live. Building community through creativity. Secolive.org"
The Historic La Lama Cemetery Gets Work

By JUSTIN FRIEDMAN

The La Lama Cemetery was established in the late 1800s by the original settlers in this community. It has seen generations of folks burying and visiting their loved ones to this day. Throughout the year descendants, primarily from Questa, can be seen visiting those departed – restoring and attending to new and timeworn graves and occasionally interring recently departed relatives.

Over the last century the cemetery has seen its share of challenges from age, fire, wind, drought, vandalism, and mountain extremes. In 1996 the Hondon Columbine fire swept in from the south burning multiple Lama residences as well as burning historic wooden grave markers in the cemetery. It left all the standing trees in the cemetery damaged. Many of these extremely large ponderosa pines in particular had fallen down directly on a number of graves while collapsing the surrounding fences.

Members of the Ortega family including Questa Mayor John Ortega and current Lama residents, some descendants of those buried in the cemetery gave their go ahead to have Lama community groups lend a hand. Campers from the Sangre de Cristo Youth Ranch located in Lama, in cooperation with the La Lama Neighborhood Association, pitched in to rework the fences around the cemetery and remove multiple downed trees. Logs were removed, slash was neatly spread in surrounding areas and a general cleanup was conducted. A new entry point through the fence was created on the north side for those visitors entering on foot. It was hot and sometimes muddy work given the monsoon rains coming in daily. Thanks to all who participated and helped organize the two-day community service event.

From TAOS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Over thousands of years, First Nations in the Southwest traveled extensively throughout the region, stitching far-flung communities together with their vast, inter-coastal trade routes. These routes carried valuable trade items and were encapsulated in Journey Songs that could be memorized and transferred to other would-be travelers. When Spanish explorers arrived in North America, they engaged these American Indian traders as scouts.

In 1779, Governor Juan Bautista de Anza subjugated the Comanche and gained their commitment to peace. Once the Comanche threat was removed, New Mexico became a center for trade in the 1800s. In 1821, the Santa Fe Trail opened from Missouri to Santa Fe, and in 1829, the Old Spanish Trail linked northern New Mexico to California. Both trails followed ancient Native American trade routes.

In 1830, Taos’ La Hacienda de los Martinez launched the first successful round-trip to California, when William Wolskill and George Yount outfitted their 20 men at the Hacienda for their journey. This mixture of Spanish, Native, and American cultures will be celebrated at Martinez Hacienda at the annual Trade Fair on Sept. 25-26.

Ethnohistorian, Celinda Reynolds Kaelin, will take members and guests of Taos County Historical Society through the history of the North Branch, Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OS-NHT) in an illustrated talk. Kaelin is the former New Mexico Director for OS-NHT. She will examine the role of Taos as a center for this trade, and the key role that the Spanish Churro sheep and northern New Mexico weavers played.

Kaelin, granddaughter of New Mexico pioneer John Allen Reynolds, is a poet, philosopher, ethnographer, and historian. Her great grandfather was the Cherokee Chief Red Bird. Celinda resides in Taos with her husband Harold. They have three children; Kelly Fogarty, Melinda Slawson and Jessica Gallop-Butler; eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Kaelin is a member of Western Writers of America and is a 2019 Literary Judge for their Spur Awards. She is also a member of Women Writing the West and served as president of the Pikes Peak Historical Society for over 26 years. After she took an early retirement from the Central Intelligence Agency in 1989, Kaelin began writing full time. She received her B.A. in Business Administration from the College of Santa Fe and has the equivalent of a master’s degree in business earned from over 400 hours of post-graduate studies. She serves as an adjunct professor at Colorado College.

Kaelin is the author of six books, including Pikes Peak Backcountry, [Caxton Press, 1999], American Indians of the Pikes Peak Region [Arcadia Publishing, 2008], and Ute Legends [Caxton, 2017]. Celinda’s account of the Elder’s ceremony to heal the Bird Flu is included in McGaa’s 2007 best seller Creator’s Code, and her poetry is included in the 2007 anthology Open Range by Ghost Road Press. She is the author of hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles and has lectured extensively throughout the Pikes Peak region.

Kaelin is proud to be an adopted member of both the Ute and Lakota American Indian Nations. She follows the Lakota spiritual tradition as a carrier of the Sacred Pipe and has completed 15 Sun Dances.

The Taos County Historical Society, formed in 1953 is a 501c3 non-profit organization with a vision to preserve the irreplaceable. Membership is open to anyone upon the payment of annual dues. For additional information on the Society visit www.taoscountyhistorical-society.org.
A CENTURY AGO, THE OLD RED RIVER PASS HELPED TRANSFORM A DYING MINING VILLAGE INTO A POPULAR SUMMER DESTINATION

By EDWARD H. CAMP

Late winter. The wind howls through the valley, whistling through abandoned miner’s shacks and boarded-up storefronts. Except for smoke rising from the occasional chimney, the place looks deserted. The boom had come and gone. Though 3,000 people had lived and worked around the ambitiously-named Red River City in 1897, by 1914, there remained only several dozen hardy souls; miners who still dreamed of the mother lode, homesteaders up to the challenges of Alpine life and those who simply loved the place and never left.

As the author Bill Divin called it, “Empire of High Hopes,” dreams of vast mineral wealth had never panned out, literally or figuratively. Placer gold (the kind found in streams) was depleted early on. Other ores proved to be low-grade and poor transportation made taking material elsewhere for processing unprofitable. Talk in 1906 of a railroad into the Moreno Valley and on to Taos went nowhere, and no rail connection ever came closer than Ute Park.

