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# Questa Del Rio News

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Thank you, Lou, for making the paper your "labor of love" for 5 years!



Join us in honoring Lou McCall  
Wed, May 3, 5 - 7 p.m. at El Monte Carlo



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# Questa featured in New York Times



Photo by E. Wilde

Cynthia Rael-Vigil stands in front of St. Anthony's Church on Good Friday

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

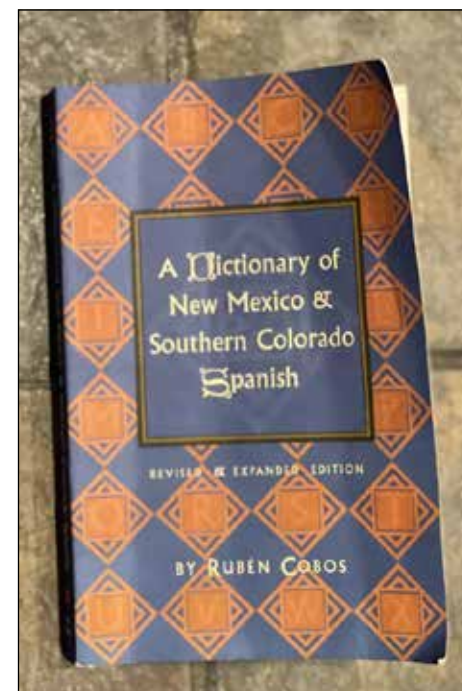
Questa has taken the main stage, being featured in the April 9 New York Times article written by reporter Simon Romero, focusing on the unique dialect spoken in northern New Mexico. The article starts by highlighting locals who gather at Rael's Coffee Shop on any given day, sharing *mitote* (gossip) about the latest happenings in Questa as well as learn about current events and things planned for the next month.

Romero interviewed local Cynthia Rael-Vigil, whose family has been in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado for centuries, noting how the unique dialect of the region is slowly, but surely fading away. In reference to her 11-year-old grandson, Cynthia tells the reporter, when discussing her grandson's relationship with the language, "he has no interest. Kids his age master the internet;

that's all in English. I sometimes wonder, did my generation not do our part to keep the language alive?"

Romero also visited the Monte Carlo where he spoke with former Mayor Mark Gallegos and visited Questa school, taking photographs of Questa Mariachis and their instructor, Rachel León.

Romero goes on to discuss his own experience growing up in Ribera where his earliest memories involved listening to his grandmother chatting in the Spanglish dialect, weaving English and Spanish words together intrinsically and seamlessly as she cooked tortillas in her kitchen. The article goes on to say that New Mexican Spanish is often described as a sampling of the 17th century golden age Spanish, imported directly from the Old World and somehow meticulously safeguarded



Courtesy Photo

*A Dictionary of New Mexico & Southern Colorado Spanish* is available on Amazon and Ebay

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# Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

Got a story? Email us at [editor@questaedf.com](mailto:editor@questaedf.com)

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OUR MISSION

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

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

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## MY FINAL EDITORIAL

# With love and gratitude...

Most of our readers are aware that I am retiring as editor of *Questa Del Rio News*; this is my last issue. Some community members are saying, "You're still here? I thought you left!" Yes, it's been a long goodbye — but, remember, this is not goodbye, more like, see ya around....

It has been a rich, wonderful, and enlightening experience bringing this newspaper to you every month. It's been fun for me, and I hope it has been fun for our readers, as well as all those who have generously contributed to this effort in myriad ways. It would be impossible to count everyone who has been in our corner rooting for us; thank you.

Special thanks are in order to Questa Economic Development Fund; we began as their newsletter and look at us now! I would like to thank Malaquias "JR" Rael, whose idea it was to start a newspaper. And for Lindsay Mapes — together we did it! Despite the odds and how increasingly difficult it is for local news to survive and thrive, we continue to do it. Thanks especially to Christian Isely, former Community Affairs Advisor for Chevron who has been a loyal ally and our most avid supporter. We thank Chevron as our major financial sponsor, and all our funders, donors, advertisers, subscribers — all those who have given us money to further our mission. Much as we love giving this newspaper for free, it isn't free to produce!

And there are countless people, hundreds, who have written articles, shared photos, poetry, and insights, those who have given us interviews and tips, those who have volunteered with us, and those who have called us to say, "Hey, this is going on and we want you to know about it." Thank you, we couldn't do it without you, and this is true, especially to my good-natured partner, Pete, whose patience and tolerance has been truly saintlike.

I will forever be indebted to those whom I have worked with over the last five years.\* Our *Questa Del Rio News* staff has been so professional, cheerful, and committed with a common mission: "To Inform, Inspire, Connect and Unite the Communities of Northern Taos County." I think we have succeeded in that mission.

It takes a village or, in this case, a few villages. This project has been a labor of love, a community service and a creative outlet for all of us at the *Questa Del Rio News*. I am sorry I cannot name every

single person who has been with us from the beginning; you know who you are and how much you are appreciated. I would like to give a special message of love and appreciation to Emily Wilde and Lynn Skall, whom I will miss terribly. Wah, dang it, I am such a crybaby, sniff sniff....

I am not sad to go — it is time. I have done what I can for *Questa Del Rio News* and I am happy to pass the torch to the next generation and to welcome Questeña Mikayla Ortega as our new editor. It will be fun to watch the newspaper continue to evolve.

I had put my own creative projects on hold and the one thing I have learned from getting older is how important it is not to procrastinate. My to-do list is daunting and, with my editorial experience, I should try to cut it in half!

It is with sadness that I share that we will be moving to Taos. There is a housing shortage everywhere, which has become a crisis; our population continues to grow as our resources dwindle. This housing shortage is keenly felt right here in Questa. Many families who would like to return to Questa, as well as those who have found jobs, but not homes, stay away.... I sincerely hope that Questeños will honor their ancestors by fixing up the beautiful adobe homes that are sitting empty. We have taken an adobe "ruin" and turned it into a beautiful home. It was a good investment and richly rewarding. Even though we have not found our dream home in Questa, it will always have a place in our hearts.

We have come to love this area, especially the people and all the unique things they do here. During my time with the newspaper, I was way too swamped to enjoy much of what was offered. My hope is that, despite living farther away, we can continue to support the community, and the newspaper, in any way we can.

I hope you will join us for my "going away party" on **Wednesday May 3, from 5-7 pm at El Monte Carlo**. Food will be served and the bar will be open for business!

Fare thee well, my friends,  
and see ya round!

Lou McCall, founding editor of  
*Questa Del Rio News*.

\*Five years, I just learned, is called a *lustrum*, like 10 years is called a *decade*...  
see page 16 for more.



# MAIL CALL

Hello Questa News Fam!

My name is Brittany Maes. Myself and my husband are originally from the Questa/Cerro area. You might remember me because I used to own Pat's Place with my dad Pat Conway. I just wanted to reach out and say hello and re-introduce myself. Also wanted to give kudos to you all in telling you what an amazing job you guys are doing! I remember the very first paper that came out and it has come a long way since then!

I also wanted to let you know I'm doing real estate, serving the local community! After getting married and moving to Georgia. My husband's active-duty Air Force life has changed

to a more reservist job now. So we live in Taos/Cerro. We commute a lot, still, but boy do I enjoy being closer to family.

I eventually would like to set up for the upcoming farmers markets. Not to sell anything but to have a table where myself and a couple of real estate agents and maybe a mortgage lender could hand out information on the current market and what that might look like for individuals looking to buy or sell real estate.

I look forward to being back in Questa and being a part of our little community more. I eventually would like to be welcomed back as a real estate agent and not held at fault for not having Pat's Place open anymore... lol... It has been hard I know! Well I look forward to doing a farmers market with you guys soon.

Brittany Maes

*Questa Del Rio News* would like to congratulate the local Questa Jr./ Sr. High School Honor Society students for hosting a very successful science night in March! Students were able to showcase their hands-on science experiments for the community. The event was sponsored by the LOR Foundation, who purchased the supplies for the experiments.



Courtesy Photos



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE MAY ISSUE OF QUESTA DEL RIO NEWS!**

JAYLEE, ASPEN, LUCINDA, LISA FOX, CLAIRE COTÉ, MARIA GONZALEZ, SANTANA SANTISTEVAN, SIMON ROMERO, RUBEN COBOS, ROSEY HAYETT, CYNTHIA RAE-VIGIL, GAEA MCGAHEE, LOUISE GALLEGOS, CHRIS ARELLANO, THE SOURCENM, DANNY GARCIA, LITA MEAD, LORETTA VIGIL, JOHN & IDA WALSH, JENNY CHURCH, KYLINE RAE, EVAN SANCHEZ, TULSI SHAW, LOVEIDA CISNEROS, MAXINE ORTEGA, CHAVERRO GUERREO, TOBIAS LUJAN, JIMMY MAES, ALFONSO GONZALES, ERMINIO PADILLA, JOE DURAN AND CIPRIANO "CIPPY" SALAZAR, PEGGY TRIGG, JAY BOUCHARD

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**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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- Download PDF of correction policy go to <https://questanews.com/about/>

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**Business Profile**

**GFTD Celebrations by Dina Coleman**

By LOU McCALL

Just about everyone in Questa knows Dina Coleman! She has been in the Questa area for 18 years and is the proud mother of three (one daughter, two sons, with 10 grandkids). She has been married for 21 years to Kambrel Coleman, better known as Mr. Bubba's Bar B Que.

Dina has always been creative and crafty. "I have to give God all the glory because he has given me the talent and the mind to create. I am often surprised with the things He comes up with! It's only by God's grace. Because I believe this, I came up with the name for my small business as GFTD Celebrations."

Dina started her business focusing on gift-giving and creating specialty items for all celebrations. She makes gift baskets and balloon bouquets for all occasions: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation, bridal baskets, birthdays, you name it. She wanted to bring something to our area that is unique, but not just about making a purchase. It's truly about creating a memory, creating a moment that people will carry with them always.

Dina has truly become an artist with balloons. She makes multi-color bouquets and site-specific installations with balloons to go with baskets and to liven up events. She makes large balloon arches as well as other ways to enhance a space with balloons.

Dina's most recent venture is creating mini-celebrations, specializing in groups between 2 to 12. You could call them deluxe, extra-fancy picnics. She starts with creating a beautiful setting. Anyone who knows Dina knows how much she loves home décor as much as she loves crafting. So, creating beautiful settings for celebrations puts the two together in a fun, creative and appealing way.

Dina says, "I initially promoted it as picnics or dinner set-ups, but don't want to lock myself into one particular type of service. This is a fun and beautiful and thoughtful way to create a memory with a person or the people who are closest to you." To start with, Dina creates a beautiful table setting and there are many

add-ons, such as food, games, and a non-alcoholic drink bar. She provides a Bluetooth speaker and any other special request to create some great one-on-one time with a special individual. Are you thinking of popping the question to the love of your life? Why not let Dina help you with a once in a lifetime perfect setting? The service is available for any occasion — anniversaries, engagements, birthdays, elopement, a girls' lunch brunch, or just because. Any of Dina's other options can be added, such as balloons or a gift basket. Just call Dina and she will set it up and come clean it up afterward. Email Dina at [gftd2022@gmail.com](mailto:gftd2022@gmail.com) and call (575)779-5803. Find her on Facebook at GFTD Celebrations and Instagram is @dinakamc. Enjoy!



Courtesy Photos

GFTD Creations can arrange for catering of cakes, breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, and more

GFTD Celebrations can create a lovely environment for any occasion, indoors or out



An indoor picnic with a perfect setting to create memories with someone special



**GFTD Celebrations**



Shown here is a balloon wreath on a heroic scale, custom made for a lucky 2-year-old girl's birthday party

# Mother's Day: Words of wisdom from mothers

By MIKAYLA & ANNETTE ORTEGA

For our May issue, we interviewed several mothers from our community and asked them what it meant to be a mother. We also asked what motherly advice they would give to our readers. Below are their answers:

## Maxine Ortega

QUESTA, NM



Maxine is mother to Rachel Aragon, Annette Rael, and Anthony Ortega. She has seven grandchildren Briana, Deanna, Leanna, Isabelle, Natalie, Dedrick, and Joshua. She also has three great-grandchildren Kiara, Kayliana and Kelan.

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

First, it is a blessing from God to be a mother. Second, being a mother means having an unconditional love for your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. When you're raising your children, you're their first teacher. You are responsible for teaching them the value of life, about God, about responsibility. I found that when I was a mother, time was limited because we were so busy. I was working, keeping a household together, mothers are responsible for a lot. As a grandmother, you spoil them and enjoy them. I found I was able to take more time to really enjoy my grandkids. I am helping my granddaughter with her youngest and, now, I have a 2-year-old boss, Kelan!

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

For those who do not have their mothers, I will say I was raised by my grandmother, and I used that experience to give my children everything I had. So if you don't have a mother, give everything you wish you had from your mother to your children. If you don't have kids, you

can also give to your nieces or nephews or cousins.

My other advice would be to visit your family. We're in a day and age where everyone is so focused on their cell phones and you don't realize you're missing out on human interactions and conversations. I used to spend my Sundays visiting family, but they've since passed and Sundays are hard for me because I was used to being busy. Visiting with family just doesn't happen anymore like it used to in the old days. It's just important to talk to your family and make connections with them. You don't know how long we have here and you could be missing valuable time to make memories and have strong bonds with people you love.

I also want to say it's very important to trust in God and build your relationship with God. God is everything, beginning and end, so having a strong faith and bond with him is so important in life.

## Loveida Cisneros

CERRO, NM



Loveida is mother to Leroy Cisneros. She has lovingly taken on the role of grandmother to her niece Julie's twin boys, Marcus and Juan Gonzalez. She is also a grandma to the late Jennifer Vigil's daughters, Aalyiah and Jordyn.

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

It has been a wonderful experience. There have been good times and bad times but the good outnumber the bad. Despite any circumstances you will face, you always give your children your love. That's very important, to ensure they always know how much you love them.

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

As children grow up, you have to be firm, they need to know you're the parent and respect you, but it's also important to ensure they know why. It's done out of

love for them. It's very important to give them discipline as they are growing up. It's not easy, especially if you're a young or single parent but you have to always be firm. There will be hard times, like in other things we go through in our lives but the good times you have will always make being a mother one of the best things you can do in your life.

## Vicki Cisneros

QUESTA, NM



Vicki is mother to Susan, Magdalena, and Richard. She is grandmother to Robbie JR, JC, Kimberly, Sabrina, John John, Juliette, Matthew, Elijah. She is a great-grandmother to Eviana and Tuff.

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

The most joyful thing to me is to be a mother. Your children will fill your whole life with so much happiness. Being a mom makes you a better person.

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

It's not always going to be easy. There will be good days and bad days, ups and downs but as long as you show your loved ones how much you love them and support them, you will always have a strong bond. Always remember you're stronger than you believe and can deal with many things in life— be strong. Always remember, a mother's love is forever.



## Jane Weber

RED RIVER, NM

### What does it mean to you to be a mother?

My grandmother and mother died before I had children so I didn't have the role models to help me learn about being a mom. I was so wrapped up in working, which was becoming more prevalent in the 70s and 80s, that I missed a lot of the 'growing up' special times and activities that bond children with their mothers. It wasn't until a classroom volunteer mother mentioned to me, in the grocery checkout line, that my daughter had expressed to her how much she wished I could participate in her school activities, that I realized how important it was to be present to my children. Shortly afterwards I stopped working and turned to Jesus' mother, Mary, to guide me to be a better mother. So being a mom, to me, means being present to your children.

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

As a mother and grandmother, I've learned that to build or strengthen a relationship with someone - whether that's God, a spouse, children, family members, friends, etc., etc., - requires giving my full attention to them. My sisters and I recently recalled when we were watching TV growing up with a load of clothes from the dryer on the table in front of us, our dad would pass by with the comment, "don't just sit there, fold." That's when I first started multitasking and it overflowed to when I'm talking on the phone or even having an in-person conversation. Getting to the finish line each day may be great, but I'm realizing more and more that multitasking, allowing distractions and not giving my full attention keeps me from being fully present to others when they want to share a special moment or are hurting or just want to talk. I'm telegraphing that they are not worthy of my time; and, although that's not my intent, it's what's happening. So, my motherly advice is to allow yourself to be fully present to others in the simple every-day moments that are so worth experiencing.

HAPPY  
*Mother's Day*



## Honorable Local: Danny Garcia

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Danny Garcia is a modest family man, who has dedicated his life to serving his family, his community, and his country.

Raised in Questa by his parents, the late Conrad and Emilina (Chona) Garcia, he has four brothers and one sister. Attending Questa High School, he graduated in 1977. Upon graduation, he joined the army through the delayed-entry program. He attended basic training and advanced individual basic training in Ft. Bliss, Texas. Soon after completing his military training, he was deployed to Germany for two years. Upon returning to the states, he returned to Ft. Bliss for an additional year of service.

In 1981, Garcia decided to go inactive so he could return home to establish his family. He worked various jobs in the area such as construction, electronic work, mining, with the Village of Questa, and in the supply and services for the oil and gas industry. Garcia got married to his wife, Yolanda in 1982 and together they had two sons, Antonio (Tono) and John.

In 1986, Garcia decided to return to the military where he went active with

the New Mexico National Guard. He was stationed in Rio Rancho where he worked as an Electronic Radar Technician. "It was hard sometimes to be away from my family but luckily, Rio Rancho isn't too far so they would visit me during the weekends," Garcia says of having to live separate from his family through this period.

