

# Questa Del Rio News

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

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# Biker gang violence overtakes 41st annual Memorial Day biker rally



Photo by Ellen Miller-Goins

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA,  
DYLAN R.N. CRABB,  
ELLEN MILLER-GOINS

On Saturday, May 27, Red River was bustling with bikers from across the country who were attending the 41st Annual Red River Motorcycle Rally. An unusually high number of Bandidos biker gang members were in attendance this year, as documented on social media by locals in Questa and Cerro.

Around 5 p.m. on Saturday, gunshots were heard at the 400 block of E. Main Street. People fled the scene and took cover while videos online show police running directly toward gunfire. A witness contacted the *Questa del Rio News* on Facebook to give her account as a witness. She asked to remain anonymous during our interview for the safety of herself and her husband who attend the rally every year.

“It was the most uncomfortable



Photo by Ellen Miller-Goins

feeling, there were so many Bandidos, I would say thousands who were from not only New Mexico, but Texas and Oklahoma, too,” she recalls. “We passed a group who said ‘they know why we’re here’ and then a bunch of gunshots rang out between two different gangs. Every-

one in the crowd started running and we took cover behind a log cabin. We helped a young couple get their stroller over, they had a baby with them,” she says. A traumatizing ordeal for the couple who attend the event every year.

The *Questa del Rio News* was able to speak with the Red River Mayor late Saturday night in an exclusive interview. Mayor Calhoun confirmed 3 people were killed and 5 were wounded and transferred to hospitals in Taos, Albuquerque, and Denver. She also confirmed a dueling biker gang feud led up to the shooting, while ensuring there was no known threat to the community.

A heavy police presence remained in place overnight in Red River and a mandatory curfew was imposed on the Town of Taos from 10 p.m. Saturday to 4 a.m. Sunday to ensure officers could

# Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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

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REPRESENTANDO A QUESTA

## Representando a Questa

### Charlotte Flory

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The *Questa del Rio News* is starting a monthly column dedicated to Questeños, both those who live in the community and those who have left and are representing Questa. Our community has raised outstanding members of society and this column will be dedicated to the padres (parents), the abuelos y abuelas (grandpas and grandmas), tias y tios (aunts and uncle), primas y primos (cousins male and female) who have contributed to their upbringing. In our June issue, we are recognizing several of the recent college graduates from our area. We had the opportunity to talk to several of them about their drive, determination, hopes, dreams, and the impact Questa made on their journey.

For our first interview, we spoke with Charlotte Flory, who graduated from Questa High School in 2015. After graduation, she moved to Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico (UNM) with a distinct vision of pursuing a degree in medicine, specifically pharmacology. Flory's sights of pursuing this ambitious field came out of a lesson in her high school class where her teacher, Diane Leon did a career development exercise with the students, asking them research jobs which aligned with their passions, then build a plan to make it attainable. "I remember telling her, 'Mrs. Leon, I don't want to do any of my passions for a job' and she told me, 'Okay. Think of the type of life you want to live, then choose a job to support that lifestyle,' and that's when I said, I want to be a pharmacist."

Determined to make her goal a reality, Flory went to school full time and obtained a bachelor's degree in biology and a second bachelor's degree in psychology, all in four short years. She then went on to obtain a third bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical studies the following year in 2020. "I think the hardest part about going to school was going through the pandemic, where teachers had to change the way they taught, and we all had to change the



Courtesy Photo

Charlotte Flory

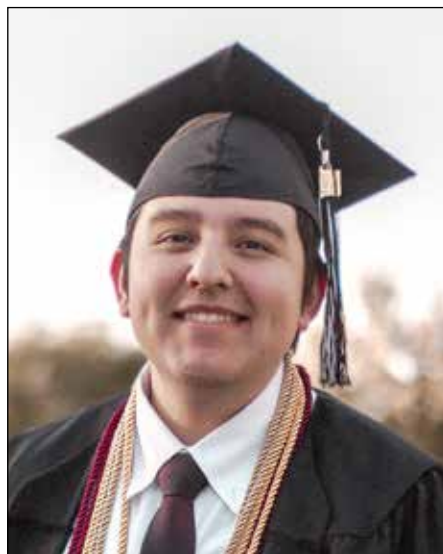
way we were learning," Flory says. Three years later, Flory is the proud graduate of a dual degree in PharmD and a Master in Business Administration (MBA). She laughs when she says her grandpa gets a kick out of his granddaughter obtaining her MBA. "He says he didn't know the NBA had a college and jokes that I graduated from the NBA," Flory says though giggles.

While she primarily decided to pursue pharmacology because of the earning potential, Flory says she found her passion during her years learning about and working in the trade through internships at the Taos Walgreens, Victor's Pharmacy in the South Valley, and in various community pharmacies in the duration of her program. "We have a big responsibility as pharmacists to look out for the patient. I learned that there are a lot of knowledge gaps which we have the opportunity to fill. Sometimes, doctors may not be aware of the cascading complications between two medications, or side effects a new medication may have when taken with current medications, we can intervene and help and that's really fulfilling to me."

In order to start practicing as a licensed pharmacist, she will need to pass the boards, which she anticipates taking in August this year. I am going to be studying a lot over the next few months, using online study guides and a Mapquest book review. In addition, she will need to pass a legal examination, all

FLORY cont'd on pg 28

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Courtesy Photo

Ernesto Cisneros

## Ernesto Cisneros

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Questa del Rio News Editorial Board member and Questa native Ernesto Cisneros graduated from Taos Academy in 2019. He chose to attend New

Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces, destined to pursue his passion for writing. During his tenure in college, Cisneros found a distinct passion for storytelling.

Cisneros pursued a bachelor's degree in print/ editorial/ online journalism with a dual scope, focusing on public relations and digital media. He also obtained a second bachelor's degree in government relations with an emphasis in Political Science. His double minor is in Communications and Social Media Management. With a busy four-year stretch under his belt, Cisneros has notably graduated with honors (summa cum laude), and a Crimson Scholar Graduate this May.

During his time at NMSU, Cisneros worked for *'The Round Up'*, a student-run publication for the campus. He can recall countless hours writing, reporting, building sources, and meeting deadlines—his dedication and passion was quickly recognized as he worked his way up from a staff writer, to a political reporter, to ending his senior year as the managing editor. Cisneros earned a finalist designation for a Mark of Excel-

lence Award from the Society of Professional Journalists and was a 2x winner from Best of School Newspapers Online.

Aside from being able to work in the industry he's passionate about, Cisneros says his college experience also provided lifelong friendships. "My friendships and connections are the most valuable things I gained from college. I feel like I've met some talented people who are going to do great things and change the world," he says endearingly.

With no plans to return home soon, Cisneros acknowledges coming home long term would prove difficult with few opportunities to practice his trade in his hometown. "This community will always be "home" in my heart but, right now, I don't foresee myself being here in the near future unless I am called to be here."

As for what's next, Cisneros is excited to have accepted a fellowship with the New Mexico Local News Fund where he will be working with the Las Cruces Sun-News, a partner of the USA Today Network.

While he's not able to return home, Cisneros says home is a huge catalyst for

his passion and drive to pursue a career in journalism. "From a young age, I grew to understand and appreciate how important journalism is in communities of color, culture, and tradition — such as Questa. Many people rely on our work as a means to stay connected and be a part of history," he says.

Committed to giving a voice to underrepresented communities often discounted in mainstream media, Cisneros says, "I have realized how important it is that we seek out the truth and give voice to those often left out by our government, media and society. In rural communities like ours, the headlines sometimes aren't always as reflective of the whole story. Pursuing my degrees inspired me to change the way we portray those narratives in media and in government."

When asked what advice he would give to younger generations, Cisneros says, "Value your education, it is a passport to opportunity, follow your passions, and do more of what makes you happy and excited. Ignore societal and family expectations, just take the risk."

## Mikaela Romero

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Mikaela Romero was born and raised in Questa. She attended Questa schools until her sophomore year where she transferred to the Taos Academy, graduating in 2020. Although she attended the Taos Academy, Romero was able to continue participating in basketball, volleyball, track and cheer with her Questa classmates until graduation. While in school, Romero took dual credit classes, allowing her to complete her basic requirements for her degree by the time she was graduating high school.

Starting college in the height of the pandemic, Romero attended school

online at the start of her college career. "The experience being fully online is the reason I decided to stick with online schooling through graduation," Romero says. Only three short years after graduating high school, Romero has graduated with her bachelors degree in Psychology and a minor in Criminal Justice. While this rapid advancement in her education, Romero isn't stopping anytime soon. "I really want to advance my knowledge in my field, so I am continuing with my Master's Degree—I will complete that next May, then I am going to pursue my Ph.D.," Romero says.

Pursuing her education virtually, Romero says she acknowledges that she may have missed out on the regular college experiences, she will still carry memorable experiences into the future. "One of my favorite aspects of college



Courtesy Photo

Mikaela Romero

was the feeling of accomplishment. There were many sleepless days and nights where I stayed up studying and worrying but knowing I did and could succeed,

there was so much accomplishment in that," she says.

Romero currently lives in Questa and moved home because she felt it is best for her and her family right now. "Family is the most important thing to me, and I know that constantly being surrounded by my family who loves and supports me only furthers my motivation for success," she says.

Romero has at least 5 more years left in her educational career as she works to obtain her ultimate goal of being a Ph.D. graduate. She is exploring different avenues to determine which discipline she will pursue in her professional career; however, she has a passion and interest in psychology and criminal justice to

ROMERO cont'd on pg 13

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

### OUR JOURNALISTIC ETHICS POLICY

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

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

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## Aaliyah Duran

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Aaliyah Duran graduated from Questa High School in 2017. Upon graduation, she moved to Alamosa to attend Adams State University (ASU). She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and emphasized in Criminology and Social Work in 2021, and just two short years later, she graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Counselor Education, with an emphasis in Clinical Mental Health. Living in the San Luis Valley, Duran says she takes comfort in the many parallels to home.

Duran's bond with her family remains strong due to the proximity of Al-

amosa and Questa. She's able to go home often for special events and to see her younger brothers and nieces grow up. One of her favorite parts of her college career was being a cheerleader during her undergraduate years, and transitioning to becoming the head cheer coach for ASU while she completed her master's degree.

Currently, Duran works for the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group as a clinical mental health therapist. She's been in this position for a year and enjoys her job, noting she's able to travel throughout the San Luis Valley and see diverse parts of the community.

When asked why she decided to pursue her career field, Duran says she wanted to find a way to help people experiencing mental health issues



Courtesy Photo

Aaliyah Duran

address their problems. "I was able to see the stigma of mental health closely while studying this field. I want to be an advocate and help those who experience

these issues, while improving their outcomes," she says enthusiastically.

Duran is the proud first-generation college graduate in her family. She is also now a part of the rare few Latinas in this country, of which only 8% obtain their master's degrees. She is also apart of the 6% Latinx population who is a certified mental health therapist.

Duran's family has played a major role in her education and career path. "My biggest supporters were my parents throughout my college career. Whether it was for a scholarship dinner, or to support me as I cheered and while I coached, they were always there. There's a reason I am a first-generation college graduate, and my parents are why. I can't thank them enough for their support and love," she says.

## Kalena Trujillo

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Kalena Trujillo was born and raised in Questa. She recently graduated from Taos Academy while completing phlebotomy school and finishing her first year as a Questa junior fire fighter, an impressive feat for someone who is just 18 years old. "The most difficult part was running calls at all hours of the night and staying for hours on end while also having to go back home and doing homework on sometimes no sleep," Trujillo says.

Trujillo grew up seeing her mom and dad working in fire and EMS, so the field has always been a familiar one. She



Courtesy Photo

Kalena Trujillo

describes a big catalyst to her wanting to serve as a junior fire fighter was her experience getting to see their work on the frontlines. "One day as I was coming back from school in Taos I stopped by my mom's work, and they were paged out for a wildland fire. My mom had forgotten some of her stuff at the EMS base asked me to take it to her. When I got to the scene, I decided to see if there was anything I could do and since then I was hooked," she says.

Training for junior fire fighters is very similar and demanding to the rest of the members of the fire department, however, the program is aimed at limiting the exposure to trauma for its junior members.

In addition to being a junior fire fighter, Trujillo has also served her community through the Vida del Norte

Coalition. She intends to move to Albuquerque to work on her clinicals and continue to pursue her career in phlebotomy.

Without hesitation, Trujillo says her mother Raynelle Cordova has been her biggest role model. "My mom was my biggest motivation. All my life she has pushed me to do my best. She's been my biggest role model growing up."

Trujillo intends to remain an active member of the Questa Fire Department and aims to be involved during trips home, and overall, she wants to be available whenever her fire family needs her. When asked what advice she would give to younger generations, Trujillo says, "live in the moment and don't worry about the future because if you focus too much on the future you miss the memories being made right in front of you."

### RR SHOOTING cont'd from page 1

adequately secure the Holy Cross Hospital in Taos.

The New Mexico State Police (NMSP) is the lead investigating agency and they held a press conference on Sunday morning, confirming the gang feud originated in Albuquerque over a photo. This situation spilled over into the weekend's rally. NMSP confirmed the dueling gangs involved were the Bandidos and Waterdogs.

Officials also confirmed the three deceased individuals included Antho-

ny Silva, 26 of Los Lunas and member of the Bandidos, Damien Breaux, 46 of Socorro and member of the Bandidos, and Randy Sanchez, 46 of Albuquerque who was a member of the Waterdogs.

Officials also confirmed the arrests of three injured gang members had taken place. The suspects include Jacob Castillo, 30 of Rio Rancho and member of the Waterdogs. Castillo is being held on an open count of murder. Matthew Jackson, 39 of Austin Texas is a member of the Bandidos. Jackson was injured and arrested for unlawful carrying of a firearm in a liquor estab-

ishment. Christopher Garcia, 41 of Texas is also a member of the Bandidos. Garcia was arrested for possession of cocaine.

NMSP also says there are three outstanding gang members who have been injured and not charged. They are a 53-year-old, 31-year-old, and 43-year-old and belong to either the Bandidos or Waterdogs.

The Village of Questa Mayor John Ortega issued the following statement on Saturday night, "I am following the developments closely out of Red River and the Village of Questa sends our thoughts and prayers to the victims

and their families, and first responders, and the entire community of Red River. Questa Police, EMS, and Fire Personnel are safe and they're working to keep Questa safe."

The rally closed down on Sunday, May 28 and vendor permits were pulled by the Town of Red River, having to wrap up operations by 2 p.m. on Sunday. Mayor Calhoun issued a statement on social media late Sunday announcing a special town council meeting on Wednesday, May 31 at 1 p.m. Follow our social media for the latest updates on this developing story.



## HustINHart

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

HustINHart is owned by Jessica Rael, a Red River and Questa native whose family's entrepreneurial spirit is flourishing in the northern New Mexico community. Jessica opened her gift shop in the summer of 2022, and you can find unique New Mexico shirts, jewelry, and snacks unlike any other in Red River.