The road to that connection was also downright frightening. Following the natural pass over Red River Hill from Elizabethtown through Road Canyon, the unimproved path was so steep, travelers would cut down a tree at the top, tie the log to their wagons and drag it behind to stop them from running over their own horses on the way down. With grades up to 27 percent, the road was treacherous when dry, prone to washouts, and impassable to wagons in the winter.

So that March, in 1914, the people of Red River met for the second time to discuss building a new road. Organizing the first meeting the previous November was the work of Norman L. Faris. The Iowa-born Colorado mining engineer had been working near Ute Park and only recently arrived in Red River, but his enthusiasm for the area’s potential was so infectious that he convinced the locals there was no future in Red River without a new roadway.

A Good Roads Association was formed at that second meeting, with Sylvester Mallette, Caribel mine-owner H.L. Pratt, and Faris as officers. Faris did much of the legwork, traveling the state to secure funding. The State Legislature was tapped out from financing the Camino Real project. Taos County was building a new highway to the Colorado state border (old State Road 3) and could only provide $750 — and only if the people of Red River raised the rest. Finally, the U.S. Forest Service agreed to take on the project.

An initial survey was conducted in August and on Sept. 10, a crew led by engineer Howard B. Waha arrived to finish the job. The new highway had several requirements to meet Forest Service standards: maximum grades of 7.5 percent on straightaways, lowering to 3 percent on switchbacks; a minimum radius of 36 feet around switchbacks; location on a southern slope to reduce snow accumulation; and pull outs every 700 feet to allow cars to pass. Culverts and drainage also had to meet stringent standards.

Work began in June 1915. As per Forest Service policy, most of the workers were recruited locally, with men coming from as far as Sunshine Valley and Taos to take part. The work was initially led by Howard Waha, but he returned East to marry his sweetheart and teach at Syracuse University. (Waha would later return to New Mexico and design sections of Route 66.) From August on, the work was supervised by Norman Faris and Waha’s assistant Kenneth C. Balcomb. The men managed to carve out a narrow path that year, allowing automobiles to safely enter Red River for the first time.

The project was completed the next summer under Balcomb’s supervision. Norman Faris returned to Colorado and joined the Army Engineers. He died in France on October 8, 1918.

While much of the first year’s work was done with horse and mule teams, most work the second year was done by hand, most notably by men from Taos Pueblo. Dynamite was used only on a limited basis, mostly at switchbacks and for removing stumps. Everything else was done with raw human and animal labor. Safer and easier to negotiate, the new road was considered a modern marvel.

While investors would keep promoting the mines, a new type of gold rush was starting. Reports of Red River’s cool summers and ample trout had been in magazines and newspapers as early as 1896. Tourists began pouring into Red River, even before the road was finished. Locals refurbished miner’s shacks to rent out and began building new accommodations at once. The quiet, isolated little burg quickly became a bustling destination, with summer populations to rival the boom days. The new pass also served as a gateway bringing tourists to Taos and Questa as well.

For the next several decades the Red River Pass continued to serve the town and region, helping the local economy survive the Great Depression, the end of mining in the early 1930s, and the lean years of World War II. Driving the Red River Pass was considered an attraction in itself, as each switchback revealed new breathtaking vistas of the valley. Views of and from the pass even featured on postcards.

By the 1950s, the once modern marvel was feeling outdated. Many drivers accustomed to asphalt found it as frightening as their grandparents had found the original road. With the ski area opening in 1959 and the town’s new winter tourism, New Mexico Department of Transportation decided it was time for an update. Work began on a new road over Bobcat Pass in 1962 and was finished by the summer of 1966. The Red River Pass became “the Old Pass,” closed to traffic and gated at the Colfax County line.

The switchbacks became Forest Access Road 488 and found a new life as an off-roading and hiking trail. Today, the carvings on the aspens bear witness to the generations of locals and tourists who have made the trip up to see one of New Mexico’s most beautiful panoramas. The men who built Red River Pass would be proud to know their work remains, still helping people discover the beauty and wonder of this place we love.

— Kenneth C. Balcomb’s book The Red River Hill provided the backbone of this article. It provides a colorful firsthand account of the building of Red River Pass and of life in the valley in those years. It is available at the Little Red Schoolhouse Museum on Jayhawk Trail, Red River.
8750' BBQ & Music Festival: Success Despite Weather

By EDWARD H. CAMP

There was a smokey haze over Red River the weekend of August 20, but this time, it wasn’t because of a disaster. This time, the air was filled with the sweet smells of mesquite, hickory, slow-cooked meats and chiles, as some of the finest cooks from around the West put their skills to the test at this year’s 8750’ BBQ and Music Festival. Some of Taos County’s brightest musical stars were on hand to add a side of hot jams to the weekend events.

Things kicked off Thursday evening, Aug. 18 with perfect weather and a concert at Bitter Creek Ranch by John Fulbright before the party moved over to the Motherlode Saloon, with The Damned Quails rocking the house until nearly midnight.

On Friday, the music continued at Brandenburg Park with a “Bloody Mary Morning.” Clouds and a little monsoon rain kept the crowds cool while the contestants began their preparations for Saturday’s cook-off. Veggies were chopped, fires were lit and, as midnight approached again, the first meats were put in the smokers, while the crowds again enjoyed a night at the Motherlode.

The rains came in steadily Saturday morning, but by now the anticipation was too much: nothing could stop people from enjoying a day of feasting in the park. “It’s just a little water!” shouted one boisterous festival-goer. While much of the audience stayed under the canopy, others danced in the rain. Musician Mark Edgar Stuart said Red River is one of his favorite places to play, and added “it’s a lot cooler up here, ” than back home in the sweltering Memphis summer.

