

Questa del Rio News

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Gonzales Family Rodeo Legacy Continues



Courtesy Photo

Mia, Melody, grandpa Fernie and mom Jennifer stand proud with their horses

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Before Questa was considered a mining town, the town's identity was steeped in the ranching culture, rich in agriculture and farming. Through the years, the small village has gone through several identity transitions, however, one thing remains consistent, and that is the interest in passing on generational knowledge of agriculture and traditional ways of life to the next generations.

Siblings Fernando (Fernie) Gonzales and Jennifer Gonzales are the grandchildren of the late Frederico Gonzales, a rancher who raised livestock including horses, sheep, and cows. He passed his knowledge on to his sons, Fernando Sr., Hector, Manuel and Gary, who went on to participate in the local rodeo and work with livestock regularly.

Over time, the brothers gradually gravitated away from the lifestyle, however, Fernando Sr. remains heavily active. "My dad is such a huge influence for us, and he

is a big reason why we live this lifestyle," Fernie says. "He taught me how to ride and rope, he taught the girls a lot, too," he says.

Fernie has been participating in the rodeo since he was 13. He attended college at Mesalands Community College on a roping scholarship and currently, he participates in roping competitions across the western United States. He and his wife, Kassie Gonzales, who is a trained barrel racer, live in Alamosa with their four young children.

When asked about his current livestock, Fernie laughs as he says, "I am a hoarder of horses! Right now we have 16 head of horses, 15 head of cattle, we have goats, calves, we have a little ranch out here." He participates in the roping competitions in rodeos across the Western United States. "It can be lucrative. I've won several thousand, and I've lost before too. The money generated in entry fees is what determines the winner."

Back in Questa, his nieces Mia and

Melody Gonzales are following the same path, both being involved in Junior Rodeo competitions. Their mom and Fernie's sister, Jennifer, is very committed to the lifestyle and works closely with her dad every single day to support the girls in their sport. "Right now, they do barrel racing, pole bending, and goat tying. They're focused on learning and having fun," she says. "Every single day, my dad is working with us and the horses. He travels with us to competitions, he is always showing us the ropes, we couldn't do this if it wasn't for my dad, he is my girl's father figure and he means so much to us especially in this sport," Jennifer says.

Currently, Mia is preparing to run for Rodeo Princess for the Taos Rodeo held in August. She has been working hard to prepare, including practicing her patterns and riding skills. "Riding my horse helps me connect with my horse. I also know I

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Questa del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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

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EDITORIAL

What Makes News?

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

When I started my journalism career, my anxiety worked overtime not knowing when and if I was going to miss the next biggest news story. I combated the worry by learning to draw from common themes: if it bleeds, it leads; and if a lot of people are wondering about it, it's a story.

I was quick to learn the trade, mainly due to my empathic abilities, always perspective-taking, while ensuring my reporters and photographers had every single resource and advantage to succeed. I built relationships with people across the state of New Mexico and Colorado, ensuring that if a story happened in any community, I had leverage to cover the story with sources and insight other competing journalists didn't have.

The number of heinous crimes, deaths, and victims I encountered numbed me out by my second year. I learned to compartmentalize by writing their names down and praying for them when I went home. I couldn't get attached, I couldn't have emotions, I had to keep going like a machine, processing the devastations of the human experience like clockwork.

Unfortunately, this grind of racing to have the best news stories can have its setbacks, like the inability to sleep, or the inability to stop working when you're off the clock, or waking up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat from a nightmare that you missed the biggest story of your career.

Between 2017 and 2020, the rhetoric toward journalists added so much trauma to an already traumatic job. The phrase "fake news" ran rampant and pushed many journalists out of the industry.

Now to address the elephant in the room: is news fake? No. Credible mainstream outlets are not fake. People like me did the fact checking, verifying of information, and clearing information to be reported. There are journalistic standards media outlets must adhere to, and failure to do so can result in lawsuits.

Now here is the tricky part: can news be biased? Yes. It's very possible for journalists to impose their bias in their coverage of any topic, oftentimes with-

out even realizing they are doing so.

Overall, my step away from mainstream media was a step towards helping me get my emotional and mental health right again.

When this opportunity with *Questa del Rio News* came up, it felt like a dream. I would have the ability to lead a small but mighty newspaper to cover things that matter to my hometown community. Historically, small communities are not given mainstream coverage because they're small. The fact that I can use what I learned in mainstream media for the benefit of a paper in the community where my family still resides, covering our history, telling our stories, giving our culture a place to live on through archives – it's truly the biggest honor of my lifetime.

I know there has been concern and questions about me residing in Denver as I run the paper remotely, however, I am between Questa and Denver every other weekend, oftentimes working in Questa through the weekdays. I contribute to the local community, I support local fundraisers, I give back as much as I possibly can. I also own property in Questa and intend to get back home as soon as I am able. The beauty of news is that we rarely, if ever, live in the communities we cover, but we build and maintain our relationships to ensure we can tell your stories.

Please reach out if you have a story to cover. I love hearing pitches and I have been able to turn almost every single one into a story. If our families didn't know each other or if they didn't historically talk, *it's okay to start now*. My interest in running *Questa del Rio News* is to build the community up, to help neighbors get to know one another more, to give a voice and a platform to a historically marginalized community.

I am always looking forward to hearing from you! Email me at editor@questanews.com.



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GONZALES LEGACY cont'd from pg 1

have a responsibility to take care of my horse every day so that keeps me going," Mia says.

"This lifestyle teaches my girls a lot of things traditional sports don't. They have responsibilities every single day of taking care of their horses, working with them, it gives them values. We are also traditional and start our Rodeo's with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. It's not just a sport we play, it's a lifestyle," Jennifer says.

Both Fernie and Kassie agree, saying it teaches kids about winning and losing, about respecting animals and builds values that are so often forgotten in today's day and age. "I am really excited, our kids will be raised with the same upbringing we had, it will help them grow into

responsible people overall, they'll also have a big extended family because in Rodeo, everyone just wants each other to succeed, and we are always willing to help one another with whatever is needed," Fernie says.

The Gonzales family have a very exciting few months coming up.

- Mia will be participating in the Taos Rodeo Princess Competition on July 22nd for the August 12 and 13 Taos Rodeo. We will be covering the outcome of the competition.
- Kassie will be organizing the 10th Annual Barrel Racing event in memory of her mother. It will happen the second week of October. More information can be found on Kassie and Fernando's social media pages leading up to the event.



Courtesy Photo

Fernie, Kassie and their kids celebrate a big win he had with his favorite cousin!

Questa del Rio News Announces New Media Partner



Courtesy Photo

Pauline and Henry Rivera

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Questa del Rio News is excited to announce its newest media partner, *LaVozColorado*.

New Mexico native Pauline Rivera is the owner of *LaVozColorado*, in partnership with her husband, Henry. Pauline attended the Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she obtained a degree in journalism. She is the first female Latina in Colorado to own a media publishing company. In 2016, she was voted Latina Publisher of the Year by the National Association of Hispanic Publications.

Previously, Rivera managed community affairs for the ABC affiliate in Denver, *Denver7 News*, for nearly two

decades. She resides in Denver, Colorado, but remains deeply connected to her roots in Costilla, Amalia, and southern Colorado, often devoting extensive coverage to the under-represented areas her ancestors called home.

Pauline and Henry have two adult children; Brandon, and Lina, and one grandson, Roman.

Questa del Rio News is honored to partner with *LaVozColorado* and is excited to continue to work together, sharing content and shining a light on the special and unique place we call home.



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

- LORA ARCINIEGA, GAEA MCGEE, BRYCE FLANAGAN, BARBARA TRACY, SHENA CANNON, MARTA GLOVER, QUESTA MAYOR JOHN A. ORTEGA, CHARLENE R. JOHNSON, ELLEN WOOD, QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL, SHARON NICHOLSON, ZACH BEHRENS, CLAIRE CATLETT, JAY BOUCHARD, LOUISE GALLEGOS, PEGGY TRIGG, JENNIFER GONZALES, MIA GONZALES, MELODY GONZALES, FERNANDO GONZALES, CASSIE GONZALES, MELLIE RODRIGUEZ, PASTOR PETER MARTINEZ, PASTOR GAYLE MARTINEZ, GHOST WRITER MIGUEL, DANA PEREZ, KRISTI GONZALES, PAULINE RIVERA, LAVOZCOLORADO, J. ORTEGA.



MAIL CALL

Voicemail left for the Questa del Rio News:

"My name is Chuck, we've never met but I just wanted to pass on my very sincere compliments to the Questa del Rio News on your June 2023 issue. The June 2023 issue is in my hand

and I am sitting here on my porch in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. We spent one night in Questa in our RV coming home from Phoenix. We're retired snowbirds. We enjoyed a night on the river there in Questa. I picked up one of the free copies of the paper sitting on the desk at our campground. I'll tell you, I am just so encouraged. With all the crummy news that's being reported

MAIL CALL cont'd on page 22

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

OUR JOURNALISTIC ETHICS POLICY

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

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

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Lora Arciniega

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. It is similarly difficult to forge a path and stay.

Questa del Rio News is committed to highlighting different members of our community, both those who have created their paths and 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.

For our August issue, we spoke with Lora (Vialpando) Arciniega. Twenty years ago, Lora graduated from Questa Junior/

Senior High School in 2003. Upon graduation, she moved to Flagstaff, Arizona where she attended Northern Arizona University. "I chose Arizona because it was far enough to get out of New Mexico for a little bit, but close enough to visit home."

Lora graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in forestry. During her college career, she completed an internship with the U.S. Forest Service, which led to a full-time position as a Forester/Silviculturist in Lakeview, Oregon.

One of her main focuses was to ensure the health, growth, and sustainability of forests. Essentially, she was focused on improving forest conditions for wildlife, fuels, and timber management.

In 2010, while attending a continuing education program (similar to a master's degree program) Lora met her now-husband, Jim, who was also a Forester/Silviculturist with the National Forest Service. Lora and Jim gravitated to one another because of their similar interests. In 2013, they were married in a Catholic wedding in Taos, New Mexico, surrounded by their friends and family.

"New Mexico was always on my mind. I knew eventually I would move back home. It was my goal, but the jobs weren't coming up," she recalls of her urge to return home, while still working in Oregon. "I was checking the Carson National Forest job boards monthly, sometimes twice a month. Then in 2014, jobs started



Courtesy photo

Lora Arciniega

coming up. I took on a detail assignment, which was only 2 or 3 months, and from there I was hired and able to return home," she says. Her husband was also hired at Carson National Forest and in 2015, they officially moved **home**.

Lora and Jim lived with Lora's parents, Fran and Marcello Vialpando, while they worked to build their home in the Pinabete area of Questa. "My dad did a lot of the work to build the home with the help of family members. Something that I really value is that our people in Questa are so resourceful. They are skilled in so many ways and if they don't know how

to do something, they learn," Lora recalls of the work and determination it took to build their home. In the same spirit, she and her husband took the initiative to assist her dad with tiling and with some of the construction.

"A lot of the trade skills people have are generationally passed on; it's a value we will instill in our kids because being resourceful is a good trait to carry on into society," she says.

Fast forward to today, Lora and Jim have established their roots in Questa and have created a family to fill their home, with four children: Benjamin, 7; Abraham, 6; Camille, 4; and Caleb, 3. Lora is currently a stay-at-home mom while Jim continues to work with the Carson National Forest.

Admittedly, becoming a stay-at-home mom was not easy for Lora. "I remember telling Jim I couldn't do it. I didn't want to be a stay-at-home mom. My career was so important to me and I worked so hard for it, but after I was able to establish a routine with my kids, and seeing how I didn't miss the special moments, I have grown to love it. Work will always be there, but now that my kids are young, I am content being home with them," she says.

Lora and Jim are working to rebuild the youth group at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. This year, they were able to

ARCINIEGA cont'd on page 24



Business Profile

Global Health And Well-being Through a Smartphone

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Dana (Dodd) Perez was raised in Cerro, New Mexico. Like many others who grew up in small northern New Mexico communities, she attended Alta Vista Elementary School and graduated from Questa Junior/Senior High School in 2007, with the same core group of people, many of whom she still considers friends. Upon graduation, Dana went to Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico.

During college, Dana would travel

home during her breaks to work at the Red River Ski Area. She completed her double major in both English with an emphasis on professional writing, and Spanish. She went on to work in the behavioral health field.

Dana met her husband, Rick, in Albuquerque where he was stationed on assignment for his work in the U.S. Air Force. In 2016, he was ordered to relocate to Nebraska and Dana moved with him. Since that time, they've moved from Nebraska to Utah to their current location in Vacaville, California.

A consistent theme Dana maintained through the various moves which come with the military is her health and wellness journey. It wasn't until her frustration with her workout results in 2020 drove her to dig deeper into why she wasn't seeing the results, considering she was in the gym routinely. "That's when I discovered macros and tracking what I eat. The food you consume really does matter," she says.

After taking on this new whole-body approach, Dana was inspired to



Courtesy Photo

Dana proudly stands with her Personal Trainer Certification

share with the world. She became a licensed personal trainer in 2021 and has been working with clients ever since. "Something unique about my program is I set up each individual program,

including food and exercise, through a simple app!"

She works to create advanced planning for clients if they choose to eat out at a restaurant or go on vacation. Additionally, she will create exercise plans for people who do not have traditional access to the gym or gym equipment. "I am always very accessible for my clients because I want them to feel supported through the process."

While she requires a minimum 2-month commitment to her program, there is good reason for it. "No one will see any changes in less than two months' time. The only way people will see changes is if they stay consistent and give me at least two months to show them real changes can happen."

Dana works with many clients in New Mexico as well as across the United States. Living in the current digital age makes personal training more accessible and attainable and she has made it a theme of her business. The monthly rate

DANA PEREZ cont'd on page 22

New Questa Business Center Receives Funding

By LYNN SKALL
 Director, Questa Economic Development Fund

Questa is a community of entrepreneurs, home-based and sole-proprietor businesses, family-owned enterprises, ambitious youth, and visionary innovators. The soon-to-be Questa Business Center is a place where all businesses, potential businesses, and residents alike will find services, training, workspace, resources, and support to launch their new ventures and help guide their business' growth and expansion.

The Questa Economic Development Fund, partnering with the Village of Questa, will establish the new Business Center on-site at the Questa Public Library. Co-locating at the library will expand and enhance the beneficial offerings of this already successful community resource.

QEDF recently received two grants totaling \$27,500 to launch the Questa Business Center. In addition, QEDF will invest an additional \$5,000 for this initiative this year. \$25,000 was awarded from the New Mexico Economic Development Department LEADS (Local Economic Assistance & Development Support) Fund, and \$2,500 was received from Triad National Security LLC/Los Alamos National Laboratory.

With an entrepreneur-friendly environment that is open to the entire community, the Questa Business Center at the library will feature

worktables, meeting space, a computer center/virtual training area, a professional multifunctional printer/copier/scanner/fax machine, a Smart Board-combination-whiteboard for brainstorming/notes, video meetings, and PowerPoint displays. Personnel will be available on site to assist with equipment, computers, and other resource needs.

A year-round schedule of no-cost or low-cost business-oriented training and learning opportunities will be central to the mission of the Business Center. Workshops will be presented by instructors who are local business leaders, corporate partners, specialists in their fields, or from UNM-Taos, Taos HIVE (Hub for Internet Vocational Education), the Small Business Development Center, Questa Schools, and more.

