

Questa del Rio News

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

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Revival of Fiestas de San Antonio Unites Norteños



Photo by Dylan R. Crabb

The Questa Fiesta Court are presented to the community after the Reina is crowned.

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Ideal weather and live music made for a perfect Fiesta celebration at Molycorp Field on Saturday, June 17.

Norteños from Questa, Cerro, Costilla, Amalia, Red River, Taos, and San Cristobal filled the Molycorp fields for the first time in 15 years, a familiar and comforting sight as neighbors embraced one another and caught up on life.

The past two decades have been tumultuous for the small northern Taos County communities. With the closure of the Questa mine and collapse of the west wall of the San Antonio de Rio Colorado catholic church in Questa, the natural rhythm of traditions true to the area were disrupted, forcing the people to shift their focus.

Life has since come full circle, illustrating the resilience and determination of the people, with a church that has been fully restored and a town that has redefined itself in a post-mining economy.

David Rael, who was raised in Questa



Photo by Mikayla Ortega

Roger Blanco and Dave Rael sit and enjoy New Mexico Music at the Fiestas

and currently lives in Taos, was in attendance at the celebration with his good friend Roger Blanco. The pair sat and reminisced as they listened to rancheras and Spanish music of times past. He spoke with Questa del Rio News about

his memorias (memories) of growing up in Questa.

Rael recalls that while growing up, connecting with your community was

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

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EDITORIAL

Remembering Tragedy

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Memorial Day is a federally recognized holiday in the United States, recognized as a day to honor fallen soldiers, brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting for something they believed in, a cause greater than themselves. It is a solemn day of remembrance usually accompanied with celebrations of life.

This year the people of Red River, New Mexico, unfortunately saw violence first-hand during their Memorial Day celebrations, violence that our nation's fallen soldiers had hoped to prevent bringing to our own shores. This act of violence in the form of multiple gun shots, wounding 8 people and killing 3, was perpetuated by two motorcycle gangs who decided to use this secluded, mountain community as their own personal battlefield to carry out a senseless vendetta. I suppose the community can take some solace in the fact that the violence was contained to the gangs themselves, but that would only dehumanize the people involved and dehumanization only perpetuates the cycle of violence into the future. The act of violence that occurred on the weekend of Memorial Day in the year 2023, in this small northern

New Mexico town, could have been avoided had the individuals involved been able to settle their differences peacefully. Alas the temptation towards violence is strong in the human spirit. Regrettably it is a temptation inside all of us, it must be guarded against with discipline and patience.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn said the line between good and evil runs through the heart of every human being. We are all capable of evil and it is our choices which determine so. We choose to be good once we understand what we are capable of. We choose to be good once we know that we can do evil.

Let us remind ourselves of our humanity whenever we witness acts of violence and let us place ourselves in the shoes of whoever is responsible for violence. Always be willing to ask yourself, "what would it take for me to commit such an act?" Then let us remember the similarities we have with those who commit such a violence. Only when we recognize humanity even in those of whom we disapprove, or even hate, can we break the cycle of violence and move towards the ever-present aspiration of peace.

We must remember our tragedies so that we may remember our humanity.

"When will our consciousnesses grow so tender that we will act to prevent misery rather than avenge it"
Eleanor Roosevelt

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

CYNTHIA NAJIM, GAEA MCGEE, BRYCE FLANAGAN, BARBARA TRACY, SHENA CANNON, KATRINA GONZALES, MARIA GONZALEZ, CHRIS AND TRACY GREEN, MARTA GLOVER, QUESTA MAYOR JOHN A. ORTEGA, CHARLENE R. JOHNSON, ELLEN WOOD, QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL, SHARON NICHOLSON, ZACH BEHRENS, CLAIRE CATLETT, DAVID RAE, MONICA ORTEGA, JAY BOUCHARD, LOUISE GALLEGOS, MIRANDA JEANTETE, PEGGY TRIGG, ELI LEV, TORI CURRY, LITA (DD) MEAD, DEE SIMS, RAYNELLE CORDOVA, KRISTEN AND BRIAN TORRES, BERNIE TORRES, RICK VIGIL, LOU MCCALL, CORILIA ORTEGA, J. ORTEGA.

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Emergency responders never know what the next 911 call will bring, nor what traumatic circumstances and even peril may await them on scene.

There have been numerous reports, locally and nationwide, on the disturbing Memorial Day weekend events in Red River on May 27. Many lives have been forever changed. An active shooter at a public gathering is among the worst calls that first responders can face.

I would like to spotlight and applaud the prompt and professional efforts of our emergency responders in the Enchanted Circle, most of whom are volunteers. That Saturday there were 18 crew from the Red River Fire Department and EMS squad, and 3 from out of the area who were supporting them. They arrived on scene within 4 minutes after the initial page came in. The first 3 patients were already being transported to Holy Cross Hospital in Taos within 12 minutes.

Several other agencies were actively participating on scene: Questa EMS - 8 crew, 2 ambulances; Taos County EMS - 2 crew, 1 ambulance; Eagle Nest EMS - 2 crew, 1 ambulance; the Taos County Fire Marshal; and one UNM Consortium physician. In addition, over 40 law enforcement were present during the events and long after to ensure that the environment was safe and secure.

One thing many of us don't think about: Who will respond to new emergencies that may arise while so many core resources are occupied at a major incident? This concern is a prime example of why communication and teamwork are critical components of emergency service. On May 27, all area ambulances

were in Red River! Fortunately, other volunteer fire departments (including Latir, Cerro, La Lama, and San Cristobal) were standing by to respond to other events.

The very next weekend on June 3, there was a challenging rescue and recovery at Sheep's Crossing in Wild Rivers. Initial information was unclear on the exact location of the raft and the condition of the passengers, which heightened the intensity of the call. Ultimately, thanks to excellent intra-district communication, skill, and teamwork, the hardships of this rescue were overcome, the deceased was recovered, and the other passengers were brought to safety.

A total of 23 volunteer fire and EMS personnel responded to this call: Cerro/ Questa Fire- 4 crew, Questa EMS - 2 crew, 1 ambulance; Latir - 5 crew, La Lama/San Cristobal - 5 crew, Red River - 6 crew (including their highly trained Ropes Rescue team) along with the Taos County Fire Marshall. Also on site were BLM staff and NM State Police.

Please join me in extending our immense gratitude to all dedicated Enchanted Circle emergency responders, not only for their selfless service during these incidents, but for their readiness to jump into action and give their best every day and every night. It truly does take a village.

CYNTHIA NAJIM

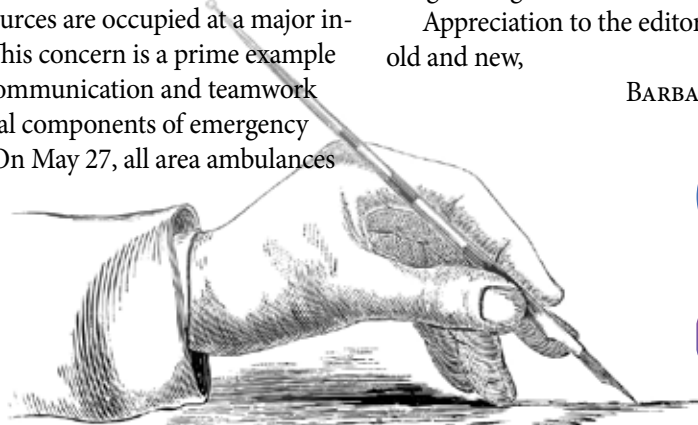
Super Service Award!

Thank you SO MUCH for my FAVORITE newspaper.

I love Bryce Flanagan's "Bird is the Word" column and also Barbara Tracy's BODY/MIND/SPIRIT; the Sustainable Living Section is always very enlightening.

Appreciation to the editors, old and new,

BARBARA CONKLIN



A Cultural Concoction

ANONYMOUS

In a cauldron of high mountains and deep valleys, in Sonoran deserts and deep arroyos, mix a cup of Hispanic blood, a clay vessel of Indian blood, a tablespoon of French blood and a teaspoonful of Anglo blood. Sprinkle a half-a-handful of Chimayo chile, a pinch of Guadalupe Hidalgo chile peppers. Rash a dash of raiz-de-nuestra tierra (root of our land) and a sliver of root of Spanish culture.

Mix these ingredients in the slowness of time, then sprinkle with drops of individualism, some spirits of pragmatism, and a drop or two of adventure. Cover concoction with fresh leaves of "yerba de las haciendas perdidas (plant of lost land grants), yerba de mitote de resolana (plant of sunny-side gossip), apathy plant, leaves of the struggle-for-existence plant, loco weed of the land speculator and a generous number of leaves of political corruption.

Let the "Potaje" (potpourri) ferment under the New Mexico sun for a century, frequently serenading it with music and fiesta.

The dish resulting from these numerous ingredients are the present-day people of Questa.

Questenos are of many ilks. There are the materialistic or money-oriented; they will do almost anything that is legal to enrich their bank accounts. There are the conservatives, family oriented, whose sights are aimed at a hope in future generations, sensing the pollution in their lungs and mind. There are the apathetic who care little about most things around them, their motto: "Me importa poco." Then there are traditionalists who stubbornly cling to their small plots of land, stubbornly resistant to strangers mingling in their affairs, resentful of the government's renegeing on what they

consider their "rights" under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Finally there are the sunny-side gossipers and the local "Paisano Politicos." Both claim some control over the lives of the people. The "Resolaneros" judge the world; the "Patrones" rule the masses (or think they do).

Poor as many of these people may be, they are proud of their legacy. They hold firmly to the idea that the land is community rather than commodity; a sacred place to be born in and in which you can be buried.

Varied as this concoction might be, it is quite capable of running its own affairs: Schools, fire department, credit union, retail businesses, government, acequia association, highway department, police department, etcetera. Apathetic as this product might be, there is enough pride, self-worth and a slow-driving ambition that has compelled it to contribute to the market place: Farmers, mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, electricians. In addition: musicians, artists, singers, doctors, lawyers, educators and engineers. All these dissimilars contribute to the American dream of a grand society and opportunity.

Foreign as this product might appear, Disloyalty it has none. Despite broken promises by the government in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Questa has contributed soldiers from the Spanish American war to the Vietnam War. These native sons have served their country honorably and have taken their suffering in stride.

The cultural mix of the INDO-HISPANO-FRENCH-ANGLO-AMERICAN is a good receipt for living.

**Editors note: This piece was contributed to the Questa del Rio News anonymously. The contributor says Moises Rael, a retired Questa High School teacher wrote it, and sent it to him in 1983.*

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

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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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Miranda Jeantete

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Being raised in a community where your history connects to every part of your present, it's difficult to find the courage to leave. The Questa del Rio News is committed to highlighting different members of our community, both those who have forged their paths and have planted their own roots in the community that raised them, and also, those who have pursued lives outside of the community through our Representando series. This series is dedicated to those who are Representando Questa in various facets of life.

In this issue, we spoke with Miranda (Riddle) Jeantete, who graduated from Questa High School in 2001. Currently, Miranda resides in Rio Rancho with her husband Rico and their daughters, Jadyn and Lauren.

Upon graduation from high school, Miranda attended UNM-Taos to begin her coursework in education. Due to lack of options at the Taos campus, she knew a move to Albuquerque was imminent, however, the thought of relocating with a 3-year-old was a daunting prospect. That's when she found the value of surrounding yourself with the right people.

She recalls when her-then boyfriend Rico asked her, "where do you see yourself in 10 years?" She answered without hesitation, "in a classroom, teaching." That's when Rico told her "okay, let's go register for classes." In December 2005 she relocated to Albuquerque with the encouragement and support from her future husband who had already completed his bachelor's degree from UNM.

Feeling overwhelmed with emotion as she recalls her journey, Miranda says Rico and her mom, June Riddle have always been her biggest supporters. While at the time, she only had her sights set on her bachelors degree, Miranda has since obtained her master's degree in Educational Leadership & Administration.

Her career has included teaching for the public schools sector, where she held roles as an educator at Puesta del Sol Elementary and most recently, at Sandia Vista Elementary where she was an assistant principal for three years and a principal for two. "Ever since I was small, I have had a desire to learn, but also to teach others. I've always loved



Courtesy photo

Miranda Jeantete

the classroom and used to cry when we had snow days," Miranda laughs as she recalls her lifelong love and passion for learning.

While she enjoyed being an effective leader in the public school system, Miranda recognized it's easy for teachers to be discouraged from the profession. "It's so incredibly important to encourage and support teachers while they navigate the day-to-day. Fostering their passions and supporting them is so paramount." In 2022, Miranda decided to step away from public education to expand her impact on up-and-coming teachers.

She accepted a job with UNM in Albuquerque as the Department Administrator of Language, Literacy and Sociocultural Studies for the College of



Courtesy photo

Miranda and her husband Rico pose with their daughters Jadyn and Lauren

Education and Human Sciences. "It truly is a full circle moment for me. There is so much passion within the department for equality and that resonates deeply," she says. Working closely with the Department Chair, Miranda now supports the faculty who prepare the future teachers of tomorrow.

When asked what her message would be for anyone who is in education or considering pursuing a career in this field, she says "you have to love the kids before you can teach them. You have to make sure the kids are taken care of. Their focus can be on everything else outside of the classroom but if you're able to engage with them and get them to a place of trusting you, they will open up and learn."

Internet Outage in Taos County leaves many in dark

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

People and businesses across Taos County were forced to rough it last month as phone and internet services went down from June 5 to June 7 affecting customers of CenturyLink, Comcast, TaosNet, Verizon, and AT&T.

"The telecommunication outage began at 3:15 pm on Monday June 5, 2023 and was fully restored on June 7, 2023 around 9 pm," said Kit Carson Electric Cooperative CEO Luis Reyes in a statement to the Questa del Rio News. "All service providers except Kit Carson Internet were impacted."

Independent tech contractor, Mike Barbee, also gave the Questa News a statement saying that Kit Carson also



experienced a brief outage from approximately 3:15 pm to 3:21 pm on June 5.

"During this period CenturyLink landlines could dial local landline numbers in the valley including Taos, Questa, and Red River but not cell phones. Cell

phones or other external numbers dialing CenturyLink numbers received a busy signal. . . . CenturyLink and TaosNet internet services were completely down. Kit Carson was struggling to provide consistent service (they had latency lags and dropped packets), but they were up," said Barbee.

300 electrical splices had to be made in controlled environments and specialized crews were needed which is why the outage lasted so long.

Brownrice Internet, the company that hosts the website for <www.questanews.com>, was down from about 3:22 pm on June 5 and was restored at about 5:00 pm on June 7.

Disclosure: Mike Barbee also works for the Questa del Rio News.

Red River to Discontinue Motorcycle Rally

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Leaders in the Town of Red River have decided to discontinue the Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally as a result of the biker gang violence which overtook the 2023 rally. Mayor Linda Calhoun said in a statement to the Questa del Rio News, "after the events that happened in May, we don't believe it's appropriate to encourage motorcycle gang members to come to Red River. We are a family vacation destination and are not willing to tolerate this type of behavior that puts our guests and community members at risk. Going forward, we will plan an event to honor our veterans and families. We will release details as they become available."



Business Profile

By ELLEN MILLER-GOINS

Every spring a semi-truck pulls up to Weezie's Wild Rides and drops boxes containing Polaris side-by-sides — in parts. Then co-owner Chris Green and crew set to work assembling this brand-new fleet for their busy summer season.

"They run and drive, but you have to put on all the roll cages, seats, and hard covers," Chris says.

It is a challenge, but only because of time: Having grown up on a farm, Green is an experienced diesel mechanic and "jack-of-all-trades". His wife and business partner Tracy "Weezie" Green, too, grew up on a farm. In her case the farm and the nearby town Willowdale, Kansas, were founded by her great, great-grandfather.

The duo is used to hard work, a good thing since they have expanded their business from a small fleet of rentals at a smaller location further down Main Street to their current location, a large garage and office at 718 E Main Street in Red River.

Like so many transplants to Red River, Tracy says, "We came on vacation, and we fell in love with it out here."

They rented 4x4s from Mike Julian, owner of Mike's Fun Place, and, in conversation, they learned Mike was ready to retire.

"He'd been wanting to retire for a while," Tracy says, to which Chris responds with a laugh, "He found a sucker."

They re-named the business after Tracy's nickname. "Weezie is my dad's nickname for me," Tracy explains. "My middle name is Louise."

Tracy says the Red River business opportunity gave them a new chance. "We didn't just farm. I ran an alcohol and drug treatment center, and he was a diesel mechanic. Then, when my dad passed away, we were also farming. We were running ourselves to death trying to do all of it. He's a pretty darned-good mechanic and I really liked my job, too. We couldn't give up anything, it seemed like, so we gave up all of it!"

Chris and Tracy sold it all, left their jobs and made the move in June 2017, right after Memorial Day weekend. In addition to the side-by-sides, Mike's Fun Place also housed a bull ride, climbing wall, and bumper cars. They dispensed with those immediately.