The cooks, eager to win the coveted People’s Choice Award, were eager to share their creations, and tell you how they did it. Pitmaster Greg Salinas of Aurora, Colorado said cooking his brisket takes “depending on elevation, 9 to 14 hours,” showing his dedication to his craft.

Some cooks pushed the boundaries of barbecue, like Billy Joe Rodriguez of Wichita, Kansas, and her “Bacon Crack” a caramelized bacon and sweet sauce dish.

While many of the cooks are restaurateurs, some, like Adam Alvarez of Albuquerque and Jordan Garcia of Las Cruces who competed as “Team Hott Meat,” are particularly talented amateurs. The self-described “barbeque backyard dads,” have only been barbequing for three years, but were competing in their second 8750’ Fest and made some of the tenderest meats of the day.

While all the food was amazing, in the end, it was a cookoff and someone had to win. Barbecue winners are Larry Zimmerman, brisket; Will Gerdes, ribs; Stetson Jones, chicken. Kit Polk is the 2022 Grand Champion and Sean Hay is Reserve Champion. For a complete list of winners and info on upcoming events, go to https://www.lonestarbarbecue.com/.

Chili/Chile Cook Off winners are Kathy Williams, red; and Pat Page Taylor, green.

The festival ended with another night of music at the Motherlode Saloon. If you missed it, don’t worry, because it’s all happening again next year!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Questa's
Cambalache
Harvest 2022 Festival

Sunday, Oct. 2
10 AM - 2 PM

Last day of Questa Farmers/Art Market for the season. Music by Michael Rael and more. Vendors, food and fun.

To be a vendor or for information contact Lynn@questaedf.com or (575) 586-2149.

WE ARE THE SOLAR
When you flip the light switch you’re part of a new and residents in northern NM will be 100% renewable

CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
Clean renewable generation, all of our 30,000 businesses during the day by December 2022.

Total Solar & Battery kW of All Arrays:
57,365 kW (57.37 MW)
The future of our members is now cleaner, more affordable and reliable.

We have what you need!

QUESTA LUMBER & HARDWARE CO.
2349 State Road 522 • Questa NM • 575.586.0414
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Time for those autumn yard tools to come out and play!

We are the Solar Capital of the World

Taos Mesa Solar Facility: 170 acres with 43,680 solar panels

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Fight Against Actions Banning Reporters

By MELANIE J. MAJORS, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

The mission of the New Mexico Foundation of Open Government (NMFOG) includes advocating, educating, and litigating to help New Mexicans vindicate their rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Freedom of the press is one of the hallmarks of American democracy and enshrined as one of the five freedoms in the First Amendment – freedom of press, freedom of assembly, freedom of petition, freedom of religion and freedom of speech. This is not just an opinion, it’s the law. The Constitution recognizes the right (and duty) of the press to report all news.

A key to democracy is information and we live in an information age. Secrecy has the potential to corrupt any institution, public or private.

While NMFOG is reluctant to wade into any political fight because of our nonpartisan status, we cannot be silent about the recent effort to keep a reporter out of an event hosted by a gubernatorial campaign.

Some background: on Saturday, Aug. 13, in Carlsbad, the private security working the doors at a Mark Ronchetti for Governor campaign event prevented Shaun Griswold, a reporter who works for Source NM, and others access to the Saturday Carlsbad political rally on the basis of the content of their reporting.

For the record, Mr. Griswold lists his occupation as “Reporter” on his federal income tax return.

NMFOG feels compelled to speak out about this incident because it could happen again, either in county offices, city halls or the Roundhouse. Case in point, in 2017, the state of New Mexico agreed to a settlement with the weekly Santa Fe Reporter following a lengthy lawsuit that accused a former governor of failing to release documents and denying the newspaper access to information provided to other outlets, violating the state constitution’s Free Press Provision.

As this lawsuit showed, it’s a dangerous precedent to let any public servant decide who is and is not a “legitimate” reporter. Reporters are the eyes and ears of the public. If they can be silenced by being denied access to events of public interest, the members of the public are the ultimate victims.

No government or any of its representatives should deny a particular reporter access to routine information such as press releases, media advisories or other tools. Nor should a campaign or government official deprive a particular media outlet access to facilities or localities where other reporters routinely gather news.

Our democracy hangs by a thread. It requires constant vigilance, well-informed citizens, and a robust press. It is particularly important for NMFOG, reporters, good government officials, media outlets and private citizens to unite and support reporters who become the target of such odious practices. This solidarity is necessary because other reporters may become the next target – a detriment to us all.

Melanie J. Majors, Interim Executive Director
New Mexico Foundation of Open Government
director@nmfog.org
(505) 764-3750

[Editor’s Note: This press release from the non-partisan New Mexico Foundation for Open Government was published in most newspapers across New Mexico, as well as broadcast on radio and television stations. It is the media’s civic duty to report local news and any ethical concerns or violations of constitutional rights that may arise. This is not a partisan issue and our intention is not to endorse or condemn any candidate. This statement may appear to reflect negatively on the candidate; in all fairness we reached out to his campaign in an effort to balance out the representation and did not receive a response, as of press time.]

Cuba And Machu Picchu In Peru

Questa Del Rio News’ official Spanish translator is Dr. Teresa Dovalpage, PhD. A native of Cuba, La Te, as we call her, is a professor of Spanish studies and Language at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs. This summer she and her husband, Gary James, had a wonderful visit to Peru, where they visited the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu. They then traveled to Cuba to visit her family and her homeland.