"I love being unique and using my own creativity to build our brand," Rael says of her recent business venture. With roots deep in the Questa and Red River area, Jessica has a love for the Zia symbol and incorporates it into many of the products sold in the shop.

Jessica is a single mom of two girls, Angelica and Alexis. She has worked for 15 years at the University of New Mexico Hospital, currently as a Cyber Security Analyst. During the weekends while her daughters were growing up, Rael would travel home to Red River to waitress at her mother Dee Sims' restaurant, Yesterday's Diner. There, her girls learned the meaning of hard work, oftentimes working step-in-step with their mom as



all three of them waitressed through the weekends and summer days.

Both of Jessica's daughters recently graduated high school and she quickly found herself an empty nester. "My whole identity was being a mom and one day, it just felt like I wasn't needed anymore-- there is a lot of grief in that," Jessica notes of the experience seeing her daughters grow up and move on to college.

In addition to the big shift in her role as a mother, she lost her father Russell Church to cancer in the summer of 2021. "There is nothing like losing a parent. They are the only person who will always be there for you and no one will ever love you like that again," she says



Courtesy Photo

Jessica Rael

reflecting of the impact she felt when her dad died.

Channeling her grief, Rael leaned on her natural-born entrepreneurial talents to turn her mourning into something good. "My daughters got me a Cricut machine for Mother's Day and one day, I just wanted to see what I could do then I realized wow, this is cool! She quickly purchased a variety of equipment and over the next several months, Jessica worked to build up her online following on her HustINHart Facebook page, selling custom-made orders and

shipping them across the country which led to building a website. The true test was when her mother, Dee also decided to sell some of her items outside of her restaurant to gauge the tourist interest in her products. The result? A smashing success!

The response Jessica saw to custom-designed goods was enough to give her confidence to open a shop in the same building where her mom runs and operates Yesterday's Diner. She's been in business for nearly a year now and feels this was the right decision to continue to foster her passion and business interests in one.

When asked if she was anxious about running a business remotely in Red River while living in Albuquerque, Jessica was quick to point to her support system. "My family and I are always there for each other, and we pull through together when we need to so that gave me a lot of comfort and confidence to move forward." Jessica notes her brother Stuart Church also recently just purchased Red River Mountain Adventures in town and is always willing to support her and her mom, a true entrepreneurial support system in the Red River Valley.

HustINHart is located in the same building as Yesterday's Diner at 612 W. Main St. Red River, NM 87558. The hours are updated regularly on google and on the social media pages.

## Questa Library offers 3D printing services

By MIKE BARBEE

3D Printing services are now available at the Questa Public Library. Patrons only need a library card and a 3D file to request a real world object.

"We are ready to print simple things requested by the general public," says Linda Mansell, the lead operator for the library's printer.

3D Printing, a manufacturing process also known as Rapid Prototyping, is a technology where very thin individual layers of molten plastic are carefully drawn one on top of another, until a three dimensional object is created.

Nearly any object made of plastic can be made with a 3d printer, including wall mounts and adapters, project box cases, small tools, or figurines and models.

Linda monitors the latest object being printed, a structured mess of white plastic deposited to the sound of enthusiastic hums and whistles. "This is a Robert's Vase that can function as a planter." Once the print is finished, she

will have a sitting human-like sculpture, with a large cup for a head and praying hands.

Files for 3D printing can be either drawn with a CAD program, or downloaded from a repository, such as printables.com, or thingiverse.com, often for free. "It's pretty exciting, but you've got to put it together," Linda says, as she prepares a file for printing.

The service debuted at a March 24th event co-hosted by Twirl, a non-profit based in Taos that provides fun learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math for kids. This event focused on teaching kids how to take advantage of the new 3D Printing service by finding files on popular 3D printing repository sites, and teaching basics on how to draw their own custom designs.

The main downside to 3D printing is the time it takes to print objects. "Most things take around three to four hours," Linda says. "Printing time is limited to library operating hours." Other caveats are that produced parts should not be



Mike Barbee

Linda Mansell with Questa Public Library's 3D printer.

considered food safe, and the plastic offered is sensitive to heat and sunlight. However there are ways to mitigate these problems, such as painting and casting.

"We look forward to working with

local schools, teachers, artists and kids on simple projects."

Give us a call at (575) 586-2023 or stop by the library during regular hours if you would like to know more!



## MAIL CALL

Dear Editor: I would like to give a big thank you to Village Councilman, Jason Gonzalez for all the work he has done at our village playground. Not only has he taken a lot of personal time to clean, mow and weed the playground, but he has established a Questa Beautification program which will help clean up our public spaces and roads in Questa. Thank you Jason for your commitment to our community and children.

A Grateful citizen  
Nancy Parker

### A message of thanks from Retiring Editor Lou McCall:

Thank you to QEDF, the newspaper staff, and all the community members who showed up to celebrate my retirement and give me a glorious send off.

Thanks especially to El Monte Carlo for hosting the event on May 3, to Frank Rael for the beautiful cake and to Lynn Skall, Emily Wilde, and Dina Coleman who know how to throw a good party! And thank you to Malaquias Rael, Jr. for his continued support in championing *Questa Del Rio News*.

I know this has been a long goodbye, this should be it! Thank you for your support.

Lou McCall  
Retiring Editor  
*Questa Del Rio News*.



### The following comments were posted on our social media in response to our coverage of the Red River biker rally shooting:

Excellent coverage on the Red River shooting. As a former resident of Red River, y'all were on it quickly.

- JOHN FLETCHER

Thank you for your coverage of the Red River shooting. We are in town and your postings are telling us most of what we need to know.

-KERI ROGERS MIZE

The reporting has been outstanding.

-MYRA GARCIA

Thank you *Questa del Rio News* for your reporting. Stay safe.

- PEGGY MALERO

Thank you *Questa del Rio News* for your excellent reporting.

- GEORGIA SANCHEZ

*Questa del Rio News*, yes thank you for your excellent reporting.

- STARR SUTLIFF

You were the first to have the report out. Thank you!

- MARIA MIKHAILAS

You are awesome!!! Thank you for your excellent reporting.

- FRANK ARELLANO

*Questa del Rio News* has made an emphasis on being a newspaper that represents the community, and during the mass shooting in Red River this Memorial Day Weekend, they have proven that beyond a shadow of a doubt, providing up-to-date information and details without drama or sensationalism. The quality and professionalism of the *Questa del Rio News* staff was a calm focus in the storm this weekend and I for one am grateful they are part of the community.

- DAVIKA M. WARREN

## RJ's Grill closes temporarily



By STAFF WRITER

After one year of business, the mother/daughter duo behind RJ's Grill has closed up shop at their Station 522 & Cisneros Fuel location as they prepare to transition their business model to a food truck. Jessica Cisneros and Raven Cisneros opened their food business in February 2022. They did so in an effort to broaden the food options in town while learning how to own and operate a family business.

"Our first year in business was great, but it was also difficult as it was Raven and I managing alone," Jessica Cisneros says. "We managed and met some awesome people. We also have a good reputation for the best burritos in town!" she says. While Jessica and Raven ran the operations full time, Jessica's daughter and Raven's sister Faith also worked at the restaurant through the school work study program, mak-

ing it a full family operation.

After a successful first year in business, the Cisneros family decided it was time to take their operation on the road by transitioning to a food truck. "Being mobile will give us the opportunity to showcase our delicious food throughout the town and during events, too," Jessica says. The duo hopes to have RJ's back online and operating out of a Food Truck by spring 2024.

Jessica and Raven send the following message to their patrons during this transition period: "We would like to thank everyone in our community for their support after our first year in business! We look forward to serving our community some delicious food in the near future!"

Be sure to follow RJ's Grill on Facebook for the upcoming opening date announcement and locations.

## Red River Brewing Company raises money for local firefighters

By STAFF WRITER

The Red River Brewing Company (RRBC) hosts a monthly 'Hops for Happiness' program, aimed at raising money for local causes. During the month of May, RRBC donated \$720 to Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Protection Association (ECRFPA).

ECRFPA is a nonprofit organization, representing 22 county and municipal fire departments in north central New Mexico, including Red River, Taos, and Angel Fire. The ECRFPA provides training, equipment, and mutual aid to its members, as well as fire prevention and educa-

### HOPS FOR HAPPINESS

tion to the public.

Red River Fire Chief Deke Willis says, "We are grateful for the generous donation from Red River Brewing Company & Distillery. It helps us all do our jobs better and serve our communities more effectively."

RRBC owner Michael Calhoun, says in part, "This program is an opportunity for non-profit organizations to raise funds and for us to help our community thrive."

### THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE JUNE ISSUE OF QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS!

CHARLOTTE FLORY, MIKE BARBEE, LINDA MANSELL, BRYCE FLANAGAN, BARBARA TRACY, JESSICA RAE, SHENA CANNON, DELUVINA SANCHEZ, SARA MARTINEZ, LESLIE MAES, TANYA DUNCAN, ANGEL CARDENAS, MICHAEL WILSON, LOU MCCALL, CHARLIE GONZALES, JERRY HOGREFE, FELIMON RAE, KATRINA GONZALES, MARIA GONZALEZ, ARROYO SECO LIVE, CHRIS AND TRACY GREEN, MICHAEL CALHOUN, DEKE WILLIS, MARTA GLOVER, QUESTA MAYOR JOHN A. ORTEGA, CHARLENE R. JOHNSON, TANYA DUNCAN, J.R. LOGAN, ANGEL CARDENAS, NANCY PARKER, ELLEN WOOD, LARRY SANCHEZ, CHRIS MUNOZ, DANIELLE PROKOP, THE SOURCENM, RICK VIGIL, QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL, DOMINGO TORRES, SHARON NICHOLSON, AMAYA CISNEROS, GABE PACHECO, JESSICA CISNEROS, RAVEN CISNEROS, MAX KHUDIYAKOV, CLAIRE CATLETT, LAURIE GRAHAM LAMBERT, ZACH BEHRENS, ROSEY HAYETT

## LMNOC broadcasting Red River Mothers Day music festival

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

LMNOC Broadcasting's Mother's Day concert festivities in Red River May 12-14 featured a great lineup of country, rock, and New Mexican musicians for three days of celebration.

The 20th Annual Mother's Day Concert was a milestone event. Its founder Darren Cordova started with his family at the softball fields in Taos.

Chris Munoz, the current owner of LMNOC Broadcasting, said, "Af-

ter my wife Lori and I purchased the six radio stations in 2015, we made a promise that we would keep his tradition alive. Thanks to gracious business owners and sponsors we have been able to keep the event free so that families from Northern New Mexico, Southern Colorado and all over the country can celebrate moms who are the pinnacle of each family."

The Saturday headliner was Darren Cordova y Calor and Sunday's headliner was Al Hurricane Jr.



Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb

Questeñas Ariana Gallegos and her mother Patricia Gallegos can be seen dancing to northern New Mexico music

## Kit Carson Electric Cooperative invest in northern Taos County

By STAFF WRITER

The Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) recently made some big investments in northern Taos County. KCEC donated \$10,000 to the Charles Cisneros VFW and another \$10,000 to the Costilla Neighborhood Association. The cooperative also rewarded \$39,000 in student scholarships, four of the recipients being from Questa

High School. Since 1996, the cooperative has rewarded over \$600,000 in scholarships to local students from the Taos area, which has included Questa students every year. "KCEC is committed to supporting our rural communities with these community projects that bring value to the "community," says KCEC Chief Executive Officer Luis Reyes.



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

## Car show rolls into Red River June 3

By ELLEN MILLER-GOINS

This '50s-themed event features music, games, contests, car parades down Main Street, and cash and prizes for car show participants. For the first time, this year's show will be at the municipal parking lot next to Brandenburg Park.

"We're going to try to preserve the grass in Brandenburg Park," noted Shena Cannon, Town of Red River Tourism and Economic Development Office | Event Coordinator.

Cannon said a DJ will "spin" '50s-style music with a "sock hop", there will be food vendors during show hours, plus family-friendly activities like a "face painting, a hula hoop contest, corn hole, and a pin-up-girl contest."

Car show entry fees are \$40 for the 1st car, \$35 for a 2nd car. Same-day registration is \$50. Award categories are:

Best Paint, Best Interior, Best Engine, Best Mustang, Best Camaro/ Firebird, Best Corvette, Best Convertible, Best Low Rider, Best Stock/Original, Best Rat Rod, Early Truck (Pre-49), Classic Truck (49-72), Street Truck (73-96), Late Model Truck (97-Present), Street Rod (Pre-49), Classic Custom (49-63), Muscle Car (64-74), Street Machine (75-96), Late Model (97-present), Best Ford, Best GM, and Best Import.

Applications can be found at [redriver.org](http://redriver.org). Send registration forms to [scanon@redriver.org](mailto:scanon@redriver.org) no later than 4 pm, June 2. For more information, contact Shena Cannon at 575-754-1708.

The same weekend, June 2-4, visitors may spot more than a few "Yard Sale" signs around town. Early June is the traditional time for the town's annual town-wide yard sale, during which businesses and locals get rid of their



Courtesy Photo

excess stuff. Locals can publicize their location by contacting Sydney Von

Strohe, Visitor Services Coordinator, at (575)-754-1708.

# Fond memories spur revival of *Fiestas de San Antonio de Rio Colorado*

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

If you have roots in Questa, you assuredly have memories of Fiesta days every June at the MolyCorp Fields. People would gather to visit booths, eat fire department burgers, listen to Cuarenta y Cinco and Mezcal, while kids ran excitedly begging their parents for more money so they could pay for more carnival rides.

The last Fiesta celebration took place in 2008. With the collapse of the west wall of the St. Anthony's Church, many community members spent years dedicating their efforts to restoring the church and all that it encompassed. While the church is fully restored, the community efforts and involvement have been difficult to bring Fiestas fully back to life.

"When we moved back to Questa, it was with the intent of putting our own roots down in the same community where we were raised," says Questa Village Councilwoman and Fiesta organizer Katrina Gonzales. "We had a strong desire to raise our kids with the same traditions and values we had. 'The Fiestas' were some of my fondest childhood memories,"

It was Gonzales' idea that spurred coordination with Maria Gonzalez and other community members who have been hard at work ensuring the return of the Fiesta celebration this June.

Councilwoman Gonzales notes how the pandemic, coupled with the economy and overall difficulties of life, has made a noticeable impact on the morale



Photo by Megan Bowers, The Taos News

The 2007 Questa Fiesta Princesa Amanda Valencia and La Reina Mikayla Ortega on their royal ride through the village.

of Questeños. "When you take away a norteños' ability to coexist with their community, you take away the very heart of our culture," she says.

For this reason, connecting with other like-minded community members has proven beneficial to get the inaugural return of the Fiestas on track for June 2023. The group has met on a regular basis, brainstorming and making action items and goals to ensure the event can be planned in a quick, yet succinct, manner.

"You have to start somewhere, this

year it will be smaller because we're only having it for one day. But in the future, we look forward to bringing it back to the traditional multi-day celebration," Maria Gonzalez says. While the event will be smaller than in its original glory days, organizers say it will still bring the community together to listen to music, eat food from vendors, and connect with the community like one big happy family.