"We got rid of everything we didn't want and kept what we knew," Chris says.



Courtesy Photo

Chris and Tracy Green pose on Red River's Main Street

Even with Chris' mechanical skills, the first few years were a challenge, Tracy notes. "We replaced half the inventory the first year and the other half the second year. We could see that it was going to be really hard to keep that up. With the old inventory, we were making runs up to Alamosa (the nearest Polaris dealer) constantly.

The trips led to a close friendship with the Alamosa Polaris dealer Mark Gilleland, owner of Mark's Outdoor Sports, Tracy says. "We were talking about how to keep it going. I asked him if he knew of any programs."

The question was fortuitous: Polaris was launching a new partnership with rental companies that enabled Weezie's to buy a new fleet every year with the added benefit of marketing, website support, safety programs and swift access to parts. "We get parts pretty fast because they know our season's short," Tracy says.

The machines come with "ride command", a dash GPS tool that aids customers with route planning, group self-guided tours, and mapping — a necessity since all Weezie's rentals are self-guided. As Polaris notes on its website, this tool lets riders "go anywhere you want to go without worry of losing your route even when cell service is nowhere to be found."

Polaris benefits because every customer at Weezie's is essentially test-driving the latest machine — and it's one that works at Red River's high-altitude, challenging 4x4 terrain.

Weezie's benefits from having new

machines that need far less maintenance and repairs. Says Chris, "We started with Polaris Adventures in 2019 and we moved to our current location in 2021."

Tracy notes the business has "been successful beyond our wildest dreams. Our fleet has gone from 15 to 25, and that allowed us to hire employees, too."

Additionally, employees benefit as they learn new skills, Tracy says. "With the outfitter program they can be certified mechanics, too. They can take that with them."

Both Chris and Tracy put their lifelong work ethic to good use — and their community spirit. Chris, whose father was a fire chief in Kansas, has been a volunteer firefighter since he was 16. He now volunteers with the Red River Fire Department and its rope rescue team.

Tracy stepped into a council position that was vacated by Sloan Covington when he moved and chairs the Parks and Recreation Committee. Both helped co-found the Red River Off-Road Coalition, a 501c3 non-profit that helps repair and maintain area USDA Forest Service roads that are popular with 4x4 fans.

Chris says he formed the group so they would have a legal way to help with road repairs — initially the Old Red River Pass — since they already owned necessary heavy equipment.

In 2018 Chris said he had attended a meeting hosted by the Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation during which "they said they needed help. I let it sit for a little while then I got together with the other outfitters in town to try to

help maintain the trails.

"The Old Pass was closed. I got everybody rounded up. Went to the Forest Service and said, 'I've got everybody, I've got equipment.' We got that fixed working with them."

Since then, the non-profit has repaired the sometimes-treacherous Goose Lake Road and tackled the huge task of clearing trees on the route to Greenie Peak and Goose Lake Road following a windstorm Dec. 15, 2021, that saw gusts in excess of 115mph.

"Member donations and volunteers helped clear the windfall off the road to Greenie Peak," Chris says, adding, "We have a group of volunteers who help. Plus, we paid pros like Nate Kite and Domingo Gallegos to help grade the roads and restore water bars."

Next, Chris says, "We're hoping for funding from a grant to grade the road up Pioneer Trail."

In addition to helping with the non-profit, Tracy's Parks and Recreation Committee plans for constant improvements. In recent years these have included the new pump track/skate park in Mallette Park, a newly refinished tennis/pickleball court, and new playground equipment in Brandenburg Park.

A new restroom with running water is being completed at the edge of Mallette Park sometime this year ("It won't be usable until we have new water lines."), then, Tracy says, the committee will focus on its next goals: Funding a permanent stage in the park and funding a recreation center at the softball field by the helicopter rescue pad.

"That's been a priority since 2018," Tracy notes, adding locals' wants include a "swimming pool, an indoor walking path, gym, and classrooms where clubs could meet, (archery club, skiing club).

"We also just formed a cemetery sub-committee."

Tracy praises the efforts of everyone on the Parks and Recreation committee — Fred Northern, Linton Judycki, Paulette Kiker, Kimberly Ritterhouse, and Brian Waltz. "Everybody that comes to Parks and Rec volunteers their time outside the meetings."

To which Chris adds with a smile, "I'm not on that committee, but I get roped into working."

Asked how they manage to do it all, the duo laugh and say it all comes back to their farming background: "We're used to hard work!"

Carson National Forest Changing Hours Amid Staffing Challenges

By STAFF WRITER

The Carson National Forest will temporarily change office hours at some locations to better serve the public amid low staffing. In-person services will include permit and map sales, as well as information services. Services will also be available over the phone on weekdays at all offices.

“We are making this adjustment to give clarity and consistency to our visiting public,” said Forest Supervisor James Duran. “As soon as positions are filled, I look forward to reopening

offices back to five days a week.”

Hours at the El Rito Ranger Station will remain the same. All Forest office hours and contact information are listed online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/officehours>. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead before visiting in case of unplanned closures, such as from sick leave.

**Office hours effective as of
Monday, June 5**

LOCATION	HOURS OF OPERATION
Supervisor's Office TAOS	Monday, Tuesday, & Friday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Canjilon Ranger Station CANJILON	Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Camino Real Ranger Station PEÑASCO	Tuesday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Closes at 3:30 on Thursday)
Jicarilla Ranger Station BLOOMFIELD	Monday- Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Closes at 3:30 on Thursday)
Tres Piedras Ranger Station TRES PIEDRAS	Monday- Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday Hours 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Closed Daily from Noon - 1 p.m. for Lunch)
Questa Ranger Station QUESTA	Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Questa EMS Struggle with Uptick in Calls and Limited Funding

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Village of Questa EMS Department continues to face challenges responding to calls in the Questa area. Currently, the village has three full-time staff and 16 part-time staff. Raynelle Cordova leads the department, serving as a paramedic and as the EMS Coordinator. She has been with the agency village since 2016.

“Back when then Mayor Gallegos asked if I'd take over, he told me it would be an uphill battle. If I wouldn't be able to do it, we would risk losing the emergency services to Taos County,” Raynelle recalls. Having had been recently injured in a car accident between Questa and Taos, she experienced first-hand the severe delay in receiving ambulatory care as Questa didn't have personnel available to respond. This made her new endeavor a personal one to ensure the citizens of the greater Questa area would have adequate and timely EMS services.

Questa's continued growth and advancement in a post-mining economy has increased tourism in the area, a welcome sight for local business owners. The growth and advancement, however, has also provided challenges for the village. When Raynelle started with the village in 2016, the agency would see around 300 calls for service every year. In 2022, the department had over 600 calls for service. So far in 2023, calls for service are over 200 as trend continues upward.

While EMS is funded by the village,

the Questa Fire Department is fully staffed by volunteers. “Fire has always been volunteer, and that's become a thing of the past. It's been a struggle to recruit new volunteers. On any given weekday, if we needed to respond to a fire, we would struggle to get a full crew to respond. Volunteers have jobs to provide for their families,” Raynelle says.

In addition to her role as Paramedic and EMS Coordinator, she has also taken on the role of grant writer focusing on EMS grant opportunities and her husband, Mike Cordova who is the Fire Chief for Taos County Fire has assisted with writing grants for fire. Together, they've worked to obtain more resources for Questa.

Since 2016, Questa has acquired two ambulances, one fire tender, a new fire truck new bunker gear, new extrication gear and wildland fire gear and resources. The funding through these items comes through a mix of grants, state funding, ARPA COVID dollars, and funding from the village.

In addition to writing grants, Raynelle has gotten creative in working to find other ways to supplement revenue by sending an ambulance on fire deployments for wildfires around the state. This allows the village to receive revenue streams to supplement the budget.

Raynelle recognizes the whole state is experiencing the same challenges as Questa with funding being the underlying component. “The state needs to pay more money for our public service employees. It must be a priority,” she



Courtesy Photo

Cousins Raynelle Cordova and Amos Cordova both volunteer together to serve the community

says. This year is the first time the fire department received a grant to pay a small stipend for fire volunteers who are regularly in the mix.

“My fear for the future is not having an EMS service in Questa due to lack of providers and the lack of revenue to pay our providers a decent wage. Surrounding communities are working to improve the wages for their emergency personnel, I hope Questa is able to follow suit,” Raynelle says.

Mayor John Ortega acknowledges the limited resources. “We need additional funding to increase staffing for our EMS department. Without increased fund-



Courtesy Photo

Raynelle Cordova drives the Questa Fire Truck

ing from the legislature, we are unable to increase pay for our staff and attract skilled professionals to fill these roles. Things are changing in Questa and we've seen an uptick in calls. We are working diligently to obtain more funding to meet this increased need,” Ortega says.

Since Ortega has been mayor, the village has increased wages for EMS staff by 15%. Unfortunately, these increases are offset by cost-of-living increases. Mayor Ortega maintains he is working with the village lobbyist and legislators to obtain increased funding from the state to grow the budget and salaries for the department.

Cerro VFW Raising Money for Repairs and Upgrades

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9516 or the Charles Cisneros VFW Post in Cerro, New Mexico, is in need of repairs and updates.

"We don't have regular funding, we just rely on fundraisers, grants, and donations," said Cerro's VFW Quartermaster, Lita (DD) Mead, in a phone conversation with the Questa del Rio News.

According to the GoFundMe, the floors, foundation, walls, roof, bathrooms and kitchen are in desperate need of repairs in order to be brought up-to-code. Additionally, organizers are hopeful to make upgrades to the sign, doors, windows, stage, lighting, storage, and audio visual equipment.

Veterans for Foreign Wars, commonly known as VFW's are a non-profit organization with local branches across the United States. While the Charles Cisneros building is used for VFW business, it is



Photo by Lita Mead

Cerro VFW sits in the golden sunset

also available to be rented out by Cerro community members as a local gathering place for parties and events.

The Cerro VFW received a generous

\$10,000 donation directly from Kit Carson Electric Cooperative on May 17, however, floor repairs alone will cost \$50,000. At the time of writing this article, the GoFundMe

fundraiser has raised \$320 of a \$25,000 goal. One can access the webpage for the fundraiser by the following web URL <https://bit.ly/3JiF97K>

Community Rallies Around Local Coffee Shop

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Two days after the biker gang shooting happened during the Memorial Day Rally in Red River, another unfortunate incident occurred at Bearly Awake Coffee Shop on the east side of Main Street.

The local coffee shop fell victim to arson in one of its storage barns behind the establishment Memorial Day morning, May 29.

Red River resident Jenny Hawkes set up a GoFundMe page in the following weeks to help raise money for the necessary repairs to the business.

<https://tinyurl.com/446r9e4v>

In an interview with the Questa del Rio News, Bearly Awake co-owner, Tori Curry, described the suspect as mentally ill based on information from local law enforcement. There was no apparent connection between the suspect and the horrific shooting that occurred two days prior. Legal charges against the suspect include 3rd-degree arson, vandalism, and assault.

Curry has been in Red River for 38 years and she and her husband opened Bearly Awake Coffee in 2020.

At the time of writing this article, the GoFundMe fundraiser has raised \$7,400 of its \$7,500 goal from 63 donors.



Photo by E. Wilde

Bearly Awake in Red River in summer



Photo credit Dylan R.N. Crabb

Owners lost hundreds of dollars in supplies for their coffee shop in the fire

POEM OF THE MONTH

"Last Stand on A Rebrand"

Iron horses ride in a Band
 Up the roaring Rio Grand
 Neither a Capital Insurrection
 Nor a Memorial Day Rendition
 Bandits are a Federal Tradition
 Water Dawgs for Cyber Phishing
 Crowded dusty Street Bled
 Hitching post at Texas Red
 Bury deep the Rusty Ponies
 Video keep Hollywood Phonies
 No Tombstones from Hell
 Tres Cruces atop Goat Hill
 Dinero lost upon Red River Stands
 Questa a Cruz over Enchanted Lands

Señor Miguel
 (Ghost Writer)

Raffle Fundraising Results for St. Anthony's Rectory

By STAFF WRITERS

The St. Anthony's Fundraising Committee is grateful for all who supported the fundraiser for the church rectory. The goal for the fundraiser was \$5,000 and with the generosity of the community, \$7,000 was raised. The winners were announced at the Fiestas de San Antonio de Rio Colorado on Saturday, June 17.

- Hope Chest donated by Deacon Marcus Rael.
WINNER: JONATHAN ORTEGA
- Picture of St. Anthony Church with a homemade frame donated by Joseph Garcia.
WINNER: KARI MARTINEZ
- Homemade quilt donated by Cordie Quintana.
WINNER: YOLANDA ACOSTA
- Pyrography donated by Christy Arguello.
WINNER: LESHEA TRUJILLO
- Cedar Bowl donated by Dale Quintana.
WINNER: ANDRES PAYNE
- Framed Ed Sandoval Print donated by the Parish.
WINNER: TINER GONZALES
- Fleece blanket with cross donated by Elizabeth Roberts.

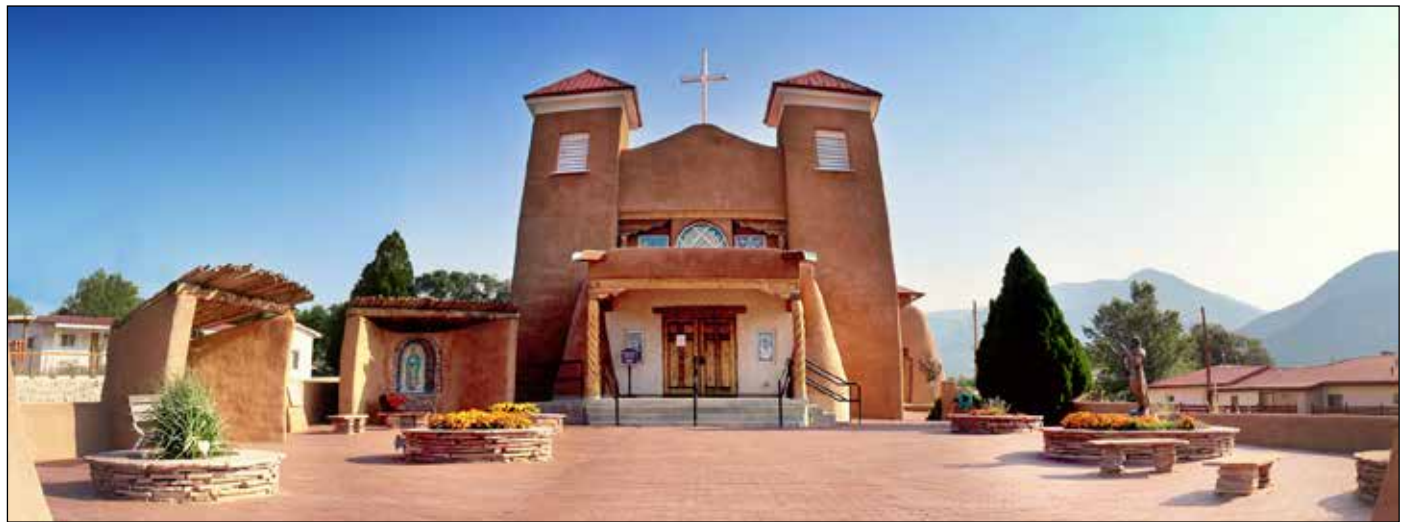


Photo by E. Wilde

St Anthony's Church in Questa

- WINNER: BERNA TRUJILLO**
- Shadow box with Rosary donated by Joseph Rael.
WINNER: LUCY RAE
- Coral Necklace donated by Irma Cisneros.
WINNER: MARK MONTOYA
- 4 ft. Teddy Bear and friend donated by Deidre Montoya.
WINNER: JOSE D. QUINTANA
- Nambe Piece donated by Louise Gallegos.
WINNER: CHAD HOUSLER
- Painted Cross donated by Robert & Michelle Gonzales.

WINNER: JOSH DURAN

- Painted Cross donated by Robert & Michelle Gonzales.
WINNER: JAIME MARES
- Painted Cross donated by Robert & Michelle Gonzales.
WINNER: JOYCE QUINTANA
- 1 cord of green pinon wood (unsplit) donated by Scott Buchanan.
WINNER: ANTHONY TRUJILLO
- 1 set of pewter colonial pieces (collector's item) donated by Ray & Sally Neal.
WINNER: AUBRIELLE VALERIO

- Electronic picture frame donated by Ray & Sally Neal.
WINNER: JEAN RAE
- Small electric grill donated by Angela Chavez.
WINNER: JEROME ROMERO
- Replica of St. Anthony Church donated by Gloria Romero.
WINNER: MARTIN MAES
- Granny square afghan donated by Elizabeth Huddle.
WINNER: BERLINDA TRUJILLO

The committee asks for prayers for the success of the building of the rectory and safety of all the workers.