Pictured here is Teresa Dovalpage in a lovely Cuban patio.
**Landaise Salad**  
*(from the Landes region, southwestern France)*

**Ingredients:**
- 1 C smoked duck breast, or breast of smoked chicken or turkey.*
- 1/4 C crustless white bread, chopped into cubes

**Method:**
Preheat oven to 425°F. Put sliced breast in a roasting tray and cook for about 10 minutes, or until crisp. If including gizzards, fry in hot oil crisp. Combine all ingredients and whisk together. Remove duck and gizzards. Reserve fat. Turn bread cubes over in the fat, and toast chopped nuts on the other side of the tray. Cut the breast into medium shreds. Slice the gizzards into medium pieces. Put greens, tomatoes, nuts, and croutons in a large bowl and toss with the dressing. Divide over four plates. Arrange meat over the greens. Serve immediately, warm to room temperature.  
* Sliced duck or chicken gizzards, lightly salted and refrigerated overnight, then poached in duck or chicken fat, are often added to this recipe, with excellent results.

**Camargue Salad**  
*(Southern France, Land of the French “Cowboys”)*

**Ingredients:**
- 1 C white or red rice  
- 1 small zucchini  
- 1 small eggplant  
- 1 red bell pepper  
- 1 onion  
- 2 cloves garlic  
- 3/4 C cherry tomatoes  
- 3/4 C chopped thick sliced bacon  
- 1 C roasted chestnuts  
- 1/2 C Roquefort cheese  

**Method:**
Cook rice according to your preferred method. Do not rinse. Place in a large salad bowl. Wash and peel zucchini. Cut into finely chopped pieces. Cut seed eggplant. Cut into finely chopped pieces. Cut pepper into finely chopped pieces. Slice tomatoes. In a skillet, heat olive oil and simmer minced garlic and onions. Add eggplant and zucchini. Season with cayenne, pepper, and salt, to taste. Add tomatoes and corn and continue simmering for about 10 minutes on low heat, covered. Remove all. Let rest and cool. Add to the rice and toss gently. Serve immediately, warm, room temperature or cold, depending on conditions.

**Country Salad**  
*(Multiple regions and versions)*

**Ingredients:**
- Large Bowl of Salad Greens, your choice of lettuce  
- 2-1/2 lbs potatoes, small white potatoes recommended

**Method:**
Heat oven to 230°F. Place tomatoes and crushed garlic in a roasting pan. Season with oil and roast for about 15 minutes. Toast the nuts until glossy, about 10 minutes. Chop roughly. Set tomatoes, garlic and nuts aside in the fridge.

**Aveyron Salad**  
*(From the Aveyron region, southwestern France)*

**Method:**
Heat a small amount of oil, about 1 T, and simmer the bacon for 3–4 minutes until lightly browned. Stir dressing ingredients in with the bacon. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat, cool, and pour over salad greens, toss again to wilt slightly. Add remaining ingredients, tomatoes, garlic, cheese and nuts, reserving some Roquefort crumbs and nuts for the topping. Toss again and remove to plates. Serve immediately. Warm or room temperature.

**Recipe of the Month**

**Planning Ahead**

Twas the season before Christmas of this year,  
We prepared our gifts of holiday cheer.  
The fruits were all nestled all snug in their tree,  
When visions of sugared plums occurred to me.  
We set the jars and lids to a-boil,  
And we settled down for a long summer’s toil.  
Out on the lawn, up on the ladder  
Fruit juice from hands so lively and quick.  
I set the jars and lids to a-boil,  
So up to the kitchen the jammers they flew,  
With bowls and pots of jamming fruit goo.  
It boiled and bubbled and simmered for days.  
Then we packed them and sent them on their way.  
Good for pie, or toast, or even on hash.  

“Happy Christmas to all! And to all a yum yum!”

Sharon Tavernier

By ELIZABETH BRUNAZZI

I spent the summer working in France and have enjoyed an array of ample complete meal salads, or salades composées in French, inspired by different cuisines in the southwestern and southern regions of France. One features rice and corn and hails from the Camargue vicinity, home of the French “cowboys” with their celebrated white horses and black bulls.

These salads are not our idea of a dieter’s dream! Some are what we could call hearty fare. They can, however, be modified by lightening ingredients to taste, without sacrificing flavor. Salads invite personal invention. Most of these salads should be served warm or at room temperature, never ice cold, as is often the case with salad fare in the United States. As the weather changes and we move from hotter weather into cooler periods, they make excellent transitional meals that can be enjoyed year-round, depending on availability of ingredients.

**Landaise Salad**
*(from the Landes region, southwestern France)*

**Ingredients:**
- 1/4 C walnuts (pecans can be happily substituted)  
- 3/4 C red or green curly lettuce  
- 8 ripe cherry tomatoes  
- Dressing:  
  - 1 large shallot, finely diced  
  - 1 t Dijon mustard  
  - 3 t sherry or white wine vinegar  
  - 1 t honey  
  - 1 t light extra virgin olive oil  
  - 1 t chopped chives  

**Method:**
Preheat oven to 425°F. Put sliced breast in a roasting tray and cook for about 10 minutes, or until crisp. If including gizzards, fry in hot oil crisp. Combine all ingredients and whisk together. Remove duck and gizzards. Reserve fat. Turn bread cubes over in the fat, and toast chopped nuts on the other side of the tray. Cut the breast into medium shreds. Slice the gizzards into medium pieces. Put greens, tomatoes, nuts, and croutons in a large bowl and toss with the dressing. Divide over four plates. Arrange meat over the greens. Serve immediately, warm to room temperature.  
* Sliced duck or chicken gizzards, lightly salted and refrigerated overnight, then poached in duck or chicken fat, are often added to this recipe, with excellent results.