Although Rio Rancho wasn't too far from home, Garcia found a way to make it back to the Taos County area, where he served as a recruiter for the National Guard between 1990 and 1995. "I liked being close to home, but it was very hard because I liked working in a more technical field and recruiting was numbers-based, so I saw a position in Springer in the Supply and Services Field and I took it."

Garcia worked as a Petroleum Supply Specialist in Springer for several years where he was promoted to an Operations Sergeant. Shortly after this promotion, he was activated to deploy to Iraq in 2003. His unit deployed in 2004 and because of his experience with petroleum supply, he was assigned as an Operations Specialist for his unit. He was in charge of the control maps, creating supply routes and oftentimes, he along with other soldiers in his operations section would make the journey on these dangerous routes to ensure the safe delivery of supplies. Garcia would also handle intel briefings while ensuring his unit was operationally sound.

"It was stressful," Garcia recalls of his year being deployed overseas. "We were always worried about what could happen. Out of nowhere, they would throw mortars at our base, and we were a target because we were in charge of the equipment and supplies."

Through his deployment, Garcia says, "our main mission was to supply the



*Courtesy Photo*

**Danny Garcia at the palace of Saddam Hussein during his 2004 deployment**

marines and other units with equipment and transportation and send convoys to provide them support. Insurgents were always trying to target our supply routes and supply units."

"I was very happy to come home, it was a relief," Garcia recalls of his return to New Mexico by the grace of God, after spending a year in Iraq. Upon returning, he was promoted to Sgt. Major of training for the state of New Mexico. Several years following, he was promoted to the Command Sgt. Major of the 515 Regional Training Institute, this was the highest enlisted rank in the military. In his new role, he utilized the experience he gained through his military career to oversee the training of soldiers and units across the country, sometimes sending them across the world to gain experience.

In June of 2008, Garcia's life came to a screeching halt when his oldest son, Tono was injured in a motorcycle accident. Garcia was stationed in Santa Fe at the time, so he was able to be by his son's side while he was being stabilized at St. Vincent's Hospital. After this accident, the family went through months of transfers to various hospitals in Albuquerque and

Denver to give Tono the best opportunity at surviving and recovering from his injuries.

Garcia decided to retire in 2009, a year after his son's accident so he could take care of his son full-time with his wife, Yolanda. "I dedicated nearly 30 years to the military so I figure I can dedicate another 30 years or more to my son—when he says I love you dad, it's worth it," says Garcia of his decision.

In addition to taking care of his son full-time, Garcia stays busy as the Chairman for the Cabresto Irrigation Community Ditch Association, a role he's held for nearly 10 years. This association is the oldest irrigation ditch in the area, with documentation showing it was established in 1815, nearly 100 years before New Mexico became a state.

Danny says he got involved in the acequias when his in-laws gave him water rights in 1982. He then went on to acquire more water rights with land purchased on upper N. Kiowa Rd. where he quickly learned about how the State Engineer can oftentimes have inconsistent information on-record where water rights are concerned. In his tenure, Garcia has worked diligently to make improvements to the association to improve morale, participation, and membership.

Garcia has been the Commander of the Questa VFW for the past six years. Due to the COVID pandemic, meetings have been put on-hold but he is working with members to get them going again.

In his free time, Garcia enjoys spending his time, spoiling his precious grandchildren Suki, Gabriela, and John Paul Jr. He also treasures the time he gets to spend with his family, most especially his in-laws Gustavo and Aurora Rael, who like his parents have helped grow his love and connection to his homeland in Questa.

## Happy EMS Week!

From May 21-May 27, Emergency Medical Services across the country will celebrate the 49 Annual EMS Week to recognize selfless emergency professional workers who sacrifice their time to serve the community. This year's theme is: Where Emergency Care Begins.

Thank you to the Questa Fire & EMS, Cerro Fire & EMS, Costilla/ Amalia Fire & EMS, Town of Red River Fire & EMS, Latir Fire, La Lama Fire, and San Cristobal Volunteer Fire Dept for your sacrifice to serve our community. You are where our emergency care begins. Thank you.

*Courtesy Photo from Questa Fire & EMS*



## Questa to celebrate it's 19th Annual Healing Field event



Photo Courtesy of [healingfield.org](http://healingfield.org) website

**Questeño Richard Vialpando and his daughter walk through the rows of flags in the Healing Field**

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Village of Questa staff, alongside volunteers led by village councilwoman Louise Gallegos, are organizing Questa's 19th Annual Healing Field event to honor American military veterans from Questa, Cerro, Costilla, Amalia, Red River, and San Cristobal

The Healing Field began back in 2004, with then Mayor Charlie Gonzales. Mayor Gonzales and Village Administrator Brent Jaramillo attended a conference in Indiana the previous year, where they learned about a nationwide project aimed to recognize fallen first responders from the 911 attacks. This sparked their interest in starting the Healing Field in Questa.

Since then, the Healing Field has showcased 1,000 United States flags on Questa property every Memorial Day weekend. The use of the field is generously donated by Debbie Rael. Additionally, John Rael works diligently to water the ground to ensure they're ready for the annual event. Additionally, Chevron and ENTACT assist with the infrastructure for the fields as well as the generators used to light the fields at night.

The flags are erected on Wednesday and fly through Memorial Day to the following Tuesday. Questa is one of the hundreds of locations throughout the country who hosts these events, according to the [healingfield.org](http://healingfield.org) website.

"This breathtaking event requires many hands to make this field a reality every year and the committee is dependent on volunteers. Volunteers are the heart and soul of this event because they put so much of their heart, time and talent into what they do year after year.

Without volunteers this annual event would die out," explained Gallegos in an interview with Questa del Rio News.

The Village sells sponsorships to anyone who would like to financially assist the event. Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with the erection of the Healing Fields or anyone interested in sponsoring the event can contact the Village of Questa at (575) 586-0694.

### Sponsorship Levels

- \$100 Individual Sponsorship: Program sponsor listing
- \$250 Red Sponsorship Supporter: Program sponsor listing, sponsor two flags, commemorative photo
- \$500 White Sponsorship Supporter: Red Sponsor Plus two front row seats to the Healing Field Memorial Event.
- \$750 Blue Sponsorship Support: White Sponsorship plus two additional seats at the Healing Field Memorial Event (4 total), Commemorative Flag with authentic certificate.
- \$1000 Stars and Stripes Sponsorship Support. Blue Sponsor plus commemorative flag flown at healing field with authentic certificate and display frame.



Photo Courtesy of [healingfield.org](http://healingfield.org) website

**American flags sit in the Healing Field in the valley of the Sangre de Cristo mountains**

## Red River prepares for its 42nd Annual Motorcycle Rally

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Red River is busy preparing for its annual Rally in the Valley for Memorial Day weekend, an event that has been happening for over 40 years. Mayor Linda Calhoun spoke to the *Questa del Rio News* and discussed some of the preps going into the annual event.

In the 3-day span, nearly 30,000 motorcycles pass through the Red River valley. "This year, we are going to allow vendors to set up in the park. It's kind of like a gathering place, or a central hub, so having food there will work well. We've also been actively working with businesses to determine who would be okay with other vendors setting up in front of their business. Overall, about 50 vendors attend our rally," Calhoun says.

"There is a lot of preparation that has gone into this event to make it very safe. We plan months in advance and engage many stakeholder groups including the state police, Taos County Sheriff's Office, and local law enforcement groups," Calhoun says. She was happy to note that the event has evolved significantly over the years, becoming more family friendly

and giving space for both bikers and families to enjoy the weekend.

In addition to vendors and public safety, the Town of Red River is also responsible for coordinating logistics to include stripping cross walks, coordinating the procurement of parking signs, and renting porta-potties. The town also covers the costs associated with the lodging of public safety personnel who travel from across the state to assist with the event. Overall, the town allocates between \$40,000 to \$50,000 toward hosting the rally.

Over the past 10 years, Mayor Calhoun says the event has seen an 8% increase in growth. "We've been doing this event long enough, we're a well-oiled machine at this point and we're not stopping anytime soon, it's a big financial boost to our local economy which kicks off the summer," she says. With this in mind, the town is looking at ways to reduce the financial impact the event has on the town's budget, including submitting a grant application to assist with the overhead costs of the event. If rewarded, the town would receive money to assist with costs associated with the 2024 rally.



Courtesy of [RedRiver.org](http://RedRiver.org)

**Bikers gather annually on main street in Red River, NM**

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# Concerned Norteños send strong message to Sen. Heinrich on grazing legislation

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The tradition of the grazing of sheep and cattle in the Southwest was introduced by Spanish settlers in the late 16th Century. The practice of grazing is traced back to the Castile region of Spain, where while the ranching frontier was not vast, locals established a system which included grazing sheep and cattle to ensure animals were fed and nourished without depleting the land.

The tradition of an open range in New Mexico has been significantly important over generations to ensure locals could use their resources to maintain their livestock. Currently, over 13.5 million acres of public lands throughout the state of New Mexico are utilized for agricultural grazing allotments.

In the last Congressional Session, Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) proposed the Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act. This legislation would've directed the Department of the Interior

(for public land), and the Department of Agriculture (for National Forest System land) to accept the donation of any valid existing leases or permits authorizing grazing on such lands in New Mexico.

This legislation was met with a fight from citizens who felt making this law could change and threaten the landscape of agriculture in New Mexico indefinitely. The legislation did not pass in the 2022 session.

Currently, there is a big push from various agricultural groups to voice their opposition against reintroducing this bill in Congress for the current session. Additionally, the Taos County Commissioners have been in communication with Senator Heinrich's office to voice their concerns with the legislation.

A petition has been signed by many area organizations, associations, businesses, and individuals who similarly oppose this reintroduction. Some local groups who signed the petition include the Big Wheel Farm (Costilla),

Llano Community Acequia Association (Questa), Johnson Ranch (Costilla), and the Questa Economic Development Fund (Questa).

The petition, reads in part, "Congress established multiple use mandates for BLM and USFS lands under which the agencies have significant flexibility to manage land in the public interest. They do not and should not, however, have the authority to permanently assign or remove a particular land use. Such a decision forever precludes future options for agencies, local communities and the public. These lands belong to all Americans and the power to determine their use in perpetuity should not be vested with agency personnel, individual permittees, or special interest groups."

A spokesperson for Sen. Heinrich's office says there are currently no plans in place for the legislation to be reintroduced in Congress. Sen. Heinrich is currently conducting stakeholder meetings to listen to his constituents and

determine how to proceed.

In response to the opposition, Sen. Heinrich issued a statement to the Questa del Rio News, which reads, "I'm focused on preserving the New Mexico we all love and call home. For me, that includes making sure that families who have held grazing permits for decades can continue to call those lands home. And it also includes finding ways to reduce conflicts between ranchers and wildlife, so ranchers can continue their way of life and wildlife species like big horn sheep and even some predator species have the space they need to roam. Before making any decisions about whether to reintroduce the legislation from the last Congress, I've committed to hearing from the community through a series of conversations planned over the next few weeks — I want to listen to the community to make sure they are the key to what we do next."

## New Mexico governor signs over 200 bills into law

By THE SOURCE NM:  
MEGAN GLEASON,  
AUSTIN FISCHER,  
DANIELLE PROKOB,  
AND SHAUN GRISWOLD

At the end of 2023's legislative session, over 240 bills had passed. By the end of Friday, April 7, the last day for Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham to sign legislation, more than 200 measures from the 60-day Legislative session became law.

### ECONOMY

**House Bill 2 & 3:** The State Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

**House Bill 505:** Capital Outlay Projects  
House Bill 505 allocates \$1.2 billion across thousands of capital outlay projects. Normally an uncontroversial piece of legislation, many Republicans lawmakers voted against the bill because it includes \$10 million for a reproductive health care clinic.

**Senate Bill 309:** Capital Outlay Reauthorizations

**House Bill 547:** Tax Changes

**Senate Bill 3:** Family Income Index Distributions Flexibility

**House Bill 8:** Creative Industries Division

**House Bill 35:** Free Cultural Services for Foster Families

**Senate Bill 41:** Local Telecommunication Carrier Changes

**Senate Bill 50:** Right to Repair Act

**House Bill 62:** Limit Car Sale Locations & Sellers

**Senate Bill 69:** Electric Bicycle Definitions

**House Bill 78:** Aviation Fund Sales Tax Distribution Sunset

**Senate Bill 83/House Bill 170:** Telecommunications Act

'Cramming' Definition

**House Bill 90:** Defining Controllable Electronic Records

**House Bill 115:** Home Inspector Licensing Examination Changes

**Senate Bill 143:** Nonprofit Gaming Machine Payouts

**Senate Bill 146:** Property Tax Valuation Protest

**Senate Bill 147:** Tax Changes

**Senate Bill 155:** Use of Telecommunications Fund for Broadband

**House Bill 160:** Broadband Infrastructure

**House Bill 179:** Filing Liens with Property Owner

**House Bill 186:** Disabled Veteran Property Tax Proof

**Senate Bill 192:** Additional Appropriations

**Senate Bill 200:** Regional Water Project Purchasing

**Senate Bill 205:** County Hospital Sales Tax

**Senate Bill 210:** National Guard Death Benefit Act

**Senate Bill 216:** Bankruptcy Exemptions

**Senate Bill 219:** College Student Athlete Endorsements

**House Bill 229:** Insurance Adjuster Bond Exclusion

**Senate Bill 223:** Child Support Schedule Changes

**Senate Bill 240:** Tax Exempt Organization Tax Audits

**House Bill 250:** Corrections of Property Recordings

**House Bill 253:** Nonprofit Gaming Changes

**House Bill 262:** Transfer Broadband Grant Program

**House Bill 270:** Emergency Suspension of Trucking Laws

**Senate Bill 271:** Equine Definition

**Senate Bill 251:** Metropolitan Redevelopment Code Changes

**House Bill 298/Senate Bill 332:** Public Project Revolving Fund Appropriations

**Senate Bill 327:** Allow Finance Authority to Approve Projects

**Senate Bill 336:** Use of Racetrack Funds for Insurance

**House Bill 353:** South Campus Tax Increment Development District

**House Bill 364:** Alcohol Delivery, Licenses, Advertising

**House Bill 368:** Pass-Through Entity Tax Credit

**Senate Bill 378:** Severance Tax Fund Minimum Distribution

**Senate Bill 381:** Housing Trust Fund Bonding

**Senate Bill 396:** Motorcycle Registration Fee & Fund

**Senate Bill 402:** Venture Capital Program

**Senate Bill 423:** Finance Authority Operating Capital

**Senate Bill 433:** Expand Rural Air Passenger Capacity

**House Bill 449:** Displaced Worker Eligibility

**Senate Bill 452:** Broadband Changes

**House Bill 459:** Horse Breeder Award Increase  
Yazzie-Martinez. Lujan Grisham signed legislation into law on April 5 that aims to strengthen tribal early education to better reflect standards for Native American students. This legislation is part of the Tribal Remedy Framework which presents solutions for the state to meet education reform mandates from the Yazzie-Martinez lawsuit. House Bill 148 requires that the N.M. Early Childhood Education and Care Department enter agreements with tribal communities, when requested by the tribal entity, about youth education programs, using culturally and linguistically relevant standards. It opens up avenues for tribal governments to access state funds for Pre-K programs.

**House Bill 127:** Educational Assistant Salary Increase

**House Bill 130:** K-12 Extended Learning

**House Bill 148:** Early Childhood Department Tribal Agreements

**House Bill 198:** Career Technical Funds for Indian Education Schools

**House Bill 199:** Increase School At-Risk Index

**House Bill 280:** Native Education Technical Assistance Centers

**House Bill 481:** Align School Reading Materials Education

**Senate Bill 20:** Educational Retirement Board Changes

**Senate Bill 120:** Open Enrollment for Military Children

**Senate Bill 131:** Public School Funding Changes

**House Bill 145:** New Mexico Military Institute Legislative Scholarships

**Senate Bill 188:** State Aroma

**House Bill 191:** Increase Early Childhood Fund Transfer

**House Bill 226:** Instructional Materials & Procurement Code

**Senate Bill 307:** Licensed Teacher Preparation Affordability

**House Bill 337:** Early Childhood Department

Background Checks

**House Bill 342:** Education Savings Plan Uses

**Senate Bill 383:** Public Education Background Checks

**House Bill 401:** Rename Technology for Education Act

**Senate Bill 417:** Vocational Teacher Licensure Track

**Senate Bill 450:** School Coach CPR & AED Training

**Senate Bill 474:** School District In-lieu-of-Taxes Payments Environment & Climate Change

**Senate Bill 9:** Create Legacy Permanent Funds

Millions were allocated for environment and cultural conservation efforts among different state agencies through creation of a Conservation Legacy Permanent Fund, which funnel money into a Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund for environmental work.

Article continues online at  
[QuestaNews.com](https://www.quesitanews.com)





The Town of Red River is accepting applications until the positions are filled for the following positions:

**EMS Department**

- Emergency Vehicle Operator
- Ambulance Lead Attendant

**Visitor & Conference Center Department**

- PT Facility Maintenance & Operations
- PT Information Specialist

**Transit Department**

- PT Transit Driver

Beginning salary is commensurate with experience.