4th of July: What you Need to Know Before You Go

By STAFF WRITERS

Northern New Mexico is filled with various events to celebrate the 4th of July holiday. Below is a list of events and what you need to know before you go.

Red River Parade Starts at 10 a.m.

Parade goers should arrive well-before 10 a.m. to get a good spot along Red River's mainstreet before the parade starts. Thru traffic will stop at 9:45 a.m. Be sure to take grocery shopping bags to collect candy thrown at the parade. Traffic is usually bumper-to-bumper for about one hour after the parade ends. Be patient as you navigate through town.

After the parade, head to Brandenburg Park for fun and games in the park, enjoy live music, and enjoy yummy food. The Red River Community House will also have events lasting through the day.

Eagle Nest Parade Starts at 1:30 p.m.

Parade goers should arrive early to grab a good spot along Eagle Nest's mainstreet before the parade begins. Thru traffic will stop around 1:15 p.m. Be sure to take grocery shopping bags to collect candy thrown at the parade. Community fun throughout Eagle Nest will run through 7:30 p.m.

Eagle Nest Fireworks Eagle Nest Lake

Fireworks will start promptly when it gets dark. Park on the side of the road and bundle up as the fireworks can be seen from miles away.

Taos 4th of July Celebration 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Kit Carson Park

Taos' Kit Carson Park will host a free 4th of July Celebration concert with the bands Mariachi Calor and Carlos Me-



Photo by E. Wilde

Red River's 4th of July Parade 2022

dina, Michael Hearne, Lobos, Ozomatli and Fantasma. A fireworks show will end the day. Bags are subject to search. Lawn chairs, picnic baskets, and blankets

are permitted. A water filling station will be available.

Reservations for this event are required: <https://bit.ly/43Pff3E>

NM Rules for Fireworks



Courtesy Photo

By 'HIKING HANNA',

Reservations Unlimited in Red River

It's a 4th of July tradition that fills the sky with color as you 'oooo' and 'ahhh' over the beautiful display in the night sky. The 4th of July is quickly approaching and we want to prepare you for your trip to Red River by informing you of New Mexico's* firework rules and fire prevention. Keep in mind that some counties may have firework bans in place and it can change at any time between now and then. Any type of fire ban could happen at any time because of drought or other conditions, such as high winds, and there is nothing we can do about that.

There are certain types of fireworks that are illegal in city limits. Read the label and if it says "warning" then that firework is illegal. If it says "caution" then it is legal. Below we have listed some of the most known and common fireworks that are legal and illegal in the state of New Mexico.

Permissible Fireworks

- Ground and Hand-held sparkling devices
- Ground spinners
- Wheels
- Aerial Devices
- Helicopters
- Roman Candles
- Smoke Bombs

Not Permissible Fireworks

- Stick-type rockets (tube less than 5/8 inch outside diameter)
- Fireworks that produce an audible effect, other than a whistle

Below are just some important rules when it comes to fireworks in the state of New Mexico. Please be aware that although some of these may be common sense, it is important that we list it for you as a friendly reminder. Fireworks can be dangerous so please be cautious when handling them.

Firework Rules

- Fireworks should not be used on state forest land, wildlands, or bosque.
- Do not shoot fireworks off at any person, animal or thing.
- A person should not light a firework while inside a motor vehicle or throw fireworks from a motor vehicle.
- Always read and follow directions on each firework.
- Purchase fireworks from a reliable vendor.
- Fireworks should only be set off outside, not indoors.
- Have some sort of water source handy at all times. For example, a water hose.
- Dispose of any fireworks the right way.

Things to Remember!

- During an extreme drought the governing body of a municipality shall ban the sell and use of missile-type rockets, helicopters, aerial spinners, stick-type rockets, and ground audible devices within the drought area.
- Governing body has the power to limit firework use within its jurisdiction.
- Be cautious when purchasing fireworks from a vendor. Just because you can buy them legally does not mean that they are legal within city limits.

Improper use of fireworks can start a fire and potentially endanger homes, other property, wildlife, and others in the area. Sparks can light grass, weeds, and trees, especially if it's dry. This can lead to wildfires that can be hard to control. For more information regarding fireworks, including definitions can be found here. If you have any questions regarding fireworks in Red River, New Mexico please contact the Cimarron District or visit their website for a phone number. The primary focus is to keep our city and state safe, including the wildlife and property in the area.

*Fireworks are prohibited on all state and private land outside city or tribal areas, except where it is part public and approved by the local fire department.

Cerro Vista Farm
Beautiful Fresh Produce
Cut Flower Bouquets

Questa Farmers Market
Sundays 10 am - 2 pm

NEED SOMETHING TO MAKE YOUR CAR SPARKLE? COME ON IN! WE CAN HELP!

Happy 4th of July

CARQUESTA
AUTO PARTS

2420 St. Hwy 522 • Questa, NM 87556
 575.586.0419

Healing Field Organizers Thank Supporters



Courtesy Photo

American flags sit in the valley of the Sangre de Cristo mountains of Questa

By STAFF WRITER

Although the 19th Annual Healing Field celebration didn't occur due to safety concerns, organizers would like to recognize the sponsors who helped stand up this year's event. Without the support of the following individuals, the event would not have been possible.

Contributors are listed below:

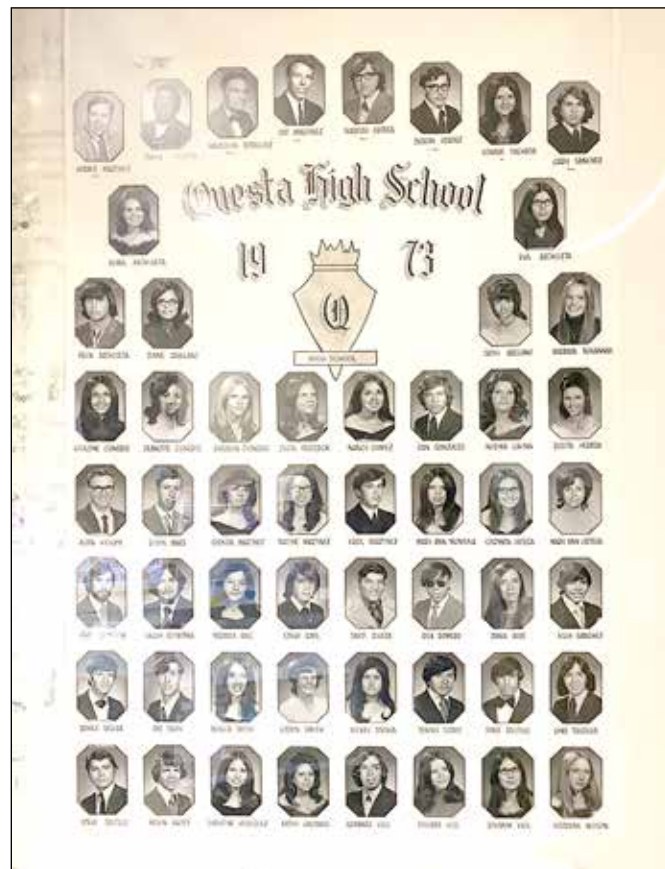
- Stars/ Stripes Sponsorship (\$1000 sponsorship)
Andy and Dotty Levin
- Blue Sponsorship (\$750 sponsorship)
Robles, Rael & Anaya
- Gallegos Family (In Memory of Adonario, Johnny and Joey)
- White Sponsorship (\$500 sponsorship)
MTC Inc.
- DeVargas Funeral Home
- Armstrong Consultants

- Hal Burns Truck & Equipment
- Chalmers Ford
- Red Sponsorship (\$250 Sponsorship)
Zeke's Auto Supply
- Phoenix Mechanical, LLC
- De'Ann Willoughby CPA, LLC
- Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF)
- Southwest PPE Services
- Others Supporters
- Ambitions Document Solutions
- Entact Crews
- Village of Questa Public Works Department & John Rael
- Village of Questa Staff

Additionally, they send a heartfelt thank you to Debbie Rael for the use of her beautiful property.

*Louise Gallegos,
Healing Field Organizer*

Questa Class of '73 Reunion is Fast Approaching



Courtesy Photo

A photo of the class of 1973 hangs in the Questa Jr./Sr. High School Library

By STAFF WRITER

The Questa class of 1973 reunion organizers are fervently planning their 50th reunion, but they need your help. Dee Sims (Vigil) says there has been little response from former classmates to participate in the celebration, so she and other class organizers are working to send individual letters to all 75 of the graduating classmates to ensure they know the reunion is coming up. RSVP's are highly encouraged to ensure an accurate accounting for

planning can take place. If you are a classmate or if you know someone who graduated with the class of 1973, please contact Dee Sims at (505) 289-4446 to RSVP.

**50th Reunion
Saturday, Sept 2, 2023**

Monte Carlo in Questa
Dinner is from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. and
dance is from 8 p.m.- midnight
\$30 per person

The LOR Foundation Helps Questa Kick Off a Big Summer

By Contributing Writer
JAY BOUCHARD

Questa has long been known as a hub of music, dance, and community culture—and nowhere was that more on display than at the Fiestas de San Antonio, which returned in June for the first time in more than a decade. The LOR Foundation was proud to have been a part of helping locals bring back this tradition.

“The Fiestas is such a huge cultural component in our community, and it gained a lot of momentum this year,”

says Maria Gonzalez, LOR's Questa community officer. “We were so happy to support its return. The event brought people together to exchange ideas and celebrate, and we hope to keep that momentum going.”

As the summer progresses, that momentum will certainly be growing. In response to limited summer activities in past years, the pastors of Living Word Ministries reached out to LOR with an idea: creating free small events that will pop up throughout Questa this summer and aim to bring the community together. Already, they've

hosted a drive-in movie for kids, and they will be organizing a sports clinic, a toddler tea party, an ice cream stand, a dance under the stars, and more. You can visit the Living Word Ministries website for scheduling and event details.

As summer goes on, LOR will happily support another cultural event that will bring artists from across the community together on August 12 and 13 for the Questa Studio Tours. Located at small businesses, and artists' homes around the village, the tour will include nearly 20 artists—painters,

wood carvers, potters, and sculptures—and attract visitors from across northern New Mexico. The event will also showcase the beauty of the Questa area, stimulate the local economy, and provide an opportunity for Questa artists to showcase their talent.

Gonzalez will be at Rael's Market throughout the art tour representing the LOR Foundation, so if you'd like to say hello—or offer an idea for improving quality of life in Questa—swing by. Until then, the LOR Foundation wishes you a great summer!

Hope and Healing Returns with 100-Mile Pilgrimage



Courtesy Photo

Kristin, Brian and their nephew Joshua Jason stand together at the Santuario after completing their 100 mile walk in early June

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

EVENT RECAP —The annual 100-mile pilgrimage to the Santuario de Chimayo is a unique New Mexico tradition dating back to 1973 when Fr. Michael O'Brien started coordinating a weeklong pilgrimage for vocations. Since that time, hundreds of peregrinos (male pilgrimage walkers) and guadalupanas (female pilgrimage walkers) from central and northern New Mexico have participated in the weeklong journey carrying petitions, prayers, rosaries, scapulars, and prayers as they complete their 100-mile journey.

In 2020, the annual pilgrimage was put to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That year, the theme was Hope and Healing. As the tradition restarted this year, the peregrinos and guadalupanas maintained the 'Hope and Healing' theme intended for the 2020 walk, timely as it represents the overall hope and healing we are all seeking post pandemic.

Husband and wife couple Kristen and Brian Torres both completed the 100-mile pilgrimage, along with their nephew Joshua Jason Martinez, who completed his first pilgrimage this year. This was the overall 4th pilgrimage for Kristen and 2nd pilgrimage for Brian. "I started doing these pilgrimages in 2016, when my mom's breast cancer had

metastasized for the 3rd time. Initially, I wanted to complete the pilgrimage for her, but she passed away two weeks before my first walk, so I changed my intentions to pray for her and connect with her in a different way," Kristen says.

Brian's first pilgrimage was a three-generation pilgrimage in 2017, when he, along with his grandfather Bernie Torres and dad Brian Torres walked the 100 miles together. "My grandpa has done over 1800 miles through pilgrimages over the years, he has been very dedicated to it," Brian says.

The peregrinos and guadalupanas have different routes to the Santuario. Each day, the groups walk about 20 miles, sometimes more and sometimes less, stopping in local communities where they will sleep in churches, gyms, and parish halls. Locals greet them with open arms, often feeding them and helping them rejuvenate before their next day's walk. "In northern New Mexico, we visit moradas, capillas, and churches and learn about the history of local churches. We then gather soil and petitions from each stop, and carry them with us along the way. It's very traditional and spiritual," Kristen says.

This year, Bernie and Kristen and Brian's daughters set up a large Lady of Guadalupe mural to start off the pilgrim-



Courtesy Photo

Kristen and Brian's daughters stand proudly as they await the guadalupanas walking south from Costilla

age from Costilla to Chimayo. Kristen says it was one of the more special moments of the week, not only for her and her daughters, but for other guadalupanas as well.

Over the weeklong span, the groups are not able to use technology during their journey. The only way they are able to communicate is by using palancas, which are handwritten letters and prayers from their loved ones making the journey from different routes. "You get emotional when you read them, just because you don't know what they're going to say, but then you realize your loved one is okay, and you're both just praying for each other to make it safely, it gives you energy to keep going," Brian recalls.

When asked what the most difficult part of the journey is, both Kristen and Brian say there are many mental and physical challenges. "It humbles you, and no one challenge someone experiences is the same as the next. You just have to keep putting one foot in front of the other and keep going, at times it feels impossible but that's when you have your spiritual experience of God carrying you through," they say.

Both Kristen and Brian's long family history with the pilgrimage is a big part of what inspires them to want to keep walking year after year. Kristen notes,

"Brian's grandpa and dad's long history and dedication has inspired us, and so have my uncles Lonnie Cardenas and Sammy Gomez. My uncle Sammy Gomez was the first peregrino to pass away from the north when he was 15. Just hearing their stories made me feel like I was called to go on these pilgrimages."

While growing up and hearing the stories of their family who would do pilgrimages, Kristen says you have to experience it to understand. "Until we were able to do the pilgrimages ourselves, we couldn't really understand it. It's a deep connection with your loved ones both living and deceased, all connected back to the faith. There is so much you go through during the week, but when you finally walk into the Santuario de Chimayo, it's the most indescribable feeling ever."

The couple says they plan to walk with their girls in the future and they're hopeful to do a four-generation walk with Brian's family. Their advice to anyone who may be considering the walk next year, "we encourage people to pray on it. Just know you can do anything you can set your mind to. The sisterhood and brotherhood built is so uplifting. They will pray with you, sing with you, and help you not give up. You gain a family through this experience, it's truly a beautiful experience."

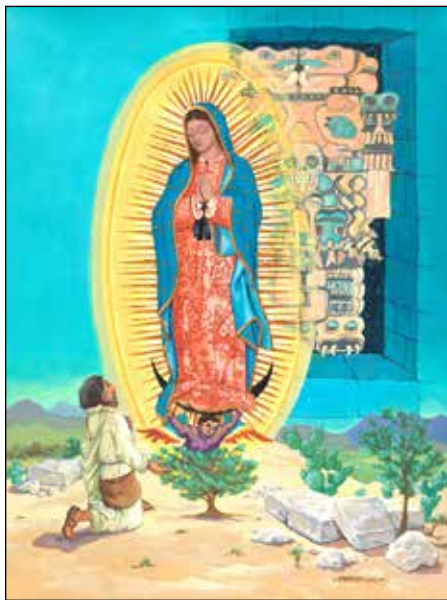
**QUESTA
CREATIVE
COUNCIL**



Artistic traditions live on

Questa's long history as an isolated village in northern New Mexico brought about a necessary creativity. If you needed a piece of furniture, you made it. If you wanted a devotional piece, you painted or carved it. Skill at leatherwork, metal work, quilting, and much more enriched the lives of our early settlers and created a legacy of craftsmanship that still thrives. Today, affordable land has drawn artists who draw inspiration from our very unique and dramatic scenery.

The arts are playing a part in our communities' post-mining economic recovery. Artisan designed and handmade furniture, for example, is made in Questa by craftspeople such as long-time resident Mose Rainault. He especially enjoys making tables because, he says, "a table is where people meet, where you share, where you argue safely with



Courtesy Photo

Our Lady of Guadalupe by Maria Mikhailas

a table between you!" Questeña Evelyn Coggins may share this feeling as she repurposes pre-owned furniture with a modern, artistic eye.

The Questa Quilters Guild; Monica Ortega, Elizabeth Huddle, Louisa Aragon, Gloria Martinez, Phyllis Zimmerman, and Evangeline Jaramillo carry on the cozy and practical traditions of their mothers and grandmothers. A skill refined by women across the U.S. frontier when housewares and fabric were not easy to come by. Fabric arts are also practiced locally by newcomers

such as Jiwanshakti, who has traveled the world and brought back traditional felting techniques using natural wools. Other practical traditions are refined by Jill Kamas, an expert silversmith and hat maker at Ute Mountain Studios in Sunshine Valley, and by leatherworker Torre Strong, manager of Saturdays' Art Market.