**Country Salad**
*(Multiple regions and versions)*

**Ingredients:**
- Large Bowl of Salad Greens, your choice of lettuce  
- 2-1/2 lbs potatoes, small white potatoes recommended

**Method:**
Heat a small amount of oil, about 1 T, and simmer the bacon for 3–4 minutes until lightly browned. Stir dressing ingredients in with the bacon. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat, cool, and pour over salad greens, toss again to wilt slightly. Add remaining ingredients, tomatoes, garlic, cheese and nuts, reserving some Roquefort crumbs and nuts for the topping. Toss again and remove to plates. Serve immediately. Warm or room temperature.

**Camargue Salad**
*(Southern France, Land of the French “Cowboys”)*

**Ingredients:**
- 1 C white or red rice  
- 1 small zucchini  
- 1 small eggplant  
- 1 red bell pepper  
- 1 onion  
- 2 cloves garlic  
- 3/4 C cherry tomatoes  
- 3/4 C chopped thick sliced bacon  
- 1 C roasted chestnuts  
- 1/2 C Roquefort cheese  

**Method:**
Cook rice according to your preferred method. Do not rinse. Place in a large salad bowl. Wash and peel zucchini. Cut into finely chopped pieces. Cut seed eggplant. Cut into finely chopped pieces. Cut pepper into finely chopped pieces. Slice tomatoes. In a skillet, heat olive oil and simmer minced garlic and onions. Add eggplant and zucchini. Season with cayenne, pepper, and salt, to taste. Add tomatoes and corn and continue simmering for about 10 minutes on low heat, covered. Remove all. Let rest and cool. Add to the rice and toss gently. Serve immediately, warm, room temperature or cold, depending on conditions.

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Electric Vehicle Charging in Questa

By LYNN SKALL

As gas prices increase and continue to fluctuate erratically, more people are swapping out their gas guzzlers for electric vehicles. Thanks to Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC), residents and visitors around the Enchanted Circle now have 48 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to keep their cars powered up.

In late August, Luis Reyes, Jr., CEO of KCEC; Questa’s Bobby Ortega, President of the KCEC Board of Trustees; Questa Mayor John Ortega; and Malaquias Rael and Lynn Skall of the Questa Economic Development Fund officially opened the newest EV charging station at the Questa Visitor Center. The partnership among these organizations made this installation possible.

“KCEC is creating a clean environment for our communities to preserve the natural beauty of Northern New Mexico,” Reyes said. “Creating a carbon-free climate will raise the standard for a better quality of life for our younger generations.”

This is KCEC’s second EV charging station in Questa — the first, located at the Youth and Family Center, adjacent to the Questa Library, was installed in early spring. Each charge point can accommodate two cars at a time using industry standard charging connectors (Tesla owners will need an adaptor.)

EV owners find these charging stations by downloading a special app onto their phones that identifies charging locations along their journey, which enables them to plan their route to stay fully charged. Payment is also made digitally through the app, keeping the charging tower sleek and button-free.

Questa’s “slow” chargers take up to six hours to completely “fill up” from empty; this gives guests and locals a chance to visit Village merchants and restaurants, or take a break at the Library and enjoy the Municipal Park.

Celebrating the opening of Questa’s second electric vehicle charge station at the Questa Visitor Center are left to right, Malaquias Rael, Lynn Skall, Mayor Ortega, Luis Reyes, and Bobby Ortega.

Sol Luna, a local solar installer and KCEC partner, used local labor to install the EV charging stations. Reyes said the EV chargers, “will fill the demand from long-range electric vehicle drivers and will work to import and introduce new economic development opportunities to the region.”

O B I T U A R I E S

OLIVIA E. CORTEZ

Our loving mother Olivia E. Cortez of Questa was 89 years old, born on June 12, 1933, passed away at her home on July 25, 2022. She was born in Antonito, Colorado, to Jacobo and Teresita Segura.

Olivia was preceded in death by her parents; stepmother Cecilia; brothers Jake Segura and Efilio Espinoza; daughter Henrietta Bowden; and grand-son Patrick H. Cortez.

She is survived by her children Alex R. Cortez (Anne), Richard Cortez (Cathy), Teresa Trujillo (John), Karen Jaramillo (David); nine grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren; very special nephews, nieces, and cousins from California.

Olivia was a devoted Catholic and always prayed for everyone, she loved the Santuario de Chimayo and Santo Nino. Olivia loved gardening, her flowers, bird watching and feeding the birds. She volunteered at St. James Food Bank for several years until the pandemic.

Olivia loved dressing up and attending dances, hunting, fishing, and the great outdoors. She frequented every casino in the area and always had a huge smile on her face. During her illness she never complained, she continued to be stubborn and in charge until the end. Mom was a feisty woman filled with JOY. She will be dearly missed. Fly high with the Angels, Mom.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday July 28, 2022 at 1 pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cerro, followed by the burial at the Cerro Catholic Cemetery.

The family of Olivia E. Cortez has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

To Place an Announcement "In Memory of"
CALL FOR RATES:
(575) 613-0856
or Sales1@QuestaNews.com

Our condolences for the loss of your loved ones.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) has completed the five-year review of remedy implementation and performance at the Chevron Questa Superfund site (Site) in, Questa, New Mexico. The Site consists of a closed molybdenum mine, a milling facility and tailing disposal impoundments.

Mining operations took place on site from 1919 to 2014. Mining operations, waste disposal and spills from a tailing pipeline contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment with hazardous constituents. Mining waste was also left on site. The sitewide remedy includes source containment of waste rock and tailings, active groundwater remediation (extraction, seepage interception and treatment), soil removals, and dredging and removal of lake sediment.

The five-year review concluded that the remedy for the Site will be protective of human health and the environment upon completion.

In the interim, removal and remedial activities completed to date have adequately addressed all exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks in these areas.