In addition to working with community partners, the Fiesta Council has partnered with Granite Construction, a

subsidiary of Chevron Mine, to sponsor this year's event. Maria Gonzalez notes that people can expect to see performances by local dancers, listen to local groups play, and hopefully enjoy some fire department burgers so many locals reminisce about. Additionally, Village Councilwoman has pushed for the Fiesta Council to crown a Reina de las Fiestas, along with a court of Princesas for the first time since 2008. "We're planning to have a marcha de las reinas where the current Reina along with former Reinas can dance together as we commemorate our inaugural revival of the Fiesta event," says Maria Gonzalez.

"Growing up, seeing dancing, hearing music, gathering with our local community, it was always such a great time for our community to connect and be one happy family. It was part of who we were growing up, and we want to ensure that continues. We owe it to our younger generations to bring this event back," Maria Gonzalez says. Sharing similar sentiments, Councilwoman Gonzales says, "I want Questeños and Norteños to know that this is for them. The fiestas are where we regain our sense of COMMUNITY, UNITY, AND CULTURE! That's the kind of place we want our kids to grow up in."

The Fiestas will be held on Saturday, June 17 from noon-midnight at MolyCorp Fields. Admission is free. Members of the public are encouraged to bring cash in small bills for the vendor booths and the Questa VFW will be hosting a horseshoe tournament.

## Questeño honored for National '40 under 40 Business Elite' award

By STAFF WRITER

Questa High School class of 2001 graduate Gabe Pacheco was named in the Business Elite's award for top 40 under 40, a prestigious award acknowledging outstanding executives and entrepreneurs with a particular commitment to innovation in business.

Pacheco owns and operates G&M Medical Center and MedSpa, G&M Urgent Care, G&M Radiant Botanicals Skin Care, and G&M Travel – Dream Vacations in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

Before owning his own businesses,

Pacheco was the Senior Revenue Management Consultant for Info Hospitality. He is proud to be a first-generation college graduate, attaining his Honors Bachelor of Sports Science—Strength and Conditioning from the United States Sports Academy. He is also a certified personal trainer, weight loss coach, and nutrition counselor.

Business Elite's "40 Under 40" is a prestigious award program that identifies outstanding young Executives and Entrepreneurs in the world of business. The Business Elite Awards celebrates the highest-achieving young leaders who

embody a spirit of innovation, determination, potential, creativity, and enthusiasm. The participants include this year's 40 most successful and ambitious young business leaders from the US. The "40 Under 40" Award Ceremony and Gala Dinner highlight the power of impactful, resilient, and courageous leadership and recognize its impact.

In addition to his impressive portfolio, Pacheco serves on several boards and contributes to his local community tenfold. He is the President of the New Mexico Out Business Alliance – the New Mexico LGBTQ+ Chamber of Com-



Courtesy Photo

merce. When not spearheading the businesses, he volunteers his time with Big Brothers Big Sisters and raises money for children's cancer research fund.



# Questa native makes UNM cheer team

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Amaya Cisneros had a passion for cheer. “It’s always been my dream, ever since I was small, I used to choreograph cheers for my sister and cousins, I just knew I wanted to be a cheerleader” Cisneros says cheerfully in an interview with *Questa del Rio News*.

Amaya was born and raised in Questa. In 2016, two years after the Questa mine closed, her family had to make the difficult decision to leave their home in pursuit of new opportunities. Yvonne Cisneros, Amaya’s mother, explained how the family moved to Cripple Creek in 2017 where her husband Ted Cisneros had new opportunities for work. The family then moved back to Questa briefly in 2019 where she was set to cheer for Questa High School, before a big call for a job in Albuquerque moved the family south.

Currently living in Belen, Amaya says the one thing that remains consistent in her life is cheer. She has cheered for 12 years total with Taos Xtreme Team, Flamin’ Blues, and Questa and Belen

cheer teams. Currently wrapping up her senior year at Belen High School, she notes her last year in high school cheer was a special one because she was able to cheer her senior year on the same team with her sister, Ciara, a freshman.

While her cheer resume is impressive, Amaya always had her sights set on continuing cheer post high school. “It was always my dream to cheer in college, I just made up my mind that’s what I was going to do,” she says. Amaya will be starting her freshman year at the University of New Mexico this fall. Recently, she went through the process of trying out for the UNM Cheer Team, a multimedia try-out process that includes a video submission and a 3-day tryout period.

“Every day I would get an email telling me if I needed to return the next day. It was nerve-wracking but so exciting every single time they told me to return,” Amaya says. Her mom, dad, sister Ciara, brother Ted and boyfriend Hunter all traveled to Albuquerque from Belen during the weekend of finals, knowing



Courtesy Photo

Amaya Cisneros poses proudly after signing letter of intent to join the UNM Cheer Team

she had made it to the final round. “We were all at a pizza place waiting to eat when she saw the email. I MADE IT! I made the team. I ran to my family and everyone was screaming and everyone was so excited!” she recalls when finding out she had made the team. “I started

crying, we were hugging, it was such a special moment for our family,” Yvonne says of experiencing her daughter make the team.

Amaya will be living college life on-campus where she will attend her freshman semester, majoring in the medical field. Living in Belen, Yvonne takes comfort knowing Amaya won’t be too far away. The proximity has also turned the family into Lobos, where they attended games often over the past few years. “We are not missing a game! Parents are lucky to have tickets to the games and I said, we are going to every single one, we supported her through the years and we’re not stopping now” Yvonne says proudly.

Amaya says she is so proud and excited to represent Questa and Belen in her new role on the UNM Cheer team. When asking her what advice she would give to young girls who have a similar love and passion for cheer, Amaya says, “follow your dreams, work hard, and don’t give up, it will all be worth it in the end.”

## 1st Annual Questa Car Show

Saturday: Rain or Shine 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Rd, Questa

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Richard Holmes  
(Questa Ranger Station)  
Hillcrest Bank  
Los Rios River Runners (Cisco)  
Mark Paluden (Granite)

# Questa recognizes graduating seniors throughout town

By STAFF WRITERS

Questa Jr./Sr. Honor Society honored the 2023 graduates by creating customized banners, honoring each of the seniors with their image and names. The banners were proudly displayed throughout the town, hanging from the light poles through the Main Street of Questa. The LOR Foundation funded the project.





# Class of 2023 passes the torch as they graduate from Questa High School

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Questa's high school graduation was held on May 20 at 10 a.m. Friends and family members filled the mini pit to celebrate the 18 graduates from the class of 2023. This year's class had two valedictorians, Dawson Breen and Joaquin Hawkes who did a co-speech, citing sharing the title and GPA made it appropriate. Karina Rael was this year's salutatorian. Principal Kimber MacDonald and the administration happily shook hands with the graduates as they received their diplomas. Living Word Ministries Pastor Peter Martinez was the guest speaker for the commencement ceremony.

"This is your home," lamented Pastor Martinez. "As you go out into the world to make your own futures, we hope that someday you will return here to be leaders."



Co-Valedictorians Dawson Breen and Joaquin Hawkes Speaking at the podium



Salutatorian Karina Rael proudly glances at her family during her speech



The Class of 2023 Stands



# New QISD eSports team scores at state tourney

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

In their inaugural year, the Questa Wild Karts eSports team, coached by Domingo Torres, placed 3rd in Mario Kart and 4th in Smash Bros at state! Congratulations to Jason Martinez, Andres Maldonado, Josiah Chavez and Joaquin Martinez.

The competitions were held at the Berna Facio Complex in Albuquerque. The team stayed at the same hotel as the

track team. There were no cash prizes awards but the winners did receive medals as tokens of achievement like any other NM Athletics Association sanctioned tournament.

From left to right: Coach Domingo Torres, Andres Maldonado, Jason Martinez, Josiah Chaves, Joaquin Martinez, and QISD Maintenance Administrator Robert Martinez.



ROMERO cont'd from page 3

gain a better understanding of peoples brains in correlation to their actions. "I feel like if I understand how the individual brain works the way it does, I will be able to have success helping those in need."

Romero says she's had many people in her life who have supported her along the way including her grandparents, family members, friends, but ultimately, she credits her parents being

her main support system, and her motivation to get her highest degree possible. "Growing up, I watched my parents take their struggles and turn them into successes. No matter what was thrown at them, they pushed through and came out of it. They're the reason I know that if I put my mind to something, I can achieve it. I am so grateful for my parents and the lessons they've taught me and the way they raised me. Without their constant love and support, I would not be where I am today," she says.

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## Questa Wildcats Track and Field Make Impressive Runs at State

By STAFF WRITER

The Questa Wildcats track and field state qualifiers brought home some impressive results in May. Below is a recap of their results:

- 2nd Place, High Jump: Alyse Lovato
- 2nd Place, Triple Jump: Alyse Lovato
- 4th Place, Podium Long Jump: Alyse Lovato
- 2nd Place, Pole Vault: Alianna Gonzalez
- 4th Place, Pole Vault: Karina Rael
- 2nd Place, Boys Track, 100M Special Olympics: Jared Cintas

The team has the strong leadership of coaches who have dedicated their time and efforts to get the team to state. Congratulations to:

- Deluvina Sanchez: Girls Head Coach
- Domingo Torres: Girls Assistant Coach
- Jason Gonzalez: Girls Pole Vault Coach
- Miguel Romero: Boys Head Coach
- Ernie Griego: Boys Assistant Coach

Your dedication and work with this impressive team does not go unnoticed. Thank you!

*Courtesy Maria Gonzalez*

Pole Vault Competitors pose following their competition



# A decade strong: coach Deluvina Sanchez's impactful tenure

By contributing writer  
SARA MARTINEZ

For the past 10 years, the Girls' Track and Field athletes at Questa High School have quietly taken big and small victories with Coach Deluvina Sanchez. She has coached her teams to win 9 out of 10 district championships, four individual event state championships, and countless other podium victories. While she would never take all the credit for these results, she deserves to be recognized as a top coach in the sport who sets a new standard in Questa Athletics.

Coach Sanchez fell in love with the sport as a spectator watching her daughter, Santana Ortiz, compete. When former Coach Tina Cisneros retired, Coach Sanchez decided to take it on. Then in spring 2013, the team won the district championship. This would make it the 5th year in a row for the Ladycats. Coach Sanchez understands the power of hard work and dedication and knows how to win district championships. However, Coach Sanchez was unwilling to share the secret sauce of how she has kept this streak going for so long.

With 26 years at the Questa Independent Schools, Coach Sanchez is almost ready to retire. She started her career as an administrative assistant at the central office. Then she earned her Bachelor of Science in Human Performance and Sport from New Mexico Highlands University. Sanchez has been a teacher for 14 years, mainly teaching Physical Education classes, but she has also taught Spanish and Health.

Coach Sanchez shared that she has enjoyed teaching PE and coaching because she likes helping kids build



Courtesy Photo

Coach Deluvina Sanchez poses with her 2023 track team

At the beginning of the season, Coach Sanchez likes the athletes to try out the different events they were interested in. She evaluates whether they have any natural strengths for that specific event but must also be interested in building the skills needed to improve each week. Above all else, she believes they should enjoy the events they compete in. Not every athlete who comes out for track enjoys it, but many get a taste of victory and won't stop until they hit the state podium.

Success in any sport is impossible unless you understand how to build a strong team, empower your athletes to maximize their potential, and be fair to all athletes willing to try. Coach Sanchez shared that her "goal as a coach is to build up my athletes. I want them to know they are important to the team even if they do not come in first." Even though track and field can be thought of as an individual sport, nothing is possible without teamwork.

Track and field consists of various events that can be categorized into groups. According to NMAA, there are 18 events for high school athletes to compete in. There are six individual running events, which include sprints and middle-distance. Then there are five relay running events and two more individual events with hurdles. Last are the field events, 4 jumping and 3 throwing.

While she doesn't always have enough athletes to compete in all the events, she relies on the assistant coaches to help cover all the events. She has especially enjoyed working with Coach Domingo Torres over the past

## State Medal Totals Under Coach Sanchez

District Champions — 2013, '14, 15', 16', 18', 19', 21', 22', 23'  
(\*2020 was canceled due to COVID-19)

100m Dash (2)	First Place (4); 2nd Place (5); 3rd Place (2); 4th Place (6); 5th Place (7); 6th Place (7)	Alyse Lovato High Jump: 2023 Triple Jump: 2023
200m Dash (2)		Helena Padilla Triple Jump: 2016
4x100 m Relay (5)		Karina Rael High Jump: 2022
5th: 2016, 2017		<b>3rd Place (2)</b>
6th: 2015, 2018, 2022	<b>First Place Winners (4)</b>	Alianna Gonzalez Pole Vault: 2021
4x200 m Relay (3)	Alianna Gonzalez Pole-Vault: 2022	Larissa Passino Discus: 2018
5th: 2015	Helena Padilla Long Jump: 2016, 2017	
6th: 2018, 2022	Triple Jump: 2017	
Discus (1)	<b>2nd Place (5)</b>	
High Jump (4)	Alianna Gonzalez Pole Vault: 2023	
Pole Vault (6)		
Long Jump (5)		
Triple Jump (3)		
<b>Total 31</b>		

lifelong health and exercise habits. It is during her PE class that she has an advantage because she is always recruiting. She gets excited when she notices the potential in an athlete during class

lessons and encourages them to come out for the team. Sanchez believes that many kids need a lot of adult encouragement to start believing in themselves and their potential.

COACH SANCHEZ cont'd on pg 14

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# Questa Public Library launches 2023 summer reading program: *All Together Now*

By Contributing Writer  
SHARON NICHOLSON

“*All Together Now*” is the rallying cry among library staff, Friends of the Questa Public Library, and a large group of community volunteers, all dedicated to Questa Public Library’s 2023 Summer Reading Program, this year being led by Substitute Librarian and Senior Technology Program Coordinator, Monica McClelland.

The Questa Library has been offering Summer Reading Programs for over 10 years. Each year has had a different theme, but one thing never changes...

we are committed to providing our local children with opportunities to continue learning throughout the summer. We also believe kids should have fun, and we do our best to provide enjoyable experiences for all.

This year’s Summer Reading program begins Tuesday, June 9, with Questa Truckin’ – featuring trucks, trucks, and more trucks! Registration on June 9 is from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The program continues each Tuesday and Friday morning from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. through July 14, with the exception of July 4 due to the holiday.

Children ages 4-10 are encouraged

to attend with a parent or guardian. Baby brothers or sisters who need to tag along are permitted. We also welcome older siblings to volunteer as helpers.

We will have animals from Stray Hearts, chalk art, agriculture, TWIRL, the Salida Circus, a magic show, puppets with Christina and Fidel, and a lot of surprises. Each week promises fun, games, prizes and snacks. We will explore new books in the library and read to enter the drawing to win a scooter or a bike. Children can attend as many sessions as they wish. Remember: The more a child attends, the more fun they have and the more times they

can enter the drawings each week and at the end of the program! The final day of the program is just for fun and games, special food, and the big (really big) drawing.