Pottery is another craft well represented in our village, with at least three beloved potters in Sandra Harrington of Art Questa gallery, Mike Ridder at his private gallery, and Kathy Morsell who shows at our Farmers Market. What else can one do with a kiln? Barrie Andrews, of the former OCHO Art Space, has become a nationally-recognized fused-glass artist, whose colorful jewelry and decorative pieces echo her past work in monoprints.

Spiritual inspiration for artistry has been present in Questa since our first settlers and it fills the restored San Antonio de Padua church today. Spiritual guidance also inspires the work of newer neighbors such as Monique Parker's colorful acrylic paintings, Maria Mikhailas' portraits of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the images of Spirit Birds that Mark Lewis Wagner paints. "I paint them as prayers," he says.

And, of course, what has brought the artistry of New Mexico to international renown over the last century is the

expressionistic painting of our dramatic landscape. This is well represented in Questa by our own Peggy Trigg, Roger Harrington of Art Questa Gallery, and Cerro's Mary Jo Kelly and Judy Archuleta among others.

Questa's mid-August studio tour showcases these artists and many more. Open studios start at the south end of the village and stretch to the border of the Carson National Forest to the east, and north to Cerro and Sunshine Valley and this summer, the tour extends into southern Colorado. All year long, the Creative Council offers an artists' directory on its website QuestaCreative.org to provide information, display images, and provide contact with our local artists and craftspeople 24/7. Sign up if you are an artist; it's free!

And Don't Forget:

This summer's Questa Art Tour will be held the weekend of August 12-13. And, every Saturday, starting at 10 a.m., visit the Art Market, offering original art, crafts, and collectibles. At the Farmers Market site by Questa's Visitors Center.

Mark your calendars!

This year's Questa Art Tour will be Aug. 12-13. Expect diverse works from the traditional to the modern, music, snacks, and fun; all along a 10 m scenic route. www.QuestaCreative.org. Or visit Art Questa Gallery.

Friday Dance Camp at Yoga Sala Starts in July

By contributing writer
GAEA MCGAHEE

We are excited to host July Dance Camp on Fridays beginning July 7th, 12:30 - 2:30 pm at Yoga Sala. Tuesday Faust and Monica McClelland collaborate this month on dance choreography, stories, props, and music, creating an engaging program for students ages 3 to 10 years. Yoga Sala, a moving arts studio in Questa, is home to our nonprofit program, Sala Reach. Sala Reach sponsors kids' dance and music classes and more.

Tuesday Faust, from Taos Dance Academy, teaches Kids' Ballet weekly. Monica McClelland currently teaches Contemporary Dance (adults and teens ages 15+) on Saturday mornings at the studio.

Dance Camp includes dance instruction, crafts, snacks, dance games, and a performance (TBA). The program is recommended for kids ages 3 to 10, but younger and older students are welcome. The theme this year will focus on animals!

Dance Camp is offered freely. If you wish to make a donation, a sliding scale of \$5-\$20 per two-hour class or \$20-\$80 for all four Fridays may be used. A tax-deductible donation can be made at the studio or on our website (yogalaquesta.org/nonprofit/donate/).

Sala Reach sponsors weekly classes including, yoga, qigong, and tai chi, as well as a special monthly Wellness Series, and music events. Our nonprofit creates equitable access to assure that all offerings can be attended by all community members. Our classes can be attended freely or by donation; other forms of reciprocity and exchange are welcome. Sala Reach also sponsors individuals who may attend any studio class freely, such as kickboxing, or other yoga classes.

Our mission is to cultivate a diverse community of learners, moving arts teachers, performers, and audiences from rural northern New Mexico and make dance, yoga, martial arts and opportunities for creative expression and experience accessible for all

ages and abilities promoting health and connection.

Sala Reach is a program of Localogy, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. In addition to offering weekly classes freely to the community, we collaborate with local organizations such as QuestaStories, Questa Creative Council, LEAP, Twirl, and Vida del Norte Coalition's Summer Vida Camp.

Our outreach effort is intended to support and engage:

- All youth
- People seeking moving arts for recovery support
- People coping with post traumatic stress
- People coping with addiction in their family system
- Veterans and their family members
- Law enforcement officers and first responders
- Anyone experiencing any financial need

Our nonprofit is supported by regular donations from community members

as well as funding through grants. Current funding through the Taos Community Foundation from Chevron's Grants or Good underwrites these classes and our outreach at Questa Health Center.



Photo Credit Gaea McGee

Dance Camp last summer on dragon day, July 2022

What: Yoga and Community Space offerings for youth and community members

Where: 2331 State HWY 522, Questa, NM 87556 and YogaSalaQuesta.org

Contact: Gaea McGahee, YogaSalaQuesta@gmail.com, 575-224-2102

A Celebration of Northern Taos County Artists

By contributing writer
PEGGY TRIGG

The Questa Public Library will be hosting the 2023 Questa Art Tour preview show, entitled "Celebration of our Local Artists!" from July 8 through August 30. With the local studio tour right around the corner, this will be an opportunity to get a sneak peek! The show will feature a representational mixture of local art.

Some of the different types of art work that will be shown include paintings, mixed media, pottery, jewelry, ink, beadwork and pastels. An opening will take place on August 8 from 2-4pm. The public is invited to come meet the artists and see a representative piece of their work. All work displayed

will be for sale. Come out and help us celebrate our local artists!

This year's QAT is shaping up to be the biggest tour yet with over 50 artists participating. The tour is scheduled for August 12-13 from 10-5. For more information about the tour, please go to <https://questacreative.org/about-the-tour/>.

Show dates July 8 - August 30

Opening July 8 from 2-4pm

Where: Questa Public Library
6-1/2 Municipal Park Rd
Questa, NM

For more information: <https://questalibrary.org/library-displays/>
Peggy Trigg – pegtrigg@gmail.com

Community Matriarchs Exhibition Now Open in Taos

By STAFF WRITER

The Millicent Rogers Museum has a new exhibition focusing on the many roles mothers play in their lives. Community Matriarchs as Artists opened June 3. The exhibit is dedicated to Lydia Garcia, a beloved santera (painter of saints) of Taos who passed away in 2023.

As a community matriarch and a lifelong teacher, Lydia Garcia's devotion to sharing the arts of retablo painting exemplifies her leadership in northern New Mexico and beyond of passing on artistic knowledge to community members across generations.

Her long relationship with the museum reflects a partnership of cultural legacy through the workshops she gave and the artworks in the museum's permanent collection. Lydia led her life

through prayer and expressed it vividly in retablos that paired visual and poetic arts together.

Additionally, the exhibition focuses on women's roles as mothers in the Southwest, being only one of the positions they hold in life. Additionally, the exhibition highlights art forms that reflect an expansion of function of creative expressions, like Helen Cordero's (Cochiti Pueblo) clay storyteller and Angie Yazzie's (Taos Pueblo) micaceous clay vessels, both conveying cultural legacy and serving as visual art.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. General admission is \$15, with free admission daily for veterans, members, and children 12 and under. Entry is free on Sundays for Taos County residents.



Courtesy Photo

Lydia Garcia's painting of Mary

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By Claire Catlett

It's Time to Celebrate the Rio Costilla

The largest stream restoration project in New Mexico history is right here in our backyard: the Rio Costilla watershed now has over 120 stream miles, 16 lakes and one reservoir restored for Rio Grande cutthroat trout and other native aquatic species like Rio Grande chub and Rio Grande sucker. This decades long project began in the 1990s as an ambitious goal to bring back Rio Grande cutthroat trout—New Mexico's state fish and a species of special concern—to its native waters.

On July 1st, the New Mexico Game and Fish and the U.S. Forest Service will host a "Trout Celebration," a public event

to recognize the completion of the final stage of this 30-year restoration project on the Rio Costilla. New interpretive signs will be unveiled on Forest Road 1950 (approximately 12 miles east of Amalia) in the morning to tell the success story of how partners including Game & Fish, U.S. Forest Service, Turner Enterprises Inc., Colorado Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Quivira Coalition and Trout Unlimited worked together to enhance conservation and recreation opportunities for Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Starting at noon, native trout will be stocked at sites along the Rio Costilla. A celebratory picnic will be held at Shuree Ponds, the ponds' opening day for fishing, with food and fishing activities for families and volunteers who help with the stocking.

The road to restoration for the Rio Costilla was a long-winded effort driven by collaborative partnerships within the communities of northern New Mexico. The restoration activities conducted included the removal of non-native fish species and then stocking the waters with transplants from existing wild populations and hatchery-raised trout from the Lisboa Springs Fish Hatchery in Pecos. Temporary and permanent barriers to fish



Courtesy photo from riocostilla.com

passage were assessed throughout the Rio Costilla watershed, including Latir and Comanche Creeks. These barriers prioritized natural or existing impediments to fish passage, such as waterfalls and culverts that disconnect streams by elevation differences too difficult for fish to navigate.

Today you will find the Rio Costilla as a diverse ecosystem with a combination of high gradient and meandering meadow streams and wetlands fed by headwater lakes and the Costilla Reservoir. These

streams offer cold and clean water for aquatic species to thrive, and some of New Mexico's best opportunities to fish for Rio Grande cutthroat trout. After three decades of work, we celebrate the restoration of the Rio Costilla as more than just habitat improvements for trout, but also for the benefits to northern New Mexico communities reliant upon clean water and healthy rivers to support agriculture, outdoor recreation, and cultural values. ¡Viva el Río Costilla!



BIRD IS THE WORD

By Bryce Flanagan

The Importance of Birds

When I began writing this column two years ago, I wanted to impart upon my neighbors in the greater Northern New Mexico area the importance of birds and how we as individuals could help them in an increasingly uninhabitable and hostile world. Having now spoken to a few ornithologists and researched the same species I see in my backyard, I've come to approach this with a heavier heart, knowing just how dire the situation for birds has become. But I still find myself asking "why"? Why invest time into birds of all things? Why do I care, and more importantly, why should anyone else?

The easiest and most tangible answer

is to point out the ecological benefits of birds. They happily devour the crawling pests that would otherwise infest our crops and trees, saving farmers millions in pesticide use and allowing the natural beauty of flowers to shine uninhibited. Fruit-bearing plants of all species depend on birds to distribute their seeds far and wide. Vultures pick apart the disease-ridden remains of roadkill before a rabies outbreak can take place. Even their feces act as a fertilizer, creating vibrant ecosystems where they congregate on shorelines.

More than that, birds have served as a source of scientific and spiritual inspiration. The variations in Galapagos finches led Darwin to develop his theory of evolution, the aerial acrobatics of birds inspired man to flight, zippers were modeled after the way bird feathers mesh together and still today scientists study birds for solutions, such as students in Socorro affixing taxidermized birds to drones to create more efficient flights.

Two studies published in Scientific Reports last year found that being around birds and hearing birdsong had a positive effect on a person's mental well-being. Pueblo Indian culture has long held reverence for birds. Eagles are seen as guardians of the sky and messengers to the spirit



Photo by E. Wilde

Birds sit on a fence in Questa

world, the Thunderbird is a symbol of fertility and abundance, and hummingbirds reflect happiness and the sweetness of life.

Feathers have played a role fashion for centuries and our modern garb still features them whether physically or in homage to their patterns and shape. Birds are a living embodiment to that concept we call "beauty," that captivating, ethereal sight that draws in our eyes like a siren

song. It's only natural we'd feel at peace around them.

The most striking thing I've learned in my time writing about birds is how little we still know about them. I'm frequently left flabbergasted at the abyss of mysteries we have yet to unravel about birds the world over. This is my reason for caring about them: that we still have more to learn from them. Evidence of self-awareness in corvids like crows and magpies begs further questions about the limits of consciousness among birds and the depth of their minds. For all we know about bird migration, scientists still don't know the full story.

Migration routes aren't instinctual and can change slightly to accommodate new obstacles. Currently it's hypothesized they navigate using a combination of Earth's magnetic field, the sun and stars, and memories of previous landmarks. And this opens further questions—how do they sense the planetary magnetic field? How can they tell stars apart? What do bird memories look like? This is why I care. Even if they didn't have any economic impact, even if they didn't play a crucial role in ecosystems, it's the ocean of mystery surrounding birds that keeps me diving back in.

Questa Farmers Market Youth Internship in Action

By Contributing Writer
GAEA MCGAHEE

On any given Sunday there are twelve to fifteen young people involved in the Questa Farmers Market Youth Internship Program. They are running a coffee booth, making pizzas in the horno and working with other food businesses at the Market. Youth Interns bring their perspective, hopes, questions, and vision and work alongside mentors, and with each other, learning through experience. Jesse Mead, who is interning for a second season, says this about his experience, “it’s a great opportunity to become better acquainted with the community.”

Eliot Moody, working for his third summer season as an Intern, says, “working to support the farmers market, and the amazing community of people, is a great opportunity to learn, to make friends, and to save money for the future.”

Farmers Market Interns have additional engagements besides operating small businesses at the Sunday market. They’ve planted the market garden spaces and harvest from these during the season. Several of the interns have worked at North Central Food Pantry during distributions, and at Cerro Vista Farm.

They have also helped to plant a new garden space behind Casas de Cultura, an historic home. Casas de Cultura is adjacent to Questa Farmers Market and the Visitor Center, along the west side of Cabresto Rd. There are three houses on the property (indicated in the name, Casas), but the white house is often known for the massive apricot tree that



Photo Credit Gaea McGahee

Interns Tulsi Shaw, Ysi Garcia and Will Place at the Internship Coffee booth, June 11, 2023



Photo Credit Gaea McGahee

Intern Jesse Mead and vendor Casey Eason preparing food June 4, 2023

rises above the two story structure. The landscape and structures have a dedicated caretaker Scott Sutton, who is also an artist and educator (more about Scott at pigmenthunter.com). He prepared the garden spaces and the water course in early June.

Questa Farmers Market (QFM) supports small, local businesses in order to help regenerate the agricultural community and local economy in northern Taos County and foster skills and opportunity for a new generation including youth entrepreneurs.

Alexis Brown, second season Intern writes this about QFM: “The farmer’s market. Many think it’s not a big deal but

it really is. People enjoy and look forward to it every week. It is a safe space where our community gets together and hangs out. It’s a great activity that our community has acquired. Many enjoy this from young all the way to our elders. Additionally helping younger generations learn more about and bring back our culture before it’s too long gone. You can’t buy happiness but you can buy local and that’s pretty much the same thing.”

QFM is a program of the nonprofit Localogy, and has been developing a paid youth internship program since 2019.

QFM received a 2-year Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (LANL-F) Education Enrichment Grant Award to support the youth internship aspect

of the market’s mission. The goal during the 2022 - 2023 seasons has been connecting youth to agricultural education opportunities and learning about a local “food system” by experiencing parts of that system.

QFM also received funding managed through Taos Community Foundation: a grant from Chevron Grants for Good, as well as Taos County ARPA (American Rescue Plan) funding. These funds support Youth Internship and Mentorship work.

For more information on how to get involved with the Farmer’s Market, contact Gaea McGahee, Questa Farmers Market Program Director
Email: growersmakers@gmail.com
Phone: (575) 224-2102
QuestaFarmersMarket.org



Photo Credit Gaea McGahee

Interns Delilah Rael, Ysidro Garcia and Eliot Moody working with Scott Sutton to plant heirloom varieties of beans, plus some corn and squash in the meanders of the garden, June 12.

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Do you know about the Questa Green Hydrogen Project?

Over the past year a group of community leaders, together with experts in the field, have been exploring the feasibility of establishing a green hydrogen production facility in Questa. Outcomes of the Feasibility Report will be presented at community meetings in August for your feedback and ideas...

Before the meeting we want to hear from you!

- Do you know what Green Hydrogen is?
- What do you think about the plant being built in Questa?
- What concerns do you have?
- What questions can we answer at the meeting for you?

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July 21st, 2023



For more information, contact Lynn Skall, Director, Questa Economic Development Fund at lynn@questaedf.com

Partners in the project include: Communities LEAP US Dept of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Kit Carson Coop, Village of Questa, Chevron and the QEDF.

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Questa Car Show

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

EVENT RECAP —Our tiny mountain village saw classic, American muscle cars flood Highway 522 on the morning of June 10 to show off for the Questa Car Show. Organizer Larry Sanchez had expected 50 entries to showcase in the parking lot of the Living Word Ministries but was overwhelmed when over double the cars showed up to participate. The car show spilled over

into neighboring lots.

Entries traveled from as far as central Colorado and eastern New Mexico. The event is expected to be even larger next year.

"I'd like to keep doing it every year," said Larry Sanchez in a phone call with the Questa del Rio News.

Sanchez funded the car show with about fifty sponsorships from businesses throughout Taos County.



Photo courtesy Living Word Ministries



Featured Photo July 2023

A summer look at the hay field in Jaroso, CO. "I was only interested in the hay bales but then noticed how the cross came out in the sun. God is in heaven, and on earth."