EPA completed the second five-year review for the Site in August 2022. The next five-year review is required by August 2027. A copy of the 2022 five-year review can be viewed at the following document repository:

Village of Questa Municipal Offices
2500 Old State Road 3
P.O. Box 260
Questa, New Mexico
(505) 586-0694

Site status updates are available on the internet at http://www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine.

All media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Press Office at (214) 665-2200.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE, CONTACT:

Nichole Foster – EPA Remedial Project Manager
(214) 665-7248
or by email at foster.nichole@epa.gov

Janetta Coats – EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
(214) 665-7308 or 1-800-887-6063 (toll-free)
or by email at coats.janetta@epa.gov
IN MEMORIUM

OBITUARIES cont’d from page 26

JAKE PIERCE

Jake Pierce was born on July 10, 1943 in Elk City Okla. He passed away Aug. 5, 2022 at the age of 79. His only dream as a kid was to be a firefighter. He worked for the Elk City Fire Department in the footsteps of his Dad and paved the way for an extended family of firefighters. Jake is preceded in death by his father, Julius Pierce and son David Pierce. Survivors include his mother, Hazel Pierce, sister, Charlotte Thomas and brother Barry Pierce (Cathy), daughter Kasey Estrada (Gus) and sons Luke and Samuel, son Cody Pierce and daughter Callie Pierce and wife Katy.

Jake will be remembered as a kind, gentle man with remarkable integrity and humility. His passion was always firefighting first and his commitment to public service as Red River Town Administrator ran a close second (he worked for six mayors).

He will be sorely missed, but he will surely rest in peace. He will always be our hero.

A memorial Service was held Wednesday Aug. 10, 2022 at 10 am at Red River Firehouse with interment following at Red River Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Red River Fire Department or the Red River Valley Charter School (PO Box 5, Red River NM 87558).

Arrangements by Rivera Family Funeral Home, Taos. To share a memory, please visit www.riverafuneralhome.com

CONRAD GARCIA

Conrad Garcia, 85, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully on August 21, 2022. He was preceded in death by his wife Emilia Garcia; parents Eloy and Emelina Garcia; siblings, Gaspar Garcia, Norbert Garcia, Lino Garcia, Marcelina Vest and Florence Rael.

Conrad proudly served his country in the United States Marines, upon returning, he was employed by the Questa Molycorp Mine where he retired from. Conrad enjoyed woodworking, spending time outdoors and riding his 4-wheeler. He will be dearly missed.

Conrad is survived by his children Lloyd Garcia (Janet), Ruben Garcia, Danny Garcia (Yolanda), Ronnie Garcia, Norman Garcia (Clara) and Michelle Spears; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; siblings Lorraine Duran, Gilbert Garcia (Lorraine), in-laws Viola Garcia and Felimon Rael, and many more loving relatives and friends.

Rosary was recited on Sunday August 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church. Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday August 29, 2022 at 10:00 am at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, with burial following at El Pueblito Cemetery. The family of Conrad Garcia has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

LOUIE ROBERT GONZALES

Louie Robert Gonzales, 63, of Costilla, NM passed away unexpectedly on August 19, 2022, in Albuquerque, NM. Louie was born in Denver, CO to Jose “Luz” and Esther Gonzales on April 8, 1959. Louie attended High School in Questa, NM and graduated in 1978. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, fishing and spending time with his daughters and grandchildren.

He is survived by his mother Esther Gonzales of Commerce City, CO; sister, Josie (James) Lucero of Amalia, NM, brother, Lawrence (Margie) Gonzales of Northglenn, CO, and sister, Sandra (David) Chevarria of Commerce City, CO. Peggy Gonzales, the mother of his daughters, Yvonne and Angel Gonzales, grand daughter Marissa (Marcos) Gonzales, grandson Devon (Alyssa) Gonzales and great-granddaughter Oakley Mae Gonzales, all of Albuquerque, NM.

He is preceded in death by his daughter, Desiree Gonzales; father Jose “Luz” Gonzales; paternal grandparents Danisladlo and Eloisa Gonzales; maternal grandparents Armando and Luisita Arellano.

Rosary and Funeral Mass will be held at Sagrado Corazon Catholic Church in Costilla, NM on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 10:00 am. Burial will follow at the Amalia Cemetery where Louie will be laid to rest with his daughter, Desiree. The family of Louie Robert Gonzales has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

UTILIA SALAZAR

Utilia Salazar, 94, a resident of Cerro, passed away July 21, 2022. She was preceded in death by her husband Adonias Salazar; son Teddy Salazar; parents Amado and Beatrice Quintana; brothers Chris Gallegos, Adonario Gallegos, Arsenio Gallegos, and Duby Quintana.

Utilia is survived by her children Fidelas Portillo (Ralph), Lora Sanchez (Jim), DeAnn Vigil (Michael); grandchildren Lisa Mills, Lori Feagler, Matt Gomez, Steven Sanchez, Rocky Sanchez, Michael Vigil; great-grandchildren Brayan Marker, Dominic Sanchez, Mirabella Sanchez, Mariah Vigil, Dominic Vigil, Audrey Feagler and Alyssa Feagler; siblings Mayo Archuleta, Betty Archuleta, Alomzo Quintana, Frank Quintana, Lucio Quintana, Loveida Cisneros (David); plus many other loving relatives and friends.