“*All Together Now*” is made possible by a Chevron Grant for Good through the Taos Community Foundation, and by the Friends of the Questa Public Library. If you would like to contribute in any way to this program or any of our many library programs, let us know! For more information, call the library at 575-586-2023. Check out our ad for the schedule of activities.

## Communities unite to create serenity for local teachers



Courtesy Freedom Questa Church



Courtesy Freedom Questa Church

### Teacher Appreciation Week

By STAFF WRITERS

Teacher Appreciation Week was from May 8-12 and members of the community came together to purchase furniture and lounge equipment for teachers at the Questa Jr./ Sr. High

School and Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate School. A post on the Questa Community PTO page recognizes Freedom Center Church and Pastor Kristi Gonzales as well as the LOR Foundation’s Maria Gonzalez for their work to make this project possible.

### Teacher Appreciation Week

Items donated to local educators included two massage chairs, a boho rug, a soft floor lamp, plant and art fixtures, a decorative clock, a Keurig Coffee machine with Starbucks coffee pods, and other items.

Freedom Questa Church thanked

Kristi Gonzales, Lita Mead, Naomi Vialpando, Susie Martinez, Penny Privette, Sunny Beckley, Rachel Vialpando, Corey Mead, Mike Alexander, Stacey Glass, Chad Housler, Justin Martinez and Roy Varela for helping assemble the new spaces.

### COACH SANCHEZ cont'd from page 13

few years because he helps her analyze opponents, provides insights on event dynamics, and assists athletes in executing effective strategies. It helps to have another set of eyes over all the events.

Specialist coaches, like Coach Jason Gonzalez in Pole Vault, are essential be-

cause they take the small group to work on the specific skills for that event. The athletes get a lot of one-on-one coaching and expertise.

Aside from her first-year coaching, Coach Sanchez has had the help of assistant coaches. She said these coaches have been integral to the team's success each year. She wanted to thank them:

Cruz Duran, Monique Trujillo, John Rael, Larissa Passino, current assistant coach Domingo Torres and Pole-vault coach Jason Gonzalez.

Coach Sanchez and her team know victory and defeat, but it is without falter that the QHS girls' track team brings home more medals to add to the collection. While female athletes

are often underrepresented and undervalued, these athletes bring pride to their school and community. Coaches like Sanchez are important in elevating female athletes and building their confidence. Coach Sanchez hopes each athlete she coaches feels valued and respected and has learned valuable skills to set themselves up for a good life.

# Forging a safe community, Leslie Maes named fire chief for Costilla

By Contributing Writer  
SARA MARTINEZ

Leslie Maes was promoted to Fire Chief of the Costilla Fire Department in February 2023. The appointment came after a recommendation by Taos County Fire Chief Mike Cordova. Maes has served as a volunteer firefighter for over 20 years. Chief Maes has actively served the communities of Costilla and Amalia since she was a teen but solidified her commitment to helping by joining the Amalia Volunteer Fire Department in 2000. She said she became a firefighter because she enjoys helping her community. Many know her to be passionate about building a safer community.

Fire Chief Maes is a combat veteran who served in the National Guard for 10 years. She was a part of the crew sent to Iraq in 2004 and served 18 months of active duty there. She is a graduate of Questa High School with deep family roots in this area. By day, she is a cattle rancher. Recently she has been working on getting a greenhouse up and running. Maes is also on the Rio Costilla Livestock Association Board of Directors.

Chief Maes shared her goals for herself in this new position. Her first priority will be to recruit more volunteers to the department. She hopes to find highly motivated individuals interested

in helping our communities. Next, she would like to ensure the volunteers get plenty of training. Finally, she wants to continue working on a project started by the former Fire Chief, Lawrence Lovato to build a new fire station. Former Chief Lovato retired recently. Although he has served for over 50 years, he will continue to be a firefighter.

No leader can achieve great things without vision, and Chief Maes has one. Once she is settled in the position, she would like to find ways to get the communities more involved. She said that because the Costilla and Amalia Fire/EMS already work great together, she would like to see them collaborate to host community events like BBQs and horseshoe tournaments, events to bring some fun and camaraderie back into the small community.

There is no doubt there will be challenges she will face as Fire Chief, but those who know her are confident she will find a way to meet those challenges. She has never been afraid of hard work and getting her hands dirty to help others. The Costilla community is lucky to have a dedicated Fire Chief like Maes. The *Questa del Rio News* joins in congratulating Fire Chief Maes for stepping up in this leadership role to ensure community safety.



Facebook Photo

Chief Maes poses with a plaque for her work with the Costilla Fire Department



## VILLAGE VOICE

### County & state officials hope to raise awareness on fire safety

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Representatives from the Taos County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Taos County Forest & Watershed Health addressed

the May 9 Village of Questa (VOQ) Council meeting on the importance of preparing municipalities for threats of wildfires, especially during northern New Mexico's dry spring season. Partnerships have been made between Taos County, the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District and various state agencies to help prepare private citizens for the fire season every year and the County hopes to place more focus on its northern regions like Questa.

The Taos County Soil & Water Conservation District in particular is working with private landowners assisting in fire defense tactics such as forest thinning and creating what is called "defensible space" around homes.

Tanya Duncan with the Taos Soil & Water Conservation noted, "This last year, because of the fire we had over in Las Vegas, we've gotten over 100 applications — normally I get 25-30 — and

almost half of them are from up here, up north, so we're trying to figure out how we can fund a lot of these projects that we have for these desperate and scared land owners who want help and they need help.... We're hoping the Village of Questa can be a fiscal sponsor."

According to Duncan, the going rate for a typical forest thinning project is between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per acre.

"We are at an unusual time right now when northern New Mexico is the target of a fire hose of funding," said J.R. Logan with the Taos County Forest & Watershed Health program. "Not just from the Forest Service and other federal agencies, but also from the State of New Mexico. And that overlap of state and federal funding means we're in a unique position to take advantage of the resources available to protect the mountain, to protect the communities."

Logan explained how, historically,

fire preparation has been focused on the southern end of Taos valley and the Peñasco valley with the northern part of the county not seeing proper management.

"The people of Questa know that these forests need to be maintained and they know that they haven't been for quite a long time," lamented Logan. "This pitch that we're making this evening is a request to this Village Council to become involved in this work, not just for the benefit of your constituents, but for the benefit of all of us collectively. We need your help, this is an 'all-hands-on-deck' situation."

The Taos County CWPP "seeks to build fire resilient communities, forests and watersheds through collaboration with all community stakeholders and partners." The CWPP's most recent operational update can be viewed at the official website for Taos County.

# Mayor Ortega on plans on Questa's transition to a post-mining economy

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

What is Questa's vision for the transition to a post-mining community?

We have created several partnerships to transition to the post mining economy. We are looking at several different areas in this transition. We are looking to build on our outdoor recreation and tourist industry. We are also working on bringing new business to the community to replace the 300 jobs that were lost when the mine shut down. We have built a new business park to recruit these potential businesses to move to Questa. We are trying to diversify from one employer who employs most of the community to multiple employers who can employ these members of the community. We are currently partnering with National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC), Chevron, Questa Economic Fund (QEDF) Board on green hydrogen feasibility study and project. This would bring more jobs to Questa as well as economic development. It will also turn another brownfield into a greenfield. Kit Carson Electric, who is our local electricity supplier, is currently at 100-percent daytime solar. This green hydrogen facility would now provide storage capability to supply

the KCEC with green energy to supply Questa and the surrounding communities with nighttime green energy. We have engaged legislators, the Governor's office, and our congressional delegation in this effort. The struggle is that we are a small community competing against several large communities in this effort. Our project is definitely viable and a 100-percent green project. There are not many out there right now like it. We will continue to try and leverage more partnerships in this project.

What are some of the existing assets in your community, like infrastructure and specific skill sets, that can aid in that transition?

We are trying to convert brown fields into green fields as part of the mine reclamation process, our lake in town [Eagle Rock Lake] was rebuilt, and that lake is now one of the busiest lakes in northern New Mexico. Last year we completed a 1.9-million-dollar river restoration on the river that flows through Questa. We are home to the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument to the west of us. We are surrounded by the Hondo Wilderness [north] and the Latir Wilderness to the east. We can now market Questa as one of the premier fishing and outdoor recreation areas in



Photo by Dyland R.N. Crabb

the Southwest. This has allowed us to attract a couple of businesses such as RV parks to the area. For Green Hydrogen, Chevron, who is one of our partners, has a tailings facility that is perfect to be used as a Solar facility and possibly a green hydrogen facility. This land currently houses one megawatt of solar, which provides part of the 100-percent daytime solar that feeds Questa. This land has the potential to house a large number of solar arrays that can provide daytime solar electricity to Questa and the surrounding areas for years to come. This is also the proposed location for the green hydrogen facility, which will provide storage for 100-percent nighttime

green energy.

Questa has run on 100-percent daytime solar for the last 10 years. What benefits have you seen from this so far and how can we expand and build on those benefits? What is the next step?

We have been able to use this as a marketing tool to try and draw businesses to our business park as well at other locations in our community. We were able to draw Taos Bakes to our business park. They make energy bars as well as other products that are sold across the country and across the world. We can continue this model to attract more businesses that want their business in a green community. In my opinion we did not use this marketing strategy enough, but we will use it in the future. We can also use this marketing strategy to draw tourists to the community. People will be staying in a 100-percent solar fed community. We can also use this to continue and leverage more partnerships for our green hydrogen project. We would also like to use this marketing strategy to bring hotels and a convention center to Questa. Another advantage is that people in our community who could not afford to put solar on their properties or houses, can now say they are 100 percent solar because of Kit Carson Electric.

## QEDF seeks \$25,000 to help local entrepreneurs

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) is seeking \$25,000 from the New Mexico Economic Development Department's Local Economic Assistance & Development Support (LEADS) program.

"We are proposing a business center incubator be set up at the [Questa Public Library]," said QEDF Director Lynn Skall at the May 9 Village of Questa (VOQ) Council meeting.

The QEDF hopes to use this grant funding to help young adults with entrepreneurial ventures and setting up this business center at the library requires cooperation with the village. The proposed business center would offer year-round training, business mentoring, and consulting to young adults trying to start businesses. Initial

purchases with the funding would be two desktop computers, a smart board, and a multi-functional copy machine for local entrepreneurs and business owners to copy and scan materials for basic business functions.

QEDF Director Skall has drafted their application for the grant but wanted to receive input from the Village Council before finalizing and submitting. Skall has already spoken with Sharon Nicholson at the library as well as Margaret with Friends of the Library, and noted both the library and its Friends are in support of the proposal.

"Personally, I love the idea," said Councilor Louise Gallegos. "I think it's . . . something that our community does need. I've always thought . . . about opening up like a UPS store to be able to do all of what you're saying with the



Courtesy Photo

From left to right: Councilor Louise Gallegos, Councilor Jason Gonzales, Mayor John Ortega, Councilor Kristina Gonzalez, and Councilor Brent Jaramillo.

business incubator."

"I also think that this is a wonderful idea," said Councilor Kristina Gonzalez. "I especially love the idea of jobs being created in our community."

Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked Skall about finding local volunteers for the proposed business incubator. The

LOCAL HELP cont'd on pg 19



# Mayor John Ortega talks energy in Denver

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

DENVER, CO – Village of Questa Mayor John Ortega visited Denver in April to attend the Cities Summit of the Americas, a gathering of municipal leaders from across the American continents — from Bakersfield, California, all the way to Costa Rica and Chile in South America — to talk about Questa's transition from a mining town to a community which embraces new and diverse economic opportunities.

The subjects discussed at the Summit ranged from mobility, transportation, migration, housing, energy, climate and environmentalist politics, and finance and investment into healthy communities. The Summit was held at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver and the Denver Art Museum.

Hydrogen-based energy sources have been discussed by the international community such as the G20 and COP26 (26th Conference of the Parties summit in 2021) as one way countries all over the world can decarbonize their economies and transition to clean energy sources.

Hydrogen has potential as an energy source simply because of its abundance in the universe — it is the most common element. Hydrogen as a fuel source has traditionally been produced with fossil fuels. So-called green hydrogen is distinguished from traditional sources of hydrogen power because it is



Courtesy Photo

Mayor Ortega speaks to a crowd at the Cities Summit of the Americas

produced with renewable energy sources through the electrolysis of water (the process of splitting the H<sub>2</sub>O water molecule into its component parts of hydrogen and oxygen).

The International Energy Agency (IEA) describes the importance of hydrogen as thus: “Hydrogen can help to tackle various critical energy challenges, including helping to store the variable output from renewables

like solar PV and wind to better match demand. It offers ways to decarbonise a range of sectors — including long-haul transport, chemicals, and iron and steel — where it is proving difficult to meaningfully reduce emissions. It can also help to improve air quality and strengthen energy security (IEA report, June 2019).”

The *Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act* passed by the 117th United

States Congress in 2021 allocated \$8 billion dollars for the development of hydrogen hub projects across the United States and Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham has stated her intentions to take advantage of that opportunity with a “hydrogen hub vision (NM Hydrogen Hub Roadmap, *Defining and Envisioning a Clean Hydrogen Hub for New Mexico*, January 2022)” for the New Mexico.

## State supports Red River's economic development project

By STAFF WRITER

The Town of Red River has been accepted to the New Mexico Main Street's Frontier & Native American Communities Initiative program. Along with seven selected communities statewide, the Town will receive New Mexico Main Street's professional services and technical assistance to implement its community economic development project.

The Town's project is the redevelopment of Brandenburg Park (including the design and installation of new irrigation and electric systems as well as construction of a permanent stage) and repaving the adjacent municipal parking lot. This community space, that is utilized for many community events, was selected through residents' vote earlier

last year. Besides economic development benefits, the project will preserve and enhance this valuable community asset.

In addition, the New Mexico Resiliency Alliance has awarded a \$5,000 seed grant to the Town of Red River to support the project's first phase.

“We are honored to be selected for this program,” said Max Khudiakov, Director of Economic Development & Tourism for the Town of Red River. “The application process was very competitive. The redevelopment of the Brandenburg Park and the municipal parking lot is crucial for the successful execution and expansion of all special events held in Red River. Festivals are a great economic development tool for the Town's economy. The upgrade of the infrastructure at this community space is much



Photo courtesy of Visit Red River, NM

Brandenburg Park”

needed, and we are looking forward to getting started working on this project.”

The number of projects selected each round is contingent on the New Mexico State Legislature's annual funding

appropriation to the NMMS Program. The FNAC Initiative was created by the Legislature in 2013 and has supported 39 projects in more than 37 rural communities across the state.



## First-ever Questa Quick Draw!

The Questa Creative Council is calling artists of all ages to take part in a new, fun event in our village. Saturday, June 24, artists will paint in and around Questa's historic heart and our surrounding scenery—all on the same day, all at the same time. Customers and collectors can seek out and observe the creativity or just come for the end-of-day judging, show, and sale.

Many wonderful artists who show in Taos County will be taking part, so this is a great opportunity to find original artwork celebrating our scenic village. Youth artists are also encouraged, and should pre-register to receive FREE painting supplies! (Those under 14 years of age will need a parent or guardian present.)

