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Questa del Rio News

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Red River Mayoral Race Heats Up with Three Candidates



Courtesy the Taos News

Linda Calhoun

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB,
MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Incumbent Mayor Linda Calhoun has been the mayor of Red River since 2006. Prior to her leadership and service to the community as mayor, Calhoun served as town councilwoman for four years. Recently, she announced she was seeking to be reelected in the November 2023 election. Calhoun has been in Red River since 1978 and she is a business owner of local stores throughout Red River. She also owns a real estate business serving northern New Mexico communities.

Michael Nail has announced his candidacy for Mayor of Red River. He served the community for years as a first responder and fire chief. He has experience as a general contractor and business owner.

Robert Swan, also running, is a qualifying broker and founder of Swan Realty. He has called Red River home for nearly 40 years.

Questa del Rio News spoke with the candidates to ask why they think they're the best candidate to be the next mayor:

Linda Calhoun:

Why should people in Red River vote to retain you as their mayor?

I was elected the first woman mayor for Red River in 2006 serving on the town council four years prior. This is my home. I have lived in Red River since



Courtesy MichaelNail.com

Michael Nail

1978, and I can't imagine ever living anywhere else. Being the mayor is what I do, I love every minute of it, and I give it 110 percent all the time.

When I first ran in 2006, my three main objectives were to constantly look towards the future, take care of the day-to-day "nuts and bolts" of the town, and to be prepared for any crises the town may face. Those priorities still influence the way I govern. I've been successful in obtaining over \$30 million in grants and loans to upgrade our aging infrastructure, our wastewater treatment plant, our roads and our parks.

Our budget is very healthy. We were able to build a \$400,000 skate park and pump track and resurface our tennis courts without borrowing any money. Workforce housing is a top priority right now. I worked with the governor, and she gave us \$1 million in capital outlay to buy two lodges and convert them to workforce housing. We are currently working with a developer to look at ways to build more units.

There is no way to ever be prepared for the unknown. I've led our town through a natural gas outage, a pandemic, a massive windstorm, and most recently a deadly motorcycle gang shooting. We are a strong community and have managed to survive all these devastating circumstances. I do what I say I'm going to do, and I think my



Courtesy SwanRealtyInc.com

Robert Swan

record speaks for itself.

What do you think is the best thing you've done for the people of Red River?

The most impactful and the hardest thing I have accomplished is probably the land conveyance to Red River from the federal government. Since the town incorporated, the 40 acres that contain our cemetery, Mallette Park, the wastewater treatment plant, and the fire training grounds were all on Forest Service land and we had a special use permit to operate them. This limited us to maintenance only and we still had to get permission for anything to be done. After eight years and a literal act of Congress, President Obama signed a bill conveying this land to the town in 2014. It took another four years to complete the required surveys and paperwork. Now that the land belongs to the town, we have been able to successfully expand our cemetery, upgrade Mallette Park with the new skatepark and pump track, and we have received money to build a new public works facility by the treatment plant. None of this would have been possible without the land conveyance.

Why do you think you are a better candidate than your challenging opponents, Michael Nail and Robert Swan?

Local government is complex. It takes

Got a story? Email us at editor@questanews.com

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OUR MISSION

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

NUESTRO OBJETIVO

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

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Finding Peace and Solace in Curandera Juanita Souchet's Former Home

By DAWN PROVENCHER

When I first stepped in this empty house almost ten years ago, when my husband and I were considering a move from southern New Mexico to the cooler mountains after retirement, I knew “this is my house.” I felt a sense of being wrapped in a soft old quilt! I turned to Bob and said, “I need to live here.”

As we walked around the empty house, there wasn't a visible speck of dust or strand of cobweb. It was as if someone had moved out the day before. After a thorough cleaning, though, I think it had been empty for several years.

Fast forward, we bought the house after someone else had an offer placed on it that fell through. We looked at other houses in the meantime, but I knew this one would be ours.