Photo by Bernie Torres



Email your photo submissions to GraphicsDept@QuestaNews.com

QISD Board Discusses Policy on Book Donations



By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

During their June 7 meeting the board of the Questa Independent School District (QISD) discussed their policy on book donations after the district received a donation from the Taos Rotary Club, which included some allegedly inappropriate books for students.

“In [the donation] there were a couple of older books that were really inappropriate for kiddos,” Superintendent John Maldonado told the Board.

Superintendent Maldonado gave an example of one of the books in question, a book on Jack the Ripper describing it

as “a very violent book.”

Superintendent Maldonado also told the Board that the Rotary Club sent a statement to the QISD apologizing for the books in question saying that “this is something they’ve never experienced before.”

Maldonado revealed there were about eight books, “And some of it wasn’t just language, there was one about two princesses that went off and got married and stuff like that.”

“The thing that I was mad about was that [the books] were for kindergartners,” said Board Member Juan Cisneros.

“Yeah, it was the young ones,” confirmed Superintendent Maldonado.

“The other one that I brought in, maybe an 8th Grader should be able to read those words but, the content of a book, a high school student has no business reading about prostitutes,” continued Board Member Cisneros.

“Not from a school,” agreed Board Member Jose Lovato.

“We had another one where the lan-

guage in it was very inappropriate,” said Superintendent Maldonado. “It’s not something that should be in a school.”

“My opinion is that this organization [Taos Rotary Club] burned their bridge here,” said Board Member Cisneros. “I wouldn’t take the chance of bringing them back in any fashion. Not just them but also the theater deal in Taos,” referring to a recent production of Alice in Wonderland by Taos Children’s Theatre by which the Board was also upset. “These kinds of things we don’t want here especially if the parents don’t have permission slips . . . because, once a child is exposed to it, there’s no taking that back; our job as the Board is to protect these kids.”

Superintendent Maldonado suggested to the Board that the District be more selective in the future regarding book donations and to politely decline any future donations from the Rotary Club specifically.

“Shouldn’t the donation itself have come to the Board,” asked Board Member Cisneros. “Because what if a board

member’s kid didn’t get one of these, how far along would it have gone?”

“I think we’ve done a good job with the Questa Library,” said Board Member Lovato. “We should just keep things going with them, they understand us a lot.”

“And those books that actually come from the Library are sorted into grade level,” agreed Superintendent Maldonado.

“A large part with them rating the books is that they’re rated on the reading level, not on the content,” said Board Member Cisneros. “It’s just can [the kids] read the words. Should they? Probably not.”

There was no official action on this topic at this meeting but there seemed to be a consensus on the Board to be more selective with book donations in the future as well as to decline future donations from the Rotary Club.

A recording of the discussion can be viewed at the Questa del Rio News’ YouTube page here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8iCTfZVho>.



The LOR Foundation wants to know!

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

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

lorfoundation.org | [@LORFoundationQuesta](https://www.instagram.com/LORFoundationQuesta)

19th Annual Vino in the Valley Goes Off Without a Hitch

By STAFF WRITER

EVENT RECAP —Vino in the Valley’s annual wine event returned to Red River from June 16 through June 18 in Brandenburg Park. Since 2004, wine enthusiasts and connoisseurs have had the opportunity to indulge in exquisite flavors, delightful aromas, and unforgettable experiences.

The celebration of wine showcased a curated selection of the finest sips from renowned wineries around the state. Attendees were able to explore a diverse range of wines, beers, and spirits from New Mexico. With each sip, guests will be transported on a sensory journey, discovering the nuances and complexities of each carefully crafted wine.

A portion of all proceeds from the event will be donated to benefit the Red River Valley Charter Schools’ arts program.



Courtesy Photo

Questa Local Business Survey

By CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A coalition of community leaders is investigating potential benefits and impacts of a green hydrogen production facility in Questa, New Mexico. This stakeholder group successfully applied for a Department of Energy technical assistance program, Communities Local Energy Action Program (Communities LEAP), to conduct a feasibility study.

In order to determine the economic impacts during construction and operation of this new facility, we are

conducting a short survey to better understand the connections between businesses in the Village and the rest of Taos County (for example what local supply chains exist in the area).

If you are willing to help us, please fill out this 5-10 minutes survey using one of the links below. The survey contains short questions about how many people you employ from Questa and other areas, the percentage of your sales to the Village and the rest of Taos County, and the percentage of your purchases from businesses/households in the same area.

English



<https://forms.office.com/g/kw2uhbSXMN>

Spanish



<https://forms.office.com/g/TFkPxc8Kau>

If you prefer a paper version, please contact Alberto Franco (Alberto.Franco@nrel.gov). The survey will be available until 07/01/2023.



Shrimp Shell Plastic

Plastic pollution is an ever-growing environmental problem, driving researchers of all ages to find solutions.

In 2016, at just 15 years old, Australian student Angelina Arora invented a strong, light plastic alternative made from discarded shrimp shells, a major waste product of the food industry.

She got the idea after a trip to a local seafood market, noticing the similarities between the shiny appearance of plastics and shrimp shells. Her experimentation led her to combine the shells with a protein from silkworm cocoons.

The resulting bio-plastic is durable,

flexible, and water-resistant. In landfill conditions, it decomposes over a million times faster than commercial plastics, breaking down completely in just over a month.

This makes her plastic no threat to the environment or wildlife that accidentally consume it.

Arora’s research has won her multiple international awards and scholarships. She has several patents pending for her inventions and she’s one of the youngest people to ever give a TED talk.

Still working to change the world, Arora hopes to see her bio-plastics in use everywhere and believes it’s necessary to not only have curiosity, but the will to see it through.

Because while the road of progress is not easy, it is worth it.

This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live.

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New Website Shows Pollution Violations in NM

By DANIELLE PROKOP,
The SourceNM

There’s a new way for New Mexicans to track pollution in and around the state.

The New Mexico Environment Department released its update to the Enforcement Watch website on May 1. The website lists active and resolved actions for alleged violations of laws, rules, permits and licenses. NMED labels a case resolved only after it passes through the courts, or in administrative procedures.

It’s open for anyone to access for free. The Frequently Asked Questions portion of the site offers a space to report tips for violations to the environment, health or worker safety.

In May, NMED added three companies to the site. This includes a Midland, Texas, oil and gas company, EOG Resources Inc. It is accused of transporting naturally occurring radioactive material in sludge without the proper permit.

Another was a self-reported notice of violation for Oxy USA Inc. at its battery facility near Magdalena. The company self-reported air quality violations in 2019, but also appeared to be

operating without a permit, but under a pre-permit called a notice of intent.

Finally, the agency sent Dan Dee Dairy near Dixon, a notice of potential groundwater violations for improperly storing manure and wastewater in unlined pools.

A handful of the active matters have been open for years. The oldest was opened in 2019 against Brothers Plating Co. for improper storage of hazardous sludges and not keeping weekly inspection documents.

Others include public institutions, such as the University of New Mexico.

In March, NMED sent a 13-page letter detailing issues from mislabeling chemicals, improper handling at the chemistry building at the Albuquerque main campus, to wrongly disposing of flammable paper towels from a violin-making class.

NMED plans to update the site as new violations are issued or past notices are resolved, according to a press release.

Additional violations of the cannabis and hemp rules, drinking water and food safety are “coming soon,” according to the website, but it’s unclear when those portions will be public.

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EAT WILD!

By contributing writer
LOU MCCALL

For those who enjoy fresh produce, both for nutrition and flavor, there is nothing like EATING WILD. This is the time when nature's grocery store is open for business. Our ancestors enjoyed many of the plants that flourish in our arid native land. What some people call weeds are in high demand, both by wildlife, livestock, and los ricos who shop at expensive natural-food grocery stores. Look for these plants all summer. Please be conscious when wildcrafting and foraging, remember to respect the plants, don't take them all and make sure they can continue to thrive in the wild, leaving seeds for future generations. Some of these recipes are being reprinted from previous editions of *Questa del Rio News*.

Tumbleweed

Salsola tragus is the name of the common tumbleweed that we see rolling around in the wind. It is also known as Russian thistle and does well in arid climates. If you are a rancher, you may never see tumbleweeds, since livestock love it so much.

When it goes to seed it produces those annoying sharp stickers, which are super nutritious, like any nut or seed. Tumbleweed is at its yummiest to eat fresh early in the season when it is young and tender, the wildcrafter's version of spring mix. Cut it, wash it and put it in the fridge to crisp it up and enjoy with your favorite salad dressing; my favorite is fresh lemon vinaigrette. Enjoy!



Photo by Lou McCall

Young tumbleweed is delicious in salads and loved by livestock. As a canned food, it kept countless people alive during the unfortunate Dust Bowl years.

Purslane/Verdolagas

Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) is known locally by its Spanish name, verdolagas. It is an annual succulent and has a tart, salty flavor that is delicious raw, cooked or pickled. Tacos de Verdolagas with fresh Mexican cheese... oh wow!

Purslane's health benefits include aiding in cardiovascular health, weight loss and stomach ailments. It is said to improve vision and bone growth as well as the immune system. Most people consider purslane a weed, so imagine the surprise of researchers when they discovered that it has very high levels of Omega-3 fatty acids as well as antioxidant qualities and high levels of fiber, vitamins A, B and C as well as a treasure trove of minerals.

If you see this delightful vegetable growing where you do not want it, be sure to cut it rather than pull it up by the roots, otherwise you won't have a crop next time. Wash it well — it can be very hard to clean sand off the plant.



Photo by Robyn Black

Verdolagas, or purslane in English, are a popular edible green in Central Mexico.

Tacos de Verdolagas con Queso

(Purslane with Cheese)

2 lbs of Verdolagas/Purslane

4-6 tomatillos, optional if available

Chopped green chile, serrano chile or jalapeno to taste

2 cloves garlic, chopped

1 small onion, chopped

1/4 C olive oil or bacon fat

1/4 C cilantro, chopped

salt to taste

Soft Mexican cheese or Jack cheese, shredded

Pick young and tender verdolagas, including stems

Rinse well 2-3 times to remove sand and dirt

Put into boiling water and boil gently until tender, about two-three minutes

Drain and chop into smaller pieces.

Sauté onion in skillet until translucent

Add tomatillo if available, chile, garlic and salt

Add boiled verdolagas, cook for a few minutes

Add cheese over hot veggies, just until it melts

Turn off heat, cover to let flavors blend

Serve as tacos with hot corn tortillas and extra salsa

Dandelion, Wild Mustard & Ragweed

Dandelions, wild mustard, and ragweed are often the first weed of the season. Don't let their youthful vigor fool you; they are very wise old plants, full of vitamins and minerals. Dandelion especially has medicinal value. Harvest them young before they go to flower, that's when they get bitter. The flowers add a beautiful spice to salads. The wild greens can be used in salads; they have a strong flavor, so use sparingly at first. The strong greens can be eaten straight up with bleu cheese, walnuts and pomegranates and a vinaigrette dressing.

Wild greens are delicious cooked just like the greens you pay for in the produce section. Wild greens make a great raw pesto! Our local, free varieties are more tender and tasty and probably free of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

As with kale chips, you can also dehydrate wild greens. These wild greens tend to be more fragile than kale after drying so you will see that they lend themselves better to making a powder than a chip. That is how I discovered that it could be dried and crumbled to make delicious seasoning salt. Try it!

Wild Greens Seasoning Salt

Many of our readers are familiar with Gomasio, roasted sesame salt. Start with gomasio base:

2 C sesame seeds

1 T or more Celtic sea salt (to taste)

Place sesame seeds in a cast iron skillet over medium heat. Roast for 10 minutes, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon until seeds crackle and turn golden brown. Place sesame seeds and salt in a blender, mortar and pestle or mini-food processor; grind into a coarse meal. Don't blend too much or you will end up with sesame butter! You may want to keep out some of the plain gomasio.

This part you can make using the following ingredients, depending on what you have on hand and adjusting to your own taste. The amounts shown are approximate, just a place to start:

1 cup or more dried wild greens

1/2 cup nutritional yeast
(do not use brewer's yeast, yuck!)

1/4 cup each crumbled nori, dulse, kelp and/or other dried seaweed

1/4 cup dried nettles, if available

Optional Cayenne to taste, add more salt, if you wish.

Mix well and transfer to a glass container. Use like any seasoning salt. Sprinkle it on everything, especially rice and popcorn! Give to your friends, or store in the refrigerator. Since these tender young greens only come in the spring, I make this once a year and it is a good spring tonic. Try freezing half of it. My advice: make A LOT to last you a whole year!

Quelites or Lambsquarters (Wild Spinach)

By Lou McCall

Chenopodium album is a fast-growing wild edible plant, known in Spanish as quelites and in English as Lambsquarters. Quelites are enjoyed both as a beloved delicacy and a staple food throughout Mexico and Nuevo Mexico. Most people think of this wild spinach as a weed, but the seeds are available commercially from organic seed catalogs.

One mature stalk, when watered, can get tall enough to provide a whole winter's supply of frozen spinach. You do not have to blanch it or do anything other than make sure it is clean and put it in a freezer bag. Use it in any recipe that calls for spinach. Be sure to save some seed, or simply let plants go to seed and you will have a huge crop of volunteers next year.

Eat the smaller plants fresh in salads throughout the summer and fall. One popular way to eat it in Mexico is to place the raw leaves in a bowl, grate onion on it, to taste, and add hot beans with broth. ¡Muy sabroso! Another method: Crumble up bacon in a skillet and add red onion. When the onion is done add a lot of quelites, they cook down to nothing, so don't be stingy. Cook until tender, yum!



Green Chile Quelites

1 T vegetable oil OR 2 strips bacon, diced

1/4 medium onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic minced

a few big handfuls of chopped, fresh quelites (a.k.a. lambsquarters or wild spinach)*

1 C cooked pinto beans, drained

2 T coarse green chile, chopped

3 cloves fresh garlic, chopped

1/2 t salt

Heat oil or bacon in skillet. Sauté onion and garlic in oil. Add quelites, beans, chile garlic and salt

Cover and cook over low heat 15 minute

*You can replace quelites with any wild green; wild mustard or ragweed and wild amaranth are plentiful, delicious and nutritious!

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\$10,000 to the Charles Cisneros Cerro VFW

\$10,000 Costilla Neighborhood Association.

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**BODY
MIND
SPIRIT**



By **BARBARA TRACY**

From the Heart

Steven Petrow writes in his book: Stupid Things I Won't Do When I Get Old - "Sending missives into the future, telling your loved ones how you feel about them, or writing letters to be read on the dates of specific milestones is one of the most precious things you can give."

I recently decided it was time to write a "life" letter from mother to daughter. This letter to my daughter

will take some time to write as I relate the adventures and philosophies of life, as well as share some stories about family and friends. This is quite the journey for my heart and mind, and brings up long lost memories and deep complex and beautiful feelings about one's own life. This process has helped me to remember what it is like to sit down with a pen in hand and write from the heart to someone I care about. Not a text with an emoji heart, but a real hand written letter that speaks to another from a deeper part of our being. Thoughtful words written with care and caring.

Written words can be savored and re-read at any time. Writing by hand a letter or a note to someone important in your life is a much greater offering of your sincerity than on electronic media platforms. Each of us has our own style of writing and speaking that is a

personal expression of ourselves being shared with another being. For many years I carried a letter from my grandmother who had a very unique way of writing because she was self-taught. I cherished and was comforted seeing her words long after she had gone.

In our tech fast moving pace of communication, we can lose the personal touch. A quick text, a short email decorated with a little emoji or a heart, which is very popular to say "I love you" in tech speak, is probably the most expedient and yet mechanical way to communicate in our time. But what of the in depth meaning of something greater than an emoji heart, our own words in our own handwriting.

During the recent past quarantine, there was research done about the gifts of hand writing a letter. It seems that hand writing a letter is linked to mental health benefits. There is a feeling of ac-

complishment, a quieting of the mind to exist in the moment. It nurtures creativity and connection. It takes time and effort to hand write a letter and there is a relationship to our hearts and our desire for social bonding that is met while writing. If you are the recipient of the letter, you may feel that the writer sincerely cares about you. When the letter is to someone you love, then the words hold a deeper meaning when they can be re-read and savored.

By expressing gratitude through your writing in a thank you note can help the brain release dopamine and serotonin which are our "feel good" chemicals. This message of gratitude has the ability to take our thoughts from negative to positive. And when we are positive, we are nurturing the potential for greater health and wellbeing.