Here's the plan: Artists will gather between 8 and 9 am at the Questa Farmers Market/Questa Visitor Center site, just east of Questa's one traffic light, for sign-in/registration, and to get their canvases (or other work surfaces) stamped to assure that the finished works are produced during the event. Only stamped surfaces will be exhibited and considered for awards and prizes. Each artist will



*Courtesy Photo*

Artist paints a portrait of St. Anthony's Church in Questa

also be given a mini-canvas to complete during the day.

With easels, supplies, snacks, and sun protection, artists will head out to destinations of their choosing and paint their hearts out, returning by 3 pm to display their works for the 3:30 to 6 pm show, judging, and sales, with a portion of sales serving as a fundraiser for the Questa Creative Council. Prizes include: Adult 1st place, \$200, 2nd place, \$100, and 3rd, \$25; Youth 1st place, \$100, 2nd place, \$50, and 3rd place, \$25; plus a \$75 "People's Choice" prize so bring your critical eye and personal preferences and come take part in the fun.

Artistic subjects could include

Questa's historic plaza with its restored San Antonio de Padua church, the dramatic Eagle Rock Lake, the meadows of Cabresto Canyon, or the wildflowers along the rushing Red River. If you are a good time manager, the even more dramatic scenery of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument awaits. Any works not sold at the evening show and judging will be available for purchase the next day, Sunday, April 25, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Questa Farmers Market.

Painters, pastel artists, and drawing enthusiasts of any level of experience are invited. What better surroundings to inspire creativity than the protected wilderness and history on display around

the village of Questa? So, get ready to leave the four walls of your studio and come paint "en plein air" in the open Questa air! Or, come enjoy an open-air art show with one-of-a-kind works still on the easels.

To register or for more information, email [questacreativecouncil@gmail.org](mailto:questacreativecouncil@gmail.org) with the subject line "Quick Draw." Or phone/text Mary Jo Kelly at (575) 224-4220. Youth must pre-register for FREE supplies. If the entry fee is a barrier to joining, do call so we can help!

The Questa Quick-Draw, a planned annual event, is a project of the non-profit Questa Creative Council. The mission of the QCC is to strengthen community through arts, culture, history, and Education. Visit us at [QuestaCreative.org](http://QuestaCreative.org), and on our Facebook page.

### And Don't Forget:

This summer's Questa Art Tour will be held the weekend of August 12–13. Expect diverse works from the traditional to the modern, music, snacks, and fun; all along a 10m scenic route.

And, every Saturday, starting at 10 am, all summer, the Questa Creative Council presents the Art Market, offering original art, crafts, and collectibles. At the Farmers Market site by Questa's Visitors Center.

Mark your calendars! This year's Questa Art Tour will be Aug. 12-13. Expect diverse works from the traditional to the modern, music, snacks, and fun; all along a 10 mile scenic route. [www.QuestaCreative.org](http://www.QuestaCreative.org). Or visit ArtQuesta Gallery.

## Victorio Peak: one hundred tons of gold or one hundred tall tales

By contributing writer  
MICHAEL WILSON

Taos County Historical Society hosts author Jim Eckles Saturday, June 3.

Whatever happened to that 100 tons of gold and other treasure hidden in Victorio Peak on White Sands Missile Range? Was there really more gold in Victorio Peak than in Fort Knox? Did vice-president Johnson fly a helicopter to the site and sneak off with the booty? A tale of buried gold, coated with conspiracy, is something made for Hollywood, especially considering the treasure's very existence is in question.

Historian and longtime White Sands Missile Range public affairs official Jim Eckles is set to provide a gold mine worth of information about Victorio



*Courtesy photo*

"Historian and longtime White Sands Missile Range public affairs official Jim Eckles"

Peak as the Taos County Historical Society's June speaker. He will relate some of the peak's history and answer these and other questions about the leg-

endary lucre of Victorio Peak Saturday, June 3, 2 pm, in the Kit Carson Electric Coop boardroom, 118 Alta Vista Road, in Taos.

Eckles worked in the Public Affairs Office at White Sands from 1977 to 2007. He just missed the gold search in early 1977 when Dan Rather was there for "60 Minutes," but was there for the multi-year effort in the 1990s. He has been inside the peak, kicked rocks up and down its exterior, and listened to a multitude of stories and anecdotes about it. He says it was an interesting break from the typical bureaucratic work he faced piloting his desk in Public Affairs. Eckles has also written extensively about the missile range and the Trinity Site. He has two books out on those topics and frequently lectures about them.

Questions or further information? Call Michael Wilson at (612) 743-6546.

# The LOR Foundation is excited to support more projects and events in Questa

By Contributing Writer  
JAY BOUCHARD

As the weather turns warm in northern New Mexico, the LOR Foundation—led by Questa community officer Maria Gonzalez—is looking forward to the event season and is excited to support a variety of community projects and engagements in the coming weeks.

Several of the ideas for projects and events have come from teachers, staff, and parents at the Questa Independent School District, including one that will help create “oasis rooms.” Questa edu-

cators have been experiencing burnout and fatigue over the past five years due to COVID-19, administration changes, and teaching both virtually and in-person. To combat this stress and help Questa teachers be at their best, educators came up with a potential solution: Create two rooms where teachers can experience a low-stress environment in a high-stress place to boost teacher morale and allow them to return to the classroom refreshed. LOR’s funding will help support the purchase of equipment to create these staff oases.

Students, too, have navigated particularly challenging circumstances

the past few years, and knowing this, Questa residents want to celebrate the 2023 graduating class. With that in mind (and with support from LOR), the community is hosting a “senior love” event in which banners will be hung throughout the streets of Questa during May and June.

And if you want to see students celebrating this month, kids of all ages in Questa will take part in the Mariachi and Stage Band Extravaganza on May 17, a concert performance and dance that will serve as a celebration of traditional music as well as a fundraiser for future musical education. LOR sup-

ported this event by helping the school district hire five performers to lead workshops once a week for five weeks. Now, the students who participated in the workshops will show off their new skills at Questa High School.

Gonzalez is hoping to hear many more ideas from community members about how to make living in Questa even better. She’ll be at the Questa Fishing Derby on June 10 and would love it if you stopped by, said hello, and shared your ideas. If you’d like to get in touch, contact her via email at [maria@lorfoundation.org](mailto:maria@lorfoundation.org).

## LOCAL HELP cont’d from page 16

QEDF is also continuing to work with Dan Hobbs of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union in efforts to organize local farmers. Hobbs will be meeting with the QEDF again on June 7.

Skall also asked Council about progress on the La Cienega project in Questa regarding a day-care center and a collaboration with Inspire Bilingual Early Learning Center in Taos.

“Yes, they’re moving forward with one of the buildings down there,” Mayor John Ortega responded. “We’re still

working on that, it’s moving forward.”

The QEDF has also ordered a handicap-access Port-o-Potty for 24/7 access at the Questa Visitor Center (QVC), just in time for the start of the Questa Farmers Market (QFM) on May 28. The Port-o-Potty will be serviced weekly. There is also collaboration between the

QEDF and the QFM to create a plan for more effectively managing parking spaces at the QVC.

Skall also was proud to announce that Questa is going to be featured as a destination at the New Mexico United soccer game on August 12 courtesy of New Mexico True.



## The LOR Foundation wants to know!

LOR is a private foundation that works with Questa locals to kick-start community projects. We believe many small actions can create lasting change, and we fund projects that can have an immediate impact—like giving students the opportunity to learn traditional music and helping local nonprofits coordinate volunteer efforts.

If you have an idea that could make Questa an even better place to live, get in touch with community officer Maria Gonzalez at (575) 665-2001 or [maria@lorfoundation.org](mailto:maria@lorfoundation.org).

Swing by LOR’s table at the Questa Fish Fiesta on **Saturday, June 10** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. to take a quick survey and spin the prize wheel!





By Claire Catlett,

## The outstanding waters of the upper Rio Grande

What makes a river or stream outstanding? That is the question to ask the next time you enjoy your time at the headwaters of the Upper Rio Grande, such as the Rio San Antonio, Rio Hondo and the Lake Fork. A year ago, New Mexico's Water Quality Control Commission designated segments of the Rio Grande and its tributaries as "Outstanding National Resource Waters", protecting these waters from future impairment from pollution and other forms of degradation.

These beloved waters have exceptional recreational and ecological significance and have sustained our communities — human, animal, and plant — for thousands of years. While the outstanding waters designation prevents water quality from being degraded, in recognition of

their importance the designation allows existing traditional uses, such as acequia operations and livestock grazing, to continue.

These days our waters are at risk from any number of threats, but we focus the most attention on fire and drought. Often we worry most about how these things impact the amount of water in a stream, but they can also impact water quality and the availability of clean water. The degradation of a stream occurs during run-off events from rain storms or types of land uses, known as "non-point-source pollution."

Water quality impairments from wildfire occur through sediment loading and heavy metals released from burned soils during flood events. Also, water temperatures change dramatically post-fire: where once a forest stood tall creating shade and its roots held ground moisture, now is a hot and dry fire scar that raises the ground and water temperatures.

Drought can also reduce vegetation, ground moisture, and stream flow, since without new sources of rain or snowmelt to fill the creek and cool surface temperatures, the water in a stream will inevitably become warmer, too. When water is too warm, water temperature limits the diversity of aquatic life and can exclude cold-water fish like trout from their natural habitats.

When the land is devoid of healthy soils and vegetation, rain and snow melt



Courtesy Photo

and race into streams, rather than recharging aquifers, carrying excess nutrient pollution from phosphorus and nitrates that enter the environment from a wide range of activities. While these nutrients occur naturally in aquatic ecosystems, too much of these nutrients can cause bacterial and fungal growth that can harm fish, wildlife, and humans.

Water quality changes a lot during flood events, as more sediment can be transported due to fully saturated soils being unstable. Sediment can carry local pollutants like e. coli bacteria and salt. Sediment (measured as total dissolved solids) displaces oxygen in water, which can impact dissolved oxygen levels that are

critical to aquatic life, especially trout.

Today, the Upper Rio Grande watershed is experiencing a good water season, with over 3,000 cubic feet per second flowing in the Rio mid-May, but the science points to warmer and drier years ahead. Trout Unlimited is helping to keep our waters outstanding by monitoring our best trout waters and culturally significant watersheds to ensure we can all have access to clean water. We are training local volunteers in water quality monitoring who know the waters of the Upper Rio Grande the best, whether they fish, farm, or live in these watersheds. After all, when trout do well, we all do well.



## BIRD IS THE WORD

By Bryce Flanagan

## The lovely Lewis's woodpecker

Sporting shimmering green wings that stretch out to a 20-inch wingspan, a ruby-red face and a bright-pink chest, at first glance the Lewis's Woodpecker almost looks like an over-sized hummingbird. Named after the co-leader of the Lewis and Clark expeditions, this woodpecker maintains a year-round presence in Northern New Mexico, and the summer months are a perfect opportunity to see them in the wild as they cease their nomadic behavior in favor of settling down for

breeding season.

You're most likely to find these woodpeckers out in open woodland areas, especially ones with streams or other bodies of water that attract insects. Lewis's Woodpeckers don't do a great deal of pecking wood despite their name. While they will occasionally burrow into decaying or dead tree bark to reach their insect meal inside, primarily they keep themselves fed during summer months by perching on a tree branch and swooping down to gobble insects mid-flight, much like flycatchers. They also prefer woodland areas due to the free housing left for them by other woodpeckers, nesting in the holes burrowed in bark by other beaks during their breeding season. Once a suitable burrow is found, the monogamous couple will furnish it with wood-chips and take turns incubating their eggs for 12 days. The parents share feeding responsibilities until their fledglings are deemed ready to leave the nest, usually in about a month or so. Afterward the couple resumes their nomadic lifestyle before returning to the same burrow, assuming it's still unoccupied, the following season to produce

more offspring.

While females typically lay between 6-8 eggs each breeding season, that hasn't been nearly enough to keep up with rampant habitat destruction that's resulted in a population decline of 72 percent between 1970 and 2014. While work is being done at the state level to protect the forests that Lewis's Woodpeckers and many other species depend on, an increase in global temperatures will mean further degradation of habitat in the form of forest fires and heatwaves, which can kill nestlings. Conservationists recommend leaving dead trees standing to alleviate this habitat loss, so long as the tree doesn't pose a threat to an existing structure.

Backyard birders can also offer a rest stop for these birds by providing suet cakes in their feeders. I've personally found peanut butter based recipes to be a particular favorite among the woodpeckers, and this is probably the easiest way to see them in their wild beauty. Sometimes I've been graced with three Lewis's Woodpeckers at once, all chirping about and discussing whatever it is birds talk about in their songs. Be warned though, once one of

these birds makes your yard a regular stop, they'll become quite territorial and chase other birds away from "their" suet feeder. The Lewis's Woodpecker isn't afraid to throw its substantial size around when it comes to protecting its food: I've seen one woodpecker chase off multiple magpies from a feeder he wasn't even eating from. Having multiple suet feeders spaced far apart can help reduce this conflict.

The Lewis's Woodpecker really is a sight to behold. Rarely does such a large bird embody such striking colors as this, and its aerial acrobatics as it catches insects are dazzling. Current projections for global temperature increases put us around 2.5°C by 2100 in a good scenario, which would destroy most of their habitat here in New Mexico and force them to move into new habitats further north. We can each individually do small actions like supplying accessible food and letting dead trees stand, but these noble deeds won't correct global arson. If you want your grandchildren to see the Lewis's Woodpecker in New Mexico, your best bet is to take a picture.

# Annual Fishing Fiesta returns to Questa

By MICHAEL BARBEE

The Vida del Norte group is hosting the Questa Fish Fiesta the weekend of June 10. This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 10 at Eagle Rock Lake from 9 a.m.- noon and on Sunday, June 11 from 10 a.m.-noon at the Wild Rivers National Monument Visitors Center.

"This will be a weekend of fishing for the community, and an opportunity to enjoy our outdoor recreational areas," says Maria Gonzalez, Vida del Norte Coalition Coordinator.

The Questa Fish Fiesta is a tradition in northern Taos County, initially run by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Vida del Norte, a coalition dedicated to helping youth in Questa and northern Taos county, will be hosting the event for the first time this year. Additionally, Mayor John Ortega will be cooking hamburgers and hotdogs for participants each day, with food, games and prizes sponsored by the LOR Foundation.

Fishers should bring fishing rods and equipment, as well as typical outdoor accessories such as sunscreen, hats, water, and chairs, if they like. A good pair of hiking boots and full length pants are advised for the Wild Rivers location.

The US Forest Service will be taking part, with Smokey the Bear slated for

an appearance.

"Anyone over the age 12 must have a fishing license," says Gonzalez. Fishing licenses can be purchased in Questa at Questa Lumber and Hardware store at the south side of town, or online at wild-life.state.nm.us, or by phone at 1 (888) 248-6866. The Fish Fiesta is not on New Mexico Free Fishing Day, which falls on June 3 and September 23 of this year.