We would come up to Questa on the weekends from La Luz for a year to renovate the home, including painting and running new water and gas pipes. Below are a few beautiful experiences we've had in this home:

- I forgot a bowl for our little dog's water, I thought “heck, I gotta go get something to give him water in.” Minutes later, I found a beautiful little brass bowl in an empty cabinet. I told this story to the people traveling with the New Mexico history bus and donated the bowl to them several years ago.
- While painting our low ceilings, I mentioned to Bob if we had brought even a step stool, I could easily reach the ceilings to paint. Later that day, I opened a closet to find a small home-made table just the height I needed, not the height of a regular table.
- When I was scrubbing the kitchen tile on my knees, it was painful! I thought I would have to do it over several weekends. Then I moved the stove and stuck to the side was a thick foam pad people often use to kneel on to garden. It was there just for me.
- During one especially cold weekend spent here before moving in, we found firewood in a shed, but it was all large. Bob said he wished he had brought a hatchet. We looked for kindling in the wood box in a tucked away room of the house, and there was a small hatchet.



Courtesy Photo

A photo of the mural painted at the home to honor Juanita

- I have a much-treasured generational Comal passed on from my grandmother. After we moved in, our son was visiting and said he would love to have it one day. I promised him he could have it, but he would have to wait because I still used it often. During his brief visit, I opened a cabinet and found one exactly like my grandmother's Comal. That is the one I now use, and he got his wish to get my grandmother's.

We truly believe this house gives what we need. Happiness, warmth, you name it. Each room has a very distinct personality. There is a section of the outside of the house that is original. I had a muralist come from Bisbee, Arizona, and asked him to honor Juanita and this house in whatever way he felt appropriate. We now have a lovely mural by our front door. The woman he depicted appears more Native and I believe Juanita's heritage was Spanish, but I still believe it honors her spirit, and the mountains, and the river.

We have had locals tell us they were afraid of Juanita and are still afraid of this house. I just tell them this house has embraced us and all of our visitors,

PEACE cont'd on page 3

PEACE cont'd from page 2

and we are honored to live here. Many people hear footsteps in the house and smell cigarette or cigar smoke. But we are never frightened by this. We just accept this house exactly how it presents us.

The only time I was worried was after pulling out hundreds and hundreds of nails from every surface of the interior. Later, I read "Bless Me, Ultima," and found that curanderas sometimes would take a problem away from someone by slamming a nail into the wall. I immediately asked the house for forgiveness for taking these nails away, cut some sage, and smudged the entire house.

We would love to know more about all the people who have lived here. We reach out to Juanita's grandson every Christmas but have never heard back from him. We can tell several of the inner walls were once outside walls, with windows looking into other rooms!

We would love to know how and why the additions occurred. If we could find pictures of the early house, I would be in heaven. We have found mounds in the yard which we think were piles of adobe bricks left to return to the earth.

I truly love this house and love this community. Thanks for reading and for any feedback you can provide on Juanita's history, send to the paper at editor@questanews.com.

POEM OF THE MONTH TRICK OR TREAT

The only Goules that are doing tricks
Are the politicians showing nasty pics
Mugshots sold and flashed for kicks.

Facebook Trolls are called Boogaloo
Twitter X posts weirdos from the zoo
Fake news are Goblins that aren't true.

If you follow the flute of a Pied Piper
Morphed into a Hooded Grim Reaper
Hell on earth is a spiral, Dante's Keeper.

The story is hidden at the local library
The scarecrow stuffed is sitting barely
Hay bales and corn stalks seen rarely.

Halloween denotes Fall's Harvest Time
Green chilies roasting fresh off a vine
Apple Cider hot always smells fine.

Don't be tardy for the after school party
For a real treat be nice and not rowdy
Galletas y Dulces are rewarded proudly.

galletas y dulces
cookies and candy

—Señor Miguel
(Ghost Writer)



CONGRATULATIONS 50 YEARS

We wish the following couples a happy 50th wedding anniversary! May you have continued happiness, health, and love for many years to come!

Monica & Max Ortega

Barbara & Evaristo Rael

Congratulations to Cassandra (Ortega) Cardenas and Andrew Cardenas for their recent nuptials on September 3, 2023, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa, New Mexico. *Questa del Rio News* wishes you a lifetime of happiness and love.