Application may be obtained in the Office of the Municipal Clerk located at

**Town Hall, 100 E. Main, Red River, NM 87558,**

by calling **575-754-2277** during regular business hours, or online at **www.redrivernm.gov**

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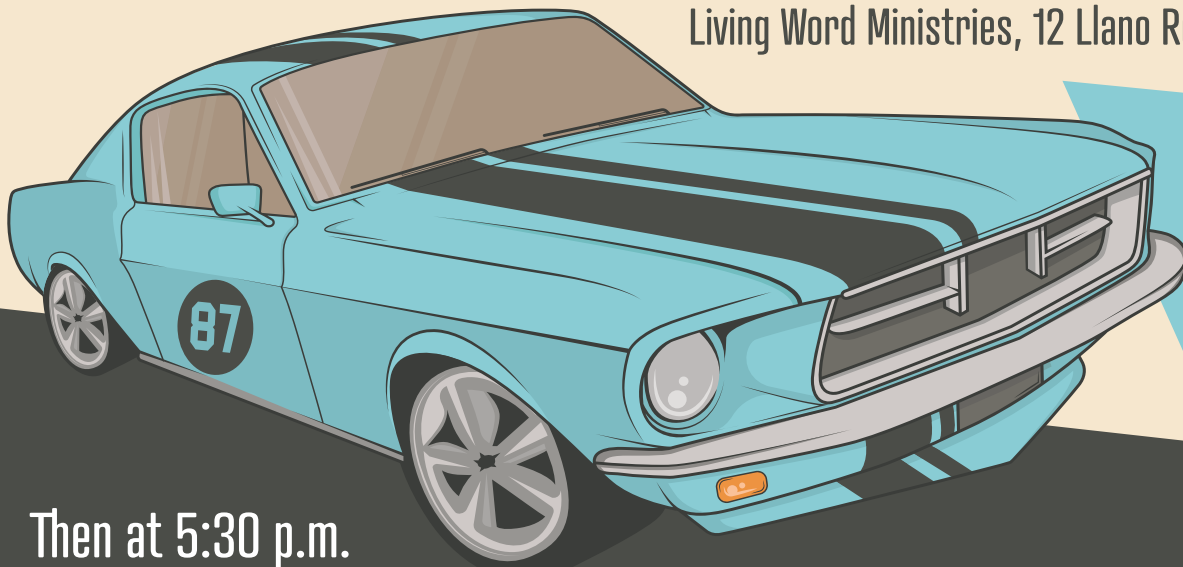


# 1st Annual Questa Car Show

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

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JUNE 10



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Then at 5:30 p.m.

Attend the Ceremony in Veteran's Park To Honor Local Vets

*Located at the Traffic Light in Questa*



## Introducing new police officers

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Village of Questa introduced its new cadre of police officers to the community at a public Meet and Greet in the Village Administration Building in early April. Mayor John Ortega began the announcements with gratitude for the five officers standing beside him as well as expressing pride that he kept his campaign promise to the people, by bringing back a police department to serve the Village of Questa.

“When I ran for Mayor, one of the priorities I had was bringing back this department,” said Mayor Ortega. “I admit, I wish it had happened sooner but... we got the budget together, it took

about four-five months to find a chief and I'm glad that we got the right person for the job.”

Village of Questa Police Chief Ronald Montez then took center stage, introducing himself and fielding questions from the public and media.

Chief Ron Montez started his career with the Taos County Sheriff's Office then moved onto the New Mexico State Police where he served for nearly fifteen years protecting communities throughout Taos County, particularly in Peñasco.

“It takes a lot to bring a department back,” said Chief Montez. “I want to thank the public, you all [as the Chief gestures toward the audience in the room], for your patience and understanding.”

Beside Chief Montez were four officers which the Chief introduced for the audience.

Officer Michael Hurlbert has a background in community and customer service and, according to Chief Montez, “is very personable and a great fit for this community.”

Officer Ronnie Cordova has family ties to Questa and has ten years of experience in corrections from the Taos County Adult Detention Center.



Dylan R.N. Crabb

Mayor John Ortega alongside Police Chief Ron Montez and his officers

Officer Travis Wilder has several years of experience as an officer of the Taos Police Department as well as 14 years with the United States Navy; he continues to serve in the Navy Reserves.

Officer Sandra Williams has experience as a certified deputy Sheriff from Colorado as well as a parole officer in New Mexico.

Officers Hurlbert and Wilder will complete their training at the Police Academy in Santa Fe which starts in June and lasts for 14 weeks.

A recording of the gathering can be viewed at the Questa del Rio News' Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/QuestaNews/videos/206756458640397>.

## Pool Fridays at Amalia Community Center

By LOU MCCALL

Every Friday, a faithful group of old friends get together to play pool at the Amalia Community Center. They are all from Amalia or Costilla, retired, and have known each other all their lives. They have a lot of fun and look forward to practicing their skills at the pool table every week from 1-3 pm.

The group used to meet for lunch next door at the Senior Center and play pool afterwards. The Senior Center, however, has since closed and the building has been condemned due to foundation issues. Last year the legislature approved funds to build a new Amalia Senior Center. In the meantime, seniors now get their lunches delivered to their homes through the local Meals on Wheels program — and now these old friends spend time socializing over a good game of pool.

Everyone has their story and the Friday pool players are no exception. Jimmy Maes, drove a QISD school bus for 27 years and has been delivering Meals on Wheels for the last three years. He also volunteered with the Amalia Fire Department for 27 years. Jimmy is

one of the biggest jokesters of the bunch. One feature of the Friday group is that they laugh a lot, they keep each other in stitches.

Cipriano “Cippy” Salazar, spent years in Denver before returning to Costilla, working at the Rio Costilla Ski Valley before it closed and he retired from the Rio Costilla Southwest Learning Academy, which he described as the best school in the district. It was announced in August of 2019 that the school would be closed due to health and safety concerns. It was a big blow to the community.

Joe Duran graduated from Costilla High School the last year it was open, in 1965. I wonder if there will be a 60th class reunion in 2025?

The gentlemen agree that two of their Friday players win the most at pool. Chaveloo Guerrero used to win many pool tournaments back in the day: Arroyo Hondo, Questa, Cerro VFW, Garcia and Costilla. He said he doesn't go to tournaments anymore. His friends say it's because he is scared to go out at night (laughter!).

Retired educator Alfonso Gonzales is the other big pool winner. He first



Photo by Lou McCall

The Friday pool players at Amalia Community Center: From left: Chavelo Guerrero, Tobias Lujan, Jimmy Maes, Alfonso Gonzales, Erminio Padilla, Joe Duran and Cipriano “Cippy” Salazar

began teaching at age 19 at the Ventero one room schoolhouse with 23 students, grades 1-8. He went on to receive three degrees from Adams State College, a bachelors, two masters, plus one in counseling. He has been a teacher, principal and counselor at Questa High.

When I told him I was with Questa Del Rio News, he asked if I knew Ellen Miller. I said, sure, Ellen Miller-Goins works with us at the paper. And he said, “When I taught English at Questa High, she was

FRIDAY POOL cont'd on page 28

# Area-Wide Acequia Association up for consideration in northern Taos County

By LYNN SKALL

¡Agua es vida! Water has been the central force in the culture and heritage of northern New Mexico for hundreds of years and this precious resource is more important than ever before.

Between San Cristobal and the Colorado border there are 13 separate acequia groups, each managed by their own governing bodies. A proposal is being explored to create a non-profit area-wide acequia association that all of these groups from northern Taos County could be a part of. This collective organization will support and strengthen the operations and initiatives of the individual groups while working together to protect and preserve water and water rights in our area.

An open meeting, hosted by the Questa Economic Development Fund, will be held in person, and via Zoom, Tuesday, May 2, 5:30 p.m., at the Questa Village Town Hall to discuss this idea, field questions, and determine next steps.

During the meeting, an overview of the proposed area-acequia association will be presented, discussing the benefits and purpose of forming the organization (see box below). Judy Torres, Director of the Taos Valley Acequia Association (<https://www.taosacequias.org/>), will also be in attendance to share how their association is structured, describe what they do, and explain the benefits realized by their members.

Chevron has pledged \$160 thousand over the next three years to support this effort. Support to get the area-acequia association organized and established in partnership with the Questa Economic Development Fund and the ditch groups

in the area.

The new association up for consideration would enable each group to maintain their autonomy while providing all groups with broader support, additional resources, and a unified voice. Involvement in the acequia association is voluntary. The group will be run in a 501(c)(3) structure and the first installment funding will be administered by the QEDF, who will play a key role in helping to set up the non-profit.

*For more information and to receive the Zoom link for the meeting, contact Lynn Skall at [lynn@questaedf.com](mailto:lynn@questaedf.com) or leave a message at (575) 586-2149.*

### Proposed Area-Wide Acequia Association

Open meeting in person & via Zoom  
 Tuesday, May 2, 5:30pm  
 Questa Village Town Hall, Pizza will be provided  
 For more information & Zoom link:  
 Lynn Skall, Director, QEDF  
[lynn@questaedf.com](mailto:lynn@questaedf.com) • (575) 586-2149



Dylan R.N. Crabb

Parciantes cleaning the acequias with the Cabresto Lake Acequia Association in mid-April

### Benefits & Purpose of an Area-Wide Acequia Association:

Protect and preserve local water rights, ownership, acequia culture, and health of the land.

Mitigate water issues due to changes in land use, development, and climate change that may adversely impact water quality, quantity, and rights.

Monitor water legislation and policy changes impacting local small-scale farmers, ranchers, and acequias.

Advocate to local, state, and federal governments, using the collective power of the association to speak with one voice.

Timely communication on regulation/compliance changes, workshops, meetings, events, etc.

Engage area youth with mentorships, service-learning projects, leadership development; impart the importance of continuing the acequia legacy for generations to come.

Provide administrative support around transferring and banking water rights, completing/filing documents with the state, etc.

Apply for grants for technical assistance, purchase of equipment, construction projects, training, etc.

Share resources, such as association-owned equipment, supplies, on-site consultants, etc.

Improve individual association governance practices through education/training on fiscal management, project planning, acequia mapping, bylaws, state compliance, etc.

Job creation with the hiring of a coordinator to oversee operations, create/implement programs and training, write grants and newsletters, hire consultants, keep up to date on regulations, and manage the organization.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
2023 GRADUATES**

We wish you the very best in all your future endeavours!

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# BODY MIND SPIRIT



By BARBARA TRACY

What are the magical muscle molecules of hope? Relatively new discoveries show that movement of the body allows the muscles to release a certain molecule into the bloodstream. Any level of movement will release these molecules, and the more energetic the movement, the more molecules are released. These molecules are powerful in supporting health, both mentally and physically.

Our muscles are like endocrine glands with the ability to produce chemicals that communicate with other systems of the body. They produce molecules that communicate with the immune system and cardiovascular system and are beneficial to metabolism, mental

health and increased muscle strength. These molecules help reduce inflammation, control blood sugar, improve brain function and burn more fat as fuel.

These molecules, which scientists call Myokines, have been dubbed “Hope Molecules” because they have the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier and work within the brain to help recover from stress and can produce the feeling of ease, happiness and relaxation. They may even be the key to preventing the development of depression.

Our body stores these molecules until we begin to use our muscles. Then when we engage our muscles in an activity it is a signal to unleash the magical muscle molecules of hope to keep ourselves healthy and thriving. On the other hand, being sedentary shuts the molecules down.

The movement you choose does not have to be extreme in order to reap the benefits of the hope molecule. It's important to find an exercise that suits your particular body and lifestyle. According to research, you don't have

to run a marathon, but it is very useful when the movement you choose for your health and wellbeing is challenging. All movement is good, but if you feel you can take on a challenge there can be an amplification of the emotional and mental benefits of movement.

Having been a mother to a quadriplegic, I know there are some who are not able to get up and go. However, science has found that whenever we move a muscle anywhere in our body, we produce hope molecules. If you are handicapped in any way, whatever you do, even if it is only an ability to move a small part of your body, remember, you are still producing the hope molecules. It is in the contraction of the muscle that the hope molecules are produced.

Movement goes far beyond what has been spoken of here including helping us to stay young:

“As the brain ages, the areas that we aren't using become smaller and less connected. For instance, if you are not using the part of the brain that is “musical,” it will decrease in size and activity

compared to the areas that are active on a daily basis. The problem with this is that we are not stimulating new connections. For the most part we are doing the same tasks with our brain on a daily basis. This pedestrian use of our brain is where “aging” happens and the brain goes from a hive of activity to a basic level of “as needed” functioning. Movement alone can light up new connections in all areas of the brain,” says Dr. Genieve Burley, a chiropractor and internationally renowned movement expert.

Dr. Burley suggests that varying our movements — from running to cycling, skating, skiing, jumping jacks, swimming, etc. — activates different muscles and joint movement and is very beneficial. So does changing the tempo of our exercise between faster and slower. Try either doing the same exercise faster or slower, or another form of movement with a different tempo. Try something new. Challenging our motor skills by learning a new dance or a new sport is a fun way to make new connections in the brain.

## SENIOR MENU: MAY 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1</b> Goulash, Green Beans & Onions, Whole Wheat Roll, Fruit Compote	<b>2</b> Pork Chops w/ Stuffing, candied carrots with Onions, Whole Wheat Roll, Orange Jell-O w/ Fruit	<b>3</b> Green Chili Enchilada, Pinto Beans, Tortilla, Tossed Salad, Mandarin Oranges	<b>4</b> Baked Fish w/ Rice, California Blend Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Whole Wheat Roll, Pound Cake w/ Strawberries & Whipped Topping	<b>5</b> Green Chile Cheeseburger, Whole Wheat Bun, Lettuce/Tomato/ Onion/Pickle, Mustard/Mayo, Sweet Potato Fries, Peaches
<b>8</b> Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Whole Wheat Roll, Pears	<b>9</b> Beef Tips w/ Bell Pepper, Onion & Noodles, Winter Blend Vegetables, Whole Wheat Roll, Peaches	<b>10</b> Chicken, Fajitas Blend, Tortilla, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Rice Pudding w/Cinnamon 1c Plums	<b>11</b> Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Winter Blend Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Whole Wheat Roll Peach Cobbler	<b>12</b> BBQ Pork Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bun, Carrots, Sweet Potato Fries, Banana/Strawberries, Apricots
<b>15</b> Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo, Italian Vegetables, Garlic Bread, Assorted Fruit	<b>16</b> Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Whole Wheat Roll, Cinnamon Apples	<b>17</b> Pork Posole, Capri Vegetables Crackers, Fruit Compote	<b>18</b> Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Winter Blend Vegetables, Tossed Salad, Whole Wheat Roll, Peach Cobbler	<b>19</b> Grilled Chicken Sandwich, Lettuce/Tomato/ Mayo, French Fries, Coleslaw Oatmeal Cookie, Apricot
<b>22</b> Hamburger Steak w/ Gravy, Brown Rice, Peas & Onions, Whole Wheat Roll, Banana & Mandarin Oranges	<b>23</b> Lemon Pepper Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Spinach, Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Whole Wheat, Roll, Applesauce Orange	<b>24</b> Beef & Bean Chile Verde w/ Red Bell Pepper & Onion, Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Cornbread, Plums	<b>25</b> Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes w Gravy, Peas, Whole Wheat Roll, Pound Cake w/ Cherries & Whipped Topping	<b>26</b> Tuna Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bread, Lettuce/Tomatoes, Coleslaw, Tropical Fruit, Peanut Butter Cookie
<b>29</b> <b>CLOSED</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>30</b> Liver & Onions, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Broccoli Florets, Tossed Salad, Whole Wheat Roll, Cherry Jello w/ Fruit	<b>31</b> Spinach Lasagna w/ Cheese, Peas & Pearl Onions, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Assorted Fruit	All Meals Served With 2% Low-Fat Milk	

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

# How to Boost Your Happiness

Wouldn't it be great if life brought us only good times and everything we could possibly wish for? We'd be happy all the time.

Too bad life doesn't work that way. Sometimes we feel satisfied, and all is well; sometimes life brings us misery or

difficulties. Even the good times make us happy for only a little while and then we look for the next thing to make us happy.

### Here are some steps to increase your happiness.

1. **Check your self-talk on a bad day.** Does it go like this: *Dang! My friends and I were supposed to go to Angel's Attic today and we found out it's closed on Wednesdays. I'm so disappointed; I love that thrift shop and we're always busy so setting a new date is difficult.* Or you might say out loud to your friends/family: *Arrghh! What a day I'm having. My computer got scammed by the dark web, and I spent a lot of money to upgrade my computer protection. And that's not all! Change your self-talk to something positive: I think I'll meditate – that makes me*

*happy or thank goodness I have enough money to pay for the upgrade. I'm really lucky that way.*

2. **Have fun.** Don't just work, work, work. Plan something fun with your friends or watch sports on TV (definitely not the news!). Take some deep breaths when you're stressed out.
3. **Get plenty of sleep, 7 or 8 hours to fully rest.** And try this: Before going to bed, write your to-do list for the next day and get it out of your mind.
4. **Have a good talk with a family member or friend.** Sometimes you just can't change your negative self-talk, and it can help to get another person's perspective on your problems.
5. **Start a hobby you would enjoy.** For me, it's painting and writing. But you might want to take tap dancing lessons

(an old friend of mine started that in her late 70s), gardening, baking, knitting, biking, playing cards (I really enjoy playing Knock Gin with my friend Jennifer, even though she wins 99 percent of the time).

6. **Choose a healthy lifestyle.** Eat well-balanced meals, exercise. Don't drink too much alcohol or eat a lot of junk food. Meditate if that suits you. Don't become a couch potato watching a lot of TV.
7. **Pray. It can work miracles.**

*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).*

# VIVE AMARIE: Cómo aumentar tu felicidad

¿No sería maravilloso si la vida nos trajera solo buenos momentos y todo lo que podamos desear? Seríamos felices todo el tiempo.

Es una lástima que la vida no funcione así. A veces nos sentimos satisfechos y todo va bien; a veces la vida nos trae miserias o dificultades. Incluso los buenos momentos nos hacen felices solo por un rato y luego buscamos otra cosa que nos haga felices.