SENIOR MENU: JULY 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Beef & Papas, Pinto Beans, Roasted Cauliflower w/ red bell peppers Tortilla, Salsa, Banana	4 Closed	5 Hamburger Macaroni, Stewed Tomatoes, Seasoned Spinach w/Onions, Sliced Pears	6 Tamale, Pinto Beans, Spanish Slaw, Orange	7 Tuna Salad Sandwich, Lettuce and Tomato, Veggie Blend, Sun Chips, Peanut butter Cookie
10 Sweet & Sour Chicken Steamed Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables, WW Bread, Cherry Crumble	11 Beef Tacos, Lettuce and tomato, Salsa, Spanish Rice Black beans w/ green and red bell peppers, Capri Vegetables, Gelatin	12 Chile Cheese Dog, Peppers/ Onions, Green Beans, Mixed Fruit	13 Sausage and Mushroom Ragu, Italian Blend Vegetable Garlic Roll, Peaches	14 Frito Pie, Lettuce and Tomato, Cucumber Salad, Carrots, Watermelon
17 Tossed Salad, Light Italian Dressing, Beef Stroganoff Chateau Vegetables, Apples in Cobbler	18 BBQ Chicken, Veggie Medley Baked potato w/ Sour Cream & chives, Honeydew, oatmeal cookie	19 Polish Sausage, On a hot dog Bun, Sauerkraut, Peppers & Onions, French fries, Cucumber and tomato salad, Tropical fruit salad	20 Ham & Beans, Tossed Salad w/ Light Italian Dressing Crackers, Strawberries/ Bananas Whipped topping	21 Chicken & Vegetables Beet and Onion Salad, Steamed Brown Rice, mandarin oranges in Gelatin w/ Whipped topping
24 Beef Stew, Tossed Salad w/ Light Italian Dressing, Crackers, Fruit Salad	25 Braised Pork chops Red Cabbage w/ Red onions Roasted Potatoes, Biscuit /w Margarine, Honey, Banana	26 Pasta w/ Meat sauce, Blend Vegetables, WW Bread w/ Margarine. Fruit Cocktail	27 Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Baked chicken, Gravy, Rice Pilaf, Country Vegetables wheat bread, Chocolate pudding	28 Cheeseburger, Saute Onions, Lettuce & Tomato Potato Salad, Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie
31 Tossed Salad w/ light Dressing, Chicken Alfredo, California blend Vegetables, Wheat roll, Pudding				All Meals Served With 8oz. 2% Milk as available

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

Lunch donations recommendations are \$1.50 and up. Lunches for people under 60 years old are \$7.50 a person.

To qualify call the Ancianos at 575-586-0508. They will fill out an assessment and file an application.

Currently, exercise classes are not available.

Donations for transportation is encouraged.

*Taos County Senior Program
(575) 737-8927*

*PLEASE NOTE THAT MENU IS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE*



Say ILYJAYA YAM Every Day

It is possible to change that negative mind chatter into positive self-talk and it will make a remarkable difference in your life. That process begins with observing your thoughts and it's Daily Practice #1 in my mind/body/spirit self-help program that has dramatically and permanently changed my life.

Have tenderness for everything about yourself – including the parts of your personality you might wish were different. Hidden within those parts could be your greatest strengths. Love your idiosyncrasies, habits and tendencies, knowing that whatever your patterns, they were created in an attempt to fill a valid need. Honor yourself for having done your best to take care of yourself. Loving these parts of ourselves is the first step in making lasting change.

If you find it difficult to love yourself just as you are, then at least accept yourself. If it seems like a risk to love or accept yourself, buck up and take the risk, even if just for a moment. It hinges on completely accepting yourself, no matter what. Be willing to believe that the actions of loving and accepting yourself will lead to a life of more joy and

fulfillment. Take the risk. Be the hero.

I have to tell you this won't be easy. It wasn't easy for me when I started it, and others who've attended my talks have also had difficulty at first. Just be persistent because there are surprising side benefits you'll experience after doing this exercise regularly. I've been told by people who have practiced loving themselves, that once they could really, truly feel love for themselves, they felt a closer connection to the Divine.

They told me they felt less separated from other people and experienced much more compassion for others - and started being less judgmental. These are all beautiful side benefits that accompany a better relationship with your constant companion – yourself!

Do something good for yourself right now

1. Write on a sticky note or index card: ILYJAYA YAM, which is the first letter of each word in I Love You Just As You Are. You Are Magnificent.
2. Put the note near the mirror in your bathroom (or another room).
3. When you get up in the morning and go into the bathroom, look in the mirror, look into your eyes and say: I LOVE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE. YOU ARE MAGNIFICENT.
4. Say it twice. If you don't believe what you're saying, remember love is an action first, then a feeling. Just fake it until you become it.

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

Di TATCE EM todos los días

Es posible cambiar esa charla mental negativa por un diálogo interno positivo y conseguir una diferencia notable en tu vida. Ese proceso comienza con la observación de tus pensamientos y es la Práctica Diaria #1 en mi programa de autoayuda de mente/ cuerpo/ espíritu que ha cambiado mi vida de manera dramática y permanente.

Siente ternura por todo lo relacionado contigo —incluidas las partes de tu personalidad que desearías que fueran diferentes. Ocultas dentro de esas partes podrían estar tus mayores fortalezas. Ama tus rarezas, hábitos y tendencias, sabiendo que, cualesquiera que sean los moldes que sigues, fueron creados en un intento por satisfacer una necesidad válida. Hónrate a ti mismo por haber hecho todo lo posible para cuidarte. Amar estas partes de nosotros mismos es el primer paso para lograr un cambio duradero.

Si te cuesta trabajo amarte tal como eres, por lo menos acéptate. Si te parece un riesgo amarte o aceptarte a ti mismo, animate y arriésgate, aunque sea solo por un momento. Es fundamental aceptarte

completamente a ti mismo, pase lo que pase. Siéntete dispuesto a creer que las acciones de amarte y aceptarte a ti mismo te llevarán a una vida de más alegría y plenitud. Aviéntate. Vuélvete un héroe.

Tengo que advertirte que no va a ser fácil. No fue fácil para mí cuando comencé, y otros que han asistido a mis charlas también han tenido dificultades al principio. Tienes que ser persistente porque hay beneficios secundarios sorprendentes que experimentarás después de hacer este ejercicio con regularidad. Me lo han dicho personas que han practicado amarse a sí mismas: que una vez que realmente pudieron sentir amor por sí mismas, sintieron una conexión más cercana con lo Divino.

Me dijeron que se sentían menos separadas de otras personas y experimentaban mucha más compasión por los demás —y comenzaron a juzgarlos menos. Todos estos son magníficos beneficios secundarios que acompañan a una mejor relación con quien te acompaña constantemente: ¡tú mismo!

Haz algo bueno para ti mismo ahora

1. Escribe en una nota adhesiva o ficha: TATCE EM, que es la primera letra de cada palabra en “Te amo tal como

eres. Eres magnífico (o magnífica).”

2. Pon la nota cerca del espejo en tu baño (o en otra habitación).
3. Cuando te levantes por la mañana y vayas al baño, mira al espejo, mírate a los ojos y di: TE AMO TAL COMO ERES. ERES MAGNÍFICO/A.
4. Dilo dos veces. Si no crees lo que dices, recuerda que el amor es primero una acción, luego se convierte en un

sentimiento. Solo haz como si lo creyeras hasta que te lo creas de veras.

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. Para ponerse en contacto con Ellen, escríbele a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

Traducido de Teresa Dovalpage

JR (Malaquias) says:

Does your car or truck sound like the 4th of July?



Bring it to us and we'll have it sweetly humming in no time.



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Know the Hazards of Lithium-Ion Batteries

By contributing writer
CYNTHIA NAJIM

One of the hottest topics today for consumers and emergency first responders is the hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries. More and more, popular devices and vehicles are powered by these high energy battery cells - such as drills, cell phones, laptops, power banks, e-cigarettes, e-scooters, e-bikes, e-wheelchairs, hoverboards, solar-powered systems, hybrid cars, and electric vehicles (EVs).

Why can lithium-ion battery cells be so dangerous? Their top three safety risks are 1) Thermal Runaway - when the cells enter an uncontrollable, self-heating state; 2) Battery Reignition - they are commonly known to reignite without warning - minutes, hours, days, and even weeks after all visible fire has been put out; 3) Stranded Energy - the energy remaining in a cell after efforts to safely discharge the stored energy in damaged cells. This important issue remains unresolved and presents a significant fire and shock hazard, especially for emergency responders.

When these battery-powered devices fail, there can be little to no warning. When they overheat, suffer mechanical damage, or have sustained water damage, they can spontaneously combust. The smoke emitted is extremely toxic and the flames burn extremely hot. Once ignited, they can shoot debris in all directions and cause nearby items to catch fire.

Why do lithium-ion batteries fail? The main reasons are 1) overcharging or using the wrong charger; 2) impacts such as dents or punctures; and 3) extreme temperatures, hot or cold. For safety reasons, many airlines now ban the carrying on board of certain devices containing these batteries.

Our intent isn't to be alarmist, but rather to make sure you are informed and prepared in the event of an incident. Here are some basic dos and don'ts for smaller devices that can help keep you, your family, and your home safe:

Don't modify or alter your device or change the types or configuration of the batteries.

Use only the correct battery and power adapter as issued by the device manufacturer. Be wary of cheaper aftermarket batteries purchased from third-party sources, like eBay or Amazon. Charge the device according to manufacturer directions. Using the wrong battery, charger or charging incorrectly has been a leading cause of battery failure and fire.



Courtesy Photo

Photo of several lithium ion batteries

Charge and store the battery in an open, safe space away from combustible materials.

Don't leave your battery charging unattended, and don't store your battery near heaters or under heavy objects.

Don't leave cell phones or other e-devices in the sun or on the dashboard of your vehicle. That can cause them to overheat and potentially malfunction. The battery can shoot out of a cell phone once ignited and launch across the room or vehicle interior.

Don't keep e-cigarettes in your pocket or your mouth. If the small cylindrical battery combusts, there will be no warning and you could be burned or injured.

Be mindful of where you store your power banks. They contain larger size batteries, which can charge a cell phone 3-4 times. That amount of stored energy can cause a significant fire if it ignites inside your bag or backpack.

Keep your laptop well-ventilated to avoid overheating. If the unit is dropped or damaged in any way (including water), be on the lookout for unusual signs or activity. A laptop can explode without warning, propel debris across the room, and cause fires in surrounding areas.

If any device (cell phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) shows signs of damage or bulging - quickly and carefully take it outside away from the house and onto some non-flammable surface (concrete, rocks, gravel, sand, or dirt driveway). If it gets hot, or you hear hissing or popping sounds, or you see just a little white smoke - get away from the device, get everyone outside the structure, and call 911.

Never charge e-scooters, e-bikes, or hover boards inside your home, apartment, or garage. They contain hundreds of cylindrical lithium-ion battery cells, which can be catastrophic when they fail. If there is a problem, these e-mobility

devices will give you a very brief warning. They will start to smoke and then quickly erupt into flames. A lot of explosive gases are released, and an entire room can deflagrate in under 30 seconds.

If you are present during the ignition or explosion of a lithium-ion battery powered device, do not touch it! The exothermic chemical reaction puts out extreme heat, around 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. The best action is to evacuate the structure or building, close the doors, and call 911. Tell Dispatch what happened, so first responders know they are dealing with a lithium-ion battery fire.

Conventional fires are fueled by oxygen and can easily be put out by water. They produce smoke containing toxins that you do not want to breathe.

Lithium-ion battery fires, on the other hand, are not fueled by oxygen. The smoke emitted from an explosion is highly toxic and should not be inhaled. Water can be used by emergency responders to cool down the battery cells, but - especially in the case of EVs - massive quantities of water are required to put out the fire. Even more concerning is that, when the flames seem to have been extinguished, these lithium-ion cells can reignite after several hours, days, and even weeks. Properly handling and discarding any failed batteries or devices is paramount.

Let's consider the bigger sources of lithium-ion cells - such as recycling centers of discarded devices, and hybrid and electric vehicles.

All lithium-ion battery devices have a built-in obsolescence. Once they've been through up to 1000 recharging cycles, the unit must be replaced. This is also true for EVs. Imagine the ever-growing mountain of cast-off battery cells at recycling centers that can ignite without warning. Powder extinguishers are often used on such fires, but are ineffective, enabling the cells

to reignite.

With the rapidly increasing number of EVs on roadways across the country, a trend forecasted to rise exponentially, scores of EV accidents where the lithium-ion battery cells caught fire are being investigated. A normal car fire can be put out with one fire engine's tank of water, approximately 750 gallons. In the case of a single Tesla EV accident in January 2023 in Massachusetts, it took the crew 2.5 hours and 20,000 gallons of water to extinguish the fire, which erupted when the guardrail pierced the bank of lithium-ion batteries underneath as first responders attempted to clear the car from the roadway. Damaged EV batteries burn much hotter. Flame temperatures can exceed 2500 degrees Fahrenheit!

Given the high risk of battery reignition, the key question is: When is the fire truly out? Incidents have been reported where batteries ignited on the tow truck after the wreckage was hauled away from the scene. What happens at the dump yard?

Firefighters face difficult scene conditions at any EV accident. They must 1) wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) including a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), 2) have or procure an abundant water supply, and 3) remain cautious to avoid being caught in an explosion, hit by flying debris, or electrocuted by inadvertently making contact with the high voltage system.

Lithium-ion batteries present such serious challenges to first responders that the theme of Firefighter Safety Stand Down 2023 is "Lithium-Ion Batteries: Are you Ready?" Safety Stand Down is a joint initiative of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Fire Protection Association, and National Volunteer Fire Chiefs Council. New training programs are being developed and rolled out to educate and prepare first responders on these unique hazards and on critical EV details, including the size and location of the battery cells, which varies by vehicle make and model.

Most devices powered by lithium-ion batteries work safely for their life. Manufacturers are continuing to improve the reliability of these batteries. When devices are used, charged, and cared for properly, the risk of battery failure and fire is greatly reduced.

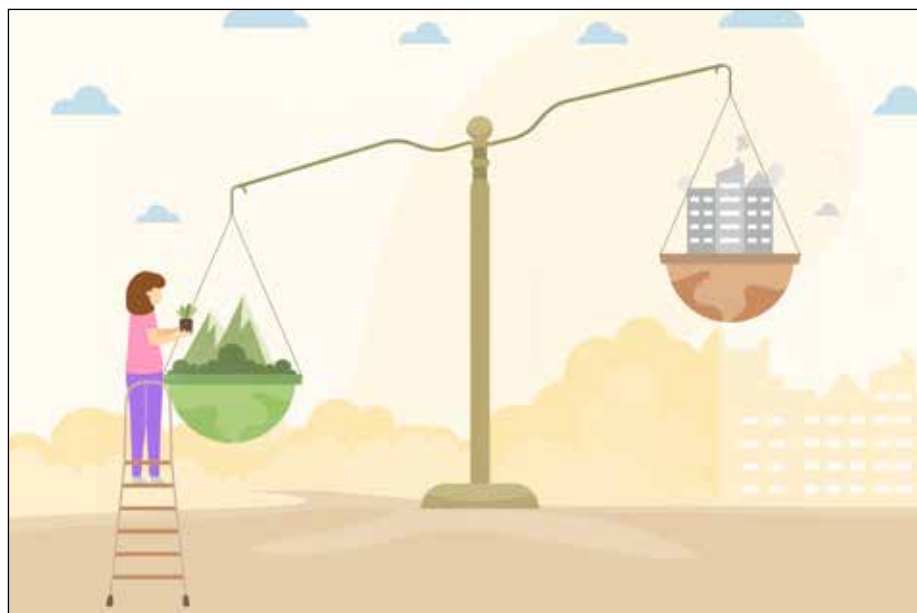
Editor's Note: Cynthia Najim is a member of the Latir Volunteer Fire Department

Editorial: Current Agriculture Policies Can Negatively Affect Us

Contributed by
CORILIA ORTEGA

It's a late fall evening in 2019 and we have harvested more squash, zucchini, carrots, bolita beans, and blue corn than I imagined possible for this small lot that is about an eighth of an acre. I have several friends helping me pick the crops because I'm healing from an inguinal hernia surgery and not allowed to lift more than six pounds. It's a beautiful sight and I am in awe of my first season growing. This moment further confirms my desire to work with the land and I see how seeds, soil and water are defining who I want to be. I see my friends working in the field and know that for many of them having their own land to tend to will unlikely ever happen, so they get invited to grow with us on our land. As a young aspiring acequiera and land-based Taosena in New Mexico and a Land Advocacy Fellow with the National Young Farmers Coalition, I recognize that the 2023 Farm Bill will determine U.S. land policy more than any other policy decision over the next decade. It will set the stage for how our communities use the land they are rooted in and will decide who has access to that land.