"Questa New Mexico is a trout angler's dream destination. It offers a diversity of trout fishing opportunities from the family-friendly and easily accessible Eagle Rock Lake to the remote and wild Rio Grande del Norte. Anglers have opportunities to catch stocked rainbow trout in the Red River and Eagle Rock Lake, wild brook trout in Cabresto Creek and Cabresto Lake, trophy-sized brown trout in the Rio Grande, and native Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Columbine Creek. All of this within a short drive from the heart of Questa." says Eric Frey, Sportfish Program Manager of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

The Questa Fish Fiesta will be a great opportunity to meet with other members of the community, appreciate the beautiful area in which we live, enjoy great food and fun games, and most importantly, to catch fish.

## RECAP: proposed Questa-area Acequia Association

PROPOSAL TO UNITE ACEQUIA ASSOCIATIONS THROUGH NORTHERN TAOS COUNTY DISCUSSED AT MAY 2 MEETING.

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Representatives from the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF), Chevron, and the Taos Valley Acequia Association gathered in the Village of Questa Administration Building on May 2 to discuss a proposed acequia association for the purpose of increased communication and more effective advocacy for the acequias throughout northern Taos County.

No definitive actions were taken at the gathering, the intent was to inform

the public on a new non-profit organization fighting for the benefit of the broader Questa community.

QEDF Director Lynn Skall opened the meeting with an introduction making it clear that the purpose of this proposal is not to take over duties from any other acequia, it is simply for the purpose of practical, collective representation.

"Over the past few years we've had issues with water... drought and so this idea of creating a Questa-area acequia association came up and the Questa Economic Development Fund is just

RECAP cont'd on page 28



**YOUTH!**  
Pre-register for free art supplies\*

# Questa

## QUICK-DRAW

a plein-air art event & sale!

**ARTISTS** Come paint in & around Questa's historic heart and surrounding wilderness. All on the same day, at the same time. **REGISTER** between 8 & 9 a.m. at the Questa Visitor Center/Farmers Market site. Cost: \$15

**ART-LOVERS** Come for the end-of-day show and sale. Funds will be raised to support more projects like this one.

**SHOW/SALE** from 3:30 - 6 p.m. Come look, vote for your faves. Judging & cash prizes! Unsold works will be for sale at Sunday's Questa Farmers Market, 10 - 2.





**QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL**

\*YOUTH MUST PRE-REGISTER. NO ARTIST WILL BE TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF AN ENTRY FEE. IF THIS IS A DIFFICULTY, PLEASE CONTACT US: MARY JO KELLY AT (575) 224-4220.

find details at [QUESTACREATIVE.ORG](http://QUESTACREATIVE.ORG)

**SUMMER SATUR-DAYS** **Questa Art Market**

Vendors offer handmade leather goods, jewelry, fiber arts, metal and wood-carved pieces, painting, pottery, minerals and gems, antiques, and much more.

**AUG. 12-13** **Questa Art Tour**

Meet local artists at the 8th annual Questa art tour, in the wild scenic area along Hwy 522, Questa and north, 10-5 each day. More info and maps at [QuestaCreative.org](http://QuestaCreative.org)

SPONSORS












**BODY  
MIND  
SPIRIT**



By **BARBARA TRACY**

**TRANSCENDING SEPARATIONS**

As humans, we don't always agree with each other and that is the natural order of things. We are not here to convince or change another's ideas or ideals. We are here however, sharing the same planet in the same milky way galaxy and this is our home. Perhaps that makes us family.

There are many reasons for separation, be it physical, mental, emotional, religious, race or political. As we can see there is plenty of playground for separation by way of the viewpoints that each of us hold about any of these subjects. In that we must remember that we are one family, yes, but we were, in truth, all

brought up in different countries, societies, belief systems, parental guidance, and the like. In most cases, separation results from viewpoints that differ from one another and in such cases, there is the potential that separation can create a loss of safety, a loss of stability because our sacred cows are being challenged. And in the world of ego, we never, ever want to be wrong. So, we hold tight to being right and the separation deepens. Even if we are "right" or even "wrong", this is a great opportunity to find our innate curiosity and ask ourselves pertinent questions. For instance: Is what I hold as right or wrong really true? Is it something I want to be true? Is it someone else's truth that I have followed

without question or investigation?

The power of separation is mighty – walls fall, marriages fail, foundations crumble, unity dies.

Cells of the body separate only to be reunited as a whole as one larger organism. This is a beautiful kind of separation as it is creative in its purpose and not destructive. Using that ideal, creative instead of destructive could be the doorway we could choose when we are experiencing separation. The goal being balance and harmony by way of, possibly, an open-minded conversation or debate without the desire to be right with the intent to actually hear one another. To be open to questions is very helpful.

Many years ago, my husband, Richard and I had an argument. My ego was fighting his ego and both of us wanted to be right. As the day went along in cold silence and separation, there was a voice inside of me that said: "turn toward him, not away." I won't say it was easy to do as my ego still wanted to be right, but I took the advice and turned toward him, silently embraced him and all the angst and ego melted away from both of us.

The people of this world are suffering from separation on a large scale, and I know we cannot go about turning toward and embracing everyone that is out there with a different agenda, but we can find that space in our heart to embrace them as the brothers and sisters of one earth family that they truly are. In doing this, we are contributing a positive vibration to the mass consciousness and lessening the negative.

"I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Evelyn Beatrice Hall's reflection on the works of Voltaire

*"The soundest fact may fail or prevail in the style of its telling."*

Ursula K. Le Guin

**SENIOR MENU: JUNE 2023**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			<b>1</b> Tossed Salad, Italian Dressing, Pork Chop, Brown Rice w/ Mushrooms, California Blend Veggies, Wheat Roll, Applesauce	<b>2</b> Mrs. Dash Baked Cod, baked French Fries, Spinach, Coleslaw, Wheat Roll, Peaches
<b>5</b> Chicken Alfredo, Peas & carrots, Garlic Bread, Pears	<b>6</b> 2023 Tossed Salad, Tamale, Lettuce & Tomato, Pinto Beans, Diced mango	<b>7</b> Tossed Salad Italian Dressing, Beef Macaroni Stewed Tomatoes, Grapes	<b>8</b> Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy, Brussel Sprouts, Wheat Roll Oatmeal Cookie	<b>9</b> Fish Sticks w/ Tartar Sauce, Potato Wedges, Three bean salad, Wheat Roll, Chocolate pudding Strawberries
<b>12</b> Chile Relleno, Pinto Beans, Calabacitas, Lettuce & Tomato, Spanish Rice, Mixed Fruit	<b>13</b> Baked Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes, Country Gravy, okra w/ tomatoes and onions, Wheat Roll	<b>14</b> Meat Lasagna, Garden Salad, Italian blend Vegetables, Wheat roll, Banana	<b>15</b> Pork Posole w/Red Chile, Spinach, flour Tortilla, Orange	<b>16</b> Hamburger, Herb Roasted Potatoes, Tomato and cucumber salad, Fruit Cocktail
<b>19</b> <b>Closed</b>	<b>20</b> Pulled Pork Sandwich, Corn Cob, Macaroni Salad w/ Veggies Plums	<b>21</b> Herb Chicken Breast, Gravy, Rice Pilaf, Broccoli & cauliflower, Wheat Roll, Sliced Peaches	<b>22</b> Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Parsley Potatoes, Fruit Cocktail Lemon, Pudding	<b>23</b> Red Chile Meat Enchiladas, Pinto Beans, Cilantro, Lime, Brown Rice, Capri Vegetables, Watermelon
<b>26</b> Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Brown Gravy, Broccoli spears, Wheat Roll, Tropical Fruit Salad	<b>27</b> Chicken Teriyaki, Brown Rice, Stir Fry Vegetables, Mandarin Oranges	<b>28</b> Grilled Cheese, Vegetable Soup, Tossed Salad, Garbanzo Beans	<b>29</b> Spaghetti, Vegetable Medley, Garden Salad, Garlic Toast, Pineapple	<b>30</b> Chile Cheese Dog, Broccoli Salad, Carrot and Raisins Cinnamon Apples

This Senior Lunch menu applies to all Senior Centers in Taos County. Meals are cooked fresh at each location.

Lunch costs \$1.50 to anyone over age 60. Those under 60 pay \$7.50. Lunch hours are Noon to 1 p.m. Meals-on-Wheels are provided at the same price to frail, homebound, or at-risk elderly.

To qualify, an in-home assessment at the request of the client's physician is conducted by project staff, stating that this person is not able to travel to the Senior Center.

For our readership area, Senior Lunches and Meals on Wheels are served at Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd., Questa, NM 87556 (575) 586-0508 and at 583 State Road 196, Amalia, NM 87512, (575) 586-0071.

Free Senior Exercise classes at the Questa Center are Thursdays 10 –11 am. Free transportation is provided to registered Seniors on Mondays through Thursdays.

Registering for events or meals (must be over 60) takes only a few minutes. Arrive early to sign up.

*Taos County Senior Program  
(575) 737-8927  
PLEASE NOTE THAT MENU IS  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE*



## LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood  
a.k.a. Maruška

### I am still a work in progress

I never used to exercise but, since the early 1970s, I have practiced mind/spirit techniques to create loving family relationships and friendships, abundance, and career success. It just never occurred to me to use those consciousness-based techniques to grow younger!

So how did I begin? The impetus for changing my course happened after my mother slowly deteriorated with Alzheimer's and I found myself starting on the same path. My short-term memory

became very fragile and my tongue kept tripping on words — if I could even find the word. I was in my early 60s.

One day about five years later, I 'woke up' and realized my beliefs and programming about aging were creating a life that I did not want.

Right then I decided to reverse the course I was on and grow younger.

Once I had a clear intention to reverse aging, the next step was to learn how. I researched and studied, tried techniques, and dropped some, and eventually developed a program of body/mind/spirit techniques and began practicing them faithfully. Within six months my vitality and zest for life returned. Best of all, I got back my short-term memory.

I researched and studied and tested techniques — some relatively new, some ancient and esoteric. Soon a whole program, including action steps for the body, started to emerge and I began making my daily practice of youthfulness techniques

into habits. The results were so astounding, I had to share this program. It reversed my early symptoms of Alzheimer's, gave me tons more energy and kept breast cancer from recurring. I felt it was my purpose to help society change its views of what life can be in our later years. We're living longer and I had found a way to make the extended life a more dynamic and joyful experience. How could I not share it?

I wrote "The Secret Method for Growing Younger — My Journey Through Alzheimer's to the Fountain of Youth Using The Law of Attraction, Volume 1," which lays the groundwork for the program of practices in "The Secret Method for Growing Younger, 7 Mind Body Spirit Self-Help Practices to Reverse Memory Loss and Have More Joy! Joy! Joy! Volume 2." I also gave talks around the country.

Now, at 86 years old, I'm not traveling around anymore because I've made painting my primary fun. I love it because it makes me so happy (and my paintings are

selling!) and I don't feel like living out of a suitcase at this time of my life.

Sure, my memory is a little bit less sharp, but not enough to worry about. And I still do most of my practices, especially the Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation, movements that are supposed to make you grow younger — and they really work! (Volume 3 will tell all about how to do those when I get around to writing it.) I also meditate daily and vigilantly watch my thoughts and my spoken words. When I hear someone say, "Oh, I'm too old... to do this or that," it feels like fingernails scratching on a blackboard.

So I'm still a work in progress and I plan to live happily for a long, long time.

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

### Aún estoy en constante evolución

Antes no solía hacer ejercicios, pero desde principios de la década de 1970 he practicado técnicas de mente/espíritu para crear relaciones familiares y amistosas con mucho amor, abundancia y éxito profesional. ¡Pero nunca se me ocurrió usar esas técnicas basadas en la conciencia para rejuvenecer!

Entonces, ¿cómo empecé? El impulso para cambiar de rumbo me llegó después de que mi madre se deteriorara lentamente con la enfermedad de Alzheimer y yo me encontrara a mí misma siguiendo el mismo camino. Mi memoria a corto plazo se volvió muy frágil y la lengua tropezaba con las palabras — si es que podía encontrar la palabra adecuada. Yo había cumplido los 60 años y estaba a comienzos de esa década de mi vida.

Un día, unos cinco años después, me "desperté" y me di cuenta de que mis creencias y programación sobre el envejecimiento estaban creando una vida que no quería.

En ese momento decidí cambiar el curso de la ruta que seguía y rejuvenecer.

Una vez que tuve una clara intención de revertir el envejecimiento, el siguiente paso fue aprender cómo hacerlo. Investigué y estudié, probé diferentes técnicas y dejé algunas y con el tiempo desarrollé un programa de técnicas de cuerpo/

mente/espíritu y comencé a practicarlas fielmente. En seis meses mi vitalidad y entusiasmo por la vida regresaron. Lo mejor de todo es que recuperé mi memoria a corto plazo.

Investigué, estudié y probé técnicas — algunas relativamente nuevas, otras antiguas y esotéricas. Pronto comenzó a surgir un programa completo, que incluía etapas de acción para el cuerpo, y comencé a convertir mi práctica diaria de técnicas para recuperar la juventud en hábitos. Los resultados fueron tan asombrosos que tuve que compartir este programa. Revertió mis primeros síntomas de la enfermedad de Alzheimer, me dio mucha más energía y evitó que el cáncer de mama volviera a aparecer. Sentí que era mi propósito ayudar a la sociedad a cambiar su visión de lo que puede ser la vida en nuestros últimos años. Estamos viviendo más tiempo y yo encontré una manera de hacer que una vida larga sea una experiencia más dinámica y alegre. ¿Cómo no iba a compartirlo?

Escribí "The Secret Method for Growing Younger — My Journey Through Alzheimer's to the Fountain of Youth Using The Law of Attraction, Volume 1" ("El método secreto para rejuvenecer: mi viaje a través del Alzheimer hasta la fuente de la juventud usando la ley de la atracción, Volumen 1") que sienta las bases para el programa de prácticas que aparece en "The Secret Method for Growing Younger, 7 Mind Body Spirit Self-Help Practices to Reverse Memory Loss and Have More Joy! Joy! Joy! Volume 2."

("El método secreto para rejuvenecer, 7 Prácticas espirituales de autoayuda para la mente, el cuerpo y el espíritu a fin de revertir la pérdida de la memoria y tener más ¡Alegría! ¡Alegría! ¡Alegría! Volumen 2.") También di charlas por todo el país.

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

*Traducido de Teresa Dovalpage*

### JR (Malaquias) says:

**“Our Father Who art in  
Heaven, we wish You...**



**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!”**

And we wish all the  
fathers on Earth  
a Happy Father's Day.