### Aquí hay algunos pasos para que aumentes tu felicidad.

1. **Revisa tu diálogo interno en un mal día.** ¿Suena como algo así?: *¡Caramba! Se suponía que mis amigos y yo fuésemos a Angel's Attic hoy y descubrimos que está cerrado los miércoles. Estoy muy decepcionada. Me encanta esa tienda de segunda mano y todos siempre estamos ocupados, por lo que es difícil establecer una nueva fecha.* O podrías decir en voz alta a tus amigos/familiares: *¡Grrr! Qué día estoy teniendo*

*do. A mi computadora la involucieron en la red oscura y gasté mucho dinero para actualizar el protector del equipo. ¡Y eso no es todo! Cambia tu diálogo interno a algo positivo: Creo que meditaré, eso me hace feliz o gracias a Dios que tengo suficiente dinero para pagar la actualización. Tengo mucha suerte, visto de esa manera.*

2. **Diviértete. No te limites a trabajar, trabajar, trabajar.** Planifica algo divertido con tus amigos o mira los deportes en la televisión (¡pero asegúrate de no mirar las noticias!) Haz respiración profunda cuando estés estresado.
3. **Duerme lo suficiente, 7 u 8 horas para descansar por completo.** Y también intenta esto: antes de acostarte, escribe una lista de tareas para el día siguiente y sácala de tu mente.
4. **Ten una buena charla con un familiar o amigo.** A veces simplemente no puedes cambiar tu diálogo interno negativo, y puede ser útil obtener la perspectiva de otra persona sobre tus problemas.
5. **Empieza un pasatiempo que disfrutes.** Para mí, es pintar y escribir. Pero es posible que quieras tomar lecciones de baile (una vieja amiga

mía comenzó a hacerlo cuando tenía más de setenta años) o dedicarte a la jardinería, a hornear, a tejer, a andar en bicicleta o a jugar a las cartas (me gusta mucho jugar a Knock Gin con mi amiga Jennifer, aunque ella gana 99 % del tiempo).

6. **Elige un estilo de vida saludable.** Come comidas bien balanceadas, haz ejercicios. No bebas demasiado alcohol ni comas mucha comida chatarra.

Medita si te agrada hacerlo. No te conviertas en un saco de papas por ver mucha televisión.

7. **Reza. Puede lograr milagros.**

*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:

**“Love your neighbor more than your car.”**



Art by Maruška aka Ellen Wood

In honor of Mother's Day, oil changes for the month of May are \$39.93. Get one for yourself and your neighbor, or your Mom.

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# Well-loved teacher to retire after nearly 27 years

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Elementary years are arguably the most formative years in a student's life. Children are naturally curious, learning manners, understanding social norms, and forming crucial skills which will carry them through the rest of their lives. If your child is lucky, they will have at least one teacher who loves them for simply existing, and will devote everything to build up your child through constant encouragement, focusing on their strengths, and banning criticism only leaving room for growth and learning.

For nearly 27 years, the children in Questa have been lucky enough to experience just that with Lori Passino.

"My mom was a big part of why I became an educator," Passino says of her decision to become a teacher. "We would see her bring home projects and work and my sisters and I thought, hey that's such a cool job, so we all went on to become educators." While Passino's mom was a big catalyst which led to her and her sisters becoming educators, her natural passion for helping children learn and grow is irrefutable.

"I have loved my career," Passino says of teaching for almost three decades. Throughout her career, she has exclusively taught elementary school in Questa and is currently the lead teacher at Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate School, playing a similar leadership role to a principal. She is also teaching 2nd grade. Passino notes she has a special love for teaching 2nd graders.



Courtesy Photo

Lori Passino proudly poses outside her 2nd grade classroom

"It's my favorite because kids are still very impressionable yet rapidly developing. They're curious but kind. And my favorite, they're learning how to read! It's so wonderful to see their skills bloom before your eyes."

When discussing some of the most difficult parts of her career, Passino was quick to point to the difficulties the evolving tech reality of our society plays on our students. "Technology is part of our kids' lives so sometimes they just want to be on a computer or a phone. It's hard because you want them to still interact person-to-person. That has been a learning curve for all teachers, to keep kids engaged so they can learn," she says.

Passino also talked about how important engaging every parent in

their child's learning journey has been. "It really is a partnership. Teachers only have the kids for 7 or 8 hours a day and the rest of their time, they're home. It's so important for parents to be engaged so kids can feel consistency," she notes.

Passino is retiring this May, after nearly 27 years of service as a teacher. When asked what she is going to miss most, Passino expressed how much her teaching colleagues have meant to her through the years.

She went on to talk about how she will miss the kids. "I am now at the point in my career where I am teaching my former students' kids! The kids always get a kick out of that, and they will joke with me saying 'you were my mom or dad's teacher!' and I always laugh and say 'yup! I sure was!' -- things like that, I really am going to miss."

Fighting back tears, Passino says she is feeling so many mixed emotions with her upcoming retirement. With feeling both a sense of accomplishment, there is also a sense of sadness knowing this chapter is coming to a close. "It's time now for me to step away for a while and just take a break. I will say, however, I don't know how long I will be able to stay away. I think I will be back to teaching in some fashion in the future."

Through her career, Passino says her amazing family has been her cornerstone of constant support and love. "They have always been my biggest support system, my husband Paul and my children Paul Jr. (JR), Larissa, and Kiana.

They have shared me with so many other families in our community and I am so eternally grateful for them."

Passino recently shared a social media post with the Questa del Rio News, detailing all the things she missed about teaching in a classroom. She says:

"THIS is what I will miss upon my retirement: the kids' stories, the jokes, the hugs, the smiles, the laughs, the out-of-the-box thinking, the sound of their voice reading a book, their singing, their willingness to try, the look they give when they understand something new, their amazing questions, the connections they make through the day, their kindness, their friendship with their peers, their desire to be the best they can be, their inquisitive minds, their drawings, the classroom family. I will miss them."

Passino looks forward to taking some time off to focus on her daughter Kiana's upcoming wedding in August. She also says she is looking forward to traveling more with her husband, Paul and family.

--  
A note from the Editor:

On behalf of the community, thank you, Lori for the impact you've had on our students, families, parents, and school district. You have left each person you've encountered better, and your impact will continue to resonate through generations. Thank you.

-Mikayla Ortega  
Editor

Questa del Rio News

# Questa rescinds calendar decision, approves new calendar

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Questa Independent School Board rescinded their previous decision on the 2023-2024 school calendar, approving a new calendar setting the first day of the upcoming school year on Aug. 7 and the last day on May 29.

The previous choice had set the first day on July 31 and the last day on June 4. With this new decision, the entirety of the months of June and July will be included for summer vacation.

The school calendar will remain as a 4-day week (Monday through Thursday) with the school day starting at 7:55 a.m. and ending at 3:45 p.m. Aug. 2-3, Sept. 8, Nov. 17, Jan. 19, and May 30-31 are

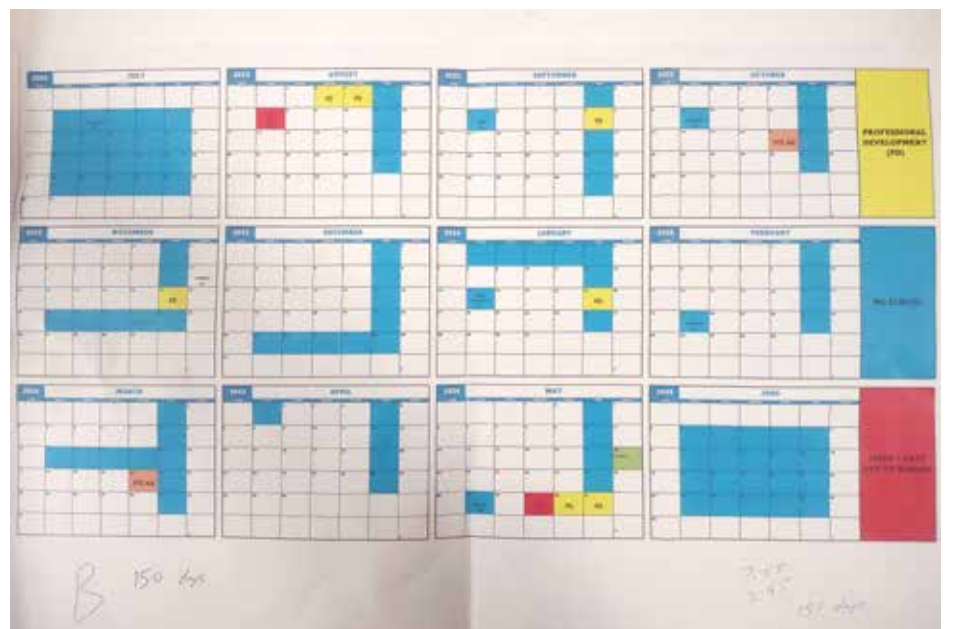
set aside for "professional development."

This calendar still needs to be submitted to the New Mexico Public Education Department. Once they approve, it will be finalized.

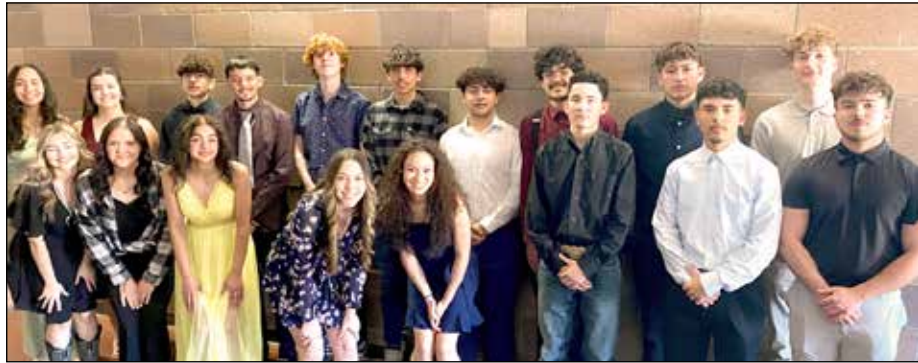
"The Board can still vote to rescind this approval to discuss another option before it gets submitted but I don't see that happening," Board Member Jose Lovato said after the April 5 meeting. The vote was 3-2.

Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb

Newly approved calendar for the 2023-2024 academic year



# Questa inducts 40 students into the National Jr./ Sr. Honor Society



Courtesy Photo



courtesy Photo

National Honor Society Students pose for a photo

Junior National Honor Society members standing during ceremony

By STAFF WRITERS

Questa Del Rio News would like to congratulate the following students for being inducted into the National Jr./ Sr. Honor Society in April:

You make your community proud, and we encourage you to stay committed to your education as well as your community as you continue in your educational journey.

A special thanks to Santana Santistevan for being a faithful sponsor of the National Honor Society program for Questa Jr./ Sr. High School.

## 7th grade:

- Analea Cisneros
- Lukas Cisneros
- Maliyah Dominguez
- Ysidro Garcia
- Micah Gonzales
- Thiago Padilla
- Allison Segura
- Isaac Vialpando

## 8th grade

- Urijah Griego
- Mariana Ortega
- Mia Ramos
- Isaac Segura
- Esperanza Vallejos

## Freshmen

- Janae Dominguez
- Ricardo Leon
- Alyse Lovato
- Michelle Martinez
- Ariana Medina
- Joshlyn Medina
- Jocelyne Ortega
- Aaliyah Piper
- Donny Santistevan

## Sophomores

- Kiara Arellano
- Alexis Brown
- Kamryn Cardenas
- Alyana Leon
- Colman Mahony
- Aliyah Santistevan
- Jacob Vallejos

## Juniors

- Esteban Gomez
- Markie Mascarenas
- Isaac Ortega
- Nathaniel Rael
- Ricardo Sanchez

## Seniors

- Dawson Breen
- Jaydyn Cintas
- Juan Gonzales
- Joaquin Hawks
- Jason Martinez
- Karina Rael



# Congratulations

## Questa High School Class of 2023

### THE DECISIVE ELEMENT

I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture, or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and if a person humanized or dehumanized. If I treat people as they are, I make them worse. If I treat people, as they ought to be, I help them become what they are capable of becoming.

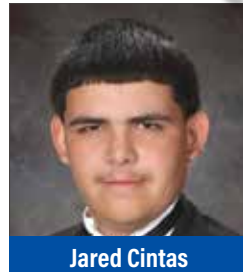
-Goethe



Dawson Breen



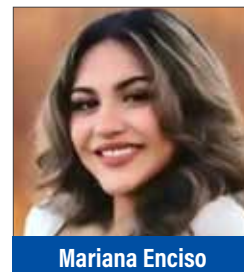
Josiah Chavez



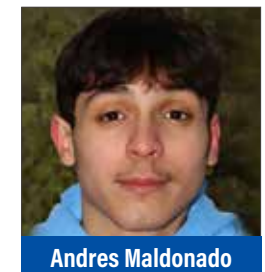
Jared Cintas



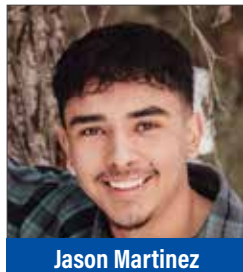
Jaydyn Cintas



Mariana Enciso



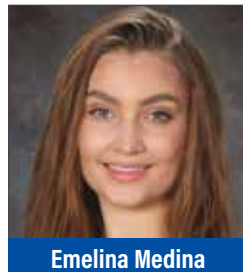
Andres Maldonado



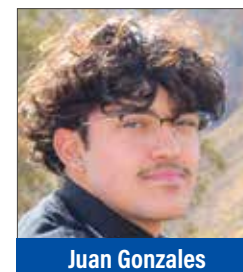
Jason Martinez



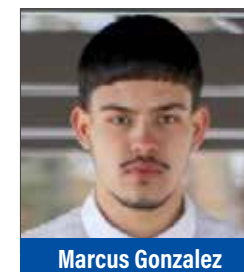
Jordyn Martinez



Emelina Medina



Juan Gonzales



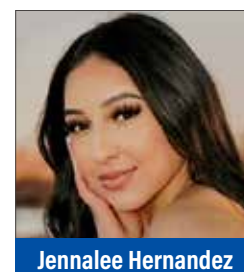
Marcus Gonzalez



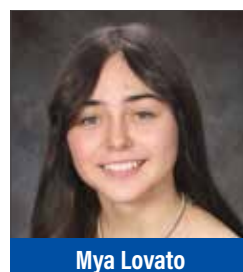
Josiah Hall



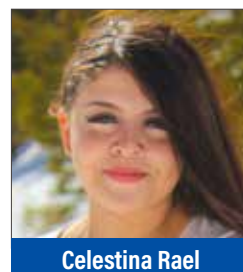
Joaquin Hawkes



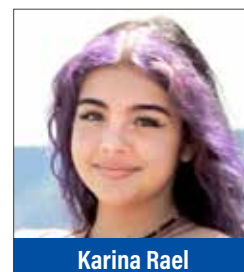
Jennalee Hernandez



Mya Lovato



Celestina Rael



Karina Rael



Matthew Sanchez

# A Lustrum in Time at *Questa Del Rio News*

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

When we look back at life, we hope that we went for it with gusto, seizing every opportunity to learn, grow, discover, take risks, and enjoy the ride.

*Questa del Rio News'* founding editor Lou McCall has done just that.

Growing up in Farmington, Lou loves New Mexico and has found her tribe in the Land of Enchantment. She has lived in various parts of the state and loves it all.

As a child Lou had a deep passion and talent for art and is grateful that she didn't have to wonder what she wanted to be when she grew up. In the '70s, she acknowledged it would be difficult to make a living as an artist, so her second career was working in architecture. Her first job was with a firm in Silver City. "Silver City has always felt like home to me," Lou recalls.

At 25, Lou was in a serious car accident; she broke her neck, both her hips, experienced head injuries, and spent a year recovering. She still suffers from those injuries, and believes the old adage, "What doesn't kill me makes me



Photo by E. Wilde

*Questa Del Rio News* intrepid founding editor, Lou McCall

stronger!" Her resilience has shown that she can and has overcome anything life has handed to her.

After her recovery Lou decided to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and was accepted into their MFA program to study filmmaking. After five years (a lustrum) in the Windy City, she realized it was time to abandon her studies and move home to care for her parents toward the end of their lives. "I was happy I could do that. My parents took care of me while I was recuperating from my accident. I am grateful I could be there for them," Lou said.

Lou has been a disability advocate ever since. Through her work with the Silver City Main Street Project, Lou helped it become the second city in the country (after Berkeley, Calif.) to be ADA-compliant with handicap ramps in the downtown area. She worked 30-hours a week at her job and had a studio-gallery, where she painted.

From 1999 through 2004, Lou taught

LOU MCCALL cont'd on page 28

## 5 years in review; McCall's favorite stories

*Questa del Rio News'* recap of the best stories of the past five years, under the leadership of Editor Lou McCall.

1. **Proposed Highway Improvements at Questa Light, By Priscilla Shannon-Gutierrez, April 2018**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YOq0lbtb80xJFP4GEwF\\_zE\\_Lt6BtCxtI/view?usp=sharing\\_eil\\_m&ts=6440a260](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YOq0lbtb80xJFP4GEwF_zE_Lt6BtCxtI/view?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=6440a260)

This was the first of our popular April Fools stories, a tradition we continued for the first five years of publication. People still talk about the shock of this article, appearing on our front page in our third month of publication!