The workshops will consist of tech training, career skills development, information on funding resources, one-on-one consulting sessions, legal principles, business basics, and other programming tailored to support the needs and requests of the community.

Once funding is received later this summer, the copier and Smart Board will be purchased; the first training sessions will be scheduled for early September, and a community open house will be announced.

For more information, or to share your ideas about the Business Center, contact Lynn Skall, QEDF Director, at lynn@questaedf.com, or leave a message at (575) 586-2149.

Freedom Center Church To Expand Childcare Options

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Freedom Center Church in Questa will be expanding into childcare service in collaboration with ¡Inspire! Bilingual Early Learning Center in Taos. The childcare service will be Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for children six weeks old to 36 months. Freedom Church will focus on "Christian bilingual education in a safe and welcoming environment," said Pastor Kristi Gonzales in e-mail communication with *Questa del Rio News*.

Gonzales met Taylor Etchemendy of ¡Inspire! Taos along with her mother, Tracy, back in 2017 or 2018 over a cup of coffee at Koko's Cafe in Taos, and she was inspired by their work. The collaboration is still in its preliminary phase, but Gonzales hopes to start providing childcare service to Questa before the end of the year. She plans on hiring between 4 to 6 people, local to Questa,



Courtesy Photo

Pastor Kristi Gonzales of Freedom Center Church

who are trained in childcare services as well as passionate about the profession.

Questa del Rio News inquired about the concept of Christian bilingual education. "We will create an environment that immerses toddlers in Spanish vocabulary and offers a variety of age-appropriate Biblical teachings using music and stories," said Gonzales.



Courtesy Photo

Kids do arts and crafts at Freedom Church

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Costilla And Amalia To Celebrate 175 Years Of Perseverance And Pride During Their Annual Reunion

By Contributing Writer

PAULINE RIVERA- *LaVozColorado*

You've heard of San Luis, Colorado being Colorado's oldest town, founded in 1851. In actuality, Garcia, Colorado is the oldest town in Colorado, but San Luis filed the paperwork before Garcia, making it the official oldest town.

This past February was the 175th anniversary of the Treaty de Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican-American War. This very year, 175 years ago, the community of Costilla and other neighboring northern New Mexico communities were already officially settled by our ancestors. Throughout history the residents remained in their respective areas, but the territory and borderlines changed, first between Spain, then Mexico, then the United States.

Although, unofficially, (there is no official settlement documentation) there is proof that Costilla was settled in 1848 or earlier. Documentation of mail being delivered to the area residents is recorded history. Our calculations conclude that Costilla is older than San Luis, Colorado, at 175 years old.

Two years ago a committee was formed and led by Pauline Rivera, publisher of *LaVozColorado* in Denver, in an effort to celebrate this incredible day in history. An event which includes a community parade, ceremony with guest speakers, cultural foods, a musical depicting the people and generations of people who grew up in the area. How many times in your life do you get to celebrate 175 years of anything? While I did have a paternal grandmother who reached age 106, and two aunts that made it to 100, I don't believe I'll ever pass this way again, nor will you.

The weekend of August 4 to 6 will honor the hard work, determination, tenacity, perseverance, integrity, and ambition of our ancestors. Family names like Arellano, Martinez, Trujillo, Valdez, Padilla, Torres, Ortiz, Santistevan, Rivera, Maes, Lucero, Lovato, Cordova, Pacheco, Segura, Vigil, Sanchez, Quintana and many more are spoken with pride.

You've heard the phrase, "I didn't cross the border, the border crossed me," a phrase that correctly and proudly represents the people of Costilla, Amalia, and other northern New Mexico communities, as well as nearby Garcia and Jaroso, Colorado. The battle for land between Spain, then Mexico, and lastly the United

WHEN: August 4 - 6

WHERE: Plaza de Arriba in Costilla

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

- Meet/ Greet with families & friends
- Pre-registration
- Photo Exhibit
- Plaza de Arriba Restaurant Open

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

- Community parade
- Welcome/Blessing & National Anthem
- Ceremony
- Food vendors
- Music
- Photo Exhibit
- History/ speakers
- Kid's Corner
- Torres Family Musical
- Trivia/ Giveaways

7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

- Music/ Entertainment
- La Marcha
- Roberto Griego band

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

11:30 A.M.

- **Farewell:** Sacred Heart Church Parking Lot Prayer Circle

States did not rock the determination and strength of a people who remained in their land. Just to confirm, our Spanish and Native American ancestors were here before the pilgrims.

In 2019, a similar committee organized a community reunion drawing over 2,000 people. As the late New Mexico Sen. Carlos Cisneros reported at the 2019 reunion, "I've never seen so many people in Costilla." They came, they ate, they stayed, they enjoyed, ate some more, and posted their memories on social media or on the Families of Costilla & Amalia site, and still talk about it today.

We often hear people say they wish they had recorded their grandparents, their stories, their history. Some do, others didn't. Here is your chance to come home again and revisit the home of your ancestors, and reminisce.

Born and raised in this inkling of a town and all that it stands for, is forever in my heart. Why? Because that is where



Photo by Pauline Rivera

Sanchez Reunion Banner



Photo by Donny Ruybal

Plaza de Arriba in Costilla, NM

familia worked so hard to educate, protect, and make a better life for you, because it is the place where you enjoyed the very best of all cultural foods known to northern New Mexico, because it is the place known as God's country, because the dirt country roads, the uneven fence posts, the little green apples in September, the *piñon* picking every four years or sooner, the stacked *enchiladas* only your mother could make, the fresh *tortillas* off the comal, the taste of crunchy *chicharonnes*, the blaring radios (KOMA in Oklahoma) with 50s, 60s and even 70s music that connected you to the rest of society, is forever your hometown. It is the place where you were educated and thought everyone else was bilingual, the place where, a few Black families, an

"Arabe" store owner, some white families spoke better Spanish than most, and created the diversity who made us who we are today. It is the place where Box Canyon, La Uta, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Blueberry Hill, Poleo, Ventero, Garcia, Jaroso, Amalia Elementary, Costilla High, and more are memories we can never shake.

Looking back: a 175-year-old community that created thousands of professionals, farmers, politicians, musicians, doctors, surgeons, dentists, CPAs, attorneys and everyday people with a heart of gold. We are not all perfect, but we're pretty close.

For more information on this awesome event, please visit costillareunion.org

August Speaker To Focus On The Dixon School Case And Sister-Taught Public Schools

By Contributing Writer
MICHAEL WILSON
 Taos Community
 Historic Society (TCHS)

Seventy-five years ago, on Wednesday morning, March 10, 1948, Dixon resident Lydia Zellers and 27 other members of the Dixon Free Schools Committee filed suit in Santa Fe District Court contesting the use of Catholic nuns, brothers, and priests as teachers and administrators in taxpayer-supported schools in New Mexico. The District Court agreed, and by the time the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled on appeals in 1951, the face of public education throughout the state, and particularly in places like Costilla, Peñasco, and Ranchos de Taos was profoundly changed forever.

Dr. Kathleen Holscher, associate professor and endowed chair in Roman Catholic Studies at UNM, will explore the lawsuit, *Zellers v. Huff*, also known as the Dixon School Case, for the Taos County Historical Society on Saturday, August 5, at 2 p.m. at the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Rd., in Taos. Her talk will also explore the local circumstances that made sister-taught public education the norm across northern New Mexico, as well as the role New Mexican communities played in defining church-state separation as an American legal principle.

During the first half of the twentieth century it was normal to find Catholic sisters dressed in their flowing religious garb teaching in public schools. Sister-taught schools were especially common in Taos and neighboring Rio Arriba counties.

The Sisters of Mercy, a large international order founded in 1831, came to San Luis, Colorado, around 1900 and soon established an elementary and high school in the hamlet of Costilla. According to a 1940 directory of churches and religious organizations, the Rev. Joseph Boillat was pastor of Sacred Heart Church and six Sisters of Mercy lived



Photo by John Collier Jr and retrieved from the Library of Congress

Costilla Plaza, 1943. According to Geraldine Tafoya, St. Anthony parish bookkeeper and a Costilla native, the rectory is to the right of Sagrado Corazon church. The Sisters of Mercy living quarters and the school are to the right.

in the convent on Costilla plaza, with Sister M. Aloysius as their superior and school principal. The sisters departed in 1949 when the Zellers decision barred further taxpayer support for their schools, and public schooling in Costilla has had a shaky foothold ever since. Río Costilla SW Learning Academy in Costilla, with 26 students in grades 1-6, closed in 2017.

Dr. Holscher is the author of "Religious Lessons: Catholic Sisters and the Captured Schools Crisis in New Mexico," a fascinating account of Catholicism's deep roots in New Mexico, particularly in our northern counties. The Dixon School case is almost entirely forgotten today but remains the most consequential litigation in state history. Come learn more from Dr. Holscher on Saturday, August 5, at 2 p.m., courtesy of the Taos County Historical Society.

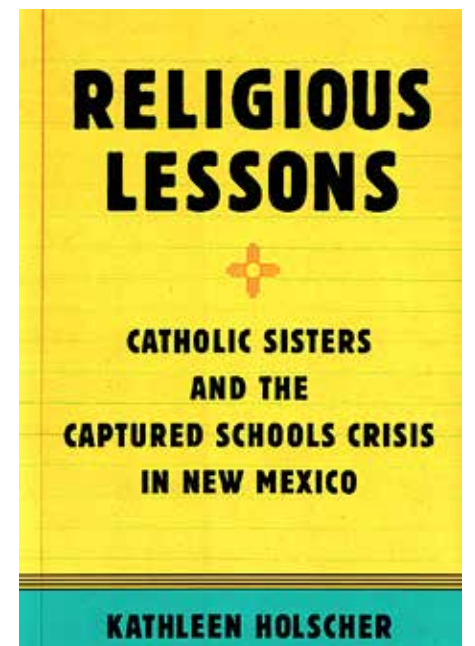
For more info on the program or the Dixon School Case, call Michael Wilson at (612) 743-6546.

Michael Wilson is a member of the TCHS Program Committee. He lives in Taos.



RPhoto by John Collier Jr and retrieved from the Library of Congress

A sister of the Dominican Order from Grand Rapids, Michigan teaches in the taxpayer-funded Peñasco High School in 1943.



Courtesy Photo

Oxford University Press, 2012.

Come learn more from Dr. Holscher on Saturday, August 5, at 2 p.m., courtesy of the Taos County Historical Society. For more info on the program or the Dixon School Case, call Michael Wilson at (612) 743-6546.

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Questa Opting In To New Mexico's Local Election Act

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Village of Questa Administrator and Financial Director Karen Shannon says that opting into the L.E.A. will save the Village between \$12,000 to \$13,000.

The vote was split between the Council with Councilors Brent Jaramillo and Katrina Gonzales voting in favor and Councilors Louise Gallegos and Jason Gonzalez voting against. Mayor Ortega broke the tie in favor.

"I don't think it will be our choice after the next couple elections so we can make the decision ourselves or let the state make it for us," Mayor Ortega said "with a heavy heart."

Prior to the decision, the elections for the Mayor and Council seats were set for March in even-numbered years, the next election would have been in 2024.



Questa Village Council

Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb



Scan QR to watch 6/29 VoQ Council meeting

With this vote to opt in to the L.E.A., the elections will be shifted to odd-numbered years. The next municipal election will be pushed back by 20 months from March of 2024 to November of 2025

A recording of the June 29 special meeting of the Village of Questa Council is available at *Questa del Rio News'* Facebook page. <https://bit.ly/3OcsnKD>

US Senator Martin Heinrich Visits Taos County To Discuss Regenerative Agriculture

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

United States Senator Martin Heinrich visited the Valle Escondido in eastern Taos County to talk to constituents about regenerative agriculture. Approximately 30 people were in attendance to speak with the Senator including former president of the Northern New Mexico Stockman's Association Carlos Salazar, NNMSA member Pat Pacheco, and Taos County Commissioner Darlene Vigil. Pacheco acted as a tour guide for the group of ranchers, public officials, and reporters as we observed a private ranch as well as a U.S. Forest Service grazing allotment.

Regenerative agriculture involves farming and ranching strategies designed to retain soil nutrients, conserve water, and minimize environmental impacts. Speaking with NNMSA members, *Questa del Rio News* learned that rotation grazing is among the most effective ways to conserve water and preserve soil on grazing allotments.

"Fences are an easy way to control the cows and conserve water," Salazar told the *Questa del Rio News*. "Without the fences the cows would roam everywhere and eat everything."

Much of the frustration felt by NNMSA ranchers is directed towards the U.S. Forest Service for poor communication over what ranches need on their allotments as well as red tape involved in applying for and renewing permits. Salazar says an easy way the Forest Service can help them is to provide more physical infrastructure like fences to more effectively manage cattle.

Senator Heinrich told *Questa del Rio News* that his office would make efforts to improve communication from the U.S. Forest Service, going forward.

The Senator currently chairs the Senate Appropriations sub-committee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. The sub-committee holds jurisdiction over most U.S. Department of Agriculture programs.

Senator Heinrich introduced a bill earlier this year directly related to regenerative agriculture in the U.S. Senate – S.1016 or the Agricultural Resilience Act of 2023. Generally the bill is described as "to address the impact of climate change on agriculture, and for other purposes." More specifically the bill aims for "a 50% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions" compared



Courtesy Photo

US Senator Martin Heinrich

focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation, soil health and carbon sequestration, nutrient and manure management to curb nitrous oxide and methane emissions, agroforestry, advanced grazing management and crop-livestock integration, perennial production systems, on-farm and food system energy efficiency and renewable energy production, farmland preservation and viability, food waste reduction, and any other related areas, as determined by the Secretary [of Agriculture]."

S.1016 would also direct the United States to join the 4 Per 1000 initiative, a global organization dedicated to regenerative agriculture.

Senator Heinrich has also introduced an appropriations bill, S.2131, this year for his sub-committee directing \$65,067,000 to Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, Office of Homeland Security, Office of Tribal Relations, Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration (Dept. of Agriculture), Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations & Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Office of Communications.

to 2010 levels by December of 2030 and "net zero emissions" by December 2040.

The Agricultural Resilience Act directs current federal investment in food and agricultural research to triple by December of 2030 and quadruple by December of 2040 with "a strong

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Village Of Questa Potential \$6 Million Deficit Wiped To Zero

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB
and MIKAYLA ORTEGA

On an annual basis, municipalities, cities, and towns are responsible for reporting the amount of water being used by their jurisdiction. Since 1975, the Village of Questa's amount of water being pumped out of the wells has been in question as the reports never matched the amount of water the village used.

The discrepancy recently came to a head, showing that Questa would have to pay over \$6 million dollars for the 2,000 acre-feet of water rights being used by the village.

The State Engineer worked with the Village of Questa on a Return Flow Credit plan, which paid the deficit to the State Engineer in full.

While the water rights deficit has been

cleared, Mayor Ortega says there is still work to be done.

"We are always looking for water rights to increase the Village of Questa's water infrastructure and supply. People aren't always looking to sell their water rights, but we remain committed to expanding our infrastructure," Mayor Ortega says.

In a letter from the State Engineer, they commit to continuing to provide a 30% retroactive flow credit going forward, which underscores the village's need to find sources of funding for its water use to prevent another deficit with the state.