Rosary was recited on Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 10 am, followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 am at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cerro. Burial followed at the Cerro Catholic Cemetery. The family of Utilia Salazar has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

GILBERT V. SANTISTEVAN

Gilbert V. Santistevan, 88, of Questa was born in 1934 and passed away on July 18, 2022. He retired as a diesel mechanic from Moly Mine. He was also a talented welding artist, whose art can be seen as far as the Smithsonian Institute. Gilbert was a committed, devoted, dedicated and loving father and grandfa-
WHEN THE GOD OF WAR MEETS THE ART OF COMMUNICATION

“Thought is an idea in transit, which when once released never can be lured back, nor the spoken word recalled.” — Pythagoras

This month Mars remains in Gemini for the entire month. He also is the main source of challenges throughout the month, although, as we all know communication is a two-way street! War doesn’t exist without two sides with differing views. That said, the challenges emanate from him in two different directions which is like fighting the battle on two different fronts, then halfway through the month he switches to still fighting on two different fronts, but now, two DIFFERENT fronts, so four fronts altogether. Well, what did you expect? He is the God of War after all. If anyone can handle four fronts in one month, he can. The question is, can you?

Mars loves a good fight and Gemini is the sign of conflict for the purpose of finding harmony, which we often hope to do through communication, which is often the source of the conflict. When these two come together a battle of words is quite possible. This is a month to be cautious of your words, to take time to think. AND to remember that energy follows thought so it’s just as if you spoke aloud. The battlefronts may include your beliefs or your spiritual journey. It may be about the revelation of an understanding which didn’t exist before. While this can be a good thing, it can also upset the applecart in relationships where the parties thought they knew one another. Being aware of this potential can help us monitor our words as well as listen more carefully to the Other. Many communication issues result from a lack of good listening. Now is a great time to practice, which might suggest the purpose behind why the Universe would send us such a challenge.

Everyone: This is a great month to read — and practice — the book, “Words Can Change Your Brain” by Andrew Newberg, M.D. and Mark Robert Waldman

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY
SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
SEPTEMBER 2022

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♈ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19
Dynamic: You have time to practice before the challenge impacts you.
Direction: Work with the balance of silence vs discussion.
Soul Thought: “Mother Teresa once spoke of this kind of silence when she was asked what she did when she prayed. She answered that she listened. Then, being asked what God said when he prayed, she replied that He listened.” Lucius Trust — Triangles work.

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♉ APR 19 – MAY 20
Dynamic: You have time to practice the idea of silence.
Direction: Listen.
Soul Thought: When to speak is the question.

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♊ MAY 20 – July 20
Dynamic: You deal with this every day.
Direction: Perfect the details.
Soul Thought: How to speak, Truth, Beauty and Goodness?

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♋ July 20 – JULY 22
Dynamic: The unveiling you have undergone may be part of the challenge this month.
Direction: Know that it’s all good.
Soul Thought: The naked truth.

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ♌ JULY 22 – AUG 22
Dynamic: Part of the challenge is moving from love to commitment.
Direction: A time of silence in between?
Soul Thought: The devil in the details.

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ♍ AUG 22 – SEPT 22
Dynamic: As others struggle with their communication you may be the trigger.
Direction: Be clear about when you need to be.
Soul Thought: Or not.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♎ SEPT 22 – OCT 22
Dynamic: Your challenge is not the same the others are experiencing though you still struggle to speak your truth.
Direction: It’s not; it’s yours.
Soul Thought: Silence is golden.

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♏ OCT 22 – NOV 21
Dynamic: Say, you’re it!
Direction: Just remember, the Soul loves a challenge!
Soul Thought: “He who has a Why to live, can bear almost any how.” Nietzsche

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♐ NOV 21 – DEC 20
Dynamic: It’s the end, but it’s also the beginning.
Direction: Take aim.
Soul Thought: What is your highest aspiration?

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♑ DEC 20 – JAN 19
Dynamic: This is not a time of isolation, though it may feel like it.
Direction: Find friends to help.
Soul Thought: It allows them to serve.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♒ JAN 19 – FEB 18
Dynamic: Some wacky ideas may be running through your head.
Direction: Have a little fun with it.
Soul Thought: Is it a stream of thoughts? Or just idle?

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♓ FEB 18 – MAR 20
Dynamic: A great race month for you.
Direction: Look for the blessings.
Soul Thought: Expect them.

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

Esoteric Astrology is focused on the rising sign more than the sun sign (we suggest you read both) and provides clarity, direction and answers for those seeking a higher level of life.
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR • SEPTEMBER 2022**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN SEPTEMBER!

#### SEPTEMBER 3: SAT 4 –10 pm

Casa de Las Artes: El Mercado de Artes

#### SEPTEMBER 4: SUN 6 –8 pm

Bookmobile at Questa Post Office; (575) 586-2474; laura.gonzales@state.nm.us

#### SEPTEMBER 5: MON 6 –8 pm

Vida Del Norte Coalition meeting

#### SEPTEMBER 6: TUES 6 –8 pm

Rael’s Store and Coffee House; bring your instrument to jam or just bring yourself and enjoy. Free! 2430 NM-Hwy 522 in Questa. Info: (575) 779-9249.

#### SEPTEMBER 7: WED 6 pm

Questa Independent Schools Board meets the third and third Wednesdays of each month, in person and live streamed: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu each month, in person and live streamed:

#### SEPTEMBER 9: FRI 9 am–Noon

Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-1807 or (505) 238-1746; www.foodpantryquesta.org

#### SEPTEMBER 9: SAT 10 am

Community Yard Sale at the Cerro VFW. Info: (575) 586-0694.

#### SEPTEMBER 10: SAT 6 –8 pm

Community Yard Sale at the Gemo WVF. Tables for the weekend are just $20 indoors and if people want to set their own tables up outside, it will be $10 for the weekend! Call (575) 586-2333 or bamephsh@yahoo.com to sign up.

#### SEPTEMBER 13: TUES 6 pm

Village of Questa Town Council Meeting in person at Village Council Chambers. For agenda see VQ.Vista, De Rio News Facebook page or call (575) 586-0894.

#### SEPTEMBER 14: WED 10 am

Medicare Molina Presentation at the Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Info: (575) 586-6508.