2. **Of Columbus, Crypto-Jews and El Río Colorado, Parts 1 & 2 By Priscilla Shannon-Gutierrez, December 2018/January 2019,**

<https://questanews.com/december-2018-pdf/>  
<https://questanews.com/january-2019-pdf/>

In our first months of publication, we were contacted by a history writer in Santa Fe, Priscilla Shannon-Gutierrez, editor of the Old Santa Fe Trail newsletter. She loved our paper and asked if she could submit stories

about local history in our area. We love our history so of course we said, "Absolutely!" We are so impressed with everything that Priscilla has written for us and this two-part series is one of the most memorable pieces we have published. Part 1 in our December 2018 edition was a cliffhanger and our readers couldn't wait for our January issue to read Part 2! Many of our readers did not know that Christopher Columbus is now widely believed to be of Jewish origin and his trip to the New World was a search for the Holy Land. The author did a lot of research and offered evidence that most of the crew that came over on the Nina, Pinta and the Santa Maria were also Jews. Those who stayed settled in the Caribbean, mostly in Mexico, mixed with Indigenous peoples and eventually integrated into Catholic culture. Strong links to their Hebraic traditions survived. Some of these conversos, as they came to be known, eventually settled in Taos County, N.M. and Costilla County, Colo., where much of this series is focused.

3. **Questa Mine Series, Parts 1-5, By Martha Shepp and many others, March-July 2022, <https://questanews.com/questa-and-the-questa-mine-part-1/>**

The Questa Mine has shaped the identity of this community. Martha Shepp embarked on the task of

sharing its history with our readers. It turned out to be an ambitious project. Thank you, Martha and everyone who helped with this 5-part series.

The landscape around Questa, Red River, and Taos, like many parts of the west, is marked by a cultural history of mining. When hiking, even in what are now protected Wilderness areas, it's not uncommon to come across remnants of prospecting pits, mine shafts, or old mining equipment from early in the previous century.

For a long time, the "Moly" Mine WAS Questa. Its other cultural, economic, and social aspects became pale background figures. The mine is in the timeline of Questa, for sure, in a big way. It grew to become the largest mine in the Rio Grande watershed and has over 100 years intertwined with Questa history. By 1926, it had become the second largest producer of molybdenum in the world (after the Climax mine in central Colorado): An amazing legacy!

4. **#Black Lives Matter in New Mexico, By Caroline Yezer, July 2020, <https://questanews.com/july-2020-pdf/>**

The Black Lives Matter movement sparked questions of racial justice and inequities that were felt around the world by all peoples. In New Mexico and in Taos County,

the historical landscape of injustice centered around colonization by the Spanish.

"...only by publicly acknowledging the past and making restitution for injustices can societies overcome those legacies of violence in the future. Coming to terms with our past and making amends for it builds more peaceful and resilient societies. Are the diverse people of northern New Mexico ready to discuss our past discriminations and their legacies in the present?"

Dr. Caroline Yezer was a professor of Cultural Anthropology and moved to Taos County and is now pursuing her passion for pottery. Her doctoral studies included research on indigenous peoples, human rights, the war on drugs, and social movements.

5. **Questa and Beyond: Airstreaming, By Vanette Harris, September 2019, <https://questanews.com/september-2019-pdf/>**

What if you retired, sold the home you had lived in for 42 years, got rid of most of your stuff and opted for a simpler lifestyle with freedom to live affordably. Liberation! Vanette Harris shares her story of how she and her husband David became full-time Air-streamers who spend half their year in Questa.



6. **Cerro's Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918,**  
By Deborah Archuleta-Moreno,  
September 2020,

<https://questanews.com/september-2020-pdf/>

When the COVID pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, most of us had never seen anything like it. Our grandparents may have been alive to witness the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic which devastated populations all around the world. Nowhere in our area was harder hit than the community of Cerro. History writer Deborah Archuleta-Moreno, who grew up in Cerro, heard stories from her family and dug deep into the history of the 1918 flu outbreak and its local ramifications.

7. **Esther Garcia, The passing of a legend,**  
By Carrie Leven, February 2020

<https://questanews.com/february-2020-pdf/>

Esther Garcia, lifelong resident of Questa and forceful advocate for the things she believed in, passed away on Jan. 5, 2020, leaving an historic legacy. "She was quite a lady," said her brother Max Ortega, former longtime fire chief for Questa. "She is going to leave a big hole in our hearts and our community."

This story about Esther Garcia was reprinted with permission from Remarkable Women of Taos, 2012, a book by Nighthawk Press. Although we did not author this article, the entire February 2020 edition was a tribute to the memory of Esther Garcia. The community

of Questa and surrounding areas have much to thank this truly remarkable lady.

8. **The Legend of the Lone Moose,**  
By Katy Swan, November 2022

<https://questanews.com/the-legend-of-the-lone-moose/>

This story broke in Questa and was featured on network news, both in New Mexico and in Albuquerque. Locals Tyler Smith and Katy Swan could hardly believe their eyes, or their camera, when they spotted a solitary moose along Highway 522. The story went viral and was taken down from social media after local hunting groups got serious about killing it. There are a lot of layers to this story and readers are affected on many levels. It begs the wider question, is climate destruction causing disorientation in wildlife and their natural patterns?

9. **Questa Cheer goes to London,**  
By Lou McCall, September 2019

<https://questanews.com/september-2019-pdf/>

Of all the outstanding athletic achievements of the Questa Schools, it is the Questa High cheerleaders who have put Questa on the sports map. By 2019 Coach Kathy Gonzales had been leading the team to victory for 15 years, she herself was an award-winning cheerleader at Questa High. She set a tradition that is being continued by current coaches Maria Medina and

Angel Medina, who brought the team to another state championship in 2023. In July of 2019, five members of Questa Cheer were voted the best in the country to join the All American Team. On December 26, members of Questa Cheer left for London to perform in the New Year's Day Parade with the All American team. What an amazing experience for our home team!

10. **Living a Life of Adventure and Service:**  
Bud Wilson, By Daniel Hutchison, July 2021

<https://questanews.com/july-2021-pdf/>

By now, many of our readers have heard about the death of Dr. John Newhall "Bud" Wilson, whose life of adventure and service made this world and especially our local communities a better place. Read about his life here and his obituary on page 26 of this issue.

11. **Costilla-Amalia Reunion brings families back to their roots,** By Sara Martinez, July 2019

<https://questanews.com/july-2019-pdf/>

AND follow up article: It rained, the love shined!  
By Sara Martinez, August 2019  
<https://questanews.com/august-2019-pdf/>

The popular Families of Costilla and Amalia, New Mexico Facebook group grew to over 2100 members, who decided it was time to celebrate with a regional reunion. The two communities, along with sister communities of Jaroso and Garcia, Colo., came together for a truly memorable occasion.

11. **The Clothing Industry And Environmental Sustainability,** By Jonathan Hutchison, April 2022,

<https://questanews.com/the-clothing-industry-and-environmental-sustainability/>

Who knew that fast fashion had such a devastating impact on our environment? What began as a simple question about how much brand new clothing ends up in landfills turned into a multi-part series and a multi-faceted view of what "lookin' good" has come to mean. Join Jonathan Hutchison (who admitted that fashion was the last thing he was interested in) on a journey of discovery behind the magic curtain of the fashion industry.

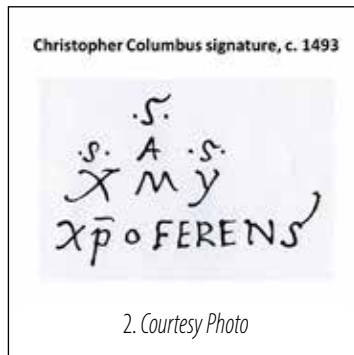
12. **Bataan Prisoner of War Valdemar DeHerrera turns 99,** By Celina Rael Trujillo, November 2018

<https://questanews.com/november-2018-pdf/>

Costilla native, Valdemar DeHerrera is a national treasure, beloved by fellow veterans, friends, family and community, right here in Taos County. He is now 102 years old and spends winters with his daughter in Southern New Mexico. His story during WWII, is that of a true hero. We love you Valdemar!



1. Courtesy Photo



2. Courtesy Photo



3. Courtesy Photo



4. Courtesy Photo



5. Photo by Douglas Carr Cunningham



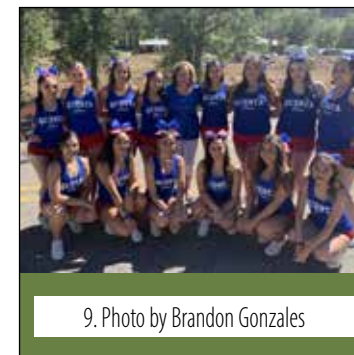
6. Photo by Lita Mead



7. Photo by Carrie Leven



8. Tyler Smith and Katy Swan



9. Photo by Brandon Gonzales



10. Photo by Daniel Hutchison.



11. Courtesy Photo



11. Courtesy Photo



12. Courtesy Photo

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Wed, May 3, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
at El Monte Carlo

# Stories on Film — San Luis Valley “A Story To Tell”

## Documentary Collection Part 5: Spanish/Mexican Family Oral History

By Contributing Writer,  
TOBY A. MADRID JR.,  
Teacher and Educator

A 24-minute documentary of the communities in San Luis, Capulin, Conejos and San Antonio during holy week. Narrated by Father Pat Valdez, and Sister Rene Weeks.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn of the history, contributions, and rituals of the Penitente Brotherhood. The documentary includes exclusive interviews by Hermano Mayor Max Taylor, Hermano Charlie Maestas and other participating community members. In the town of San Luis, the community joined arms together with the help of Fr. Pat Valdez and Huberto Maestas, a renowned sculptor, who designed the bronze statues that are now part of the Stations of the Cross Shrine.

San Luis Valley is the location of the oldest Catholic Parish Catholic Church in Colorado. In this documentary, you will see and experience the history, culture and faith of the people of the San Luis Valley. The picturesque San Luis Valley is located in the heart of Southern Colorado. Its residents are descendants

of the Spanish conquistadors whose families have lived here for hundreds of years. Our community’s rich cultural traditions have been passed on from generation to generation.

The tradition of the Encuentro as it is celebrated in San Antonio and Capulin comes from the Penitente Brotherhood — dating back at least two hundred years. The tradition’s roots come from a biblical portrayal of the meeting of Jesus and Mary on their way to Calvary on Good Friday. To this day the Encuentro is still celebrated in Capulin and San Antonio. Total Running Time: 24:23. Film Trailer: <http://downtoearthmedia.org>

**What people say about this film:**

“This documentary was well done and very inspiring. My birth family is from Antonito but I was adopted in Alamosa by a loving Catholic family 62 years ago. Although I’ve lived in Rocky Ford, Los Angeles, and Denver, my spirit is always drawn to El Valle. Your film touched my soul, warmed my heart, and lifted my spirit. Gracias.” — Larry Apodaca, Voice Over Talent/Singer and Songwriter

“Stations of the Cross in San Luis are



Courtesy Photo

**Huberto Maestas, a renowned sculptor who makes his home in San Luis, Colo., designed the bronze statues that are now part of the Stations of the Cross Shrine**

so beautiful and with so much detail... this is a touching and intimate portrait of a particular community’s religious beliefs and the ways in which their spirituality is expressed in their daily lives. Nicely done.” — Maria Cisneros, City and County of Denver

Rick Vigil is from Antonito, Colo.,

proprietor and film producer of Down To Earth Media, LLC. In the past 20 years he has produced a collection of documentaries on the culture, tradition, and spirituality of the Spanish speaking communities within the counties of Conejos and Costilla in the San Luis Valley.

### Comunidad de Fe



Photo by E. Wilde

Walkers making their way to Questa holding the guia



Photo by E. Wilde

Walkers make it to St. Anthony’s Church after their 20 mile pilgrimage

## Local Catholics end Lent with the traditional 20-mile pilgrimage

By STAFF WRITERS

April 7 was Good Friday and locals and visitors alike joined together to walk the traditional 20-mile pilgrimage from Costilla to Questa. Caminantes (walkers) walked in silent reflection

and prayer, sang songs, and prayed together as the guia (cross) led them through their journey.

The walkers stopped in Cerro at the Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Church (Our Lady of Guadalupe) where they recited the Stations of the Cross. Additional walkers joined the group to

make the remainder of the journey into Questa. They arrived in Questa a little after noon and the community greeted caminantes (walkers) in an encuentro (welcoming), after praying for a safe trip for them through their journey. ¡Que Viva Cristo Rey!

# Living Word Ministry Church helps teen girls get prom dresses for free

By LITA MEAD

At Living Word Ministries, members believe it's the little things that can make a big difference. When it came to providing an equitable opportunity for local teens to have access to formal dresses and accessories for prom, Loretta Vigil led the effort creating Prom Girl Boutique.

The boutique is set up in Questa's Living Word Ministries Fellowship Hall, where volunteers established a boutique with formal dresses and accessories made available at no cost to local teens. The boutique was spurred from an idea by Pastor Gayle Martinez, "All I did was mention it to our congregation and we had volunteers like Loretta start pitching in." Other volunteers including Yvonne Garcia played a big part in setting up a fashionable boutique for local teens to visit.

Vigil grew up in Amalia and knows the struggles that come with growing up in a rural community. She and her husband Michael lived in Denver for many years and upon returning to their roots in New Mexico, they understood how local teens may not always have the ability to drive to Santa Fe or Albuquerque to get a dress. This, coupled with Vigil's generous heart was a big motivator for her to lead the



Photo by Lita Mead

Loretta Vigil stands proudly displaying the pop-up boutique entrance

efforts of creating Prom Girl Boutique.

Vigil currently lives in Cerro and is semi-retired. She devotes much of her time to supporting causes that she believes in. Currently, she serves as the Taos County Prayer Chapter Leader for the Concerned Women of America where she devotes much of her time lobbying for the safety of unborn children. She supports youth in many events and has been involved in local community beautification efforts. Getting involved in this latest effort

at her church was second-nature for Vigil and she is so happy to be serving the local teens in her home community.

Vigil encourages students in Questa, Taos, Red River, Lama, Costilla, Amalia, and even as far as San Luis, Colo., or Raton, N.M., to come check out the pop-up Prom Boutique for free gowns and dresses for every occasion including graduations, weddings, and prom. "We want to do something special for the girls of our community, by giving them beautiful dresses,

shoes, jewelry, anything that they can use and enjoy, has been generously donated by loving people of the community," Vigil says.

Any dresses not distributed for this 2023 Prom Girl Boutique season will be part of next year's season lineup as she hopes the community will support the effort to grow, with hopes to include both boys and girls formal attire.

While the boutique opened on March 31, Vigil has been taking appointments for people who are not able to make it to the boutique during operating hours. If you need to schedule a time to see the formal dresses, contact Loretta at (303) 807-2801 to make an appointment, she will gladly meet you and help you find the perfect dress.

### CALL TO ACTION:

Prom Girl Boutique is run on volunteer efforts. Loretta encourages any local seamstresses to consider volunteering their time to help local girls ensure that their dresses fit. If you wish to support this cause, call Loretta at (303) 807-2801.




## Meet and Greet honoring *Questa Del Rio News* exiting Editor Lou McCall

Inviting all businesses and friends of the paper to join us in celebrating Lou McCall's accomplishments over the last 5 years during the first 5 years of the *Questa Del Rio News*.



Wednesday  
May 3  
5:00-7:00pm  
at El Monte Carlo

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For more information:  
[lynn@questaedf.com](mailto:lynn@questaedf.com)



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

# From local-to-global perspectives at the Millicent Rogers Museum

By Contributing Writer  
MICHELLE LANTERI

From April 22 through June 18, 2023, the Millicent Rogers Museum in Taos hosts the Pastel Society of New Mexico's Enchanted Colors, the society's juried exhibition open to national and international artists. Now in its 31st year, Enchanted Colors features more than 70 paintings at the Millicent Rogers Museum with the full exhibition of artworks available for viewing online. The exhibition offers local-to-global perspectives of pastels, as pure pigment giving form to the fleeting views of life, seen both near and far, and even in virtual and overlapping contexts.

This year three jurors — distinguished artists, Ray Hassard, Ned Mueller, and Sally Strand — scored the entries for the competitive exhibi-

tion, with over 70 paintings of the total exhibition garnering both in-gallery and virtual showing and more accepted works shown online only.

Ann Huston, a noted pastelist based in Taos, designated this year's awards from the paintings shown at the museum. The awards were announced during the opening reception on April 22, which also offered a moment to meet some of the featured artists.

In association with the exhibition, Mike Mahon, one of the society's Signature Members, is offering a 3-day pastel workshop, "Painting with Control and Spontaneity," at the museum from May 31 through June 2. Registration and tickets may be purchased online at <https://www.millicentrogers.org/pages/enchanted-colors-of-new-mexico>

The Pastel Society of New Mexico



Courtesy Photo

Gary Ozias' *Cliffs of Santa Elena* communicates the depth from mesa to valley and the birds that soar playfully in the steep juxtaposition from land to sky. 16 x 20 in.

is a nonprofit arts organization formed in 1989 by a group of artists seeking to promote the appreciation of the soft pastel medium as well as to contribute to its growing arts community in New

Mexico. <http://www.pastelsnm.org>

The Millicent Rogers Museum as a (501c3) non-profit celebrates and shares the arts and cultures of the Southwest. It serves as a memorial to Millicent Rogers (1902-1953), a Standard Oil heiress whose inspiration, patronage, and collections form the core of the museum's holdings.

Museum hours are 10 am to 5 pm, seven days a week (April-October). General admission is \$15, with free admission offered daily for veterans, members, and children 12 and under. Taos County residents receive free museum entry every Sunday. For more information visit <https://www.millicentrogers.org/> or call (575) 758-2462

*Editor's Note: Michelle Lanteri is the Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at Millicent Rogers Museum*

## From Costilla to Nashville and Back

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Growing up in the small communities of northern Taos County, dreams are necessary to have the courage to leave the only place you've ever known, in search of opportunities to grow your passion.