Currently, Chevron is working closely with the village to provide a lease or donation of water rights, however, Chevron remains in gridlock with the Office of the State Engineer as they work to determine if Chevron's water rights are valid. If this

issue is resolved, the village could potentially see added water rights to its overall infrastructure and supply at no cost to the residents.

Mayor Ortega says Chevron has agreed to fund the engineering of a new water well and the Office of the State Engineer is working closely with the village to see this project through.

"I am very appreciative and grateful to Chevron for the donation of \$141,000 to get the plan, design, and engineering done for this new water well," said Mayor Ortega. "I am also very grateful to the Office of the State Engineer for working with the Village of Questa toward resolutions."

In 2016, the residents of Questa went without water for an extended period of time when the wells went dry. Mayor Ortega says improving the infrastructure



Courtesy Photo

within the village is a priority because of this experience. "I am grateful the State Engineer is working with us to build a new well and also, to get a flow credit plan in place. This is a major win for our community, with improved infrastructure, it lessens our chance of another major water outage, this is a big priority for us," Mayor Ortega says.

The LOR Foundation Spends Summer Listening To Questa



Courtesy Photo

By Contributing Writer
JAY BOUCHARD

Over the past few months, the LOR Foundation has been working hard to understand what matters most to locals, with Questa community officer Maria Gonzalez serving as "question asker in chief." What issues need the most attention right now? What solutions might help improve them? And to what extent is the quality of life in Questa improving?

With these questions in mind, Gonzalez and other LOR staff asked Questa residents to complete a survey earlier this summer at the Fish Fiesta, the Fiestas de San Antonio, as well as online throughout the month of June. Overall, locals shared a positive outlook on the community, with

about 90 percent of respondents saying quality of life had improved or stayed the same during the past year.

However, many also pointed out several issues that need addressing — chief among them the local economy, housing, and education. Nearly 40 percent of respondents indicated the local economy could use a boost, particularly in terms of creating jobs that pay a living wage and training workers for skilled trades. A third of respondents noted that Questa would benefit from more affordable housing, while a similar number added that Questa's youth would benefit from diverse educational opportunities.

"It's so important to hear directly from

LOR LISTENING cont'd on page 22

Living Word Ministries Working To Create Opportunities

By MIKE BARBEE

It is a beautiful summer evening at Eagle Rock Lake, with a quiet sense of fellowship and community, as about 15 local parents and relatives of children attending Living Word Ministries Kids Fishing Clinic gather near the grill filled with burgers and hotdogs. Looking over the lake, groups of children take turns casting, waiting, and reeling in under the guidance of Pastor Peter Martinez.

"Have you fished before?" Pastor Peter kindly asks an 8-year-old boy visiting from Albuquerque. "Go grab a worm from the pail of dirt and bring it here, I'll get you set up." The boy sprints off to the pail as the pastor fastens a bobber to the line. The boy comes back with a large earthworm held at arm's length. "Ok, now you have to eat the worm!" says the pastor, and bursts with full laughter at the boy's disgusted face. "Ok, well maybe the fish will like it better, *hito* (endearing term for young person)."

Pastor Peter fits the worm to the hook and demonstrates how to cast, then hands the rod off to the boy for practice.

"We're here today to prepare the kids for the Fish Fiesta this weekend," says Pastor Peter. "Go get yourself a



Courtesy Photo posted on LVM Facebook

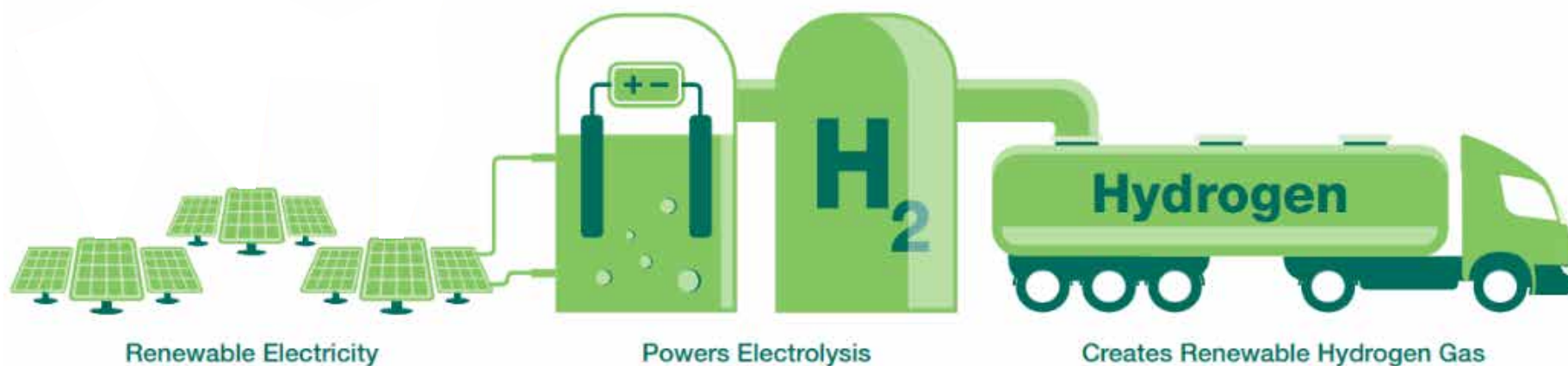
hamburger," he says as he continues to instruct other kids.

Meanwhile, his wife, Pastor Gayle Martinez searches for more paper plates as the pair continue to feed and help attendees learn how to fish. When asked about the turnout, she smiles. "We're very pleased with this event; we have had about 50 kids."

In February, Living Word Ministries was involved in planning and hosting an Asset Building Community Development workshop (or ABCD) in

OPPORTUNITIES cont'd on page 24

Community Input Sought For The Questa Green Hydrogen Project



By LYNN SKALL
 Director, Questa Economic
 Development Fund


Over the past year a group of community leaders has been exploring the feasibility of establishing a green hydrogen production plant in Questa. Together with experts in the field of clean energy production and research, an in-depth Feasibility Study has been drafted which is now ready for presentation to the community for review and input.

There are two opportunities to attend, hear about, and participate in the Feasibility Study discussion, the first is in Questa on Thursday, July 17 at 6 p.m. at the VFW Hall, the second is in Taos at the Taos Community Auditorium (TCA) on Saturday, July 19 at 10 a.m.

Questa was one of 22 cities awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to evaluate clean energies to reduce air pollution, increase energy resilience, lower utility costs, and provide long-term jobs and economic opportunities.

“In a collaborative partnership, our team of specialists and local authorities has worked hard to assess how this green hydrogen project could impact and benefit Questa and the surrounding communities,” said Lynn Skall, director of the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF).

The core work is being done by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory as part of the DOE’s Communities Local Energy Action Program (C-LEAP). Other key partners include Sandia National Labs, Los Alamos National Labs, the State of NM, Chevron, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, the Village of



QUESTA GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

THURSDAY
AUGUST 17, 6 P.M.

Questa VFW Hall
 Sagebrush Road
 & NM-Hwy 522, Questa
 In-person participation is encouraged or join online via Microsoft Teams

MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETINGS
 Find the link at [QuestaNews.com](https://www.QUESTAnews.com)
 Meeting ID: 224 461 427 123
 Passcode: jV9UTD
 Or call in (audio only):
 (208) 996-1719
 Phone ID: 305 936 488#

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 19, 10 A.M.

Taos Community Auditorium (TCA)
 145 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, Taos
 Join online via Microsoft Teams

MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETINGS
 Find the link at [QuestaNews.com](https://www.QUESTAnews.com)
 Meeting ID: 276 058 831 486
 Passcode: 7smWZt
 Or call in (audio only):
 (208) 996-1719
 Phone ID: 371 296 41#

Questa, and the QEDF.

Questa has what is needed for a green hydrogen plant: land, water, and existing clean energy sources. Chevron’s former mine tailings site near the Questa Business Park is being considered for the location of the plant.

Water is the essential ingredient in green hydrogen - an “electrolyzer” is used to split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen, with only clean water vapor as the byproduct of its

production and use. Christian Isely, former Chevron Public Affairs Advisor says, “Chevron will make land and water rights available.”

The Questa area is powered by 100% day-time solar energy, thanks to Kit Carson Electric Cooperative. Once produced, green hydrogen would be stored – and it could be transported - to serve the area’s nighttime energy needs. Mayor John Ortega says, “we’d probably be one of the first places in the

country to be powered by 100 percent green energy.”

The Feasibility Study will open the door to significant funding from state and federal agencies - there are many incentives and investment tax credits for green hydrogen facilities. “We have engaged legislators, the Governor’s office, and our congressional delegation in this effort. The struggle is that we are a small community competing against several large communities,” said Ortega.

Ortega believes that a 100% green community will attract businesses to Questa that want to operate in a carbon-free environment and also appeal to visitors.

Benefits of establishing the green hydrogen plant in the Questa area:

- Increased jobs and hiring commitments during construction and plant operations
- Local workforce training programs and centers
- Increased tax revenue to improve public services
- Turning unused assets (former mine land) into long-term beneficial use
- Overall support of the local economy, environment, and quality of life

“It’s too early to say how many jobs this would create,” Ortega said, because “we don’t know the scale [of the facility].” He adds that he believes the green hydrogen project “could be really good for Questa.”

For more information, contact Lynn Skall, lynn@questaedf.com or leave a message at (575) 586-2149.

Crowds Attend Red River's Annual 4th Of July Celebration



Photo by E. Wilde

Crowds gather in anticipation of Red River's annual parade

By STAFF WRITERS

This year's Fourth of July Celebration was held on Tuesday, July 4. Locals and visitors alike flooded Red River's Main Street as children fervently gathered candy thrown from the slowly passing floats.

Red River Conference Center Coordinator Shena Cannon says the town had record participation. Many of the people who traveled to Red River for the parade stayed in town, to visit local shops and restaurants as they enjoyed

the day. "We got a lot of great feedback from the community; a lot of people were saying they were really happy with the way the day went," she says.

Next year, she hopes to get more vendors to participate, potentially including face painters or a snow cone stand. She is also wanting more diverse options for games for people of all ages to play.

"Our community came out and enjoyed the holiday together, and it was an amazing day," Cannon says.

Proper Disposal Of Lithium-Ion Batteries

By Contributing writing
JONA OLSSON

In a followup to the article "Know the Hazards of Lithium-Ion Batteries," published in the *Questa del Rio News'* July issue, we want to provide you with details on how and where to safely dispose of lithium-ion batteries that have been damaged or have reached the end of their life span. This information was not available at the time of going to press last month.

The Taos County Solid Waste Administration can now accept lithium-ion batteries – IF community members follow these safety directions.

You need to prepare the batteries in one of two ways:

- Place each battery in a separate, sealable plastic bag (like a Zip-loc bag) - OR

- Cover ALL metal contacts on the battery so they cannot touch another battery or any metal objects.
- When you get to the transfer station – give the prepared batteries to the attendant. **DO NOT DUMP THEM WITH OTHER TRASH.**
- For everyone's safety, let's keep these batteries out of the landfill!

As a reminder, these are just some of the many devices that use lithium-ion batteries:

Cellphones, tablets, laptops, computers, e-readers (e.g. Kindle), Smart watches, smoke detectors, game controllers, power tools, vape pens, Bluetooth headphones, digital cameras, e-bikes, e-scooters, hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs), solar power storage systems, and more.

jona olsson is the Chief of the Latir Volunteer Fire Department

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AUGUST 12 & 13
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QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL

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.

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MARSHALL CISNEROS TOPPED OUT PLUMBING

Questa Public Library's Summer Reading Program "All Together Now" Is A Smashing Success

By Contributing Writer
SHARON NICHOLSON

Every summer since 2011 (except for the COVID-19 shutdown), the Questa Public Library has offered a summer reading program. The program is based on annual themes produced by the nationwide collaborative Summer Library Program and offered by the New Mexico State Library to New Mexico libraries. This program provides reading incentives, activities, special programs, and games — all designed to keep up the skills and enjoyment of reading for elementary students during the summer break.

During its initial years, library staff felt lucky to have two or three children attend a once-weekly session. This year, the program grew to an average of 28 participating children in each of the twice-weekly sessions over a period of five weeks! The kids came from public school, home school, and summer camp.

The 2023 theme was "All Together Now." Each session featured a special activity that encouraged the children's participation. Some of those sessions



Courtesy Margaret Lejuste

Noah Duran poses, all dressed up, during the summer program

this year were: Questa Truckin', a puppet show, a magician, the Salida Circus, and a special dog from Taos Search and Rescue. The most attended days were Questa Truckin' and A Storybook Walk and Tea Party. After snacks, children took time to check out books.

And thanks to a generous donor, the library was able to offer an extra incentive for reading: for every day a child attended and showed that they had been reading, they were given a token to enter



Courtesy Margaret Lejuste

Kids huddle around at the Questa Public Library during the summer program

the drawing for a scooter or bicycle. The drawing was held on the final day, and nine lucky children went home with a new mode of transportation.

Perhaps the best way to describe this year's success comes from the comments of parents who attended with their children:

"The combination of the encouragement of reading as well as the library being a fun social space helped my home-schooled child a lot! She now tries to read her own

books aloud to us at home."

"My kids now ask to come to the library to enjoy all the fun!"

"Loved the variety! It's a great time for kids and parents!"

A crucial element of the success of the 2023 summer reading program was the participation of parents and guardians who attended with their charges. Besides the social aspect, the interest expressed by the attending adults was crucial in instilling a lifelong love of reading for the younger generation.

Final tally for "All Together Now:"

Kid visits: 307
Adult visits: 151
Volunteers assisting: 22
Staff assisting: 23
Performers and assistants: 43
Total number of participants: 546

The Questa Public Library's summer reading programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Questa Public Library with funding from Chevron Grants for Good and the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation.



**QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Ten Years Of Growth

By Contributing Writer
SHARON NICHOLSON

The Questa Public Library hosted a reception on Sunday, July 16 to thank and honor those who contributed to the growth and success of the Questa Public Library over the past ten years.

Among those in attendance were Senator Bobby Gonzales, Questa Mayor John Ortega, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative CEO Luis Reyes, Taos Community Foundation representative Tanner Martin, LOR Foundation representative Maria Gonzalez, and numerous community members who made individual donations.

Of special note was the appearance of Melissa Burns and her children, representing her grandfather Dr. Larry Brown, who donated funds for a patio in honor



Courtesy Margaret Lejuste

Melissa Brown admires the patio underwritten by her grandfather, Dr. Larry Brown

of his deceased wife, Charlotte, when the library's new wing was first constructed.

The building of the patio, intended to provide a place for visitors to enjoy the view of the Questa mountains they so often admired, led to the realization that the entire back area of the library needed to be renovated.

The library would like to send a special thanks to the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant from the New Mexico Recreation Department. Thanks to them, the patio now leads to a lovely outdoor space, designed and constructed by Gecko Landscaping of Taos.

The event was catered by Erica Apodaca, with music provided by local cellist Mark Dudrow.

Bookmobile Discontinues Visits To Questa

By MIKE BARBEE

The New Mexico State Library's Rural Bookmobile is a mobile library designed to service the rural areas of New Mexico. Its last service date in Questa will be September 12 of this year.