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

## Father's Day advice: advice from fathers

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

For our June issue, we interviewed several fathers from our community and asked them what it means to be a father. We also asked what fatherly advice they would give to our readers. Below are their answers:

### Charlie Gonzales



Charlie Gonzales, Questa: Charlie is the father to five children, Charlene, LeRoy, Daniel, Rebecca, and Juan Carlos. He has 16 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

#### What does it mean to be a father?

Being a Father has been the most important job for me, it means loving each and every one of my five children unconditionally. No matter how old I am, I will always be there for my children (my family). I strive to love them

and care for them in the best way I can. Being a Father for me, means setting a good example for them to follow by being respectful to everyone. I have been blessed by God to be a Father and I take my responsibility very seriously. Being a Father to my five children has been a special privilege, and they mean everything to me.

#### What fatherly advice would you give to our readers?

Take responsibility seriously. Understand the impact you make on your children. Give more time to your children because they grow up too quick. Love your children and show them affection. Always empower your children to be the best they can be in their future.

### Felimon Rael



Felimon Rael, Questa, NM: Felimon Rael is a retired Deacon. He is father to Jayleen, Edwin, John, and Peter. He is grandfather to Ashley, Dustin, Jenise, Serena, Patrice, and Selena. He is also a great grandfather to Liam, Emy, Pancho, Micorazon, and Cristo.

#### What does it mean to be a father?

To be a father is to acknowledge that our children are a gift from God. They are to be loved and cherished. When you hold your little boy or little girl on your lap and tell them "you're my baby and I will always be there for you." They will return the love with kindness and respect as they grow.

#### What fatherly advice would you give to our readers?

Lead you children by your example. Teach them to do good. Make sure when they go through situations that they will grow and learn from it. There will be good times and hard times but they come as lessons in life. Just remember to try not to use a harsh tone of scolding but rather of compassion and encouragement. There are going to be situations where kids will have to make choices when it comes to drinking, smoking or doing drugs. Always remember as a father what kind of temptations you fell into growing up and reflect on your own life and what changes you made to make your life better. Do not be ashamed of your testimony to God. Don't use these things in front of them because remember that you are their father and you are who they always look up to as you lead by example. Life can be lived to the fullest when you follow Christ. Always pray for your children and give them your blessing. Let them know that our Heavenly Father in Heaven will always help them.

### Jerry Hogrefe



Jerry Hogrefe, Red River, NM: Jerry Hogrefe is the proud father of his son, Joel and grandfather of 4-year-old SJ and 1 year-old SI.

#### What does it mean to be a father?

Having the rank and title of father has been the highlight of my life. I am proud to be called son, husband, dad and now, Pawpa. A father is their child's protector, their teacher, their provider, and their friend. Not on our own, however, because as the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child." A father should also honor and praise their mother for bringing their child into this world and their wife who blessed them with children.

#### What fatherly advice would you give to our readers?

The best advice I can give was passed to me a long time ago. I was told "Jerry, when your son screws up or does something you don't like or approve of, and they will, just step up and 'Hug them Harder.' God forbid your last interaction is a harsh or regretful one. Life is limited and you just don't know when yours or their time will be up."



### I DARE YOU

By MARTA GLOVER

Perhaps there has been a moment in your lifetime when you have asked yourself, Do I want to do something different? Do I want to try a new way? Do I want to change my life in some way? It could be a move or a new job or a joining up or with a group of some sort. A dare can be physically related, which many of the following stories are about. It could be a simple decision you made or a major action that rocked you and changed your life forever. It could be a dare you witnessed and it affected you also. Can you dare yourself to tell me a story of your life when you were touched by something or someone

that changed your world as you know it or knew it and it dared you to take a step forward. Remember a dare is a challenge. I dare you!

#### Kevin Engleberg:

"I went to Red River Ski Valley and I had a season pass. I went up with my friend to ski in the park. On the way down, my friend dared me to go off a jump at the bottom of the mountain. So I went off the jump with too much speed and broke my shoulder in two places." [So I asked him, Would you take that jump again?] "This season I took the jump again slower and I landed it."

#### Johnny Rip:

"There has been no greater challenge I have been willing to dare myself than chasing around dangerous women." [I could not help asking Rip, what is a dangerous woman?] "One who carries a flask and rolls their own cigarettes."

#### CJ:

"My story is about the anniversary of my friend's death from a skiing accident that happened at Alpine Meadows in Tahoe. We went with 10 friends that morning. It was very icy, very scary. They had bombed the mountain for avalanche control but they did not bomb the area where we were, which was in bounds. We were skiing in the trees in a chute and there was a lot of snow that day. A year later I went to the memorial held at the tree on the mountain. It was terrifying going to the memorial reliving the experience and skiing to the location. It was very emotional and challenging. There was a moment of silence and I am glad I made myself go. It was life changing."

#### Chip:

"One time when I lived in Kauai, I was with my family at a rocked ocean pool. The waves were really big that day. I looked out and saw a guy drowning 50

yards away. His friend on the beach was terrified to go help him. I climbed on top of the rock and dove in to get him. I had to swim backwards with one arm 50 yards back to the beach. I thought we were both going to die. It changed my life by making me more cautious and have more gratitude."

#### Tink:

"I was rock climbing in Zion with my brother. We were scrambling up a red stone rock face. It was really steep. My brother made me go up a boulder that was built into the mountain. I was free climbing. Hanging off the mountain. One of the scariest things I have ever done. I was half way up, it was obvious I could not climb down, I had to go up. I cried, freaking out. My brother below was ranting, raving and yelling at me forcing me to climb. There was so much pressure. It was a life-risking, irresponsible, daring adventure."



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# State seeks 'resource parents' for displaced children in Taos County

By DYLAN CRABB

The New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) is actively recruiting community resource parents for children in the care of their department.

"We're trying to do recruitment of resource parents, who were once known as foster parents, for the communities in Taos County," said Angel Cardenas, Placement Supervisor for the CYFD Unit in Taos County, in an interview with *Questa del Rio News*. "We're really lucky to have a lot of relative placements in our county but they are usually only willing to be a placement for their own family and not children brought in from the community with no resources. We

really need places for kids who don't have family or family friends. These families can be tremendously helpful in stepping in to help us out," she says.

Cardenas explained how the ideal candidate for a resource parent feels a sense of responsibility for the children, caring for them like they are their own. The department has the candidates go through to become certified. It is somewhat of a lengthy process, but the placement workers are helping the prospective resource parents throughout the whole process.

"Our goal is always reunification between the biological parents and their children, we don't ever want to see kids not go back to their parents." The length of time in which a resource parent will

have children in their home is solely based on the length of the case. Everything that is done in CYFD is confidential information due to the information of the children. Cardenas, however, wants to make it clear that the goal of the department is always reunification with the parents. "The department does not want to separate families, yet it does not always turn out that way. If reunification is not a possibility for our children, we look at families who are willing to adopt or enter permanent guardianship."

CYFD hopes to get as many candidates as possible to make sure that every child in their custody has a home, at least temporarily. They especially need resource parents to take in teens.



If you're interested in becoming a resource parent or have additional questions regarding getting licensed to become a resource parent, contact Angel Cardenas at (575) 758-8871 or MaryLou Martinez, NE Navigator at (575) 779-1704

Log onto <https://www.cyfd.nm.gov/protective-services/foster-care/> to learn more about becoming a Resource Parent.

## Amalia senior center closed, unclear when reopening

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Posted on the front of the building for the Amalia Senior Center are multiple public notices from New Mexico's Environment Department informing the public about a "violation" in the water system below the facility.

While all senior centers in Taos County are currently shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic offering only limited food "grab and go" (SHARE new mexico, Taos County Senior Services, <sharenm.org>) services, the Amalia Senior Center seems to be experiencing another host of issues relating to its physical infrastructure.

The public notices on the front of the Senior Center's building date its issues with its water system as far back as 2019, prior to the recent coronavirus pandemic. Documents from the New Mexico Legislature's official website describe the issues in more detail.

"With current funding received, the Amalia Senior Center is in the process of repairing the foundation that is sinking and is cracking the outside and interior walls which are breaking the windows due to constant movement; with funding requested during the ICIP 5-year period we will be looking

at paving the Senior Center Parking Lot to comply with ADA requirements (New Mexico, Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan FY 2022-2026, NM Dept. of Finance & Administration, page 40)."

The funding for the Amalia Senior Center mentioned above was approved by the 55th NM Legislature during the 2022 regular session in the form of House Bill 153, sponsored by NM Rep. Christine Chandler (District 43). A total of \$1.45 million was earmarked by the Legislature.

The *Questa del Rio News* has reached out to the project manager for the Amalia Senior Center ICIP, Mike Trujillo, Taos County Commissioner Miguel Romero, and Taos County Community Services' Sharon Borges to inquire about the status of the repairs to the Senior Center with no success.

The *Questa del Rio News* also reached out to the Amalia Neighborhood Association, they explained to us that "the soil was not properly tested before they put [the building] in that exact location and it has moved, therefore, the foundation cracked" which is consistent with the description in the ICIP documents

This story is ongoing.



**SPROUTINGS** is our regular feature celebrating local young people. The 5th and 6th grade students of Alta Vista teacher, Mr. John Walsh, have been our most loyal contributors!





## Super sea sponges

Sea sponges are ocean invertebrates — animals without backbones.

These unassuming creatures may also be life savers for millions of people.

Since they can't move on their own, they survive by building up chemicals to fend off predators. It turns out that one of these chemicals, 'Manzamine A', has myriad medical uses.

The compound has been successful in treating malaria, destroying Herpes Simplex 1, and proven effective in certain antibiotics.

'Manzamine A' has also been found to stop cervical, prostate, and other cancers in their tracks by preventing the replication of the harmful cells,

while leaving healthy cells alone.

A particular sponge species found in the Gulf of Mexico is being used to treat breast cancer, while sea sponge skeletons are being studied as ways to grow bones for grafting and dental implants.

As scientists continue to discover new medicinal uses, the opportunity to farm sea sponges opens up income opportunities to impoverished coastal regions.

Cultivating the sponges comes with an added bonus — they're filter feeders that thrive in polluted areas, cleaning and purifying dirty water.

Once again, the Earth provides just what we need as these small, simple, ancient creatures help clean the planet and our bodies as well.

*This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live.*

*"Building community through creativity. [SecoLive.org](http://SecoLive.org)*

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Questa Farmers Market

Sundays 10 am - 2 pm

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\$10,000 to the Charles Cisneros Cerro VFW

\$10,000 Cosilla Neighborhood Association.

\$39,000 in student scholarships. Four of the recipients were from the Questa area.



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O B I T U A R I E S



**Sharon Kay Gallegos  
d. May 12, 2023**

Sharon Kay Gallegos age 66, a resident of Questa, passed away unexpectedly May 12, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her husband Tomas Gallegos; daughters Christa Gallegos and Denise Gallegos; parents Robert & Heloise Hobbs; in-laws Chris & Eva Gallegos; and brother-in-law Lawrence Gallegos.

Sharon was a fun, loving, happy lady, who lived life to its fullest. She especially enjoyed spending time with all her family, she will be dearly missed.

She is survived by her son Tomas Gallegos; grandchildren Vanessa Guodace, Alayna Gallegos (Victor), Mateo Jaramillo, Emilio Gallegos and Alaysia Littlepage; great-grandchildren Mia

Ramos, Cameron Rael and Layla Rael; siblings Bob Hobbs (Cheryl), Bonnie Tipton and Marsha Jiron (Phil), plus many other loving relatives and cherished friends.

Funeral Service were held Thursday, May 18, 2023 11 am, at Living Word Ministries in Questa, with burial following at the Cerro Cemetery.

The family of Sharon Kay Gallegos has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. 866-657-4019

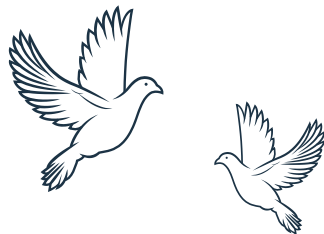


**Melquiades Valentin Rael  
d. April 23, 2023**

Melquiades "Melky" Valentin Rael entered into eternal rest on April 23, 2023, at the age of 46. Melky was born on Valentine's Day, 1977.

Raised in Questa, New Mexico, he loved the mountains, a good lamb jam, watching movies, playing horseshoes, and making art. He was a hard worker, experienced cook, and a colorful storyteller. His sense of humor was unique, and he had the very best laugh. Perhaps the most profound of his qualities was his ability to connect with people. Melky was a son, a father, a brother, a nephew, cousin, uncle, and friend. Though he was not perfect, he was loved beyond measure.

The family of Melquiades Valentin Rael has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. 866-657-4019 www.devergastaos.comers, please send donations to Sangre de Cristo Youth Ranch, Nature Conservancy, or Taos Land Trust.



**Nick Ortega  
d. April 23, 2023**

Nick Ortega age 92, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully April 23, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his parents Juan Benito and Teodorita Ortega; siblings Norbert Ortega (Arabella), Sr., Neomi Ortega, Elouise Duran, and Marthita Ortega; brothers-in-law Tony Martinez, Armando Jaramillo, Floyd Cisneros; and in-laws Gilbert and Ramona Cisneros.

Nick proudly served his country in the United States Army. After he returned from his tour of duty, he worked for many years as a carpenter and was instrumental in establishing the Questa Credit Union. He was an accomplished stained-glass artist.

He is survived by his wife of 59

years Martha Ortega; children Cathy Cisneros (Larry), Barbara Overby Vigil (Art), Eugene Ortega (Clara), Susan Chavez (Jeremy); grandchildren Larry Joshua Cisneros (Harlea), Jonathan Cisneros, Michael Cisneros, Deanna Overby, Justin Ortega, Audrey Trujillo, Isabella Chavez, and Gabriella Chavez; great-grandson Gilbert Trujillo; sister Mary Martinez; brothers-in-law Damian Duran, Johnny Cisneros (Della) and Gilbert Cisneros (Pauline); sisters-in-law Erma Jaramillo, Mary LaCome (Paul), and Ruby Gonzales (Ted); plus many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

Rosary was recited on Friday, April 28, 2023 at 4 pm in the Evergreen Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 10 am at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa. Burial followed at the San Pedro Cemetery.

The family of Nick Ortega has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.

**FLORY** cont'd from page 2

of which she feels confident about. "I remember telling my mom, pharmacy school is not hard. It is similar to my undergrad, it takes a lot of work, and a lot of effort, but it's not hard."

As for what's next, Flory anticipates working in Albuquerque for the next 3-5 years, then she plans to head home. "I am not a city girl, I always want to

run home to my mountains in Questa." Flory says her dream is to open a pharmacy in Questa in the near future. "Questa is my home, and I am so proud to be a Questeña. I remember people telling me I was a Burqueña when I moved to Albuquerque, and I quickly corrected them, because I will ALWAYS be a Questeña," she says proudly.

Flory says one of the most comforting things about home is how it feels like she has a big extended family, root-

ing and cheering for her. "Whenever my mom sees any of my teachers or just people we knew, they always tell her how proud they are of me, and to keep going! It means so much to know my community is behind me," Flory says.

At the end of our interview, Flory adds a very big thank you to her teachers in Questa. "I know the teachers are in a small community, and don't have the same resources and money big schools do, but what the teachers lack

in resources, they make up in passion and in encouragement for their students. Students from Questa are going far because our teachers believe we can, and they support us, even after they've taught us. I love seeing my former teachers comment on my social media posts and they're always giving words of encouragement. It matters, and students wouldn't have the confidence to go this far without the love and support of those teachers," she says.