Chris Arellano was born and raised in the small town of Costilla and growing up, music was the blood that ran in his veins. "My dad was a musician and he would play with my mom and family. We were a family band in the '80s," Chris recalls, deeply entrenched in melodic memories.

Chris is the son of Henrietta and the late Jake Arellano. Music came second nature to Chris and his siblings, taking after their parents natural musical talents. Upon graduating high school, Chris moved to California to attend the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles. He returned to New Mexico to attend school locally where he won a scholarship that took him to Nashville.

"It's a tough road in Nashville," Chris recalls of his time in Music City. "I lived there for eight years and got two different record deals. I learned a lot about the business and it's a tough business." This experience in the country music capital of the word didn't deter Chris from continuing to pursue his passion to make music.

After leaving Nashville, Chris moved to Oregon, taking what he had

learned from his experiences and using it to build a business called the Music Café School of Rock. "It's like the movie School of Rock, we would teach kids during a camp then they would perform for an audience," Chris recalls.

Although feeling very fulfilled and happy living in Oregon, Chris decided to take his talents and return to the place he started: home.

During the annual Summer School of Rock in northern Taos County, which started in 2012, kids from Questa, Cerro, Costilla, Amalia and other surrounding communities come together to learn songs while playing in a band. "We've had eight years of the School of Rock locally, which led us to starting the Nuevo Americana Music Festival, so kids could actually feel like they were learning songs so they could perform them next to big professional musicians on stage," Chris says of his decision to form the festival. Questa Schools has also partnered with the efforts, supporting kids who want to be involved.

Chris and his wife Mandi decided to make Costilla their permanent home in 2020. "It's been awesome moving back home. There are things we're still getting used to, like planning ahead when you go to the grocery store because things aren't conveniently nearby," Chris says of his experience of being home for the past three years. "Being



Photo by E. Wilde

Chris and his brother Rodney performing for a local fundraiser held at Questa's Rael's Coffee Shop for the St Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa.

home is very peaceful, it's quiet and I am really excited and motivated to be home where I can make the community a better place for kids and adults alike."

The Summer School of Rock will run from June 12-16 at the Questa Jr./Sr. High School band room. For more information about how to register for the Summer School of Rock, call 541-223-2614 or send an email to [guiibox-man@live.com](mailto:guiibox-man@live.com).

### ABOUT THE NUEVO AMERICANA FESTIVAL:

The 2023 festival includes camping, dancing, New Mexico food, and products from local artisans. It will be held from June 23-24 at the Torres Ranch at 4400 New Mexico 522 Costilla, NM 87524. Admission for the festival is \$35 per day and weekend passes run \$60. Musical acts include the Jimmy Stadler Band, Chris Arellano Band, Gonzalo, Felix y Los Gatos, The Riffers, Arellano Brothers, Michael Hearne, Graviel de la Plaga, Izcall en Nanantzin, Cascade Rye.

**QUESTA  
CREATIVE  
COUNCIL**



## Summer Art Market Better Than Ever

Courtesy of Questa Creative Council

New this summer, the weekend Art Market will be under the umbrella of the Questa Creative Council, and it will occur on Saturdays instead of Sundays. Much of the QCC's work brings our local artists to the attention of potential customers, so Art Market participants will now have even more promotion, in addition to the attention they get being located in the popular Questa Farmers Market site. Even more visitors and locals now have another reason to explore Questa at this lively downtown spot.

A big improvement for this year will be a new, safer parking plan with nearby, off-site areas on offer. Local leatherworker

Torre Strong continues to manage the Art Market as she has done for the last two summers. "Having lived in Questa for over 30 years, I am excited to help create a venue for local artists to display and sell their work on a weekly basis," Torre says, "With so much talent in the area, this is much needed."

Torre has organized a group of between 4 and 14 participants who will show their creations every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., between Memorial Day weekend and Cambalache in the autumn. On offer are original works of pottery, jewelry, painting, woodworking, leatherwork, and textiles. You might also find booths for Reiki or Tarot reading on occasion.

### Here are some of the craftspeople to expect to see this summer:

Artist and teacher Laura Holk introduced her work to the Art Market last summer. Her innovative wooden jewelry that incorporates semi-precious stones, often turquoise, are especially popular. Gideon Brown creates handmade silver rings and bracelets. Additionally, what draws many people to his booth is his vintage jewelry collection on offer. Torre herself makes leather purses, belts, and jewelry; all her original designs. Torre uses only wild leathers such as bison and deer. She has been doing this work for



Courtesy photo

### Gideon Brown at Art Market

40 years. With an alternative upbringing in the Pacific Northwest and an artistic nature, creative work has been a priority for her since her teen years. Custom orders are available.

The Art Market welcomes vendors within a 50-mile radius of Questa. It is located next to the Questa Visitors Center, on the sheltered Farmers Market site. Set-up at the Art Market is on a first-come-first-served basis, though, really, all spots are good in this small venue. A peddler's permit is required and can be purchased at the Visitors Center, on-site, for \$35. This covers the whole season.

Since the closure of Questa's mine in 2014, several groups stepped up to enhance the economy of our community. The Questa Farmers Market and the Questa Creative Council have already accomplished several of the direct recommendations of Questa's Revitalization Plan. The arts was one of the main sectors for rebirth cited, and with increased tourism and agriculture as additional goals—this lively corner of Questa is accomplishing much for all of us.

Questa Creative Council and the Farmers Market add income to the pockets of locals and succeed in promoting Questa as a destination for fun, artistic, (and nourishing!) summer events.

For questions or more information, email [questacreativecouncil@gmail.org](mailto:questacreativecouncil@gmail.org) with subject line "Art Market." Or leave a message for Torre at (575) 586-5658.a.

A big improvement for this year will be a new, safer parking plan with nearby, off-site areas on offer. Local leatherworker Torre Strong continues to manage the Art Market as she has done for the last two summers. "Having lived in Questa for over 30 years, I am excited to help create a venue for local artists to display and sell their work on a weekly basis," Torre says, "With so much talent in the area, this is much needed."

## The Blue Show at Questa Public Library

### Works of Art by Claire Coté and Nicole Thibodeau

By Contributing Writer  
PEGGY TRIGG

For the months of May and June, the Questa Public Library will be hosting a wonderful array of "blue" artwork inspired by nature and the interaction of art materials. The show will feature mixed media art pieces by Nicole Thibodeau and blue cyanotypes by Claire Coté. "The works explore the relationship of time to the natural world and the artists' spontaneity of interaction with materials. Made amidst life's fullness, busyness and poignancy, these works are reflections on daily life, nature and the small things and materials that inspire us and catch our attention," says Claire Coté.

This explorative show will look at work produced with a variety of materials including watercolor and acrylic



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paints, inks, cyanotype, collage and repurposed materials. Claire and Nicole's work will focus on the calmness, serenity and natural elegance produced by using saturated blues and earth tones as well as references to local shapes and vegetation.

This exhibition is also part of the Taking Up Space initiative facilitated



Courtesy Photo

Claire Coté, *Filament Vision*, 9" x 12" mixed media - watercolor and cyanotype on paper on floated panel with cold wax

by ThriveTogether Network. Taking Up Space or T.U.S. is a Grassroots Female Focused Community Global Art Exhibition empowering artists to take up more space and exhibit their art in the month of May 2023. See more from this initia-

tive by viewing the #takingupspace2023 hashtag on Instagram. Learn more about "The Blue Show" at [www.clairecote.com](http://www.clairecote.com) and [www.nicolethibodeau.com](http://www.nicolethibodeau.com).

Please stop by the library for a fun and relaxing opening on Saturday, May 13 from 2 -4 p.m. Help us celebrate these two talented young artists and their interpretation of our beautiful surrounding area. Refreshments will be served.

*Editor's Note: Peggy Trigg is the Project Leader for the Questa Creative Council.*

### The Blue Show

#### Reception:

Saturday, May 13, 2 -4 p.m.

#### Show Dates:

May 1 - June 28

#### Location:

Questa Public Library,  
6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd,  
Questa, NM 87556

#### Open Hours:

Monday - Friday, Noon - 5 p.m.

# Questa Students win at film festival

By Contributing Writer  
ROSEY HAYETT

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Questa students won two awards at a statewide youth film festival. Tulsi Shaw, who is home-schooled, won Best Middle School Animated Film and Roots and Wings Community School won Best Middle School Comedy.

Student filmmakers, teachers and parents packed the Historic Lobo theater on April 3 for the Award Ceremony for Film Prize Jr NM's 2nd annual student short film festival. Twenty-four winning films were announced and over \$7,000 in scholarships and media grants were awarded at the livestreamed ceremony.

Tulsi Shaw, a homeschool student from Questa, repeated as Best Animated Film winner for her jaw-dropping ghost detective story, *The Proof is in the Jello*. (In 2022, Shaw's film "Earth" won the judges' choice for the middle school Grand Prize.) Questa also produced the middle school Best Comedy, with *School Daze* from Roots and Wings Community School.

Jesse Thompson, a resident of El Rito, is the animation teacher who mentored students who created *The Taste of Loneliness* from Taos Integrated School of the Arts. They won both the Best Drama and Middle School Grand Prize Award

for their story about how food helps a teen cope with the loss of his father. Peñasco Middle School entered the Middle School Founders Circle for their film *Zombie Garden*.

The festival, presented by the Film Prize Foundation, was held at the Albuquerque Convention Center on April 1, with 93 student films featured, an all-time record. The short films were created by middle and high school students from over 50 schools in 20 New Mexico counties, most of which serve small, rural communities. Seventeen films were created by Native students, with support from the Institute of American Indian Arts.

This year featured the festival's largest crowd of students, teachers and families watching the films, attending panel discussions with film industry professionals, attending hands-on equipment demos by College of New Mexico film department, and voting for the audience choice awards.

"Watching the students watch their films, seeing them connect with one another and celebrating their achievements are what Film Prize Junior is all about," said Film Prize Jr NM Director Rosey Hayett. "This was an incredibly inspiring weekend, and we can't wait to gear up and start next year's Film Prize

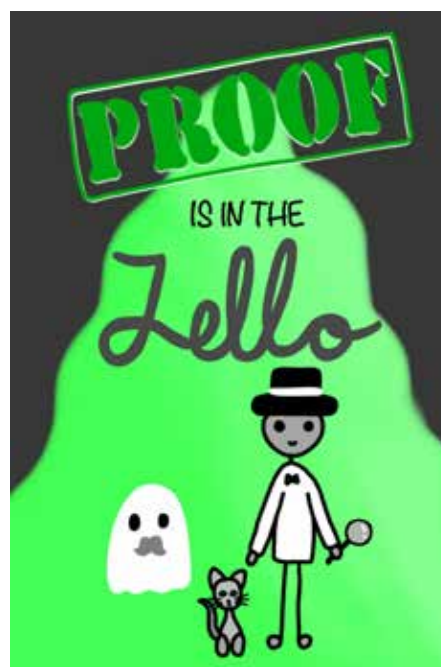


Photo by Tulsi Shaw

Poster for Tulsi Shaw's film, *The Proof is in the Jello*, winner of Best Middle School Animated Film at Film Prize Jr. NM awards.

Junior program."

The Film Prize Junior program supports middle and high school classrooms as well as summer and afterschool programs to experience the entire process of creating a short film, from story and script development, to production and editing. The program organizers believe that the process, which culminates in

all completed films featured on the big screen at the festival, is transformative for the kids.

Over \$7,000 in scholarships and media grants were awarded to winning films, with the goal of helping to establish film programs at schools across the state. Film Prize Jr NM is supported in part by the NM Public Education and Cultural Affairs Departments, as well as the Robert T. Keeler, Cudd Family and Thornburg Foundations, Santa Fe Film Office, Regional Development Corporation, Adobe and Meow Wolf. To learn more about Film Prize Jr NM and to view all the films for the Virtual Festival from April 25–May 2, visit [FilmPrizeNM.com](http://FilmPrizeNM.com).

Rosey Hayett works with The Prize Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2012 and based out of Shreveport, LA. Their mission is to promote economic growth, workforce development, youth job training, creative class entrepreneurial buildout and increased tourism through education, entrepreneurship, conferences, contests and festivals. The Prize Foundation operates six major initiatives year-round, each prize has a qualification process, engagement with economic and cultural resources, and an educational component.



## I DARE YOU

By MARTA GLOVER

By MARTA GLOVER

Beautiful day outside my window. Windy but inviting like spring blossoms. People are planting and getting gardens ready to direct seed or transplant their little plants outside. I went to a Healing Circle last Sunday and did some interviews there for my column "I Dare You".

Have you ever dared to lose it all, put all your cards on the table or been willing to be humbled to the core to have this experience? Was the experience so important to you that you were willing to go out on a limb for it. It could be about daring to join a cause, entering a partnership, opening a business, beginning a practice or becoming a parent. Your dare could be inspired by someone else's life. Their voice inspired your own voice from a quote, a

book or a movie. A dare is about action, it involves movement. Sometimes the fear of "doing" is too much and we hold back and retreat to a safe place. We all have our limits, our boundaries, our choices. It isn't about the fear that matters, it's about the choices we make while we are afraid. You are brave because of your fear. A brave act believes in an end it cannot see or know. This act of bravery impacts your life and is different from anything you've known before. Did you find your voice and use it? Did you take the chance and not give up or give in?

Kat: "I ran for President of the United States in 2008 for the Green Party nomination. I was running the Green party in Texas at the time. I was going to be 35 years old in 2008. You have to be 35 years old to run. It was a weird alignment of things so I was able to do it. I came in second place to a former congressman. I was scared to actually win. My life has been danger and grit. I came to Taos to relax, recover and breathe."

Bob: "UFO's coming in this area. Finding it safe to get in here. Working on

the grid, trying to stabilize and energize it. Actually sometimes they clean the air, the good UFO's. Your body does not get charged from it. It's a good feeling that comes through you. I encountered a UFO in Eagle Nest that was good. I felt connected to it. I dare that we call them in to help the situation on Earth to disempower the negativity and evil. It was the real thing."

Susan Moore: "The Taos Food Co-op had a Board of Directors that had been envisioning a co-op for a couple of years. We decided to buy cases of things and then divide it up. We started group orders in 2011. We had bigger plans to open a store and in March 2012 we opened a little store in a back room of Optimism for \$200 a month. We opened with 5 bags of rice and 5 bags of beans from 25 lbs bags priced at a markup. We had no capital, credit in on our rent and opened part time. This was definitely a risk taking situation because there was no financial backing. The rest is history. Today we have 78 volunteers and we operate 10 to 6 pm Monday thru Saturday. Since covid we have tripled our business. If you have a viable idea do your

homework, complete financial projections and once you have decided absolutely, Go for it. It takes a commitment to be brave."

April: "I worshipped The Be Good Tanya, an all female band. In my early 20s listened to them all day, everyday. I went to the San Francisco Folk Festival in the park where the band was playing. I was hanging out with my friends when I saw the band in a circle in the park close by. My friend was pushing me into going to say hi to them. It was one of the shyest moments of my life. Usually I am a pretty bold person so it was interesting to see myself being so shy. I did walk up to them and was barely able to say hi and give them a hug. I was so enamored with them, it was like walking up to a God for me. I dared my self-confidence in my body, being and voice in being seen by someone I worshiped."

Rachel: "I dared to date me while I was married. I had to listen to the wisdom of my soul, my deepest self that "we" were happier alone than in a marriage with the wrong person. Soon- me, myself and I were free and living the best life! I dared to be alone and better".



By Toner Mitchell

## Trout Unlimited Hosts Western Waters Film Night

At long last, Trout Unlimited (TU) will be hosting its annual Western Regional Rendezvous in Taos this year. The event was originally scheduled for the spring of 2020, during which we had hoped to feature much of our partnership with Questa and the lessons we had learned thanks to the village's generosity. *Querencia* had just come out and we were excited to have a public screening of the film. It's been the longest three years imaginable, and we're glad

they're behind us.

To kickoff the 2023 event, which runs from Thursday, May 18, through Sunday, May 21, and includes work sessions and seminars, TU will be hosting "Western Waters Film Night" on Thursday evening at the Taos Center for the Arts. Free Trout Unlimited memberships will be offered at the door. The event is free for members and \$10 for non-members.

The films will include highlights from New Mexico, featuring student films from New Mexico State University and local features like our own "*Querencia: A Love of Place*" about Questa's perseverance through economic challenges. "*Agua Es Vida*", another beautiful rendition of rural life in New Mexico, will also be shown. The films will cover a wide array of Western trout and water stories with everything from fire impact, to native trout restoration, to changing communities through conservation and inclusion.

A recent selection in the Fly Fishing Film Tour, *Wading for Change* features conservationist and angler Jr. Rodriguez who learned that to become "like the pictures he saw in magazines," he had



Courtesy Photo

to leave behind what he loved the most. By juxtaposing Jr.'s origins in Houston, Texas, and his current home in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, we share his journey of learning to love the outdoors and what it can be like to participate in outdoor sports in Western mountain towns as a person of color.

In "*Tribal Waters*", a film by Patago-

nia, Darren Calhoun speaks to water issues on tribal land. The Shoshone people have lived on the eastern slope of Wyoming's Wind River Range for more than 10,000 years. The Wind River, which flows through their homeland, has deep meaning for them and the Northern Arapaho, the tribe with whom they now share this land. The water is crucial to their way of life, history and customs. After hundreds of years of witnessing their waters, lands and culture come under constant attack, there is hope that an outdoor-based, sustainable recreational economy could flourish here.

We hope you will join us at Taos Center for the Arts on May 18 to enjoy these powerful films. Doors open at 6:30 pm, films begin at 7. Again, the tickets are \$10 each.