The Bookmobile works the same as a brick and mortar library: Patrons get a library card, they can request books, and borrow them for a service period of about a month. The Bookmobile program has been servicing the Northern New Mexico area since 1958.

Laura Gonzales, the main librarian of this mobile library, expresses sadness upon informing patrons that the mobile library's days are numbered in Questa. This is because the federal grant that funds the Bookmobile program stipulates that the Bookmobile

cannot operate in the same areas as established library service areas.

Tammy Arvila, a longtime patron of the Bookmobile in Questa, hands Laura a vase filled with flowers. "The Bookmobile team has done an excellent job. They are faithful and accommodating. I am sad to see them go."

Tammy drives from Sunshine Valley to borrow books from the ever changing shelves of the Bookmobile. "I have read just about everything the Questa library has that interests me," she says as she hauls an armload of books back to her truck.

The Questa Public Library has recently undergone a large expansion, but it can't stock the raw amount of books that would be available from the state through the mobile library.

Questa Public Library welcomes Bookmobile patrons.

Back to School: What You Need To Know

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The 2023-24 school year is quickly approaching, and we did some homework on how to help parents ensure they're prepared for the upcoming school year.

Questa Independent Schools first day is on Monday, August 7. PreK to 5th graders school schedule is from 7:55 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. and 6th to 12th graders schedule is from 7:50 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Red River Valley Charter School has a tiered start schedule, with kindergarten through 8th grade starting on Monday August 7 with a 7:45 a.m. start and 4 p.m. end. PreK starts on Monday, August 14, with the same start and end times as kindergarten through 8th graders.

New QISD students

New students who are planning to start the fall 2023 semester at Questa Junior/Senior High School or Alta Vista Intermediate School need to register online. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/NewStudentsQISD> and sign up for an account. After doing this, you will be able to register for the upcoming school year.

Returning QISD students

Returning students will also need to register, using a Snapcode you received. The site to enter your snapcode and register is <https://tinyurl.com/ReturningStudentsQISD>. If you need help with a snapcode, call the school district at (575) 586-1604.

Red River Valley Charter School

To learn more about Red River Valley Charter School admissions, visit www.redrivervalleycs.org/admissions

Below are the shopping lists for kindergarten through 12th grade students within the Questa Independent School District. At the time of writing this article, Red River Charter School did not have their school lists updated. Check their website regularly, as they should be updated any day.

Alta Vista Kindergarten- 2nd Grade Shopping List

- Large clear backpack
- Reusable water bottle
- 24 count pencils
- Pencil box/pouch
- Washable markers
- Student scissors
- 1 pack pencil top erasers
- 6 large glue sticks
- 1 Elmer's Glue bottle
- **1st and 2nd grade only:** six 1-subject wide-ruled notebooks
- **Kinder only: two 1-subject wide-ruled notebooks**
- 2 packs wide-ruled loose-leaf paper
- 4 dry erase chisel tip markers
- 4 dry erase fine tip markers
- 2 pocket folders
- 1 set of headphones (to be left at school)
- **2nd grade only: 1 gum eraser**

Alta Vista 3rd - 5th Grade Shopping List

- Clear backpack
- Reusable water bottle
- 1 set of headphones (to be left at school)
- Pencil box/pouch
- One 5-subject wide-ruled notebook
- 2 black and white composition notebooks
- 2 plastic pocket folders with prongs (1 blue, 1 yellow)
- 48 wooden pencils
- 1 pack pink erasers
- 1 pack pencil top erasers
- 8 fine tip black dry erase markers
- 1 box colored pencils
- 1 box fine tip washable markers
- 1 manual pencil sharpener
- 6 glue sticks
- **3rd grade only: 1 clipboard**

Questa Jr. High School 6th-8th grades

- Clear backpack
- Combination lock
- 4 black composition notebooks
- Mechanical pencils
- One 3-subject notebook
- Four single-subject notebooks
- Colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- 1 graph paper notebook
- Protractor, ruler, compass
- 3 large boxes of Kleenex
- 1 field sketch journal

Questa Sr. High School 9th-12th grades

- Clear backpack
- Combination lock
- Six single-subject college-ruled notebooks
- One 3-subject college-ruled notebook
- Two 2-pocket portfolio folders
- 1 pack of college-ruled loose-leaf paper
- .5 and .7 mechanical pencils with refill lead
- 1 graph paper notebook
- Pens, pencils, mechanical pencils, erasable pens

This year's back-to-school tax-free weekend starts at midnight on Friday, August 4, and ends on Sunday, August 6, at midnight.

Additionally, New Mexico has two programs to help parents who cannot afford school supplies or clothing, through the TANF program. If you're not signed up for TANF, you will need to enroll, then request vouchers for school supplies. To reach the TANF office within the New Mexico Department of Human Services, call (800) 283-4465.



Questa Student Competes In North/South For eSports Championship

By STAFF WRITERS

Graduating senior Joshua Jason Martinez competed in the first ever North/South competition for Mario Kart eSports, representing Questa Junior/Senior High School on the North team. The North team took home the state championship! Players participated in their own homes in this inaugural year.

Congratulations to the North team and congratulations to Joshua Jason Martinez for his exciting win!

courtesy photo

Joshua Jason Martinez focuses during the North/South championship in July



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Questa Art Tour Now In Its 8th Year!

The Questa Art Tour kicks off its 8th annual event on the weekend of August 12-13, 2023, with studios open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. This is the first tour of the art-tour season that stretches into the autumn here in northern New Mexico. Our Questa tour has attracted more artists each year, and more visitors from more places around the country.

Over 50 local artists this year represent work from the traditional to the modern. There are private, very talented neighbors along with professional artists with gallery representation in Taos, Santa Fe, and Colorado. The Art Tour is a chance to discover the level of skill hiding in this remote part of the southwest, and with a scenic tour route starting in our historic village and running between the Sangre de Cristo mountains and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, this has become a destination for many intrepid art appreciators and collectors, and lovers of great scenery.

Painting, printing, printmaking, wood carving, quilting, ceramics, jewelry, metalwork, photography, digital art, mixed media, fiber art, and more

are represented. The southernmost stop is at Evelyn Coggins' Cosas Hermosas gallery of artfully repurposed furniture right at the entrance to Questa, and the northernmost New Mexico open studio is silversmith and painter, Jill Kamas' Ute A.I.R. in Sunshine Valley, with the stunning Ute Mountain for a backdrop. This year, the tour adds a bonus studio just over the border in Garcia, Colorado where Karen Ahlgren will welcome guests to this beautiful spot to view her watercolor and gouache wild-life paintings.

Many of the studios host additional local artists whose own locations would be difficult to reach. Watch for a lot of signs and feather flags that weekend to guide you. Brochure maps can be picked up at all stops along the tour, and at an information table at the Questa Visitor Center. For a downloadable map of hubs, description of artists, and other venues along the tour, visit the Questa Creative Council website, QuestaCreative.org, and choose Questa Art Tour.

The village of Questa and its environs have a long history of artistry, with continuing inspiration from our cultural history and traditions and the dramatic landscape and public lands that surround us on all sides. So mark your calendars, and don't miss this chance to meet some unique talents, and explore the dramatic scenery of Questa in wild and beautiful northern Taos County.

The Questa Art Tour is a project of the non-profit Questa Creative Council. Our ongoing mission is to strengthen community through arts, culture, history, and education.

Our first ever Questa Quick Draw on June 24 attracted artists from Taos and the greater Questa area, all painting



Courtesy Photo by Questa Creative Council

Happy customers at Peggy Trigg's studio

scenes around our historic and scenic village. First-place winner Vanette Harris was inspired by the flag-filled cemetery in Cerro, an acrylic painting that was purchased by an eager Cerro resident. First prize in the youth division went to Destry Taylor, whose parents host a booth at our Saturday Art Market. Cash prizes were awarded and the audi-

ence had fun determining the People's Choice winner. A big thank you to our local project sponsors; TOPPED OUT PLUMBING, MARSHALL CISNEROS, and MY TIA'S CAFE, SYLVIA SANDOVAL, both of Cerro. And in Questa: the SANGRE DE CRISTO MOTEL, WILDCAT'S DEN, and KEITH KELTNER POTTERY.



Courtesy Photo by Questa Creative Council

Mike Ridder speaks with a visitor at 2022 Art Tour



Courtesy Photo by Questa Creative Council

Artist Monique Belitz with guest John Bailey

Students From Juilliard And Curtis Visit Local Schools

By Contributing Writer
MARTHA BRYANT

Forty years ago, a group of Angel Fire residents invited some professional musicians to visit. Today, the festival they created, Music From Angel Fire, is celebrating its 40th anniversary. From the east coast, the west coast, and from the heartland, these musicians have been meeting in northern New Mexico to make music for you.

Nine concerts will be presented, from August 17 to 31: six in Angel Fire, two in Taos, and one in Raton. Musicians will perform works of some of the classical composers whose names you know: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and Mozart. But they'll also present works by living composers. Mostly, they play chamber music; music presented by small groups of musicians.

This year, Andy Akiho is composer-in-residence. Andy will present the world premier of his composition created specifically for Music From Angel Fire, on Wednesday, August 23, in Angel Fire. Andy is a big deal in the world of contemporary music. His compositions have been nominated for a handful of Grammy awards, and in 2022, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Music — an award that selects one winner and two finalists. Andy plays an instrument you may not know: the steelpan, also known as a steel drum. A few days after the premiere concert, he will give a demonstration and discuss his inspiration as a composer. That program is free and will be held at the United Church of Angel Fire on Friday, August 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Music from Angel Fire is not just for professional musicians. Each year the festival brings young musicians from prestigious conservatory pro-

grams. This year, eight conservatory students will come from Juilliard and Curtis. These young artists play side-by-side with the professional musicians presenting concerts in quick succession, an important part of their music education. They also practice what musicians call “playing it forward.” The young artists from New York and Philadelphia go into schools across northern New Mexico. Through the Music in Schools program, they present a brief concert. And in the long-standing tradition of music, they share what they know to inspire a new generation of young musicians.

This August, with the support of a Questa Chevron Grant for Good 2023 and the Taos Community Foundation, the young artists will present a concert for students at Alta Vista Elementary & Intermediate School.

Why does Music from Angel Fire reach out to young students? Because that's where almost every musician gets a start. Even for those who take up music but then choose a different career path, research shows that K-12 students who take music have better attendance, better grades, and are more likely to graduate from high school. Many use music as an entry to college where music scholarships ask students to play in the band or orchestra, but allow them to study in the field of their choice. In a college ensemble, you'll see a few music majors, but also students who major in everything from anatomy and computer science to engineering and zoology!

Music from Angel Fire is pleased to send the Music in Schools program to Questa and invite you to attend any of the concerts and lectures between August 17 and 31. Please go to www.musicfromangelfire.org for details.



Photo by E. Wilde

Participating student musicians backstage during the final performance last year, held at the Angel Fire Community Center

2023 SEASON

40TH ANNIVERSARY

Angel Fire | Taos | Raton

MUSIC
FROM ANGEL FIRE9 Concerts
August 17 to August 31

Ticket sales online and at door
See MusicfromAngelFire.org/tickets for details.

2023 CONCERTS AND EVENTS

VOICES FROM THE HEART
TAOS COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
Thursday, August 17, 6 p.m.

OPEN REHEARSAL
FREE
ANGEL FIRE
COMMUNITY CENTER
Friday, August 18, 11 a.m.

**VULNERABILITY AND
PASSION OF YOUTH**
ANGEL FIRE
COMMUNITY CENTER
Saturday, August 19, 6 p.m.

YOUNG GENIUSES
FREE
SCHULER THEATER, RATON
Sunday, August 20, 3 p.m.

MUSIC 101
FREE
Lecture with Jonathan
Coopersmith, Musicologist
UNITED CHURCH OF ANGEL FIRE
Monday, August 21, 1:30 p.m.

TRAGIC LOVE
UNITED CHURCH OF ANGEL FIRE
Wednesday, August 23, 6 p.m.

LYRICISM AND SINCERITY
TAOS COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM
Thursday, August 24, 6 p.m.

MEET THE COMPOSER
FREE
Get to know Andy Akiho,
2023 Composer-in-Residence
UNITED CHURCH OF ANGEL FIRE
Friday, August 25, 1:30 p.m.

IDA AND STEVE RETURN
ANGEL FIRE
COMMUNITY CENTER
Saturday, August 26, 6 p.m.

*Concert followed by a reception for
the 2023 visual artist, Jennifer Cavan.*

SALON CONCERT
ANGEL FIRE
COMMUNITY CENTER
Sunday, August 27, 2 p.m.

MUSIC 102
FREE
Lecture with Jonathan
Coopersmith, Musicologist
UNITED CHURCH OF ANGEL FIRE
Monday, August 21, 1:30 p.m.

SORROW AND JOY
ANGEL FIRE BAPTIST CHURCH
Wednesday, August 30, 6 p.m.

FINALE
ANGEL FIRE
COMMUNITY CENTER
Thurs, August 31, 6 p.m.

For details on concerts, go to
www.musicfromangelfire.org/festival/2023-concerts

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By Claire Catlett

Giving Native Fish A Fighting Chance In The Rio San Antonio

Its geography punctuates the horizon — one of the largest free-standing mountains in the country — as the Rio San Antonio in northern New Mexico flows from its headwaters along the continental divide and tumbles through aspen forests, sub-alpine parks, and stands of mixed conifer before snaking east through

sagebrush plains towards San Antonio Mountain. Along the flanks of this peak, the river flows through a rugged canyon and merges with the Rio de Los Pinos just across the Colorado border.

This remote and harsh landscape holds many treasures. It harbors three native fish species: the Rio Grande Chub, Rio Grande Sucker, and Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. Seasonal waterfowl, a large elk population, and a unique high-country herd of pronghorn are some of its natural riches. San Antonio Mountain is significant to many tribes and pueblos, as its unique dacite basalt has been used for tool making for over 5,000 years.

In the 1800s, a mining boom dramatically increased the human footprint in this watershed. Eventually two million sheep grazed the landscape, and several million board-feet of timber were harvested. Those industries are long gone, but a network of roads, bare soils, and abandoned mills remained. Conditions in the Rio San Antonio watershed reflect this land use history. Still, somehow native fish persisted.

Recently, Trout Unlimited began investigating Cutthroat Trout distribution, habitat conditions, and the potential for native fish to persist in the San Antonio in the face of climate change. In 2021, TU identified a previously unknown population of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in the upper reaches of the San Antonio, a population that has survived against all odds. While their resiliency is nothing short of remarkable, their presence on this landscape may be lost if we do not act quickly to restore this vital and vulnerable watershed.

TU has launched a watershed-scale restoration project in the upper Rio San Antonio, where seven miles of in-stream habitat will be repaired over the next seven years. The initial phase begins in fall of 2023 with the restoration of approximately one mile of river downstream from the confluence of the Rio San Antonio and Lagunitas Creek. The work will provide cold-water refuge habitat, increase stream shading, increase flow, and reconnect and rewet adjacent wetlands.

Thanks to funding and support from the National Fish and Wildlife Founda-

tion, Enchanted Circle Chapter of Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Carson National Forest, and local grazing permittees, TU staff are now leading major restoration efforts in the Rio San Antonio basin. This type of restoration work in northern New Mexico will benefit from a historic, multi-million dollar national agreement with TU and the U.S. Forest Service to improve and restore fish passage, habitat, and water quality for cold-water fisheries and their watersheds across the nation.