#### SEPTEMBER 14: WED 6 pm

Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network (QEBN). Village update with Mayor John Ortega, meet new village staff, share ideas. In person at Rael’s Store and Coffee Shop and via Zoom, email for zoom link or suggest a topic for future meetings. Contact lynn@questaef.com.

#### SEPTEMBER 15: THURS 2 –3 pm

One-on-One Business Counseling drop-in for an hour by the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos with Anilwar Ramele, FREE and COMMERICAL via zoom: http://zoom.us/j/5753293219 or by phone: (505) 248-7799. Call for appointment. (575) 737-4219.

#### SEPTEMBER 16: FRI 3 pm

Cema FWV Post #9516, monthly meeting at 108 NM Highway 378 in Cema. litameadphoto@gmail.com Call (575) 586-3112 to confirm meeting date.

#### SEPTEMBER 20: TUES 9:30 –10:30 am

Bookmobile at Questa Post Office; (575) 586-2474; laura.gonzales@state.nm.us

#### SEPTEMBER 21: WED 6 pm

Questa Independent Schools Board meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month, in person and live streamed: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu each month, in person and live streamed:

#### SEPTEMBER 23: FRI 9 am–Noon

Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd in Questa. (575) 586-1807 or (505) 238-1145; www.foodpantryquesta.org

#### SEPTEMBER 26: MON 6 pm

Vida Del Norte Coalition meeting at Wida office, 62 Highway 38. Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9781793038?pwd=J1VvZjg4a0VyT2d2RmZuUWdtWGx6dz09. lynn@questaef.com

#### SEPTEMBER 26: MON 6 pm

Questa Economic Development Fund Board Meeting in person at the Questa Visitor Center and via Zoom, for link contact lynn@questaef.com.

#### SEPTEMBER 27: TUES 6 pm

Village of Questa Town Council Meeting in person at Village Council Chambers. For agenda see VQ.Vista, De Rio News Facebook page or call (575) 586-0054.

#### OCTOBER 1: SAT 7 pm

Questa High’s Homecoming football game versus Manual High School.

#### OCTOBER 2: SUN 10 am –2 pm

Cambalache - Questa’s Annual Harvest Festival, and last day of 2022 Questa Farmers Market and Art Market. Music by Michael Rae and everyone. Vendors, food, and fun. To be a vendor or for information contact lynn@questaef.com or (575) 586-2473.

#### OCTOBER 2: SUN 10 am –2 pm

CambaLach - Questa’s Annual Harvest Festival, Sunday, Oct 2, 10 am –2 pm. Last day of Questa Farms Art Market for the season. Music by Michael Rae and more Vendors, food and fun. To be a vendor or for information contact lynn@questaef.com or (575) 586-2473.
CLASSIFIEDS

Free Transportation for Qualified Seniors: Every Tuesday and Thursday, Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call 575-586-0150 for more information.

FREE COVID PCR TESTS AND VACCINES: Available at the Questa Visitor Center while supplies last, open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am-3 pm, 1 NM-Hwy 38, Questa. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com or call (575) 586-0315.

FREE COVID AT-HOME TESTS: Available at the Questa Visitor Center while supplies last, open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 am-3 pm, 1 NM-Hwy 38, Questa. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com or call (575) 586-0315.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Chevron Questa Superfund Site
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6: September 2022. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) has completed the second five-year review of remedy implementation and performance at the Chevron Questa Superfund site (Site) in Questa, New Mexico. The site consists of a closed molybdenum mine, a milling facility and tailing disposal impoundments. Mining operations took place on site from 1919 to 2014. Mining operations, waste disposal and spills from a tailing pipeline contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment with hazardous constituents. Mining waste was also left on site. The site wide remedy includes source containment of waste rock and tailings, active groundwater remediation (extraction, periphery interception and treatment), soil removal, and dredging and removal of lake sediment. The five-year review concluded that the remedy for the Site will be protective of human health and the environment upon completion. In the interim, removal and remedial activities completed to date have adequately addressed all exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks in these areas. EPA completed the second five-year review for the Site in August 2022. The next five-year review is required by August 2027. A copy of the 2022 five-year review can be viewed at the following document repository: Village of Questa Municipal Offices 2500 Old State Road 3 PO Box 260 Questa, New Mexico (575) 586-0104 Site status updates are available on the internet at http://www.epa.gov/superfund/chavons-questa-mine. All media inquiries should be directed to the EPA Press Office at (214) 665-2200. For more information about the Site, contact: Nicole Foster – EPA Remedial Project Manager (214) 665-7248 or by email at foster.nichole@epa.gov. Barretta Coats – EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (214) 665-7308 or (800) 887-6063 (toll-free) or by email at coats.barretta@epa.gov.

CLASSIFIEDS / BULLETIN BOARD

CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUAA CHURCH
Father Andrew (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 Krisi & Johnny Gonzales
2558 Hwy 522, Questa
Sunday Service 11 am – 12:30 pm
(575) 770-1174
Visit us online: freedomquesta.com

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES
Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez
32 Llano Road
Service: Sunday 10:30 am
Nursery and Kids’ Church at 10:30 am
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm
www.lwmsite.org
(575) 586-7387

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

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

AMALIA

SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH
1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday Service 10:30 am
Petluck & Fellowship: 3rd Sunday of the month
Highway 196, Amalia
Pastor: Lorenzo & Arelene 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 (575) 586-0470

LIST IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
CALL FOR Rates (575) 613-0856 Email Dina for Rates Sales1@QuestaNews.com

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

FINDING A REASON TO BELIEVE
The willingness to grow is the essence of all spiritual development.
— AS BILL SEEKS IT, p. 171

www.corkeycomics.com