**RECAP** cont'd from page 21

facilitating the beginning of it," explained Skall.

Chevron's State Government Affairs Representative Christian Isley spoke to the crowd of about 15 people after Skall and praised New Mexico's rich history regarding the acequia water system.

"One of the things that really struck me," said Isley on his fascination with

New Mexico, "was the acequia culture. This culture that is very unique to New Mexico of managing water resources in a very scarce environment, a very arid environment, and a combination of managerial innovations, technical innovations over the centuries, has created a really strong culture of strong water management."

Isley made intentions from Chevron clear to the crowd: that this is an effort meant to help people in Questa retain

water rights. The non-profit will not take over management of any of the individual acequias here, it is simply for collective representation for water rights adjudication. One particular fight on the horizon that was mentioned by Isley was the intended water rights package held by Chevron as a gift to the Village of Questa that the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer is saying are not valid.

While the water rights issue isn't

about adjudicating our water rights. All Chevron local water rights are adjudicated. It's about retaining these water rights in the Questa area for the benefit of the local community. Apart from technical, grant, and legal assistance, the acequia non-profit would help advocate for the retention of all local water rights for their owners. A recording of this meeting can be found at the following web address:

<https://tinyurl.com/3bey7cb4>

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# ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson  
JUNE 2023

## THE BEEHIVE

**"We must ponder upon these things." Dr. Douglas Baker**

As we slide into the lazy, hazy days of summer, Venus and Mars raise a conundrum for some of us, a delightful one to ponder, something my teacher often advised. The conundrum is this: Astronomically, Mars passes through "The Beehive," a cluster of stars in the center of the constellation of Cancer on June 1 and 2. Then Venus follows his path on June 12 and 13. They are heading toward their closest conjunction of only a little more than three degrees which happens on July 1. Look up! The symbols of Man and Woman will be clearly visible . . . in the constellation of Cancer.

Yet, astrologically speaking, both planets have just left the sign of Cancer and entered into the sign of Leo by the time each passes through the Beehive and then onto the dance floor in their slow dance together. Enter, the Precession of the Equinoxes which has astronomy and Western astrology a bit off balance in their dance together. Yet, it still works because mankind has been stargazing in wonder for millennia rather than stargazing through the technological advancements of today, like the telescope, only a few hundred years old. So, rather than focus on the differences, the "connections" of this dance are more delightful to ponder. Bees and the beehive are related to Cancer because of its ruling of home and the masses, masses of anything, including people. Thus, for instance Cancer rules China, which is home to one of the largest populations in the world. Yet, bees are also related to Leo because of their connection to honey, the sweetness of life which Leo rules. And Leo rules Love so this dance between the symbols of Man and Woman takes on a special sweetness when contemplated in the sign of Leo. Men and women are often a conundrum to one another, and, so, even that fits. We'll explore the future of the Precession at another time.

**Everyone:** Venus is at its evening best on the 4th.

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

**Dynamic:** You've been going on about something for a while.  
**Direction:** Time to be succinct.  
**Soul Thought:** You found your voice, now find the right words.

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

**Dynamic:** You may have dug yourself into a trench.  
**Direction:** Now you may have to talk your way out of it.  
**Soul Thought:** "If I could say it in words there would be no reason to paint." Edward Hopper.

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

**Dynamic:** It's time to get closer to someone you've known for a while.  
**Direction:** Get ready to sparkle.  
**Soul Thought:** What does it mean to "sweeten the pot?"

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

**Dynamic:** Finances could take a sweet turn.  
**Direction:** Look for a secret stash.  
**Soul Thought:** What turns abundance into hoarding?

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

**Dynamic:** You've worked hard and thought long about that project.  
**Direction:** Time to settle into coziness.  
**Soul Thought:** "It's summertime and the livin' is easy." George Gershwin

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

**Dynamic:** On the 1st and the 2nd you trigger something regarding both finances and the heart.  
**Direction:** Deal with the challenge from the heart.  
**Soul Thought:** Then the blessing will be double blessed.

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

**Dynamic:** Your heart may leap on the 25th and cause you to choke up.  
**Direction:** Perhaps an unexpected turn on the dance floor.  
**Soul Thought:** Love is like that.

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

**Dynamic:** You have the choice to sit it out or dance.  
**Direction:** Always.  
**Soul Thought:** "I hope you dance!" Lee Ann Womack

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

**Dynamic:** You took a chance and shot high.  
**Direction:** When it lands, where are you?  
**Soul Thought:** Focus!

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

**Dynamic:** You have a clean slate this month.  
**Direction:** It's a good time to ponder something imponderable.  
**Soul Thought:** Like, "Who Am I?"

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

**Dynamic:** A tough start to the month may influence your finances.  
**Direction:** Know that it lightens up and look for it.  
**Soul Thought:** What is true value?

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

**Dynamic:** You're doing your own dance this month, back to where you were.  
**Direction:** Take advantage to finish that last little piece that wasn't quite done.  
**Soul Thought:** Opportunity versus Challenge.

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

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



QUESTA LIBRARY PRESENTS

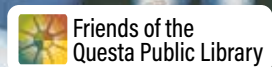
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## JOIN US FOR OUR 2023 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

### CHECK OUT OUR EXCITING SCHEDULE!

- June 9th- Registration & Questa Truckin'
  - June 13th - Stray Hearts Animal Experience
  - June 16th - Chalk Art & Kindness for Everyone
  - June 20th - Community and Agriculture
  - June 23rd - Twirl's Interactive Storytime
  - June 27th - Salida Circus
  - June 30th - Spanish Storytime
  - July 4th - CLOSED TODAY
  - July 7th - Magic Show
  - July 11th - Expand Your World
  - July 14th- Library Fun Day
- GRAND PRIZES!





## CLASSIFIEDS

### HELP WANTED

**Cook Wanted Questa Senior Center,** Monday through Friday, 6 hours a day, full benefits. Also looking for a cook for Amalia, Monday through Friday, 4 hours a day, no benefits. For this position, you must be 55 or older. Please call (575) 586-0508 for info.

**Assistant Store Manager,** Family Dollar. Position is parttime. As a Family Dollar Assistant Store Manager, you will be responsible for providing exceptional service to our customers. A key priority includes assisting the Store Manager in the daily operation of the store. Generous benefits, flexible work schedules and rapid pay. Apply to the job on [salary.com](http://salary.com).

**Questa Credit Union is Hiring for Two Positions.** (See ad on page 13) Loan Office and Teller. Please apply in person for more information. 2433 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556

**Hiring for two positions at the Taos Community Foundation:** (See ad on backpage) Finance Associate/Database Management and Director of Community Impact. Please visit [TaosCF.org](http://TaosCF.org) for more information.

**Hidden Treasure Aerial Park Guide,** Red River Ski Area. Position is seasonal. This role will be responsible for safe operation of Hidden Treasure ropes course. Training will be provided in-house by a licensed trainer. To apply for this role, visit: <https://www.redriverskiarea.com/employment/careers/employment-form/5/>

**Summer Mountain Tubing Attendant,** Red River Ski Area. Position is seasonal. Provide guests with a safe and fun environment by operating according to procedure and offering excellent customer service. Instruct guests in safety procedures. To apply for this role, visit: <https://www.redriverskiarea.com/employment/careers/employment-form/5/>

**Lead Sales Associate,** Dollar General. Position is fulltime. Will work as cashier, stocker, and will act in lead capacity in absence of Store Manager or Assistant Store Manager. Apply at [dollargeneral.com](http://dollargeneral.com).

**Summer Lift Operator,** Red River Ski Area. Position is seasonal. This role will be responsible for assisting and interacting with guests getting on and off chair lifts. Will operate and monitor chair lift as well as maintain daily logs, reports and check lists. To apply for this role, visit: <https://www.redriverskiarea.com/employment/careers/employment-form/5/>

### NOTICES

**Questa Senior Center,** no longer serving lunches to-go. Lunch is served from noon to 1 p.m. and they're \$1.50 each. 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call (575) 586-0508 for more information.

**Mark your calendars!** This year's Questa Art Tour will be Aug. 12-13. Participants should already have their applications in, and collectors can expect more artists, more diverse works, and more stops on our scenic route. [www.QuestaCreative.org](http://www.QuestaCreative.org). Or visit Art Questa Gallery.

**Calling artists of all ages!** Sign up now for the Questa Quick Draw, to be held June 24. FREE materials will be provided for local youth. Call/text Mary Jo Kelly (575) 224-4220 [www.QuestaCreative.org](http://www.QuestaCreative.org).

**Red River Trivia Nights:** The Red River Brewing Company will be hosting Trivia Nights on Tuesdays from 7-10 pm. It is free to play and the Brewery will be giving away prizes for the top teams at the end of the night, and for answering bonus questions. Gather your smartest friends and come on down. Teams are limited to 6 players.

**Free Cat Spay/Neuter Vouchers** for Lower-Income Households Zimmer Feline Foundation, (505) 466-1676 or email [TheLoveofCats@comcast.net](mailto:TheLoveofCats@comcast.net)

**San Luis Valley Spay and Neuter Alliance** offers low cost spay and neuter services in Monte Vista, CO. Surgeries include rabies and distemper vaccines. Microchips, Bordetella vaccines, dewormer, nail trims, and matt removal are available at additional cost. Book appointment at [slvspayneuter.org](http://slvspayneuter.org) or call us at (719) 657-7076. [slvspayneuter@gmail.com](mailto:slvspayneuter@gmail.com)

**Free Transportation for Qualified Seniors** Monday through Thursday. Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call (575) 586-0508 for more information. Gratuity is appreciated.

**Repurposing Plastic Project:** Wednesdays & Fridays 10 am – 2 pm. Come smash plastic and make wire walls! Meet the team, work your body, lift your spirit, and help the planet! At the RPP World Headquarters, the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Supermarket on Hwy 522. For more info, call or text (575) 224-7386.

**North Central New Mexico Food Pantry:** Second and Fourth Fridays, 10 am– noon: 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. If you need an emergency food box or other information, please call: Jeannie Masters (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194, or Nancy Parker (575) 586-2096 or (505) 699-7563. To make a donation, go to [ncfpquesta.com](http://ncfpquesta.com) or mail to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email [wmesquire2@gmail.com](mailto:wmesquire2@gmail.com). If you would like to volunteer, please call Jeannie (numbers above).

**Questa One-on-One In-Person Business Counseling** with Anwar Kaelin, Director of the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL offered on the third Thursday of every month, 1– 4 pm, at the Questa Visitor Center. Business owners, independent contractors, and entrepreneurs in the Questa area can receive free one-on-one business consulting and support in planning, marketing, regulatory compliance, technology development, accessing capital, international trade, and more. Also offered via Zoom on the same day 2– 3 pm: <https://zoom.us/j/5757376219>. Join by phone: (346) 248-7799 with ID (575) 737-6219. For an appointment, or more information, contact Anwar at [anwar@unm.edu](mailto:anwar@unm.edu).

**June Quote from Lisa Fox:** "I have my principles, if you don't like them, I have others!" Groucho Marx



## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### QUESTA

**ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH**  
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470  
Sunday 8 AM only.

**MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:**  
Costilla - Sagrado Corazon - Sunday 9 am  
Cerro - Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe - 2nd & 4th Saturdays 4 pm  
Amalia - Santo Niño - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 pm

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

**LIVING WORD MINISTRIES**  
Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez  
12 Llano Road, Questa  
Service: Sunday 10:30 am  
Nursery and Kids' Church at 10:30 am  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm  
[www.lwmsite.org](http://www.lwmsite.org)  
(575) 586-1587

**PATH OF LOVE**  
Sunday 7:30 am class and meditation in-person north of Questa or on Zoom. For more info: (575) 770-1682 or [gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com)

**THEOSOPHY**  
Northern New Mexico Alice Bailey Study Group.  
Sunday and Wednesday 10am–noon on Zoom. For more info, contact Francis at [oeahoo17@gmail.com](mailto:oeahoo17@gmail.com)

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

**KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA**  
Tibetan Buddhism  
Monday 11am Green Tara. Friday 1pm Green Tara both in-person and on Zoom. For more info [www.earthjourney.org](http://www.earthjourney.org) or contact Gabrielle at [info@earthjourney.org](mailto:info@earthjourney.org) or (575) 770-1682

**KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
(575) 586-1947

### AMALIA

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

**ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunday Service 10:30 am  
Potluck & Fellowship 3rd Sunday of the month  
Highway 196, Amalia  
Pastors: Lorenzo & Arleen Lucero  
(575) 770-5716

### RED RIVER

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

**ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
North end of Silver Bell Trail, Red River  
Saturday 6 pm (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)  
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470



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

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zed by diane m. abel

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Enter your event Online!  
Scan QR Code here, or email us.  
Include the date, time, place, and contact  
[Events@QuestaNews.com](mailto:Events@QuestaNews.com)



### SATURDAY

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

**6 – 8 PM**  
**Live Music every other Friday** (June 9 and 23) with Chris Arellano and family and friends, 101 Bar & Grill (formerly The Crazy Beaver), 101 County Rd 13.2, Garcia, CO 81152. Please call to confirm at (719) 672-9022

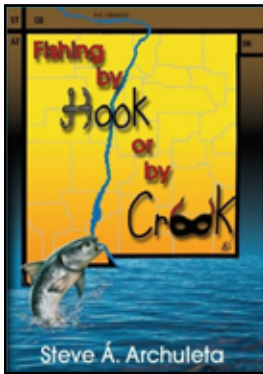
**8:30 - 9:50 AM**  
Contemporary Dance for Adults. For beginners with Monica, in person only, sliding scale \$5-\$15 Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa, More info: [yogasalaquesta.org](http://yogasalaquesta.org)

**10 AM - 2 PM**  
**Questa Art Market through October 1** Purchase specialty works created by area artisans. At the Open Market located at the Questa Visitor Center, #1 Hwy 38. More info at [questacreativecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:questacreativecouncil@gmail.com)

**10:30 AM**  
Free Community Tai Chi with Reto, in person only. Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa, More info: [yogasalaquesta.org](http://yogasalaquesta.org)



**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**



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 steve.archuleta3474@gmail.com

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 Sundays 10 am - 2 pm  
**Tomato Plants for Sale**  
 June 4th June 11th June 18th

**Don't miss these SUMMER EVENTS!**

- ✓ **The Art Market**  
Saturdays, 10 am - 4 pm
- ✓ **Questa Quick-Draw!**  
Sat., June 24
- ✓ **Questa Art Tour**  
August 12-13

QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL   
 more info at [QuestaCreative.org](http://QuestaCreative.org)

**Questa Farmers Market**  
 SUNDAY, 10AM TO 2PM THROUGH OCT 1  
 QUESTA VISITOR CENTER

farmers • gardeners  
 food entrepreneurs • local musicians  
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 QFM  
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 Functional Diagnostic Nutrition Practitioner

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