By restoring the headwaters of the Rio San Antonio, TU and its partners can provide long-term resilience for Rio Grande cutthroat trout and other native fish by addressing impairments to watershed conditions, instream habitat, and water temperature. By providing colder, cleaner water at the time it's needed most, these benefits extend to downstream water users, giving our communities and our fish and wildlife a fighting chance in the harder, hotter years to come.



BIRD IS THE WORD

By Bryce Flanagan

Consequences Of Factory Farming

Full disclosure: I eat chicken. Perhaps it's hypocritical of me to do so, given my monthly exaltation of birds, but chicken is nutritious, easily accessible, and an animal I don't feel too bad about eating, given their similarity to dinosaurs. Before the 1940s, chicken was hardly the ubiquitous staple that it is today. The American infatuation with chicken was born as a result of red meat rationing during the Second World War. As chicken demand rose, millers of corn and grain saw an opportunity to capitalize on a new market, and financed chicken farms for up-and-coming farmers. Fast forward to today and the United States leads the world in chicken consumption, collectively eating eight billion birds a year. Modernization of chicken farming means grocery re-

frigerators are stocked full of low-calorie, high-protein meat that's more affordable than red meat due to the relatively low cost of raising chickens. But this industrialization is not without drawbacks that hurt both human and fowl alike.

The white-roofed and red-walled cartoon farm pictured on the plastic wrap around the chicken we buy in stores is a far cry from the bland, colorless reality of modern chicken farms. In 2015, farmer Craig Watts became fed up with the disconnect between consumers and their food and began giving media interviews and allowing camera crews to come inside his farm to see firsthand what being a chicken farmer was like. "Dirty Birds: A Story of Chickens in America" is a PBS documentary following Kelly Cox as she receives a hands-on tour of Craig's farm, one of 25,000 chicken farms in the country. The camera pans across a yellow-lit structure housing thousands of chickens sounding off in a cacophony of clucking. It zooms in on a few sad specimens, their bodies a patchwork of pale white feathers and pink skin. Farmer Craig bends down to pick up one such wretch lying motionless on its stomach, and demonstrates the proper euthanization technique: grabbing the chicken from both ends and sharply pulling its head to break the neck. "I don't think the animal welfare folks exactly like [this] method" he says, noting that the official welfare guidelines for raising chickens are written by the National Chicken Council, the largest lobbying

group for poultry in the nation. This is one of only two approved methods of euthanasia, the other being decapitation, which is reserved only for culling young chicks. Craig performs his duty and tosses the chicken back to the ground, where its body furiously beats its wings, attracting the attention of another chicken who starts running toward it before abruptly halting in its tracks as the wings of the dying bird slow down before becoming entirely still.

Keeping birds under such conditions leads to inflammation, chronic pain, and leg weakness, not to mention that such close quarters are ideal conditions for breeding disease. Farmers prevent these diseases by introducing antibiotics into chicken feed, which in turn leads to new strains of bacteria that are resistant to previous antibiotics. A study published in April of this year by the University of Oxford found the rampant use of antibiotics is leading to bacteria that are more resistant to the human immune system. The lead researcher warned "we've accidentally ended up compromising our own immune system to get fatter chickens." Bird flu outbreaks are now a regular event, with this year's outbreak a particularly concerning one to world governments due to its spreading to other mammals. The EU has already warned citizens to keep their dogs and cats indoors, an unprecedented precaution against avian influenza. While human infections are still extremely rare, with less than ten re-

ported since 2021, the rapid evolution of the virus is what worries scientists: if the virus can adapt to infect other mammals, it may be able to further adapt to infect humans. Despite the growing availability of antibiotic-free and organic options at grocers, antibiotic use is still at an all-time high. Tyson Foods, the largest chicken producer in the country, announced that by the end of the year their chicken will no longer carry the "no antibiotics ever" label. While antibiotics cure disease in the short term, the long term effects could be catastrophic for chicken populations.

Traditional family chicken farms do still exist, where chickens covered in bright feathers run freely through grass fields as the sun warms their backs. This style of farming is more costly, but in the long run it may be far cheaper than dealing with the culling of millions of chickens from bird flu each outbreak. And the chickens like it more, too. Far from being mindless, chickens display a number of emotions: hens show empathy towards chicks in distress and will cluck to their unhatched eggs, chickens can create memories and solve puzzles, and they purr like cats when content. Chickens even dream! Their eyes perform the same rapid eye movement humans do during sleep. Such sentient creatures deserve better than lives spent indoors crammed next to their sickly kin; they deserve blue skies and open spaces.

Residents Cautioned Following Mountain Lion Attack In Questa

By DYLAN R.N. R CRABB

In early July, a reported mountain lion attack on a dog happened near N. Kiowa and Cabresto Road. Rosie the Pitbull was badly injured and needed emergency surgery. She survived her injuries, however, other dogs have been reported with similar injuries in the area.

In light of this incident, *Questa del Rio News* wants to remind all of you to be safe while hiking in our beautiful wilderness areas. While mountain lion killings of humans are rare (the probability of crashing a vehicle into a deer or an elk crossing the highway is greater), they are fierce predators that can seriously injure a person.

Here are some precautionary measures to take while hiking or traveling through wilderness areas with mountain lions and other predators:

- Make your presence known by making noise.
- If possible, avoid hiking during night hours when mountain lions are more active.
- Watch out for signs of a mountain lion such as scat, claw marks, scratch piles usually made of grass, dirt, pine needles, and leaves.
- Avoid hiking alone.
- Avoid setting up a campsite near thick brush, rock overhangs and cliffs, and animal trails.
- Resist bringing any pets on hikes.
- Stick to the trails and be aware of your children, as smaller humans are easier targets.

- If you come across what appear to be kittens, immediately leave the area, as the mother is not far away.
- Stay alert.

If you come into close proximity with a mountain lion and it is aware of you and facing you DO NOT turn your back on it, DO NOT look it in the eyes, and DO NOT run away! Remain calm, face your body in its general direction, and SLOWLY back away. Cats are ambush predators, meaning they are more likely to attack prey if their prey is not looking at them. Avoid bending over and appearing like a four-legged prey animal. If possible, make yourself appear bigger (raise a walking stick, open your jacket, raise your arms, etc.). Try not to corner the mountain lion, make sure it has a way to get away from you. If it does attack you fight back with rocks, sticks, anything external you can use (preferably something within reach). Try to remain standing to protect your head and neck.



Courtesy Photo

Rosie, the pitbull, survived a mountain lion attack in Questa on July 5 of this year

30-Year River Project Aims To Save Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout



Courtesy Photos



By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, New Mexico's state fish, is one of a dozen sub-species of trout, but the only one native to New Mexico. Historically it has occupied the headwater streams of the Rio Grande, Canadian, and Pecos basins. The Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout have also tragically seen a decline in range due to several factors — competition, predation, and hybridization with non-native fish.

The Rio Costilla Project began over 30 years ago, to restore native fish populations to their historic water ranges. Over the past three decades, non-native fish have been slowly removed from the projected area, and in 2016 a permanent fish barrier was constructed. Now native fish like the Cutthroat

Trout are being reintroduced to establish self-sustaining, wild populations.

Other native Rio Costilla fish include the Rio Grande Chub, the Rio Grande Sucker, and the Rio Costilla Basin, all of which have experienced declines along with the Cutthroat Trout.

The project is a collaboration of numerous organizations, including but not limited to: the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, the US Forest Service (Carson National Forest), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Vermejo Park Ranch, and Trout Unlimited. The Cutthroat Trout reintroduction efforts are being fueled by the Cutthroat Trout populations at the NM Game & Fish's Seven Springs Fish Hatchery.

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Questa Farmers Market Interns: Snapshots From July



Photo by Aliyah Santistevan

Joshlyn Medina interviewing intern Donny Santistevan, in Wendy Medina's booth, June 16, 2023



Photo by Gaea McGahee

Intern Lexi Brown (center) preparing a pizza to cook in the horno, July 9, 2023. Photo left, Delilah Rael, Jocelyne Ortega, center, Lexi Brown



Photo by Aliyah Santistevan

Joshlyn Medina interviewing Intern Aliyah Piper (photo right) July 16, 2023



Photo by Rachel Hardy

Justin, Minister the donkey, and Gaea McGahee chatting July 16

By Contributing Writers
JOSHLYN MEDINA
and ALIYAH SANTESEVAN,
with GAEA MCGAHEE

If you've come to Questa Farmers Market this season you've probably seen some of the young people involved in the QFM Internship Program. They're running a coffee booth, making pizzas in the horno and working with other food businesses at the Market. Recently these interns checked in with one another and a visitor, to gather some perspectives. (Joshlyn Medina interviewed several interns July 16, while Aliyah Santesevan took photos.)

Donny Santistevan, QFM intern:

Q. What do you like most about the internship?

A. How you could come together as a community, especially as a student.

Q. What is your best and favorite overall experience of the farmers market internship?

A. It is a very fun and cool experience and I like how the community comes together to help the economy.

Lexi Brown, QFM intern:

Q: What do you like most about the internship?

A: The community getting together.

Q: What is your best and favorite overall experience of the farmers market internship?

A. Meeting people from across the country.

Aliyah to piper, QFM intern:

Q. What do you like most about the internship?

A. Meeting all the new people and working with the vendors.

Q. What is your best and favorite over-

all experience of the farmers market internship?

A. Learning how to work well with food and communication skills.

Justin, who is traveling with his donkey, Minister:

When Justin was asked about his experience of the farmers market, he said, "it's been a very lovely time and very good music and I love seeing the vendors." Justin and Minister travel by foot, and have walked more than 100 miles recently, from Taos through Angel Fire, Red River, Questa, and back towards Taos.

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 (LAN-

LF) Education Enrichment Grant Award to support the youth internship aspect of the market's mission. The goal during the 2022 - 23 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

Carson National Forest To Implement Stage One Fire Restrictions

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Carson National Forest has set Stage 1 fire restrictions forest-wide in anticipation of a late monsoon season for central and northern New Mexico.

Stage 1 restrictions involve limitations on campfires, charcoal grills, and coal and wood stoves in wilderness areas administered by the Carson National Forest; they will be allowed on "developed campsites or picnic areas maintained by the Forest Service" according to a July 5 press release. Campfires will be prohibited at "all dispersed sites on the west side of the forest."

The National Weather Service

published the status of the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle in its 2023 Monsoon Outlook and projects equatorial sea-surface temperatures above average across the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean which means warmer temperatures for the western United States.

The ENSO, more commonly referred to as El Nino, is a break in the normal cycle of the Pacific Ocean's tradewinds that move warmer water east to west across the equatorial Pacific. According to the National Weather Service, El Nino conditions are expected to "gradually strengthen" into the northern hemisphere's 2023-24 winter.



Courtesy Photo

The Forest Service recommends clearing an area of all debris and flammable material before igniting a fire. Fireworks and other pyrotechnic devices are prohibited in national forests.

Violations of fire Forest Service fire restriction are punished as a Class B misdemeanor with fines up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations and/or imprisonment up to six months.

The Forest Service wishes to remind camping enthusiasts who utilize campfires to never leave a campground until their fire is completely extinguished.



QUESTA GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Community leaders, together with experts in the field of renewable energy, have been exploring the feasibility of establishing a green hydrogen production facility in Questa. The outcomes of the year-long Feasibility Study will be presented at two upcoming community meetings for your feedback, questions, and comments.

Please join us.



THURSDAY
AUGUST 17 - 6:00 P.M.

Join in person at the



Questa VFW Hall
Sagebrush Road &
NM-Hwy 522, Questa

Join online via Microsoft Teams Meetings:

Find the link at QuestaNews.com
Meeting ID: 224 461 427 123
Passcode: jV9UTD

Or call in (audio only):

(208) 996-1719
Phone ID: 305 936 488#
Refreshments will be provided.

SATURDAY
AUGUST 19 - 10:00 A.M.

Join in person at the




Taos Community Auditorium (TCA)
145 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, Taos

Join online via Microsoft Teams Meetings:

Find the link at QuestaNews.com
Meeting ID: 276 058 831 486
Passcode: 7smWZt

Or call in (audio only):

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Phone ID: 371 296 41#

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



For more information, contact Lynn Skall, QEDF, lynn@questaedf.com, or leave a message at (575) 586-2149

**BODY
MIND
SPIRIT**



By **BARBARA TRACY**

**All Life Is
Precious**

“What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset. The true peace, the first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the universe and all its powers, when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells Wakan-Taka

(the Great Spirit), and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.”
—Black Elk, *Ogalala Sioux and Spiritual Leader* (1863 –1950)

Have you ever wondered what your life would be like if you acted on every one of your most benevolent impulses? Loving the world and all its creatures?

My grandmother, Clementine, true to her Taurus earth energies, would sing, quite often not a real song, but gentle humming of some made-up tune, also chatting little words here and there while pampering plants, caring for animals and any creature that came to her. Perhaps she had a deep understanding of the presence of consciousness in whatever form it took. Whatever it was, she was kind, loving, and very caring, and whatever she was tending to would always thrive under her care.

For some, it is believed that consciousness is everything, everywhere at all times. Present in every bit of matter, all the way up to galaxies and beyond and all the way down to electrons and

neutrinos and beyond. I hold this to be true and that is enough for me to want to have consideration for all that is about me. All life big and small. This does not mean that I would take a walk in the wilderness without the cautious mind that there may be animals around that are larger, stronger and in some cases dangerous. Yet, in all these years, I have not been bothered by any. And perhaps that is because I do not go about in fear of them, but cautious. Perhaps that is the reason, meaning, that if I were in fear, I would quite possibly draw something to me to be in fear of. That is what consciousness does, it communicates in an unseen way through a wavelength of energies and those energies draw to them the same vibration of energy. I feel that is why my grandmother's gentleness and loving care of plants created a response from them of healthy, flourishing plant life. And with the animals that came to her, they had no fear nor were they to be feared. A gentle hand and a consciousness that was only concerned with their wellbe-

ing created a loving and trusting response. This is speaking of all the animals that lived on the farm, from baby chicks to the big bull and the huge workhorse used in those days. All were her friends, and she was kind to all.

A rock does not appear to be doing anything, let alone thinking. However, at a microlevel there are an unimaginable number of atoms connected by springy chemical bonds, all jiggling around at a rate we cannot comprehend. The rock is continuously receiving gravitational and electromagnetic signals. This is not a random event – information is being processed. The Universe is saturated with and is consciousness. Although consciousness at different levels of expression.

“Honor the sacred. Honor the Earth, our Mother. Honor the Elders. Honor all with whom we share the Earth – four legged, two legged, winged ones, swimmers, crawlers, plant and rock people. Walk in balance and beauty.” —Native American Elder.