As an aspiring farmer-grower I have had the privilege accessing familial land that was fallow for decades. I transitioned from violence prevention work to a farmer apprenticeship program with the New Mexico Acequia Association's Sembradores Program. Pursuing my desire to learn to cultivate and care for the land I grew-up in was possible because my parents had a small parcel of land with water rights, I had a free and culturally relevant farmer training, and I did not have student loans to repay. Additionally,



Courtesy Photo

I could rely on my neighbors who cherish land-based living. They've loaned me their time and equipment to establish my small parcel. In time, I would like to expand on what I do, and have a sufficient amount of acreage to grow blue corn, squash, sweet peas, beans, avas, garlic and various root vegetables, and raise livestock for my family and close neighbors. I'm years away from such a dream. I still need the means to acquire irrigable lands, reasonable equipment, and infrastructure to eventually have a viable operation that could employ a small team – all in hopes of contributing to our food system with fresh food and value added products and sustaining cultural practices.

Unfortunately, stories like mine are unique, a young woman with land access and water rights is not at all common in Taos county. The larger picture of young farmers is one of obstacles and hurdles that are discouraging. Many young(er)

agriculturalists in our area do not have any land access due to the extremely high costs of agricultural lands, or if they do, they have costly leases and difficulties securing water—which means most of us have second or third jobs.

My path to becoming a small farmer-grower is very privileged and it is why I write and choose to join a national effort to address this issue—because it should not be this hard for the next generation of farmers and ranchers to be in the field. But it is, and for a variety of reasons.

Research from the USDA shows that across the country, the current generation of farmers is aging out of the profession—the average farmer in the U.S. is nearly 60 years old—while prime farmland is being lost to development at a rate of more than 2,000 acres per day. Over the next twenty years of my life, nearly half of U.S. farmland is expected to change hands, but young farmers are leaving agriculture

because they cannot secure land. Why is this? According to the National Young Farmers Coalition (Young Farmers), finding affordable land to buy is the number one reason farmers are leaving agriculture, and the primary barrier preventing aspiring farmers from getting started.

To understand the current challenges facing young farmers, it is important to understand the historical context. For generations, public policy has facilitated the dispossession of millions of acres from Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC). Through policies such as the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the Homestead Acts of the mid-1800s, the revocation of Field Order No. 15, and the Alien Land Laws of the early 1900s, among others, Congress has been responsible for the dispossession of hundreds of millions of acres from Indigenous people and other people of color, while facilitating land ownership and access for white Americans.

As a result, white individuals now account for 95 percent of all farmers, own 98 percent of farmland, and receive the vast majority of agriculture-related financial assistance. Since the policies of the New Deal-era, lawmakers have shifted support away from farmers and towards corporate interests.

When I reflect on peers who want to be in the field and around the country—especially women, Native relatives, and African Americans, whose families have long standing expertise and knowledge of the land, to those who I currently see being cultivators, there's a racial discrepancy—especially for our region that's historically Puebloan and Hispanic. I

AG POLICIES cont'd on page 27

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Stories on Film - San Luis Valley "A Story To Tell" Documentary Collection Spanish/Mexican Family Oral History Part 4 & 5

Spirituality and Its People: El Valle de San Luis

A 24-minute documentary of the communities in San Luis, Capulin, Conejos and San Antonio during holy week. Narrated by Father Pat Valdez, 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, Cultural and Faith of the people of the San Luis Valley.

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

[Rick Vigil's] documentary was well done and very inspiring. My birth family is from Antonio (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

Great documentary. Proud to

be from the San Luis Valley, specifically Capulin.

I well remember Holy Week and La Morada in Capulin.

Robert Gurza Cultural & Diversity Relevance - Clinical Program Management at Jefferson Center for Mental Health. Stations of the Cross in San Luis are so beautiful and with so much detail. Rick, 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

Exploring Integrative Medicine: A Cultural Health Video Series

Educational teaching materials on the herb "OSHA"

Carol Jensen, R.N., M.Ed., Professor and Retired Integrative Therapist, and creator of the Bachelor of Science in Integrative Therapeutic Practices Degree at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Culturally competent health care is a complex process that includes not just understanding the culture and health practices of others, but also honoring them so that they may be discussed in conjunction with the Western approach to medicine. Respecting the traditional health practices of others is vital for an open, honest dialogue between client and practitioner.

This video series offers short documentary vignettes about cultural health issues and provides a teaching tool kit to create lively discussions within the classroom. The tool kit includes a PowerPoint presentation, list of works cited for further research, discussion questions and group projects.

For this video the medicinal herb

Osha was specifically chosen because it has not been discussed at length in the media but is widely used in the western United States by indigenous and Hispanic peoples has a great deal of cultural significance.

Information from herbalist Teresa Vigil of the San Luis Valley of Colorado is included with historical and cultural uses of the herb, and scientific knowledge about the herb.

Qualified herbalists interested in the production and distribution of educational video materials on the topic of alternative medicine (remedios) will find this an essential resource. The focus would be on the history, preservation and safe use of these natural medicines as a supportive educational reference tool by the general market.

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, the University of Colorado in Boulder, Denver Office of Children Affair, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver Public School, Red Rocks Community College, the University of Colorado Denver-Downtown Campus and Colorado Community Health Centers (CCHN) all have been proud supporters of this work.

Total Running Time 9:20

DVD/CD Packet includes

Toolkit Teaching Materials, Film Guide, and *Ligusticum porteri* Osha Power Point

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dtem@comcast.net

FIESTA RETURNS cont'd from page 1

not optional. The barter system was utilized through the Great Depression, where families would exchange resources with one another to get by. This system remained in place post the Great Depression era, ensuring families could have what they needed by trading what they had.

This interconnectedness of necessity in remote communities in northern New Mexico is one reason the bonds with one another were much deeper, and similarly, is one of the reasons divisions are much more difficult to bridge.

Rael also spoke about how our culture is slowly losing its language. "When I was younger, I used to get in trouble for speaking Spanish at school. Speaking Spanish used to be a thing of shame, as if we were uneducated. Now, we're losing our language and once you lose that, you lose the culture," Rael says. This is why he underscores why reviving and carrying forward traditions such as the Fiestas is so incredibly important.

Fiesta organizer and Village of Questa city councilwoman Katrina Gonzales relished in the success of the event. "I did this for our community. Seeing the community together smiling, laughing, and hugging while they enjoyed the day, that to me makes this a success. Seeing the joy emulating from our people made this endeavor worth it," she says.

A nice addition to this year's event was the revival of the traditional Fiesta Reina (queen). Prior to the crowning, the first-ever Reina Susan (Cisneros) Ortega addressed the crowd with a heartwarming speech and the last-reigning Reina Abigail Muller crowned Karina Rael, daughter of Victoria and Martin Rael as the 2023 Reina de las Fiestas. Her princesses are Jordyn Martinez, daughter of Josh Martinez and the late Jennifer Vigil and Amalia Gonzalez, daughter of Maria and Jason Gonzalez.

The 2023 revival was so much more than a celebration, it brought together a once broken community forging unity, celebration, and healing, giving space for nuestro gente (our people) to step away from the fast-paced world, and get back to the basics of building genuine human connections.

iQue Viva las Fiestas!

AG POLICIES cont'd from pg 25

have been in agricultural spaces where the default leans to white knowledge, expertise, practice, and in some instances gate keeps access to heritage seed, resources, grant funding, and opportunities.

If the social complexities of land access aren't difficult enough, now we face the impacts of climate change. Extreme and unpredictable weather events, increasing pests and invasive species, persistent drought, and natural disasters are making the learning curve much harder. The collective knowledge of land and water helps us make decisions, yet, it is more frequent that experienced agriculturalists are expressing that acequia irrigation systems are quickly changing and growing seasons are not what they used to be. We can learn together, adapt where we can, and preserve and restore what land and water we have-- this gives me hope and reassurance to keep going. Still, the reality is much bigger than our watershed. Some ditches will go dry and there will be nothing we can do about them other than grieve. This is why I continue to build relationships with my neighbors and am stepping out of my comfort zone to uplift what is possible for future generations. Policy has shaped the present reality and must be part of building a more equitable farming future. We need a 2023 Farm Bill that encourages climate resilient practices and secures our farmland for the next generation.

I joined the National Young Farmers Coalition's Land Advocacy Fellowship along with 99 other farmers and ranchers from across the country because we are working for bold change. The Coalition's One Million Acres for the Future Campaign is calling on Congress to make an historic investment of \$2.5 billion in equitable access to land the 2023 Farm Bill.

This investment could make one million acres of land accessible to a new generation of farmers.

We believe that policies implemented through the 2023 Farm Bill can help to ensure that valuable agricultural land is not lost and that access to it is equitable for my generation and those to come. I encourage policymakers to see the upcoming farm bill as an opportunity to make historic investments that:

Help farmers compete in the real estate market by more appropriate and quicker credit options, including an FSA pre-approval mechanism.

Invest in voluntary, community-led farmland protection that keeps land in the hands of growers; specifically, ensure the buy-protect-sell mechanism works for growers within the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and prioritize funding for projects that protect affordability.

Prevent land loss in communities of color, particularly at the time of farm transition; specifically, continue investing in the Heirs' Property Relending Program.

As a part of Young Farmers' One Million Acres for the Future campaign, I am asking my Members of Congress Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan, and Representatives Melanie Stansbury, Teresa Leger-Fernandez, and Gabe Vasquez, to pass a 2023 Farm Bill that makes this historic investment in equitable land access. We need to actively remove the roadblocks that are keeping young farmers off the land. Secure, equitable access to farmland is an issue that impacts us all, and the future of our food and agriculture systems. All of our voices are important in calling on Congress to create a 2023 Farm Bill that supports young farmers. To get involved with the campaign and receive action alerts, sign up here: p2a.co/land.

Explore
wild & beautiful northern Taos County!

Meet over 50 inspired artists, representing both traditional and contemporary art & craft.

Questa ART TOUR

AUGUST 12 & 13
10AM-5PM

Download the tour map & info at
QUESTACREATIVE.ORG/about-the-tour

QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL

Infinite Position Lift Recliner
FOR SALE

Mixed: Price Elegance Infinity
Mint condition, barely used beautiful look and feel to this medical-grade lift recliner.
Full functioning, not a scratch.
Purchased at Toys Medical Supply for \$850. Asking \$399.
(No my baby situation due to MS, I needed a smaller version of the same chair.) This chair will serve you now for relaxing and later on-aging before the fall.
The chair accommodates for any insecurities.

(413) 824-7589
Text, please, for initial communication. Thank you!

SUMMER SATURDAYS!

Questa Art Market

Vendors offer handmade leather goods, jewelry, fiber arts, metal and wood-carved pieces, painting, pottery, minerals and gems, antiques, and much more. From 10 am to 4 pm every Saturday through September. At the Village Center, Farmers Market site, 1 State Hwy 38.

SPONSORS

MARSHALL CHERRY-TOPPED CUT PEANUTS

O B I T U A R I E S



Lynda Archuleta
d. June 13, 2023

Lynda Rebeca Archuleta, born on September 27th, 1988, of Cerro, New Mexico, went to be with our Lord on Tuesday, June 13th, 2023.

Lynda is preceded in death by her sister Jessica Archuleta; Grandparents Joe and Marcella Archuleta, Antonio and Esmerelda Marquez, and Rebecca Abeyta; Uncles Johnny Marquez, Anastacio Archuleta, and Albert Archuleta; Aunts Eduvigen Martinez, Becky Barajas, Mary Marquez, Florence Marquez, and Beverly Archuleta; Cousins Lisa Archuleta, Alex Marquez, and LoriAnn Marquez.

Lynda is survived by her parents Jesse and Suzanna Archuleta, sister Noreen (Matt) Ortega, and brother Conrad Archuleta; Nephews Stephen Ortega (Sara Fernandez), Kevin Lee Ortega (Autumn Romero), Tobias Ortega (Andrea Sanchez), Jesus Rael, Joel Rael, Josiah Cisneros, and Marcelino Archuleta. Nieces Arianna Ortega (Isaiah Sierra), Ashleigh Archuleta, and Mia Archuleta;

Godparents Michael Velarde and Michelle Maestas; Devoted cousin Stephen Arellano (Michelle Varos); many Uncles, Aunts, and cousins.

The services were held at Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cerro, New Mexico. The rosary was recited Monday, June 19th, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, June 20th, 2023 at 10 AM. Burial followed at the Cerro Catholic Cemetery.



Donna Baca
d. June 10, 2023

Donna Baca, age 68, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2023. A full obituary is pending. The family of Donna Baca has entrusted the care of their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



Tillie Duran
d. May 22, 2023

Tillie Duran, 94, passed away May 22, 2023 surrounded by her loving family.

She was preceded in death by her parents Hipolito and Margarita Herrera; her husband Telesfor (Tito) Duran; daughter Mary Ida Maestas and infant son Eddie Duran; brothers Paz, Rudy and Adelmo Herrera; sister Angie Arellano and granddaughter Tanya Folkmire.

Tillie is survived by her children Sixto Duran (Sylvia), Dorothy Williams (Jeff), Jesse Duran (Loretta), Yolanda Montoya (Chris), Tito Duran (Cruz); 17 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great grandchildren; sister Pauline Mascarenas, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Tillie was very dedicated to her family. She was a loving wife, caring mother and grandmother who loved

cooking big meals for all of them. She generously provided gifts to her grandchildren for special occasions. Tillie always made her visitors feel welcome and never let them leave without sharing a meal with them first. She was very faithful to her Catholic Religion and set the example for her family.

She will be greatly missed, but her family knows she is in the presence of her Holy Father in heaven.

Rosary was recited on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 6:00pm at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa. Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 10:00am at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, burial followed at the Lama Cemetery.

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



William Gonzales
d. May 31, 2023

Age 40 of Taos NM, passed away unexpectedly on May 31, 2023. He was born on February 13, 1983, to Leroy and Carmen Gonzales. William wore many titles: son, brother, uncle, friend, husband, and the title he was most proud of, DAD.

William worked at Centinel Bank of Taos where he met his best friend and love of his life, Nicole. The Bank was not only William's second home but also his second family. Over his 21-year career, William built an extensive network of colleagues, customers, and most importantly friends.

He loved the work that he did and

dedicated his time to helping others. It was the simplest pleasures in life that brought William great joy. He had an uncanny ability to bring humor to any setting and happiness to all the lives he encountered.

He is preceded in death by his maternal grandmother Ruth Moya. He is survived by his wife Nicole and their three beautiful children, Jaelynn, Joshua, and Alexandra; his parents Leroy and Carmen Gonzales, brother Matthew, sister Tiffany, paternal grandfather Charlie Gonzales (Lucille), paternal grandmother Teresa Gonzales, father and mother-in-law Gordon and Roberta Robinson, sister-in-law Michelle, nieces Iliana and Analisa, nephews Victor, Brian, Owen, and Jesse, and many more loving uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

The rosary was recited on Sunday June 11, 2023, at 7pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday June 12, 2023, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with a burial following at Las Cruces Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the emergency response team, doctors, nurses, and staff of Holy Cross Hospital and the staff of DeVargas Funeral Home for the amazing care and compassion they have provided to William and his loved ones. We would also like to thank the community for the outpouring of love and support that has been given during this most difficult time.



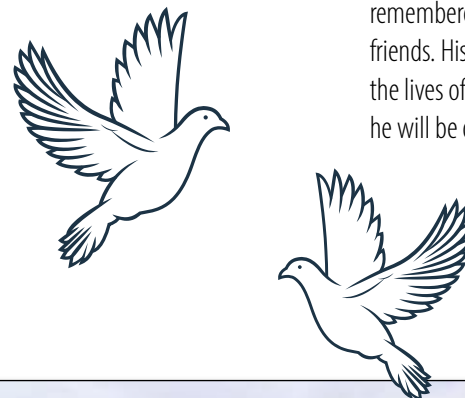
Mario Z. Rael
d. June 7, 2023

Mario Z. Rael, 40, of Taos, NM, passed away on June 7, 2023, in Questa, NM. Mario was born on March 12, 1983, in Taos, NM, to Mario Rael Sr. and Nancy Crochet. He attended Questa High School.

Mario had a passion for helping others, and he expressed his artistic side through his beautiful artwork. He was an avid drawer and spent much of his free time working on his truck and cooking.

Mario will be deeply missed by his surviving family members, including his father Mario Rael Sr., mother Nancy Crochet (Steve), grandmother Lucy Rael, grandfather Valdamar DeHerrera, second mother Gidget Montoya, sons Zachary and Emory, sister Anisa Trujillo (Leann); brother James Mascarenas (Gricelda), and his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Malaquias Rael, and grandmother, Connie Deherrera.

A rosary will be held on Saturday July 1 at 9 a.m., followed by a funeral mass at 10 a.m., at St. Anthony's Church in Questa. Mario was a kind-hearted and talented man who will be remembered for his love of family and friends. His passing has left a void in the lives of those who knew him, and he will be deeply missed.



Our entire staff at the *Questa del Rio News* send our sincerest condolences to the families who are grieving the loss of their beloved family members.

If you would like to submit a death announcement, full obituary, or word of thanks in the *Questa del Rio News* as well as having it posted to the website, please email sales-1@questanews.com.

A small fee of \$20 will apply.