In other news, it was great to see the Rio Grande Cutthroat stocking event come to fruition on a cold and windy April 14. At least 100 folks showed up to stock fingerlings in the gorge and at Eagle Rock Lake. All told, approximately 20,000 baby cutthroats were given a new home in their native northern New Mexico range.



## BIRD IS THE WORD

By Bryce Flanagan

## New Conservation Fund, Bird Drones, and Hummingbird Arrivals

In a major win for birds and all wildlife, New Mexico has created the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, a dedicated revenue stream supporting conservation and restoration of wildlife and the outdoors. The fund consists of two \$50 million funds, one fund going to existing conservation programs and the other into a trust managed by the State Investment Council.

Prior to the creation of this conservation fund, state agencies were dependent solely on what they could get approved during the annual budget process, leav-

ing many agencies without any budget to pursue new projects unless they secured special appropriations every budget cycle. There were also millions of dollars in federal funds going unclaimed by New Mexico as states are required to put up a matching percentage in order to claim federal funding.

The federal match can be dollar for dollar but also be as high as three dollars for every dollar the state funds. Having a consistent source of funding will allow state conservation programs to be bolder with their projects and to plan for conservation in the long term. They no longer need to fear sporadic funding that can end in empty coffers at the end of a budget cycle.

Programs directly befitting from the fund include the state's River Stewardship program, which does riparian restoration work, the Game and Fish Department for Endangered Species efforts, and the Department of Agriculture for soil health and noxious weeds management.

Watersheds and acequias damaged by the Hermits Peak fire will receive funds for needed repairs as well.

A team at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro is taking an unconventional approach to studying avian flight: repurposing taxidermied birds as drones. The team, led

by Dr. Mostafa Hassanalian, is researching how bird's flight patterns can be applied to the aviation industry.

Artificial recreations of bird wings weren't matching the efficiency of real birds in flight, so the team re-engineered dead birds into drones to study what makes their flight patterns so special. The drones aren't being used in the wild yet as they only have a battery lasting 20 minutes, instead the researchers have designed a caged tunnel with a powerful fan at the front and filled it with bird drones to better understand the formation and flight of real birds.

The team hopes that by the end of this two-year project their findings can be applied to save fuel in air transport and be used to study living birds and wildlife.

### Hummingbirds are here!

If you haven't put your hummingbird feeders out already, now is the time to do so!

The annual hummingbird migration is passing through the West right now, and you can give these little beauties a boost on their arduous journey by supplying them with nectar. All you need is a feeder and a homemade mixture of 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Be sure to use refined white sugar, never organic or brown sugar, and never use red dyes



Photo by Ellen Miller-Goins

A broad-tailed hummingbird hovers near a feeder in Red River



Courtesy New Mexico Tech Photo by Mostafa Hassanalian

This drone was created using a bird that had been taxidermied

as these are poisonous to hummingbirds. The red coloring on your feeder will be more than enough to attract hummingbirds.

While the FDA allows red dye for human consumption, countries like Austria, Denmark, France, and Germany have banned its use altogether for the health risk it poses. If ants are a problem,

# 2022 Questa Farmers Market Youth Internship Recap: Part II

By contributing writer  
GAEA MCGAHEE

In the April issue of the Questa del Rio News, we gave the economic picture of the 2022 season. In this issue, we are sharing information about the Youth Internship.

**We are a program of Localogy**, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) in Questa. Our mission is to *strengthen the local food system in northern Taos County by supporting small land- and home-based businesses, and youth through market internships, mentorship and skill building.*

Our program organizes a market each Sunday during the growing season. We coordinate a youth internship and mentorship project, we partner with the North Central Food Pantry (NCFP) and local producers to send food out through the pantry's distribution, and we collaborate with Vida del North Coalition, Questa Stories, Questa Creative Council and other community nonprofits, organizations and individuals. Our program grows each season through input and reflection from community members, especially from youth who work with QFM.

## **We support tradition, adaptation, and resilience with these core initiatives:**

- Regenerate the local food economy through exchange
- Create a beautiful space to support community gathering
- Offer paid youth internships and adult mentorship positions
- Distribute local food through the North Central Food Pantry
- Use water rights to irrigate newly planted trees

*Editors note: Gaea McGahee is a Questa Farmers Market Organizer*

## **Paid Interns and Volunteers**

We believe that establishing roles and paid jobs for youth makes the QFM program positive and powerful. We all prosper through intergenerational work and we go further by learning, and building together. Our previous seasons have shown that employment for youth through QFM internships is key—we are committed to continue offering these paid internships. Our **Youth Internship program** received **LANL Foundation** support through a 2-year **Education Enrichment Grant**. This is our second season with their support. To apply for the internship, go to: [questafarmersmarket.org/blog/internship/](http://questafarmersmarket.org/blog/internship/).



Photo by Gaea McGahee

Rachel and Amelia Hardy. 2022 Intern Amelia ran the coffee stand most days she worked at the market



Photo by Gaea McGahee

Amelia and Rachel Hardy, Jesse Mead in background making pizza.



Photo by Gaea McGahee

2022 Intern Jocelyne Ortega ran her own stand with her eggs, pesto, apples, veggies, and more

The 2022 interns, mentors and volunteers, including Andy and Lorie Jaramillo who have worked with QFM since 2019, cared for the gardens, planted trees, built picnic tables (thanks to Jesse Hardy and his additional crews of volunteers), and mudded the horno several times in the season.

## **QFM Merchandise and your support**

Freelance graphic designer Emily Wilde created our logo and we put it on shirts, aprons, and stickers! You can support our work by purchasing our QFM merchandise at the market. If you want gear sooner, email growersmakers@gmail.com, or call or text (575) 224-2102 about these items. We print our shirts and aprons on organic cotton to support healthier environments for farmers farther afield.

The vegetable and flower gardens provide spaces of experiential education and beauty, ensuring that the marketplace supports vendors and customers, as well as pollinators and traveling butterflies.

## **Mural**

Muralist, Rae Lewis, began a mural project in 2021 beautifying our on-site shipping container, a greatly appreciated donation from the Questa Credit Union. Last season Rae worked with QFM interns, Vida interns, Vida summer camp and Sangre de Cristo Youth camp kids, and community members to create a pollinator mural, dedicated to Monarch butterflies and milkweed.

The 20 foot container has murals on both of its long sides; in 2021 the project completed an abstract quilted landscape of mountains around Questa. The design was inspired by the land, the practice of quilting, and a 1930s photograph of Questa quilters found by Estevan Rael-Galvez in his grandparents' home next door to the market site.

These murals engage the community in the design process and allow all abilities and ages to paint together. The project continues in 2023!

## **Our Mission:**

to strengthen the local food system in northern Taos County by supporting small land- and home-based businesses, and youth through market internships, mentorship and skill building.

## **Our vision:**

The next generation is capable of producing food locally and is engaged in wise strategies to care for land, water and all resources. Small land- and home-

*Season Seven Opening Sunday, May 28*





Photo by Gaea McGahee

Completed (interactive) Butterfly Mural with artist Rae Lewis (and baby Meade) September, 2022

based businesses are in the skilled hands of our next generation. Local food systems are successfully supporting all people's health. Communities are connected through vibrant local food systems.

**Thank you:**

Our program has (over many seasons) received support from funders: the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF), the LOR Foundation, Chevron Grants for Good, The LANL Foundation, Taos Community Foundation, the Questa Creative Council, Red Willow Center, and the New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association. We have

received other support from community organizations; the Questa Credit Union and the Vida del Norte Coalition, LEAP (Land, Experience, and Art of Place), Questa Stories, Rewire Yourself with New Opportunities (RYNO), and Taos Initiative for Life Together (TiLT), as well as the many hours donated each year by community members and volunteers to help accomplish the larger goals of our program and keep the market site beautiful and welcoming. Thank you all for your continuing support of our growing efforts.

**Contact**

We are a program of the local non-profit, Localogy [www.localogy.org](http://www.localogy.org)  
To contact Market Organizer, Gaea, call (575) 224-2102

[growersmakers@gmail.com](mailto:growersmakers@gmail.com)  
[QuestaFarmersMarket.org](http://QuestaFarmersMarket.org)  
[facebook.com/QuestaFarmersMarket](https://facebook.com/QuestaFarmersMarket)  
[instagram.com/questafarmersmarket](https://instagram.com/questafarmersmarket)

*Our mentors are supported by Taos County ARPA Funding, awarded through the Taos Community Foundation"*

Photo by Gaea McGahee

2022 Intern Lexi Brown and vendor Wendy Medina in QFM gear!



Photo by Gaea McGahee

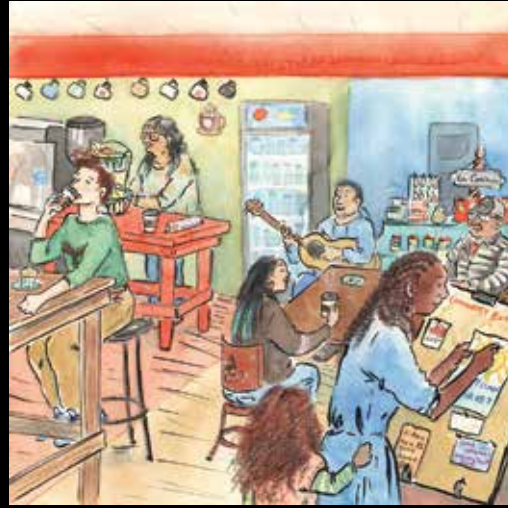
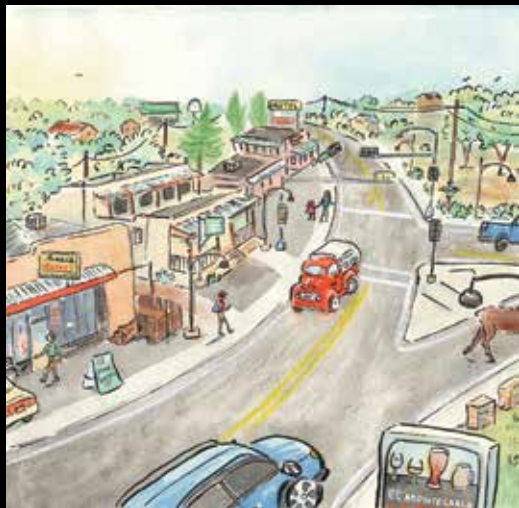
Sangre de Cristo Youth Ranch Campers working on the mural.



Photo by Gaea McGahee

Interns ran a coffee booth and made pizzas in the horno along with the support of several mentors, expanding both market businesses.

# What's Your Kind of Questa?



## The LOR Foundation wants to know!

LOR is a private foundation that works with people in the rural Mountain West to improve quality of life in their communities. And we're excited to have recently begun working with Questa!

We know the best ideas come from locals. That's why we work directly with residents to fund solutions that can be quickly brought to life—like helping students learn traditional music and nonprofits coordinate volunteer efforts.

Those are just a couple of the initial projects we're supporting in Questa, and we want to know what else you have in mind!

Community officer Maria Gonzalez wants to hear about your kind of Questa, so reach out to her with your ideas—big or small: [maria@lorfoundation.org](mailto:maria@lorfoundation.org) or 575-665-2001.



O B I T U A R I E S



**Dorothy "Cece" Martinez**  
d. April 11, 2023

Dorothy "Cece" Martinez, loving wife, mother, nana, daughter, sister, aunt and friend was called home to be with our Lord on April 11, 2023.

Cece was preceded in death by her son, Joseph Martinez; father, Frank Ortega; brother, Frank Ortega Jr.; mother-in-law, Juanita Martinez; brothers-in-law Tony Santistevan and David Leon; grandparents, Melecio and Victoria Sandoval, and Efren and Ursulita Ortega; aunts, Lorena Vigil, Teresa Marquez, Martha Atencio, Alice and MaryAnn Sandoval; uncles, Lucas and Jose Sandoval, Andrew Mondragon, Larry Marquez, Jake and Manuel Ortega.

Cece is survived by her husband, Michael Martinez; son, Melecio, daughter-in-law Janet Martinez; mother Irene Ortega; sisters-in-law Glenda Ortega, Diana Duran, Marbella Leon, and Yolanda Archuleta; brother-in-law Manny Martinez (Wendy); sisters JoAna Montoya and Dolores (Joe) Sheffer; grandchildren Juakin, Joseph III, Cece, Aalyiah and Trinity; aunts and uncles, Edith (Tom) Steele, Dennis (Eva) Sandoval, Steve Vigil, Jenny Mondragon, Bea Perea, Lorena Ortega; father-in-law Romulo Martinez; and many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial Service was held Friday, April 28, 2023, 11 am at Living Word in Questa.



**W. Lee Nichols**

Many of our readers knew Lee Nichols, former Questa resident and contributor to *Questa Del Rio News*. Lee wrote *Talking With Cats: A Journey of Spirit* and *Healing and Wisdom on the Camino de Santiago*. See his full obituary on [QuestaNews.com](http://QuestaNews.com)



**Ernestina Ortega**  
d. April 5, 2023

Ernestina Ortega, age 99, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family, on April 5, 2023. Ernestina was born in Questa, N.M. on Sept. 9, 1923, to Doloritas and Tobias Ortega.

She was preceded in death by her mother Doloritas Gomez Ortega, father Tobias Ortega, Sister Eutimia Ortega Martinez, brothers Efren Ortega, Elizardo Ortega, Loyola Ortega, Alfonso Ortega, Elevinio Ortega, Rubaldo Ortega, and Eladio Ortega.

She is survived by her children Lee (Alice) Ortega, Gloria (Larry) Sanchez, Narciso Ortega, Darlene (Pablo) Archuleta; her grandchildren Donna Lee (James) Vigil, Therese (James) Padilla, Nathan (Tammi) Ortega, Matt (Noreen) Ortega, Ryan (Kelly) Ortega, Narcissa Ortega, Maria (Fabian Romero) Archuleta, Kyle Ortega, and Pablo Archuleta; her great grandchildren Lynell Vigil, James (Claire) Vigil Jr., Stephen (Sarah Fernandez) Ortega, Juan (Marissa Vigil) Vigil, Zachary

Padilla, Kevin Lee Ortega, Tobias (Andrea Sanchez) Ortega, Alexis (Jamie Muniz) Padilla, Arianna Ortega, Charlize Ortega, Thiago Padilla, Chenelle Vigil, Abrielle Ortega, Lennox Olivia Ortega; her great-great grandchildren Lilly Vigil, Francisco Vigil, Amor Vigil, Josiah Vigil, Levi Vigil (soon to be born), Drake Ortega, Dakota Ortega, Derek Ortega, and their mother Christain Ortega. She is also survived by her sister Elva Martinez and many nephews and nieces.

Ernestina, also known by many in Questa as Tiotiste or Tina, was an amazing mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother. During her lifetime she worked very hard to provide for her children. She was a housekeeper in Red River, cleaning private homes, cabins and restaurants. She was a waitress, a bartender for the Golden Q, Kiowa, and Four Roses Tavern in Questa and was a custodian for the Questa Post Office. In the 1940s she was a nanny to children in Taos and Cimarron. She also assisted a local midwife in delivering babies in Questa. During her later years, she was a foster grandmother in the Questa Schools, working with many children and teachers.

Rosary was held at St. Anthony's Church in Questa, Thursday April 13, 2023, at 6 pm and Funeral Mass Friday at St. Anthony's Church, April 14, 2023, at 10 am, with burial to follow at San Pedro Catholic Cemetery in Questa.

The family would like to extend our warmest appreciation and thanks to Santa Fe Care Center for the great care and love they showed our mother during her last 3 years. She was treated with great love, kindness, and dignity. We also want to thank Ambergare Hospice for the care given to our mom in her last days.

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



**Dr. John Newhall 'Bud' Wilson**  
9/27/1925 - 4/9/2023

Bud Wilson, 97, of Lama, who has recently been living in the Albuquerque area, passed away peacefully in his sleep Easter morning, at home with family. An inspired humanitarian, Bud had an immense impact as he poured his heart and spirit into every endeavor – as a medical pioneer, conservationist, educator, mentor, friend, and beloved family member. He embraced the soul of humanity in everyone he met, in practice, as his spiritual path.

Born in Chicago, with his high school football coach, he first visited New Mexico at age 16 where he learned the art of making adobe bricks in San Cristobal. At 17, he joined the Marine Corp Reserves and completed pilot training, though he was not called to active duty before the war ended. Through the GI Bill, he pursued his edu-

cation at Williams College and Northwestern Medical School, graduating in 1952.

His love of New Mexico led him to return during breaks from studies to work with the Forest Service. In 1947, he bought land in Lama, which would become his lifelong refuge and eventual home. During this time, Bud met his wife Barbara, while visiting musician Jennie Vincent in San Cristobal. They married in 1949. On summer breaks from medical school, Bud and Barb returned to San Cristobal, bringing the first group of teenagers from inner city Chicago to share the experiences Bud had enjoyed.

Dr. Wilson completed his internship and surgical residency in Denver and also Sweden. In 1965, Bud and Barb took their four children, ages 5–12 to India, where Bud taught medicine and was a surgeon in Vellore (Tamilnadu) and Odanchetrum, where he established the first heart surgery hospital in southern India with his friend and colleague, Jacob Cherian.

New Mexico remained a guiding star, and so the family moved to Albuquerque. Bud was a surgeon at UNM Hospital,

OBITS cont'd on page 28



**Albina "Sweetie" Gallegos**



**Cynthia Ortega**

**Memorial Services for Abina "Sweetie" Gallegos and Cynthia Ortega Announced**

Albina "Sweetie" Gallegos and her daughter, Cynthia Ortega continued on their journey home to be with the Lord on Oct. 28, 2022.

**Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 13,** at Living Word Ministries Church in Questa with a meal to follow at the Questa VFW. Please join our family as we continue to mourn this tragic loss.

# QUESTA AREA-WIDE ACEQUIA ASSOCIATION MEETING

Listen, learn, share your ideas. Presenter, Judy Torres, Director, Taos Valley Acequia Association  
Tuesday, May 2, 5:30pm - Village Office Council Chambers - *Pizza Provided by QEDF*

Learn more about the purpose and benefits of an area-wide acequia association.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89790062836?pwd=WVF4WUV4RElVZ0JlZjZZWWJjUklwdz09>

Call In: (346) 248- 7799 Meeting ID: 897 9006 2836 Passcode: 310308

For more information contact Lynn Skall.  
[Lynn@QuestaEDF.com](mailto:Lynn@QuestaEDF.com)



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



## SAFETY IS OUR 1ST PRIORITY

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) is taking a proactive approach to effective and timely communication with our members. Northern NM has experienced winter squalls and extreme weather storms in previous years. During these storms, KCEC crews and staff evaluate, plan and prepare for future potential disasters. KCEC has learned that active communication during a potential disaster helps members prepare and take the necessary steps to stay safe.

### WAYS KCEC KEEPS MEMBERS SAFE:

- Year-round tree trimming and maintenance (KCEC attributes the minimal outages to the active tree trimming and system maintenance of our electrical system throughout the year).
- Continually inspecting poles, substations and electrical equipment to reduce power interference and increase fire mitigation.
- Using satellite technology to detect tree and forest vegetation for a strategic plan for tree-trimming crews.
- Our employees are CPR certified.
- KCEC has an internal safety committee to proactively educate and train KCEC employees.
- KCEC finds new ways to ensure our employees and community



THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

**\$8,806,520 DOLLARS SAVED ON ELECTRIC BILLS SINCE LAST JULY!!!!**

**FRIDAY POOL** cont'd from page 12

an excellent writer.” We know, we are quite proud of her work!

Altogether there are about seven friends that meet every Friday. Erminio Padilla moved away from Costilla

and traveled in many states, working mostly in California. Like others in the group, he seems to be enjoying his retirement.

Tobias Lujan is a US Marine Corps Veteran who was stationed in Cambodia during the Vietnam conflict. He

was a mechanic on a ship whose main mission was to remove civilians from harm’s way.

They have been getting together for about six months and have no plans to stop. In the long, cold winter it was a great way to break up the day. There ar-

en’t many options of places to meet and it is a fun way to hang out. They play pool, joke, solve the world’s problems and keep up with everyone’s business. It keeps them happy and smiling and they say it is a great way to spend their retirement!

**NEW YORK TIMES** cont'd from page 1

in isolation.

While northern New Mexico is being recognized nationally for its unique dialect, authors like Ruben Cobos have been hard at work for years, documenting the unique linguistic qualities of el norte (the north) still in place to this day, words and phrases that are 17th Century Spanish, influenced by indigenous Native American language. Cobos has released several books, including *Cuentos from my Childhood: Legends and Folktales of northern New Mexico*, *A Dictionary of New Mexico and Southern*

Colorado Spanish, and *Refranes: Southwestern Spanish Proverbs*, all of which focus heavily on northern New Mexico and it’s unique traditions and dialect.

When reading the Dictionary of New Mexico & Southern Colorado Spanish, you will find each word is identified by an English definition, then is followed by a sentence. Some excerpts from the dictionary below:

Echar: to pour, to be lying down, to chase away, to miss. Echale mas agua a los frijoles (put more water on the beans)

Encuerdo: to have a twist in your back or your neck. Tengo un cuerdo en mi hombro (I have a knot in

my shoulder)

Troca: Truck. Mi troca esta corriendo bien (my truck is running well)

Tapita: Bottle cap or small lid. Esta tapita esta pequeño (this bottle cap is small)

Trastes: Dishes. Voy a llavar los trastes esta mañana (I am going to wash the dishes this morning)

Fogón: Fireplace. Echale mas leña en el fogón (Put some wood in the fireplace)

Fuistes: You went. ¿Fuistes a misa? (Did you go to mass?)

Escaparse: To escape. ¿Se cayó? No, se escapo de caer. (Did they fall? No they

escaped a fall.)

Capturing and documenting the unique pieces of our culture have never been more important for the *Questa del Rio News*. Having a historical record is sometimes the only way cultures are preserved and recognized when looking back at history. While it is worrisome that pieces of our culture are slowly and surely disappearing before us, it’s also encouraging that so many norteños are making efforts to preserve our culture.

Would you like to share an old tradition, recipe, memory, or story? We’d love to write about it. Send an email to [edi-tor@questanews.com](mailto:editor@questanews.com) to connect with us.

**LOU MCCALL** cont'd from page 16

media to at-risk youth in Gallup while working on her Masters in Multicultural Secondary Education through Western New Mexico University. First video production and later journalism, the class was part of the News 101 program created by KRQE News in Albuquerque and funded by the DWI Task Force of McKinley County. Students produced public service announcements for anti-DWI and other substance-abuse issues. Their PSAs appeared on TV stations across New Mexico. “The students won MTV Awards and NAMBE Awards for their videos, and some of them went on to careers in film and video,” Lou says proudly, “We also participated in the Taos Film Festival’s Teen Media Conference.”

In 2016, Lou and her partner Pete

moved to El Rito. She says, “We went camping at Wild Rivers and had friends here and it was the most peaceful and beautiful place, it was magnetic, it pulled us here.”

Along the way, Lou got more serious about her writing and produced newsletters for different organizations and wrote columns for local newspapers. She recalls telling Malaquias Rael how much she loved the *Questa Community News* which an Americorp Volunteer had produced for the *Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF)*. She told him she had put out a community newsletter for five years (a lustrum) and Malaquias immediately encouraged her to connect with Lindsay Mapes, then Director of QEDF, to talk about putting together a *Questa* newspaper. And the rest is history!

Lou co-founded *Questa Del Rio*

*News* with Lindsay and Malaquias and she thanks the people at QEDF and the community for their support. Much of her work has been building a strong foundation with newsroom staff, while establishing contacts, resources, and training writers for the paper. She has gained a deep appreciation for northern Taos County and has done a great service to the area through her work and commitment to the newspaper and the community.

When starting the newspaper at the age of 62, Lou made a five-year commitment (a lustrum) to the project. In February of 2023, it has been five years and she is retiring. This May issue is her last, and she leaves behind a legacy of local news.

“We have been praying for a new editor for some time and finding Mikayla Ortega confirms my belief in the power

of prayer!” Lou says. “She is taking our newspaper to the next level and making it easy for me to step down.”

Lou has no doubt that *Questa Del Rio News* will survive, thrive and prosper, she would love to see it live on for generations to come.

Lou and Pete are in the process of relocating to the Taos area. We are hopeful this isn’t goodbye but rather a “see you later.” There will be a goodbye party for Lou Wednesday May 3, from 5–7 p.m. as part of the quarterly *Questa Business Entrepreneurial Network (QBEN)* network. Lou sincerely hopes you will join us at El Monte Carlo in *Questa* to celebrate the newspaper’s coming of age!

*To Lou McCall from all of us at Questa Del Rio News: Thank you for your service, dedication, sacrifices, hard work and vision. You made us better and we are forever grateful to you.*

**OBITUARIES** cont'd from page 26

BCMC, and then in private practice with a group focused on thoracic surgery for Presbyterian Hospital where they established the first heart program in New Mexico.

Working tirelessly and selflessly, he would retreat to his beloved Lama Mountain to irrigate and restore the land. As an ecologist, he helped stabilize overgrazed land prone to erosion,

and sowed drought-resistant native seeds. To preserve the land for wildlife habitat, agriculture, and open space, he placed most of the land in conservation easements with the Nature Conservancy, American Farmland Trust, and Taos Land Trust.

Dedicated to service and recognizing the treasure of potential in youth, Bud and Barb established the *Sangre de Cristo Youth Ranch* in Lama, where 10- to 12-year-olds could have experiences with nature and working the land. He

offered this for free to the children of the nurses he worked with, the youth of New Mexico, Chicago, and the world.

A Mexican camper from nearly 40 years ago wrote recently, “Your family made a big impact on my life, especially your father. I would not be who I am now without him and the opportunity I had to be part of that summer camp. I would love to thank you all again for the opportunity.”

Dr. Wilson is preceded in death by his daughter, Lenny, and wife Barba-

ra. He is survived by his children and their spouses; Crick and Sarah, Nat and Peggy, Ben and Amy; grandchildren Rachel, Bryan, Yoma, Issa, Perri and Miles; great-grandchild Mason, nieces and nephews, and by his partner Sally McGrath and her extended family.

There will be a memorial/celebration, which will be announced in *Questa Del Rio News*. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to *Sangre de Cristo Youth Ranch*, *Nature Conservancy*, or *Taos Land Trust*.

# ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson  
MAY 2023

## WHO'S THE ENEMY?

**"Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" — Abraham Lincoln**

This month, Jupiter and Pluto gear up for a potential battle with each other. The interesting part of this challenge is that both duelists change mid-duel. As the approach narrows and the boxing gloves come up, Jupiter suddenly shifts from the sign of Aries to the sign of Taurus while Pluto suddenly shifts from direct to retrograde, both at nearly the same time, mid-month. To complicate things further, Jupiter is the natural ruler of Aquarius and therefore they share an affinity for all things, how things are done and in both cases it's in a big way!

Just when they thought they knew the antagonist, the antagonist changes and both are friends! Their differing and then shifting perspectives, while still retaining a natural affinity could either make for a big bang or for a major resolution. To increase the tension, both Taurus and Aquarius are what we call "Fixed" signs meaning loyal and dependable — someone who gets the job done, but also stubborn and literally fixed, stuck, whether in their own beliefs, habits, or ideas. They hate change!

Jupiter in Aries takes the lead and does everything to the max, fighting for conservative ideas but also wanting good fortune for everyone while Pluto in Aquarius direct is about our greatest hopes and wishes for all of humanity but keeping some of them secret, possibly engaging in clandestine affairs to achieve its ends. Then Jupiter shifts to Taurus and now it's all about accumulation rather than sharing the wealth which, however, is greater than ever! Now the whole point of abundance is to gather and hoard. At the same time Pluto, still in Aquarius goes retrograde and secrets are revealed, plots understood. Retrogrades always mean more possibilities and less rigidity, punching through the concretization which comes with dogmatic beliefs which are long past due for a change.

**Everyone:** While the battle gears up, the Sun and Earth shift into mutable (flexible) signs — Gemini and Sagittarius — mid-month, which can assist in the possibility of resolution, of a challenge met and dealt with in an honorable manner beneficial to all.

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

**Dynamic:** You feel you have your feet solidly on the ground early in the month.

**Direction:** When the ground starts to shift, ride it out.

**Soul Thought:** All crises are crises in thought.

**TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ AP RIL 19 – MAY 20**

**Dynamic:** It should be a time of feeling strong.

**Direction:** And then comes freedom

**Soul Thought:** Ponder whether it's truly freedom for all.

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

**Dynamic:** You may feel you are coming down after a time of lightness.

**Direction:** Now it's a time for gentleness and grace.

**Soul Thought:** "Grant me the grace to dissolve the negative thoughts about myself." Caroline Myss

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

**Dynamic:** Building up to mid-month could be extra emotional or extra caring.

**Direction:** Choose caring.

**Soul Thought:** For self as well as others.

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

**Dynamic:** You've done the hard work and set foundations.

**Direction:** It's time to lighten up.

**Soul Thought:** Who do you see in the mirror?

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

**Dynamic:** Parts of you are more than usually visible this month.

**Direction:** Let it shine through.

**Soul Thought:** What is Earthshine?

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

**Dynamic:** You have the voice of authority.

**Direction:** Use it wisely.

**Soul Thought:** Whose voice is it?

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

**Dynamic:** You are another element in the potential battle this month.

**Direction:** Be the solution, not the problem.

**Soul Thought:** "With self-forgetfulness I gather what I need for the helping of my fellowmen." Alice Bailey

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

**Dynamic:** Some really good and energetic days this month could also be reactive.

**Direction:** You know which way to go.

**Soul Thought:** In Love.

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

**Dynamic:** Are you getting cold feet about something?

**Direction:** Ponder whether it is retreat or bowing in deference.

**Soul Thought:** Which is about respect?

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

**Dynamic:** Where will you be when the shift occurs?

**Direction:** Correct answer: Centered.

**Soul Thought:** Where is your center?

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

**Dynamic:** A bumpy road could be this month.

**Direction:** Remember, the Soul loves a challenge.

**Soul Thought:** It's the ebb and flow of Life.

## Area Easter egg hunts

By STAFF WRITERS

The Village of Questa along with the Amalia Neighborhood Association hosted Easter Egg Hunts for kiddos in the Questa, Cerro, Costilla, and Amalia communities on Saturday, April 8. Many community members showed up with their kids to participate in these community events. The events were put on in partnership with local community groups including the Questa Public Library, Questa and Cerro Fire and EMS Departments, Freedom Church, Living Word Ministries, Maria Gonzalez with the LOR Foundation and Vida del Norte Coalition, Wildcats Den, Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus, GFTD Celebration, Amalia Community Center, and individual volunteers who contributed to clean up, set up, and break down of events.

In Red River, dozens of children from Red River, Questa and surrounding areas found a veritable sea of candy-filled (plus a few cash-filled) plastic eggs on Easter Sunday, April 9 at Mallette Park in Red River. Busi-

ness owner and parent Jenny Church almost single-handedly organized the event but after noting, Church says businesses who contributed to the event included Weezie's Wild Rides, Sitzmark Sports, The Candy Company, Lil' Willies, and Steam Coffee & Tea Co. Faith Mountain.



Photos by E. Wilde

The Easter Bunny made an appearance to help the egg hunt in Red River



Photo Courtesy of Amalia Neighborhood Association Facebook

Kids in Amalia heard stories from the Easter Bunny and his friends



Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb



Photos by Ellen Miller-Goins

Kids in Questa search for eggs

Easter Egg Hunt organizer Jenny Church (left) asked parents and children to keep the candy but return the plastic eggs for next year.

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.



## 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.

### NOTICES

**Questa Senior Center, no longer serving lunches to-go.** Lunch is served from noon to 1 pm. 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 Senior Exercise Classes,** Thursdays, 10-11 am, Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call (575) 586-0508 for more information.

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

**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 [wrmesquire2@gmail.com](mailto:wrmesquire2@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).

**May Quote from Lisa Fox:** "The measure of intelligence is the ability to change" - Albert Einstein

## Job Opening: Advertising Sales Representative

The Questa del Rio News is looking for two persuasive sales representatives for the northern Taos County territory. This position will be responsible for building relationships with community businesses, in an effort to establish new clients and maintain current clients as advertisers with the paper publication. The paper is growing and we're looking for individuals with the same vision and tenacity to grow with us. Does this sound like you? Please apply!

**Duties:** Duties include identifying and meeting client's needs, researching potential clients and creating sales pitches tailored to their needs, providing cost estimates and breakdowns from the run sheet, managing ad creation in conjunction with the graphics department from building to approving ad, maintaining the tracking of leads and progress through an online tracking system, monitor and track ads for consistency.



- Requirements:**
- Must have reliable transportation.
  - Must have a working computer and access to internet.
  - Must have a cell phone.
  - Prior sales experience is a plus.
  - Continued education credits or degrees a plus.

- Pay Structure:**
- \$250 base pay monthly
  - 15% of total gross sales
  - \$100 one time bonus for all first time advertiser that are signed for a QP ad for a frequency of 3 months minimum
  - \$200 one time bonus for any half page ad for a frequency of 3 months minimum.
  - \$300 one bonus for any full page ad for a frequency of 3 months minimum
  - No limit to how many of these you rack up in a month.
  - What constitutes a NEW or FIRST TIME advertiser? Any business that has not advertised ever or have not advertised in the last two years at date of signing contract.

**Apply:** Interested candidates can send their resume and cover letter (recommended but not required) to [editor@questanews.com](mailto:editor@questanews.com).

## 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

### "A WORLD OF THE SPIRIT"

We have entered the world of the Spirit. Our next function is to grow in understanding and effectiveness. This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime.  
—ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 84



zed by duane m. abel

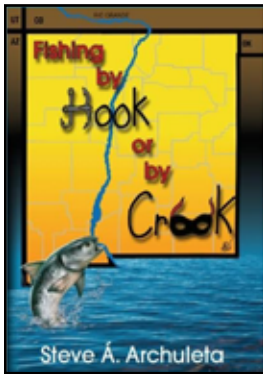
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### DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR? FREE LISTINGS!

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)

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**



**BUY THIS BOOK:**  
**Fishing by Hook or by Crook**  
*...a series of fishing stories intended for entertainment only.*  
 \$19.50 plus \$4.50 S&H  
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 steve.archuleta3474@gmail.com

**Cerro Vista Farm**  
**Fresh Produce and Flowers**  
**Questa Farmers Market**  
 Sundays 10 am - 2 pm  
**Tomato Plants for Sale**  
 June 4th June 11th June 18th

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

- ✓ **The Art Market**  
Sundays, 10 am - 2 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  
 Questa Visitor Center

**OPEN**  
 May 28

Scan to Apply  
 hiring youth interns

  
 Questa Farmers Market

  [QuestaFarmersMarket.org](http://QuestaFarmersMarket.org)  
 575.224.2102  

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 32 Sagebrush Rd. (next to Questa High School)

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