SENIOR MENU: AUGUST 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Chicken Fettuccine Cauliflower & Broccoli Wheat Roll Apple Slices	2 Turkey Wrap Pasta Salad Tropical Fruit Greek Nonfat Vanilla Yogurt	3 Red Chile Beef Enchiladas Pinto Beans Corn Salsa Tossed Salad Fresh Orange	4 Chicken Fried Chicken Chicken Gravy Mashed Potatoes Asparagus Cornbread Plums
7 Baked Tilapia Scalloped Potatoes Roasted Brussel Sprouts Wheat Roll Banana	8 Cheese Tortellini Meaty Marinara Sauce Italian Veggies, Cucumber Tomato Salad, Wheat Roll Cantaloupe and Grapes	9 Beef Tips W/ Egg Noodles, Mushrooms, Peas, Spinach Salad Wheat Roll Peaches	10 Pepper Steak Brown Rice Fried Vegetables Pineapple	11 Cobb Salad Crackers Fruit Salad
14 2 oz. Polish Sausage Parsley Potatoes Carrots Wheat Roll, Pears Greek Yogurt	15 Beef Burrito Supreme Spanish Rice Calabacitas Diced Mango	16 Chicken & Rice Casserole Broccoli Spears w/ Red Bell Pepper, Tossed Salad Wheat Roll Baked Apple Slices	17 Turkey Roast, Yams Vegetable Medley, Wheat Bread, Angel Food Cake, with Cherries, Whipped Topping	18 Baked Chicken, Mushroom Sauce Rice Pilaf, Green Beans & Corn, Wheat Roll Strawberries
21 Fish Sandwich California Veggies Coleslaw Sorbet/ Berries	22 Roast Beef Brown Gravy Baked Sweet Potato Green Beans, Wheat Roll Watermelon	23 Teriyaki Chicken, Brown Rice Stir Fry Veggies Fortune Cookie Wheat Roll Mandarin Oranges	24 Lean Beef Fajita Refried Beans Salsa Roasted Zucchini Mixed Fruit	25 Tuna Salad Beets Peas Banana
28 Chile Relleno Meaty Green Chile Sauce Black Beans Cilantro Lime Slaw Flour Tortilla, Apricots	29 Chicken Strips Country Gravy Okra, French Fries Spinach Salad Fruit Cocktail	30 Red Chile Cheese Dog Three-Bean salad Roasted Cauliflower Orange Greek Nonfat Vanilla Yogurt	31 Sweet & Sour Pork Brown Rice, Asian Veggies Wheat Breast Pineapple and Mandarin Oranges	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



**LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

Come to the Questa Art Tour! August 12 and 13

We've been working like crazy — creating art in the form of paintings, sculpture, jewelry, crocheted animals, etc. — preparing for the Questa Art Tour, a project of Questa Creative Council. Put it on your calendar and come visit the 21 open studios on Saturday and Sunday, August 12 and 13.

Quite a few of us are over 65 years old,

so we're benefiting in other ways besides creating and selling our art. In 2001, the National Endowment for the Arts developed a cooperative agreement with The George Washington University to conduct a multi-site national study, with the aim of measuring the impact of professionally conducted community-based cultural programs (with professional artists leading them) on the general health, mental health, and social activities of persons age 65 and older.

Referred to as the Creativity and Aging Study, the project's formal title is "The Impact of Professionally Conducted Cultural Programs on Older Adults." No previous study of this nature using an experimental design and a control group had been carried out.

Results reveal strikingly positive differences in the intervention group (those involved in intensive participatory art programs) as compared to a control group not involved in intensive cultural programs.

Some of the artists in the Questa Art Tour are teachers; I'm 86 and I'm definitely benefiting. I dabbled at painting in my 20s, but stopped because raising four kids became my primary calling. Then, in November 2020, I had a strong urge to paint, so I bought some art supplies and voila! I'm loving it. I took my father's middle name, Maruška, for my paintings, and even developed a unique style: embedding images in the five basic shapes of sacred geometry — spiral, straight line, square, circle, and triangle. Sacred geometry is not my only style but it's my favorite style.

This year my home, The Star House, will be a hub again and my artist friend Lou McCall (founding editor of *Questa Del Rio News*) and neighbor Jill Ansell will show their work here as well.

It's called The Star House because my late architect husband designed it as an 8-pointed star with big windows that have a commanding view of the magnificent mountains and breathtaking sunsets. As

you come down my driveway and turn at the bend, you'll see my life-sized cow Elsie, which I've re-painted numerous times.

Get a brochure at the Questa Visitors Center or ArtQuesta Gallery for this two-day event: Saturday, August 12 and Sunday, August 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please put it on your calendar now. You'll find remarkable talent at every one of the hubs.

The Questa Art Tour is a feast for the eyes, including St. Anthony's historic church and plaza, which dates back to the 1840s and was completely renovated by the Questa community and reopened its doors in 2016.

Come join us.

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 <https://questacreative.org/ellen-wood>. Contact Ellen at ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

Ven al Tour de Arte de Questa 12 y 13 de agosto

Hemos estado trabajando como locos —creando arte en forma de pinturas, esculturas, joyas, animales tejidos a ganchillo, etc. —en preparación para el Tour de Arte de Questa, un proyecto del Consejo Creativo de Questa. Ponlo en tu calendario y ven a visitar los Centros del Tour de Arte el sábado y domingo 12 y 13 de agosto.

Muchos de nosotros tenemos más de 65 años, por lo que nos estamos beneficiando en otras formas además de vender nuestro arte. En 2001, el National Endowment for the Arts desarrolló un acuerdo de cooperación con la Universidad George Washington para realizar un estudio nacional en varios lugares con el objetivo de medir el impacto de los programas culturales basados en la comunidad realizados por profesionales en la salud general, la salud mental y las actividades sociales de personas mayores de 65 años.

Conocido como Estudio de Creatividad y Envejecimiento, el título formal del proyecto es "El impacto de los programas culturales realizados profesionalmente en los adultos mayores". No se había realizado ningún estudio previo de esta naturaleza con un diseño experimental y un grupo de control. Los resultados revelan diferencias sorprendentemente positivas en el grupo de intervención (aquellos involucrados en programas intensivos de arte participativo)

en comparación con un grupo de control que no participa en programas culturales intensivos.

El objetivo de este proyecto ha sido evaluar los efectos relevantes para la salud general, la salud mental, el funcionamiento total y la sensación de bienestar en personas mayores causados por la participación activa de aquellas en programas culturales proporcionados por artistas profesionales involucrados en artes visuales y literarias, música y otros esfuerzos culturales.

Algunos de los artistas que participan en el Tour de Arte de Questa son maestros; tengo 86 años y definitivamente me estoy beneficiando con todo esto. Comencé a pintar cuando tenía 20 años, pero lo dejé porque criar a cuatro hijos se convirtió en mi vocación principal. Luego, en noviembre de 2020, tuve una fuerte necesidad de pintar, así que compré algunos materiales de arte y ¡listo! Me encanta. Tomé el segundo nombre de mi padre, Maruška, para mis pinturas e incluso desarrollé un estilo único: incrustar imágenes en las cinco formas básicas de la Geometría Sagrada: espiral, línea recta, cuadrado, círculo y triángulo. La Geometría Sagrada no es mi único estilo, pero es mi estilo favorito.

Este año, mi casa estrella volverá a ser un centro y mi amiga Lou McCall (editora fundadora de *Questa Del Rio News*) y mi vecina Jill Ansell también mostrará su trabajo aquí.

Se llama la casa estrella porque mi difunto esposo, que era arquitecto, la diseñó como una estrella de 8 puntas con grandes ventanas que tienen una vista imponente de las magníficas montañas y las impre-

sionantes puestas de sol. Al bajar por el camino de entrada y girar en la curva, verás a mi vaca Elsie de tamaño natural, que he pintado en numerosas ocasiones.

Busca un folleto en el Centro de Visitantes de Questa para este evento de dos días: sábado 12 y domingo 13 de agosto. Anótalo en tu calendario ahora mero. Encontrarás talentos notables en cada uno

de los centros.

El Tour de los Estudios de Questa es un festín para los ojos. Incluye la histórica iglesia y plaza de St. Anthony, que data de la década de 1840 y recientemente fue completamente renovada por la comunidad de Questa.

Ven con nosotros.

ART at The Star House! Hub #16



Questa Studio Art Tour
92 Quintana Road
El Rito/Latir

August 12 & 13

Lou McCall

Jill Ansell

Ellen Wood
aka Maruška

(My cow's name is Elsie.)

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

By DAWN PROVENCHER



How To Grieve

Grief is not about just being sad. It can be physically painful. It can steal our joy, our energy, and our purpose. Grief is one of life's most powerful emotions because it requires another one, more powerful than self to form. We cannot grieve without first feeling love.

Fortunately, a grieving person can take actions to address this life-changing emotion. The first is to acknowledge what it is and be determined to ride it out. If we don't and we simply ignore it, we're allowing grief to win over the love that formed it in the first place. We cannot give that power to grief. We must be determined to make sure the love wins.

Another action is to be kind to ourselves throughout the process. Allowing comfort from family, friends, and ourselves is of the utmost importance. Rest when you're tired. Take a warm bath. Drink a cup of tea with milk. Look at photographs you enjoy. Play some music. Go to a beautiful place. Feed your body and feed your soul. During this vulnerable time, be sure to be cautious of your food and alcohol consumption. While they can temporarily feel like they're

numbing the pain, they ultimately will never allow you to fully cope hence they will never allow love to win.

Understand that through this time, you may feel many other feelings along with your grief. Anger and depression are often grief partners. Recognize this is part of the process and don't allow the emotions take center stage: always stay connected to the love.

Allow yourself to ask for help from a professional. Talking with friends has its place, but it doesn't replace the help a trained professional can provide. You wouldn't take your broken care to a friend to repair, you'd take it to an expert. The same principle goes with helping repair your grief. Knowing when you need help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Seeing a counselor alone or in a group honors the loss and love that is being grieved.

These actions won't magically eliminate the painful journey through grief, however, they will allow us to say, "what I lost was important, I deserve the best I can do to keep the love and joy I felt alive."

For more help with grief, New Mexico has a hotline which is always open. It is staffed by loving and caring professionals. (855) 662-7474 or by dialing 988 from your cellular device.

Most importantly, let the love win.

Mental Health Matters

The northern Taos County communities have lost several young people in recent months. Questa del Rio News is starting a column dedicated to mental health matters.

Dawn Provencher is a retired counselor. She has a master's degree in counseling and a master's degree in social work. She will be contributing to this column on a monthly basis.

LOR LISTENING cont'd from page 7

residents about the issues they feel are important," Gonzalez says. "We're always looking for local champions to share ideas and help us make Questa an even better place to live. Our survey really helped us understand those issues, and we're counting on people to come to the table with solutions we can support."

Already, dozens of Questa locals have contacted Gonzalez with ideas — several of which became solutions that will be implemented as the school year gets underway this month. For instance, a staff member with Questa Independent School District reached out to Gonzalez this summer with an idea for launching a free astronomy program. With LOR's help the district purchased a telescope that

students and families will use to advance their knowledge of both astronomy and astrology in the years to come.

Another solution materialized this summer when a local coach proposed launching a football program for middle schoolers. Historically, Questa middle schoolers who wanted to play football have had to travel to other communities. Starting this year, thanks in part to helmets and pads LOR helped the school district purchase, kids will learn the game on their home turf.

If you'd like to share a potential solution like these with Gonzalez, she will be at Rael's Market on August 12 and 13 for the Questa Art Tour, and would love to hear from you. You can also reach out to her directly at maria@lorfoundation.org or by phone at (575) 665-2001.



MindUP For Life

Since 2005, award-winning actress and activist Goldie Hawn has been helping kids by teaching mindfulness.

Her foundation, MindUP, provides a neuroscience-based curriculum, focused on helping students manage stress and regulate their emotions.

Meditation has been scientifically proven to change brain chemistry, increasing optimism and reducing aggression. Teachers in 11 countries that use the program report a 75% decrease in fighting and an 83% rise in happiness among students.

With stress levels sky-high during the COVID pandemic, the program

was revamped, expanded, and rebranded as "MindUP for Life," and then offered to students and their families — completely free of charge.

It features 5-minute audio exercises that kids can do anytime and anywhere, teaching them how to take "brain breaks" to help them re-center.

"MindUP for Life" gives children the tools they need to be mentally fit and happy as children, so they can manage their lives as healthy adults.

Goldie has 4 main tips:

Meditate daily, re-connect with nature, dance every day, and get ready for bed without screens, one hour before.

This iconic actress teaches that it's essential to live for now and to slow down and enjoy this ride because it's the only one we've got.

This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live.

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DANA PEREZ cont'd from page 4

for training is \$200 and this includes both a workout plan and nutrition plan. She also has a digital wallet, so making payments through Venmo is simple.

Dana has an Instagram account filled with helpful content on nutrition, oftentimes debunking misconceived

notions about health and nutrition. If you're on the fence about whether this program is for you or not, give her page a follow and see for yourself. Her instagram handle is www.instagram.com/D_Mariefitness. If you're interested in a consultation, you can reach out via email at dmariefitness22@gmail.com.

MAIL CALL cont'd from page 3

these days, and of course you had no choice, it was impossible not to report on the Red River rally shooting, but my goodness all of the articles about your graduates? I just so much enjoyed reading about them! I read every word. What an encouragement. The school should invite Charolette Flory back to speak to the students at Questa High School as a commencement speaker. It was so wonderful to read about all the activities in town, the civic pride, the teams and school pride, the community pride... just so well done. KEEP IT UP! I am almost tempted to take this paper to the school board in Littleton, CO to give them

examples of how to honor graduates and how to select commencement speakers. It's so good to see that this goodness in America still exists in small town USA. It's such an honor to have visited Questa and it was such an honor to read your newspaper. Thank you and well done! We pass back and forth through Questa all the time while we travel between Arizona and Highlands Ranch and we're coming back to spend time in Questa again. Just keep up the good work!

Chuck Friendenstein, retired Airforce Colonel. Retired Associate Professor of Astrodynamics at the Air Force Academy

CALL OR E-MAIL US FOR AD RATES!
(575) 586-2258 or Sales-1@QuestaNews.com



LOR helps Questa locals bring their ideas to life.

We believe many small actions can create lasting change, and we fund projects that can have an immediate impact—like creating in-school spaces for teachers to relax and recharge and supporting free financial literacy workshops for the Questa community.

If you've been thinking about starting a project that could improve life in Questa, contact community officer Maria Gonzales at (575) 665-2001 or maria@lorfoundation.org today!

No formal application required.

lorfoundation.org | @LORFoundationQuesta

KIT CARSON COOP IS PROUD TO BE A COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR.



\$10,000 to the Charles Cisneros Cerro VFW

\$10,000 Costilla Neighborhood Association.

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



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ENCHANTED EATS

In this month's edition of Enchanted Eats, we're including different green chile recipes in anticipation of the upcoming green chile harvesting season. Happy roasting!

Green Chile Enchiladas

(Recipe submitted by New Mexican Rob)



Courtesy Tamalita

Green Chile Enchiladas

- 1 lb. shredded boneless chicken breast
 - 6 green chiles, roasted, peeled and diced
 - 1 can of cream of mushroom soup
 - 1 can of cream of chicken soup
 - Milk (to fill both cans)
 - 2 dozen corn tortillas
 - 2 cups shredded cheese (colby, muenster, jack, or Mexican mix)
1. Combine all sauce ingredients along with enough water (or milk) to fill the two cans of soup in a large saucepan over medium heat. We are not frying the tortillas, so the extra moisture from either the water or milk is needed to soften them while baking.
 2. After the sauce mixture has simmered for about 5 minutes, begin assembling in a large casserole dish. I start with some of the sauce, then a layer of tortillas, a layer of sauce, then the shredded chicken, then cheese, then back to the tortillas.
 3. It stacks up as high as there are ingredients (usually 4 or 5 layers).
 4. Then we bake in a 350-degree oven for about 20 minutes. After 10 minutes of cooling down, it is ready to be served.