Contact us at Sales-1@QuestaNews.com



ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
JULY 2023

ESOTERIC VS ORTHODOX ASTROLOGY

"Whatever is born or done in this moment of time, has the qualities of this moment of time." Carl Jung

Occasionally it seems appropriate to remind folks that what we discuss in this column is not traditional or orthodox Western astrology. Rather it is Esoteric Astrology or what we sometimes call, "The New Astrology." It is not at all new; in fact, we believe it predates both humankind and orthodox astrology. But because it is meant for humankind on a spiritual path, it needed to await both an expansion of human consciousness and a time when it could be more acceptable. Galileo, after all, was excommunicated from the church and kept under house arrest for the rest of his life for daring to state that the Earth revolved around the Sun rather than the other way around. Therefore, this more spiritual, potentially heretical form of astrology was kept hidden until the Inquisition was no longer a danger. Today we still call it esoteric astrology because it also has to do with what is hidden within. Esoteric simply means intangible.

The more obvious external differences between the two forms of astrology include, as you can see below, a change of rulership by the planets. As we vibrate to a higher and higher resonance, so do the planets. We do after all impress them every bit as much as they impress us. "As Above, So Below." As we attempt to work off karma and evolve ourselves, so do the planets. Thus, just as we no longer keep the same company that we kept when we were not as conscious, neither do the planets. Another difference is that where orthodox astrology is concerned mostly with the Sun Sign, so we believe the Sun is your personality which is merely the vehicle through which you choose to manifest your Purpose in this lifetime and thus is meant to serve the purpose of your Soul. The first indicator of your Soul's Purpose is your Rising Sign, the sign coming up over the horizon of the chart at the moment of your birth. Since this changes every two hours as the earth revolves, this makes the time of your birth extra important, another difference from orthodox astrology. So now, read your Rising Sign information at least as much as you read your Sun sign.

Everyone: Following the Venus-Mars conjunction on July 1, watch for the first of four Supermoons this year on July 3.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: Something shifts from imagination to a focused thought.

Direction: Use it well.

Soul Thought: What's the difference?.

Taurus ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: A baseless claim shifts to affirmation.

Direction: Now it's time to act.

Soul Thought: "Thou canst not stir a flower, Without troubling of a star." Francis Thompson

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20

Dynamic: A rough beginning to the month nonetheless brings enlightenment.

Direction: Watch for it!

Soul Thought: What is "Fohat?"

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: What has been confusing clears up.

Direction: Trust in your newfound wisdom and take advantage.

Soul Thought: Crystal!

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: It takes longer than expected for the big day to arrive.

Direction: Wait for it . . .

Soul Thought: What does the Solstice mean to you?

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: Long days mean short nights.

Direction: Less time to reflect, so . . .

Soul Thought: Shine big, SuperMoon!

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♃ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: Finances may take a hit on the 1st.

Direction: Hang tight.

Soul Thought: What is "Value?"

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: The intensity should relax around the 10th.

Direction: Do the math.

Soul Thought: The devil is in the details.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♁ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: It's been a hard grind uphill.

Direction: But look at the view now!

Soul Thought: "All things by immortal power, Near and far, Hiddenly To each other linked are." Francis Thompson

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You may suffer a setback.

Direction: Examine your own motives.

Soul Thought: What do you gain?

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: Abundance can be yours.

Direction: If you stand up to the challenge.

Soul Thought: What do dragons do?

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: You're hashing over some old material.

Direction: Last call to finish it well.

Soul Thought: New material is coming.



BY J. ORTEGA

Super Mario Bros The Movie

Starring Chris Pratt, Charlie Day, Anya Taylor Joy, Keegan-Michael Key, Seth Rogan, and Jack Black

Rated PG

First Impression: A nostalgia-soaked joyride that viewers will enjoy whether they are 5 or 50.

When Nintendo announced that they were going to attempt to make another Super Mario Bro's movie I for one was a little bit nervous after Nintendo tried this in the early 90's with a live action flop that impressed neither critics or fans of the original game. Instead, here we are almost 30 years after that blunder and we are getting a new attempt, this time from Illumination Studios, the same studio that has given us the Despicable Me and Minions Franchise. Upon hearing this I felt more at ease with the potential quality of this new movie. Thankfully I'm here to tell you I was not let down.

Illumination Studios has given us is a bold, colorful origin story of our beloved heroes Mario (Pratt) and Luigi (Day). The film opens up with Mario and Luigi in Brooklyn trying to get their plumbing business up and running but as luck would have it, a plumbing emergency arises and

Mario and Luigi find themselves in strange underground environment where those classic green pipes make their first appearance. Both Mario and Luigi are transported to the magical world of the video game but are separated. Mario ending up in the whimsical Mushroom Kingdom where he meets the plucky Toad (Key) and also the brave Princess Peach (Taylor-Joy). Luigi isn't as lucky as he's transported to in the nefarious lava filled kingdom of the Sinister yet love sick Bowser played perfectly by Jack Black.

The rest of the film is a fun filled action ride where nostalgia runs wild as Mario, Peach and Toad join forces with the likes of Donkey Kong (Rogen) where we get the long-awaited Mario Kart portion of the film that is its most exciting and most endearing to the older fans in the audience which ties in brilliantly to how they are going to save Luigi from Bowser as he seeks world domination and the hand of Princess Peach.

The only real negative thing I could say is that for the most hardcore of fans the film may fly by to fast and a lot of Easter eggs that most film nerds love to discover may be harder to track due to the rapid pace the plot moves. But I don't see that as a true negative because I'm of the opinion that the film is geared toward a younger audience with a shorter attention span and that's perfectly fine because it is younger kids who you are trying to make fans who will be coming back time and time again to see future Mario projects.

This film is great for families and anyone who's played the video games. You will be pleasantly surprised and eager to see what adventures are to come for Mario and the gang.



Final Verdict: 4 out of 5 Stars



Courtesy Photo

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • JULY 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN JULY!

JULY 4: TUE: Independence Day
See parade info, page 8

JULY 5: WED 6 PM
Questa Independent School Board Meeting, QSID Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. # A. Info: (575) 586-0421

JULY 6: THUR 5 - 6:30 PM
Chris Arrelano band Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park Taos
6:30 - 8 pm Gonzalo live band Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park Taos

JULY 7: FRI 9:30 - 11:30 AM
Summer Reading Program Magic Show at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Snacks, Games, Prizes, Fun! Read books to win a bike or scooter! Call (575) 586-2023

JULY 8: SAT 2 - 4 PM
Yoga Sala Wellness Series - Natural Pigment Making facilitator: Scott Sutton - free event. More info: yogasalaquesta.org/wellness-series 2331 NM-522, Questa

JULY 11: TUE 9:30 - 11:30 AM
Summer Reading Program Expand your world at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Snacks, Games, Prizes, Fun! Read books to win a bike or scooter! Call (575) 586-2023

10 AM - NOON
Dance like Nobody's looking, women's dance, at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. Donations welcome! Info: yogasalaquesta.org

6 PM
Village of Questa Town Council Meeting at Village Town Hall, 2500 Old State Rd 3. For agenda: questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda, or call (575) 586-0694

JULY 12: WED 4:30 - 6:30 PM
Freedom Meeting with Salvador Poe, suggested donation, \$20 Hosted at Yoga Sala 2331 NM-522, Questa

JULY 13: THUR 5 - 6:30 PM
Jimmy Stadler band Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park Taos

6:30-8PM
Stone Daddy Band Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park Taos

JULY 14: FRI 9:30 - 11:30AM
Summer Reading Program Library Fun Day at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Grand Prizes! Call (575) 586-2023

10 AM - NOON
Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd., Questa. For more info: www.questafoodpantry.org or call (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194

JULY 17: MON 3 PM
Questa Library Book Club meets at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Join the conversation. The topic will be reader's choice. Info: (575) 586-2023

6 - 8 PM
Free Kids Basketball Clinic, ages 6-13 at Living Word Ministries 12 Llano Road Questa. Register online: lwmsite.org or call (575) 613-8010

JULY 18: TUES 9:30 - 10:30 AM
Bookmobile at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Info: laura.gonzales@state.nm.us or call (575) 376-2474

JULY 19: WED 6 PM
Questa Independent School Board Meeting, QSID Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. # A. Info: (575) 586-0421

JULY 20: THUR 5 PM
Cerro VFW Post #9516 Monthly Meeting at 108 NM Highway 378 in Cerro. litameadphoto@gmail.com. Call to confirm meeting schedule (575) 586-2352

JULY 21: FRI 3:30 PM
Kids' Music Class, free special monthly event at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. yogasalaquesta.org

JULY 22: SAT 10 - 11:30 AM
Sala Writing Group free, via Zoom, link upon request yogasalaquesta.org through Yoga Sala

JULY 25: TUE 6 PM
Village of Questa Town Council Meeting at Village Town Hall, 2500 Old State Rd 3. For agenda: questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda, or call (575) 586-0694

JULY 27: THUR 5 - 6:30 PM
The Bad Boys Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park Taos
6:30-8pm Katy P & the Business Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park Taos

JULY 28: FRI 10 AM - NOON
Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd., Questa. For more info: www.questafoodpantry.org or call (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194

6:30 - 9 PM
A COOL CONCERT with a bunch of singer-songwriters, some on tour. Doors Open at 6:30 pm, Concert 7 - 9 pm. Fiddle tunes & original music with Nick Hans and the High Desert Serenaders Plus Dani Rae Clark and Logan Bragg; Suggested at the door, \$15-25 Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa

AUG 3: THUR 5 - 6:30 PM
Rebellion Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park Taos

6:30 - 8 PM
Last to Know Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park Taos

WEEKLY

Questa Visitor Center Open 10 am - 3 pm five days a week, Wed-Sun, closed Monday and Tuesday. Welcoming Questa Ambassadors provide area information, directions, recommendations, Questa logo merchandise, public restrooms. Memorial Day Weekend through October 1, at the traffic light #1 Hwy 38; for info: VisitQuesta.com

SUNDAYS

Area Church Directory is on page 31, please call to confirm service times.

10 AM - 2 PM
Questa Farmers Market | through October 1. Purchase local fresh produce, flowers, food, enjoy live music. At the Open Market located at the Questa Visitor Center, #1 Hwy 38. Parking is limited, look for parking signs. For info on QFM questafarmersmarket.org; for info on AFM questacreativecouncil@gmail.com

MONDAYS

Transportation for Qualified Seniors by donation, Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd. Call for more info and to make an appointment (575) 586-0508

5 PM
Free Community Yoga, gentle practice with Rae in person only, free Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

7 PM
Kickboxing, with Reto in person only, sliding scale \$5-\$15 Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

TUESDAYS

Transportation for Qualified Seniors by donation, Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd. Call for more info and to make an appointment (575) 586-0508

6:30 - 7:45 PM
Kundalini Yoga, Meditation & Gong, with Jiwanshakti in person only, sliding scale \$10-\$20 Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

7 - 10 PM
Red River Trivia Night, at Red River Brewing Company. Free to play, prizes for answering bonus questions and for the top teams at the end of the night. Gather your smartest friends and come on down. Teams are limited to 6 players. For more info call (575) 754-4422

WEDNESDAYS

Transportation for Qualified Seniors by donation, Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd. Call for more info and to make an appointment (575) 586-0508

9 AM
Gentle Morning Yoga, with Gaea, in person and online, \$8 Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

5:30 PM
Yoga - Evening Flow, with Briana, in person, \$8 Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

7 PM
Kickboxing, with Reto in person only, sliding scale \$5-\$15 Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

10 AM - 2 PM
Repurposing Plastic Project: Come smash plastic and make wire walls! At the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Supermarket on Hwy 522. Call or text (575) 224-7386

1:30 - 2:30 PM
Wildcat Kitty Club at the Questa Public Library, for ages 0-3. Older siblings and guests are welcome. Stories, songs, and play. 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Call (575) 586-2023

No Senior Tech Classes in July; will resume in August

6 - 8 PM
Grief Support Group at Living Word Ministries 12 Llano rd, Questa starting June 21. Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. griefsharelwm@gmail.com (575) 613-8010

7 - 8:30 PM
Bible Study at Freedom Center Church 2558 Hwy 522 Questa. kristi@freedomquesta.com (575) 770-1714

THURSDAYS

Transportation for Qualified Seniors by donation, Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call for more info and to make an appointment (575) 586-0508

2:30 - 4:30 PM
Dropped Stitch meets at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd.. We knit, crochet, laugh, teach and learn. Bring your projects. All skill levels welcome, always room for one more. Info, (575) 586-2023

5:30 PM
Power Hour Yoga with Gaea, in person and online, \$8 Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

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

FRIDAYS

10 AM - 2 PM
Repurposing Plastic Project: Come smash plastic and make wire walls! At the old "Movies at Home" building opposite Questa Supermarket on Hwy 522. Call or text (575) 224-7386

10 AM
Free Community Qigong with Julian, in person only Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

12:30 - 2:30 PM
Free Kids Dance Camp with Miss Tuesday, in person only Classes at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, in Questa. More info: yogasalaquesta.org

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

6 - 8 PM
Live Music every other Friday (July 7 and 21) with Chris Arellano and family and friends, 101 Bar & Grill (formerly The Crazy Beaver), 101 County Rd 13.2, Garcia, CO 81152. Please call to confirm at (719) 672-9022

SATURDAYS

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

10 AM - 4 PM
Art Market, original art, crafts, and collectibles. At Farmers Market site by Questa Visitors Center. questacreative.org, (575) 586-5658.

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



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR? FREE LISTINGS!

Enter your event Online! Scan QR Code above or email us. Include the date, time, place, and contact information to

Events@QuestaNews.com



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Infinite Position Lift Recliner, Model: Pride Elegance Infinity, Mint condition, barely used Beautiful look and feel to this medical-grade lift recliner. Full functioning, not a scratch. Purchased at Taos Medical Supply for \$1850. Asking \$999. The chair disassembles for easy transportation. (413) 824-7589 Text, please, for initial communication.

HELP WANTED

WITTAFF Inc., Service Desk Support Specialist. Trouble ticketing, triage, fixes, and dispatch, end-to-end problem management (ITSM), Access Control, Password Reset, problem resolution through technical scripts and knowledge base, For Applications: How To's, Printer Installations, GUI installs/updates. To apply, visit indeed.com.

Village of Questa. EMT's – Basic, Intermediate and Paramedic. To download the job application and for directions on where to send your application, visit <https://questa-nm.com/job-announcements/>.

Village of Questa. Police Officer Maintains order, responds to emergencies, protects people and property, and enforces motor vehicle and criminal law. Upholds the integrity and all safety issues innate to the position and displays behavior consistent with the mission, vision and values of the Village of Questa through leadership, ethical conduct, proper use of Village resources, personal accountability and responsibility and provides utmost customer service to the constituency. Visit <https://questa-nm.com/job-announcements/>.

Lead Sales Associate, Dollar General. Position is fulltime. Will work as cashier, stocker, and will act in lead capacity in absence of Store Manager or Assistant Store Manager. Apply at dollargeneral.com.

Granite, Heavy Equipment Operation. Heavy Equipment Operators are responsible for safely and efficiently operating various pieces of heavy mobile equipment. Apply at granite.com. Apply on [Lensa.com](https://lensa.com).

NOTICES

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

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

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

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 or call us at (719) 657-7076. slvspayneuter@gmail.com

Free Transportation for Qualified Seniors Monday through Thursday. Donations are encouraged. 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 or mail to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email 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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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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

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
(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

THEOSOPHY
Northern New Mexico Alice Bailey Study Group.
Sunday and Wednesday 10am-noon on Zoom. For more info, contact Francis at 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 or contact Gabrielle at 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

Episcopal Services Begin Again in Red River

By Contributing Writer
FATHER MIKE OLSEN


St. James Episcopal Church Episcopal Church will reinstate Holy Communion (Mass) Services at the Red River Community House Wednesday, July 12, at 5:30 pm. The service will be held twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. St. James began the twice monthly Wednesday evening services in 2013.

For several years we met at St. Edwin's Catholic Church, then began meeting at the Community House. The services

ceased last fall when our beloved service coordinators Judy and John Miller entered everlasting life.

All are welcome at the St. James Communion Service. No matter where you are on your walk of faith, even if you have lost your faith, you will be welcomed with open arms and love.

After the service we continue our fellowship by sharing a meal at a Red River restaurant. For additional information you may contact Fr. Mike Olsen, frmike@stjamestaos.org or the St. James Office, 575-758-2790.



AA MEETINGS

Honesty, Unselfishness,
Purity and Love.

<p>QUESTA: Sundays 10-11 am Questa Youth Center</p>	<p>RED RIVER: Tuesday's 7pm-8pm 417 E. High St. (Erik's Workshop)</p>
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zed by dan m. abel

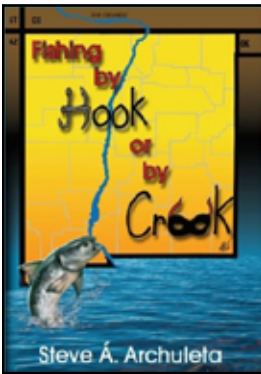
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