Green Chile Pinwheels

(Recipe by Chef Rodney from Hot Rod's Recipes)



Courtesy Photo

Green Chile Pinwheels

- Box of cream cheese
 - 1 package of diced and finely drained green chiles
 - ½ half red onion
 - Tub of sour cream
 - Ground black pepper
 - Garlic salt
 - Flour tortillas
1. In a mixing bowl, combine all the ingredients (except tortillas). Mix until well combined.
 2. Spread a thin layer of the mixture on each tortilla. Roll each tortilla tightly then wrap them in plastic wrap. Store the rolls in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.
 3. Thinly slice each tortilla into bite-sized pieces and serve on a platter.

Green Chile Rye

(Recipe by Abbe)



Courtesy Photo

Green Chile Rye

- 3 T vegetable oil
 - 1 large onion, chopped (at least 1 c)
 - 3 garlic cloves, minced
 - 2 T flour
 - 1 1/2 c roasted, peeled and seeded, chopped mild green chiles OR use 2 c of your choice of chile
 - 1/2 t ground cumin
 - Pinch of Mexican oregano
 - 2 c chicken stock (I make this with Better Than Bouillon) Just mix a good spoonful into the hot water or directly into hot soup.
 - 1 t salt – you may want to test as the bouillon does give it a nice degree of saltiness
1. Heat oil and add onion. Cook about 5 minutes and add garlic.
 2. Cook another minute and stir in flour. Cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring, so flour doesn't burn and also so that it cooks and you don't get a floury taste.
 3. Add chiles. Pour in stock and seasonings. Taste for salt and adjust if necessary.
 4. Bring to boil over medium heat and cook for about 15 to 30 minutes on a low simmer, covered. If you want it thicker add more broth or water. This can cook for longer if you want your chile a softer texture.



OPPORTUNITIES cont'd from page 9

an effort to hear from the community on what they would like to see more of. The main theme from the meetings was to create more activities for families and kids in the community. Since then, Pastor Gayle and Pastor Peter have been working diligently to carve out these opportunities, the fish clinic being only one of the events they've created for the community.

Other undertakings they've been involved in are planning and hosting the first ever Questa Car Show, PromGirl Boutique (a boutique for prom dresses), tea parties, outdoor game events, and movie nights.

These undertakings take plenty of effort and resources. "We have received funding for these activities from the LOR foundation and Chevron grants," says Pastor Gayle when asked how she is able to pull this off. "I love our groups of volunteers, they make all the difference."

Pastor Gayle was previously director of Parks and Recreation in Taos; therefore her expertise in planning and developing events comes in handy as she works to serve the northern Taos County communities.

Keep an eye out for more events hosted by Questa's Living Word Ministries by following them on their facebook page: [facebook.com/LWMSite](https://www.facebook.com/LWMSite).

ARCINIEGA cont'd from page 4

fundraise enough money to take the teens to the Steubenville Youth Conference in Denver. "It was such an amazing experience. I had youth group in high school, and it strengthened my relationship with God, which has played out in my adult life. Giving kids the same opportunity is so important to us." Both Lora and Jim hope to continue running the youth group for the foreseeable future and hope their kids will one day be able to also participate in the program.

In closing, Lora says, "it's important to always maintain your core values in life. Think of three things you will not compromise on, write them down, and stand by them. Never compromise on these things and it will keep your life on the right path." She also talked about the importance of getting out of your comfort zone and taking risks. "Growth happens on the edge of your comfort zone. It's okay to be afraid, and it's okay to be nervous, and through this experience, you will find growth."

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WORD
MINISTRIES

Look what happened in Questa this summer!



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OBITUARIES



Edna Duran
d. July 11, 2023

Edna Duran, age 83, a resident of Questa, passed away unexpectedly on July 11, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her sons Herman, Albert, and Carl Duran; great-grandson Ryan Rael; parents Jose Evaristo and Eutimia Arguello; brothers Valdamar Arguello, Luis Lucero, Eddy Arguello, and Rudy Arguello.

Edna is survived by her children Maria Ortega, Katie Duran, Anselmo Duran (Cindy), Brenda Gatton (Jerry), Henrietta Martinez and Amy Postovit (Bruce); 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; siblings Jose Arguello, Jr. (Frances), Bessie Sanders (Roland), Cora Williams (Robert), Ruginia Tafoya (Marcello), David Arguello (Billie), and Charlie Arguello (Sue); sister-in-law Williene Lucero and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Rosary was recited on Tuesday, July 18, at Santo Niño Catholic Church in Amalia, NM. Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, July 19, at Santo Niño Catholic Church, and burial followed, at the Santo Niño Cemetery.



Ruth B. Gonzales
d. July 2, 2023

Our dearest Mother! You have entered into your eternal rest on July 2, 2023. We grieve today, we will grieve tomorrow and all our days for you. But we are also glad that you are eternally happy. For you, there will be no more death, mourning or pain. For we have the Lord's promise: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25 Our mother, Ruth B. Gonzales, age 98, of Albuquerque and formerly of Questa, New Mexico is preceded in death by her parents, the father of her children, Frank M. Gonzales, and other family members. She is survived by her children, Ben Gonzales (Sally), Mary Anne Gonzales-Romero (Ernest), JoAnn Gonzales (Patrick), Mary Jean Gonzales, and Mark Gonzales (Rena). She is also survived by seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren along with other family and friends. A family funeral has taken place along with interment.



Margaret Leon Romero
d. July 6, 2023

Margaret Leon Romero, age 93, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family. She is preceded in death by her first husband, Richard Leon, and second husband, Tony Romero; parents, Juan Gabriel and Gavina Trujillo, and her siblings, Casilda Barela, Fernandez Trujillo, Epifanio Trujillo, Lino Trujillo, Levi Trujillo, Ernest Trujillo, and Ermelinda Garcia. Margaret was a loving and caring mother, grandmother, and sister. She loved to spend time outdoors in her yard and especially loved to spend time with her family. She is survived by her children, Connie Leon, Teresa Ortiz, Juanita Espinoza (Robert), Joseph Leon (Joann), Ricky Leon (Rachel), and Jose Martin Leon (James); 18 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren, special nephew who she considered her own, Ernie Trujillo (Theresa), plus many nieces, nephews, relatives, and cherished friends. A funeral service was held on Wednesday July 12, 2023, at Grace Community Church in Arroyo Hondo, with burial at the Cerro Cemetery.



Alejandro E. Trujillo
d. July 2, 2023

Alejandro Elias Trujillo 18, of Questa, NM passed away unexpectedly on July 2, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents Manuel & Idela Romero; uncles Manuel Romero, Jr. and Jesus Medina, Sr.; his grandparents Ernesto and Ada Trujillo.

Alejandro is survived by his parents Andrea Trujillo and Bobby Trujillo; his brothers Joaquin, Julian, Daniel and his sister Consuelo Trujillo; grandparents Andres & Paula Trujillo; he is also survived by many relatives whom he loved and who loved him dearly. He will be missed by all.

He was born and raised in Questa, NM. Alejandro graduated from the Taos High School in May of 2023 with honors, he also attended UNM-Taos as a dual credit student. He loved the mountains, riding his dirt bike, working out in the gym, boxing, swimming, skiing and snowboarding.

Rosary will be recited on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 9:00am, followed by the Mass of Christian burial at 10:00am at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at the Lama Cemetery.



Angela E. Vigil
d. July 9, 2023

Angela E. Vigil, age 78, a resident of Cerro, passed away peacefully after a long illness on July 9, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her son Mario Vigil; parents Enriquez Vigil and Felomena Gallegos; siblings Virginia Salazar, Jose R. Perea, Eddy Perea, Joe V. Perea, Gasper Vigil, Ruben Vigil, Henry Vigil, Bertha Salazar, Nora Gonzales, Vera Cardenas, Della Gomez, Laura Rael, and Lizzie Vigil.

Angela is survived by her grandson Bobby Jordan Lovato; a niece she considered a daughter, Brenda Vigil-Rosetta (Matthew); Autumn Rosetta, a nephew she considered a son, Brent Vigil (Paula); Ryan Vigil; siblings Vincent Vigil, Betty Vigil and Theresa Segura (Steve); special nieces and nephews Norbert Gomez (Rhonda), Robert Gomez, Sr. (Marcie), Rolando Segura (Julie), Colleen Perea, and many other loving relatives and friends.

Rosary was recited on Friday, July 14, 2023, followed by the Mass of Christian burial at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cerro. Burial followed at the Cerro Catholic Cemetery.



The staff at the *Questa del Rio News* sends 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 *Questa del Rio News* as well as haveing it posted to the website, please email.

A small fee of \$20 will apply.



Contact us at
Sales-1@QuestaNews.com



OBITUARIES



**Joseph "Jojo" Adam Vigil
d. June 23, 2023**

Joseph "Jojo" Adam Vigil, was born on January 28, 1980, and passed away peacefully after a brief illness to be with Our Lord Jesus Christ on June 23, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Antonio M. Vigil and Glenda M. Vallejos; his brother Jon Paul Blea; his paternal grandparents, Enrique and Frances Vigil; and his maternal grandparents, Pulidor and Ignacia Vallejos. He is survived by his brother Tony Vigil; his godson Paul Vallejos, Jr.; his goddaughter Raeann Baca; his niece Amya Blea, and nephew Joeseeph Martinez; special cousins whom he loved like sisters and brothers, Phyllis Chacon, Judy Maes,

Brenda Pacheco, Paul Eric Vallejos, Phil Fernandez, and Jerry Pacheco, Jr; many dear aunts and uncles, including Laura Vallejos, Geneva (Jerry) Pacheco, and Gus (Roberta) Vallejos, who were like second parents to him, several beloved cousins, and devoted friends. Jojo was a wonderful, kind, and loving person. He would brighten any room he walked into and would always make people laugh. He was our family comedian. He had a heart of gold and frequently helped those in need. He was employed by Wells Fargo for several years and considered his colleagues his second family. He enjoyed watching football and was a huge fan of the Green Bay Packers. His beautiful smile, his big bright eyes, sense of humor, and warm laughter will be greatly missed. At this time, we request continued prayers for his family and friends. Memorial services were on July 8, 2023 in Amalia, NM, RCCLA Canopy; July 13, 2023 at Calvary Westside in Albuquerque, and July 15, 2023 (Abundant Christian Fellowship) in Amalia, NM, followed by burial and celebration of Jojo's life.

JR (Malaquias) says:

"The monsoon is here and hydroplaning* is scary."



*hydroplaning is sliding uncontrollably on a wet surface.

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



Featured Photo August 2023



FINALLY. A red tomato....



...and then there is the rest of the garden.

July 25, 2023 El Rito, NM

Email your photo submissions to GraphicsDept@QuestaNews.com or Editor@QuestaNews.com



BY J. ORTEGA

Flamin' Hot

(June 2022)

Available on Disney+ and Hulu

Starring Jessie Garcia, Annie Gonzalez, Emilio Rivera, Dennis Haysbert, and Tony Shalhoub. Directed by Eva Longoria

Rated PG

First Impression:

A solid directorial debut from Eva Longoria, who brings to life the rags-to-riches story of Richard Montañez, the man who introduced the world to the signature flavor of Flamin' Hot Cheetos.

When we go to the grocery store and look around the chip aisle, they're almost impossible to miss. The "flamin' hot" brand from Frito-Lay has become both famous and iconic not only in the United States and Mexico, but around the world.

The snack is popular with young kids, adults, and senior citizens alike. In fact, you may have a bag of Flamin' Hot Cheetos in your cupboards or in your car as a guilty-pleasure go-to snack as we speak. The "flamin' hot" name is so popular, it's valued as a billion-dollar brand. Now let's get to the story of the man who made this snack possible.

Eva Longoria, in her directorial debut, gives us a heartwarming "never say die" movie about Richard (Garcia) Montañez, a California Chicano who had a tough childhood and an even tougher adolescence. In an early sequence, we see how as a young kid, he has a knack for sales and entrepreneurship; selling burritos to peers in his elementary school. Montañez had a difficult home life, with an abusive father who made him believe he would never amount to anything.

As the movie plays out, he grows into a young Chicano who is racially profiled, and seen by others only as a criminal. He becomes dejected and untrusting of authority figures.

Montañez keeps this mentality into his 20s. He makes no excuses and owns up to the fact that he committed crimes and was a gangbanger.

This all starts to change when his girlfriend (and future wife) Judy, played by newcomer Annie Gonzalez, tells Richard she's pregnant, which forces him to start pondering what kind of life he wants for his future children. With the help of Judy, Richard eventually gets a job at his local Frito-Lay plant as an assistant janitor.

While working at Frito-Lay, Montañez is entranced by the process of making Cheetos. Fellow Chicanos try to discourage him from pursuing his curiosity, but he eventually finds comradery with an African American Frito-Lay engineer named Clarence, who gives him a chance.

Montañez envisions a world where Cheetos might also appeal to Chicanos, with the addition of a familiar Chile zing. After trial and error, he and his family finally create a delish and spicy snack. He presents the snack to the CEO and even higher-ups in the company, but not having faith in his product, he shares samples of his snack through grassroots marketing. Eventually, Montañez is recognized for his vision, and is promoted to Vice President of Multicultural Sales & Community Promotions.

This film is a welcome addition to my Mexican-American films of our generation, which include "La Bamba," "Selena," "Stand and Deliver," and "A Better Life." These movies show the power, grit, and determination of Latinos and Latinas who refuse to let their dreams and ambitions die.

4.5 ★★★★★

Final Verdict: 4.5 out of 5 stars



Courtesy Photo



Dare To Tell

This month in August, I dare you to tell me a story about a time that you dared to speak a truth that needed to be voiced, even if it made you uncomfortable. It may have been misinterpreted or misunderstood and you lost your place with that person or situation. It could have happened at a job, in a relationship, or a group you are a member of. Was there a benefit to you or the situation after you spoke your concern? Was it worth the consequences of your action? This often can be a positive scenario with a good outcome for all the parties involved, where everyone is grateful and appreciative of the interaction.

I have a "dare to tell my story" about my living situation. I don't like to complain out loud about things that bother me to my neighbors, my family, or my friends. I try to solve my own problems without affecting others in a negative way, especially in a close-knit neighborhood. There are dogs in my neighborhood that bark at night obsessively and it's not about coyotes that we all understand. They can be heard barking in the upper and lower valley. I have spoken to some of my neighbors about this and they have been very considerate in their response. I am asking, requesting that you be aware of your family dog at night. It is hard to sleep through the constant barking. It is too hot to keep the windows closed to shut out the noise. The people are the best part of the neighborhood. My dogs have been in trouble many times and I have been able to work it out with my neighbors, being proactive to resolve problems. I am grateful for this and feel blessed that they are kind.

I would also like the readers to know I now have the internet after 10 years and you can email me your daring stories, to martaglover8@gmail.com Tell me something daring about YOU.

Kai:

I was managing a kitchen in Texas. It was a really hot summer. The air conditioning was working poorly and the staff was dying from heat exhaustion. Upper management did not want to fix anything so I threw a fit and demanded they get a new unit. I dared to speak up when no one else would. It took a bit of convincing them to add a new air conditioner. In the end, it was still unbelievably hot and it did not really help, just blew flames out on the range top.

Berri:

I spoke to my friend, Marina, about her seeing a therapist about her anger issues. She is my best friend and I am worried about her. Her response is always, "I don't want to go." She recognizes that she is angry but won't be open to a therapist. She has a lot of valid issues for being angry. Normally, I could not say this to someone, it's a very touchy subject. I dared to tell her knowing she would be irritated. I am going to keep talking to her about it. The benefit is showing her how much I care about her. Some people think therapy is admitting defeat, a sign of weakness. This is an ongoing process for my friend as well as for our friendship.

Molly:

I am in a church choir and I am not the official leader of the group nor do I have the authority to lead the group. I am one of my peers. Sometimes I have to exercise authority that a member requires even though I am not the official leader. A long-time member has a difficult personality and is a founding member of the choir. She did not pay her dues for over 10 years and nobody ever confronted her about this. Well, it took a team of us to confront her, and it could have backfired but it did not. The dare paid off! For the first time in 15 years, she paid her dues, period! This dare was uncomfortable and anxiety-provoking. It made people mad and consumed us for months but ended well, worth the consequences.

Lydia:

My sister became close friends with my ex-husband's wife. She wanted to be close friends with a past relative who did not like me and was indifferent to me. It made me so mad and sad. I did not ask my sister to stop seeing her in the beginning, even though it continued to hurt me. This sister was my best friend then, talking together all the time... we shared endless secrets; she was my confidant. My sister was about to move away across the country to the east coast. I dared myself to call the ex-wife. It totally backfired, making everything worse. It changed the course of my relationship with the ex-wife for life and was never resolved to this day, 20 years later. I even had to go to therapy about it. My sister moved six weeks later and I was broken for a while. If I had kept my mouth shut, none of this ever would have happened in a negative way.

Sometimes being daring is not worth the long-term price you have to pay. I guess it is best to deliver your daring messages with respect and kindness whenever possible.

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
AUGUST 2023

LEO

“The true self-expression of Leo is in love — not the passionate, sentimental kind, but pure goodness of heart towards all. We call it ‘good will.’” —Dr. Douglas Baker

Last month we discussed some differences between esoteric and traditional astrology. This month we discuss a planetary rulership which never changes from traditional astrology through esoteric astrology and even into the third level of astrology known as Hierarchical Astrology, which will manifest much later. Through all three currently known levels, the Sun remains the ruler of Leo, the sign we are currently in. The strength of this continuing partnership is based on the evolution of the Sun itself, the master planet of our solar system. Kingly Leo deserves this partnership because of the transformations of the consciousness of humanity occurring in our solar system.

The Ray of our Solar System (Esoteric Psychology or the Science of the Seven Rays) is the Second Ray of Love-Wisdom: Love wisely applied and Wisdom lovingly applied. Leo rules love; the Sun rules our Solar System. Clearly, it was a “partnership made in heaven.”

Any planet in its own “natural” sign is stronger than in any other sign. Need anyone question the strength of the sun in late July and early August? Need anyone question the strength of the role that love plays in our lives? While summer may seem to be a great time for falling or being in love, the higher meaning of love in esoteric astrology is unconditional love. True, unconditional love is not attached to emotion, to the need for approval or the expectation of a returned love. It is the pure form of love which includes everything that is. It recognizes that all of creation comes from the Source and therefore, We are all One. During this long, record-setting hot summer, remembering who we really are and what we are really made of — Love — would truly be wise.

Everyone: Super Moons on August 1 and August 31, which is also a “blue moon,” make for a super month.

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

Dynamic: Diplomacy and accuracy will be highlights this month.

Direction: Asking good questions will serve you well.

Soul Thought: What is a good question?

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

Dynamic: A verbal response may be required.

Direction: Succinct, please.

Soul Thought: When is one’s word enough?

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

Dynamic: You may be asked to “sweeten the pot” this month.

Direction: Determine what already is or isn’t sweet.

Soul Thought: All that glitters is not gold.

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

Dynamic: Something suspicious either comes to light or reveals itself as suspicious.

Direction: What does your conscience say?

Soul Thought: “If you want to find the secrets of the Universe, think in terms of energy, frequency, and vibration.”
—Nikola Tesla

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

Dynamic: A partnership may seem to tarnish your glow.

Direction: You are in charge of your own glow.

Soul Thought: How goes the partnership with your Higher Self?

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

Dynamic: It’s a busy month full of waxing and waning!

Direction: Determine what in your life goes in which direction.

Soul Thought: “We must be willing to get rid of the life we’ve planned in order to have the life that is waiting for us.”
—Joseph Campbell

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

Dynamic: Love and Marriage (Partnership) may feel stressed mid-month.

Direction: Re-read what true love is (above) and determine true marriage.

Soul Thought: “The Soul loves a challenge!”
—Dr. Douglas Baker

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

Dynamic: Energy levels may be low but it’s actually a good month.

Direction: Now’s the time to try meditation.

Soul Thought: Chill.

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

Dynamic: You’ve gotten the big picture, now bring it in.

Direction: On behalf of all humanity, regroup.

Soul Thought: As without, so within.

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

Dynamic: Your burden is lighter for a while, but your expectations may be heavier.

Direction: Are you still carrying something you don’t need to carry?

Soul Thought: “It ain’t easy.”

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

Dynamic: You are having a big impact on those around you.

Direction: Be sure it’s positive.

Soul Thought: Or at least, for a good cause.

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

Dynamic: The affairs of the world plague your mind.

Direction: Don’t get cold feet.

Soul Thought: We need you.



Cerro Vista Farm
Beautiful Fresh Produce
Cut Flower Bouquets

Questa Farmers Market
Sundays 10 am - 2 pm

WHEN YOU LEARN LOTS, YOU CAN DO LOTS.



Have fun this school year!

CARQUEST
QUESTA

2420 St. Hwy 522 - Questa, NM 87556
575.586.0419

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 • AUGUST 2023

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN AUGUST!

JULY 30: SUN 10 AM - 4 PM Kids Games and Back to School Giveaway at Questa Farmer's Market at the Visitor Center, hosted by Living Word Ministries info (575) 613-8010

NOON - 2 PM Pop up Popsicle Stand at Questa Farmer's Market at the Visitor Center, hosted by Living Word Ministries, info: (575) 613-8010

AUGUST 2: WED 6 PM Questa Independent School Board Meeting, OSID Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. # A. Info: (575) 586-0421

AUGUST 3: THUR 5 - 6:30 PM Iriebellion Concert, Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park, Taos, taoschamber.com

6:30 - 8 PM Last to Know Concert, Taos Plaza Live at Kit Carson Park, Taos, taoschamber.com

AUGUST 3 - 12 & 13: THUR-SUN An Evening of One-Act Plays: The Widow of Nagasaki written and acted in by our own El Rito resident Hae Won Kwon. Two more acts in the same evening: Interview with Death & Tammy. Times: Thur-Sat: 7 p.m and Sun: 4 p.m. Location: Wildflower Playhouse 1339 Paseo del Pueblo Sur. Tickets and more info: wildflowerplayhouse.org

AUGUST 6: SUN 10 AM - 2 PM Questa Farmers Market with live music: At The Watertower, with Alex Garcia

4 - 6 PM Free Concert BYO blanket and picnic and tea party at Questa Lodge & RV Park, 8 Lower Embargo Rd. Info (575) 613-8010

AUGUST 7: MON 6 PM Questa Economic Development Fund monthly Board Meeting at the Questa Visitor Center, for agenda and more information: lynn@questaedf.com or leave a message at (575) 586-2149

AUGUST 8: 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

AUGUST 11: FRI 10 AM - NOON Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd., Questa. For more info: questafoodpantry.org or call (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194

AUGUST 12 & 13: SAT & SUN 10 AM - 5 PM Questa Art Tour throughout Questa Area with 21 tour stops in beautiful Questa, and over 50 artists, plus entertainment and snacks! Start at Questa Visitor Center for maps and information. See related article on page 14

Questa Public Library hosts Questa's Art Tour Stop #10 - will feature painters Boneta Curry-Brown, BJ Konior, and Cathrine Porter Brown; also Questa Quilters & Knitting Groups, at 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Info (575) 586-2023

AUGUST 12: SAT 6 PM (DINNER) 7 PM (CONCERT) Master kamale ngoni player, Mamadou Sidibe at Sala, 2231 Highway 522, sliding scale tickets at the door. More info (575) 586-5658

AUGUST 13: SUN 10 AM - 2 PM Questa Farmers Market with live music: Mamadou Sidibe, at the Questa Visitor Center

AUGUST 16: WED NOON - 4 PM In-person, one-on-one, business advising in Questa with Anwar Kaelin, Director of the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL for anyone in any stage of business, anyone with a great idea. Make an appointment by visiting: calendly.com/sbdctaos

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

AUGUST 17: 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

6 PM Questa Green Hydrogen Plant Feasibility Study Presentation, at the VFW Hall at 522 and Sagebrush Rd in Questa. Come learn about this green energy project, ask questions, share your ideas. Refreshments will be provided. For more info: lynn@questaedf.com, energy.gov/communities/EAP/questa-new-mexico, (575) 586-2149 See story on page 10

AUGUST 19: SAT 10 AM Questa Green Hydrogen Plant Feasibility Study Presentation in Taos, at the Taos Community Auditorium (TCA) at 133 Paseo del Pueblo Norte in Taos. Come learn about this green energy project, ask questions, share your ideas. For more info: lynn@questaedf.com, energy.gov/communities/EAP/questa-new-mexico, (575) 586-2149 See related story on page 20

10 AM - 5 PM Book signing at the Questa Library of Mark Lewis Wagner's new graphic novel, "Graffiti Wars. When Art Saved the World". Meet the author and experience the graphic novel! marklewiswagner.com/graffiti-wars. 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Info: (575) 586-2023

AUGUST 20: SUN 10 AM - 2 PM Questa Farmers Market with live music: Owen Johnson & Jeff Allred, at the Questa Visitor Center

AUGUST 21: 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 memoirs or biographies. Info: (575) 586-2023

AUGUST 22: 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

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

AUGUST 24: FRI 10 AM - NOON Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd., Questa. For more info: questafoodpantry.org or call (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194

AUGUST 25: SAT 1 - 3 PM Yoga Sala Wellness Series - Natural Dyes and Eco Prints facilitator: Rae Lewis - optional, bring a pre-washed cotton fabric item to print/dye, free event. More info: yogasalaquesta.org/wellness-series at 2331 NM-522, Questa

AUGUST 27: SUN 10 AM - 2 PM Questa Farmers Market with live music: Chris and Rodney Arellano & Cristina Massoliver's Puppet show @ noon, at the Questa Visitors Center

WEEKLY

10 AM - 3 PM Questa Visitor Center Open Thursday - Sunday. Questa Ambassadors provide area information, directions, recommendations, Questa logo merchandise, public restrooms. 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, and 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

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. Teams 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

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

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

6 PM GriefShare Support Group at Living Word Ministries, 14 Llano Rd., Questa, call (575) 613-8010

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

Senior Tech Classes will resume in September, watch for announcements/flyers

7 PM Bible Study at Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Rd, Questa. Info: (575) 613-8010

7 - 8:30 PM Bible Study at Freedom Center Church 2558 Hwy 522 Questa. Info: kristi@freedomquesta.com or call (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. 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, No Class August 17

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

6 - 8 PM Live Music every other Friday (August 4 and 18) 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

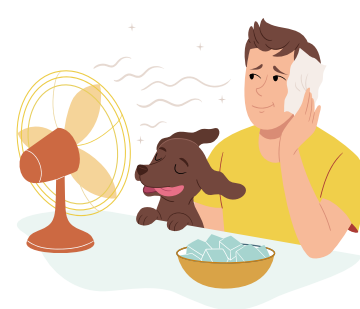
10 AM - 4 PM Art Market, original art, crafts, and collectibles. At the Farmers Market site by Questa Visitors Center. questacreative.org, (575) 586-5658

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

HELP WANTED

Securitas- Mobile Security Officer.

Securitas plays an essential role for our clients and in society. The Mobile Officer position helps maintain a safe and secure environment for our clients by actively monitoring the premises, which may include operating a vehicle to patrol. They preserve order while enforcing regulations and directives for a client site pertaining to personnel, visitors, and the area. Apply on indeed.

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/>.

Safety & Health Specialist- Granite Construction.

The position is responsible for collaborating in the administration of the Company's Safety and Health Management System (SHMS) and the corresponding regulations that relate to the safety of our work, for a large mine reclamation project valued over \$250M. This position is located near the Village of Questa, NM at 9,000 feet with an anticipated duration through 2027. A monthly \$5,000 subsistence will be paid during the duration of this project to help cover remote living expenses. Apply on the company website at <https://www.graniteconstruction.com/careers>.



POEM OF THE MONTH

To Be or Not (Critique d'art)

"Ghost Writer" declares publishment. Without a Shakespearean punishment Or an ulterior underlining torment. Only a satirical simple letter No difficult iambic pentameter. English poetry is always stiff & proper Complexity demands a show stopper.

Cook- Senior Center. The Questa Senior Center is looking for a cook 7 days a week for 6 hours per day. The Amalia Senior Center is looking for a cook 4 days a week for 6 hours per day. For more information, contact the center at 575-586-0508.

NOTICES

Questa Senior Center lunches.

Lunches are no longer served 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. www.QuestaCreative.org. Or visit Art Questa Gallery.

Art Market:

Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Original art, crafts, and collectibles. At the Farmers Market site by Questa Visitors Ctr. questacreative.org. (575) 586-5658.

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

Grief Counseling:

Weekly Grief Support Group is offered Wednesdays at Living Word Ministries through September 13. Group runs from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. and is free. For more information, email griefshareLWM@gmail.com. "We know it hurts, and we want to help."

It's no crime to converse with Oneself
If answered you may end on the Shelf.
Long before Social Media & Internet
They actually wrote & read for Content.
Penmanship & Calligraph are Hell Bent
Back then snail mail only cost A Cent.
In the golden days & dreams Del Rio
Hand written letters for a True Amio.
May it be a simple sounding Rhyme
Back through 'not to be' Lost in Time.

—Señor Miguel
Ghost Writer

CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH

Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470
Sunday 8 a.m. only.

MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:

Costilla - Sagrado Corazon - Sunday 9 a.m.
Cerro - Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe - 2nd & 4th Saturdays 4 p.m.
Amalia - Santo Niño - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 p.m.

FREEDOM CENTER CHURCH

(previously Harvest Questa)
Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales
2558 Hwy 522, Questa
Sunday Service 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(575) 770-1714
Visit us online: freedomquesta.com

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez
12 Llano Road, Questa
Service: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Nursery and Kids' Church at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
www.lwmsite.org
(575) 586-1587

PATH OF LOVE

Sunday 7:30 a.m. 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 10a.m.-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 a.m.
followed by worship at 10:15 a.m.

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

Tibetan Buddhism
Monday 11a.m. 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

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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Fellowship 3rd Sunday of the month
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Pastors: Lorenzo & Arleen Lucero
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RED RIVER

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Corner of River Street and Copper King Trail
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church of Red River
103 High Cost Trail
Sundays 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Joe Phillips (575) 754-2882

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

North end of Silver Bell Trail, Red River
Saturday 6 p.m. (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470



AA MEETINGS

Honesty, Unselfishness,
Purity and Love.

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

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