Congratulations

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

LINDA CALHOUN, MICHAEL NAIL, ROBERT SWAN, DAWN PROVENCHER, MERCY ALARID, VILMA BAILON, JOSE LOVATO, QUESTA CHEER, JONA OLSON, RAYNELLE SANCHEZ- CORDOVA, CYNTHIA RAEV-VIGIL, LOUISE GALLEGOS, DENISE WINSLOW-LAWRENCE, MICHAEL WILSON, GERALD HENDERSON, ERNIE GRIEGO, THE SOURCENM, FRAN VIALPANDO, VALERIE SEGURA, MARVINE SEGURA, BRYCE FLANAGAN, BARBARA TRACY, MARTA GLOVER, CHARLENE R. JOHNSON, ELLEN WOOD, QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL, SHARON NICHOLSON, ZACH BEHRENS, TONER MITCHELL, JAY BOUCHARD, MELLIE RODRIGUEZ, JOHN WALSH, GHOST WRITER MIGUEL, J. ORTEGA.

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

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

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Northern Rio Grande Driving School

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Northern Rio Grande Driving School has been operating in the northern New Mexico communities for over two decades. Marshall Bailon and Gordon Robinson first started the local, private business in the summer of 1999, with the goal to offer students the chance to take drivers education using a handed down white Dodge Aries, circa 1983.

Vilma Bailon got involved in the business in 2001, helping her husband Marshall with the growth and development of the family business. Starting in Questa, the program has gone through several iterations and changes, currently operating under the AAA How to Drive curriculum.

Initially, the Northern New Mexico Driving School started its operations to serve the Questa community, but has since expanded to Taos, serving students from Penasco, Taos, Alcalde, Costilla, Amalia, and even as far as Albuquerque. "I think we've taught millennials throughout the county how to drive," Vilma says as she laughs.

Classes typically have 30 to 40 students per class. Students are required to complete 30 hours of classroom time in a two-week timeframe and 7 hours of driving time with parents to pass the



Courtesy Photo

Vilma while she's out Driving Ms. Daisy with students

class. Students then go through a one-and-a-half year process of supervised driving hours in order to obtain their full unrestricted driver's license.

Vilma found herself navigating unfamiliar territory when her business partner and life partner passed away unexpectedly in 2020. "Marshall started this business with Gordon, and we have had so many people involved in helping us along the way, including Diane Padilla and Beverly Rivera. When he died, I was so overwhelmed and unsure if I should keep going," Vilma recalls.

Marshall passed away just weeks before the COVID pandemic hit, leaving Vilma to figure out how to keep the business going during a time of social distancing and quarantining. "One day, I got a call from the Duke City Driving School and they offered to help me transition our classes to remote teaching, taking me under their business name to ensure I could continue. I am so grateful to Lisa and Jose Hurtado who helped me when I really needed them," she says.

After getting through the COVID pandemic, Vilma was starting to feel overwhelmed, carrying the heavy

workload alone. One day, she was put in touch with an instructor in Katy, Texas, who was interested in relocating to northern New Mexico. "That's how I got David Montes to work with me and he's my other instructor now," she says.

These situations are clear indications to Vilma that her late husband is still watching over her to this day. "I know Marshall would want me to keep going with the business he built and I continue to pray to God to help me. I also ask Marshall to help me, I tell him I still need your help and I know he hears me," she says.

As for what she likes most about her job, Vilma says the kids keep her young. "I love the kids, and it's so awesome when we're able to see them later in life doing amazing things. I have taught doctors, lawyers, teachers, police officers, even kids who now work for NASA," she says proudly.

Vilma recalls a funny situation a few weeks ago when a state police officer pulled up behind her at the gas station. "It was obvious he was pulling up to talk to me and I thought, 'I didn't do it.' He got out of his police car and said, 'don't



Courtesy Photo

Vilma and her late husband Marshall

worry Mrs. Bailon. You taught me in drivers ed 5 years ago, I just wanted to say hi.' That meant so much to me."

When asked how long she anticipates continuing the business she built with her husband, "I am going to keep going for as long as I can because I am carrying on Marshall's legacy. It was his passion and we loved doing this together. I call it Driving Miss Daisy when I am out driving with the kids, helping them get their hours. I love working with the kids and I feel so fulfilled seeing where they go later in life, so the answer is, I am going to keep Driving Miss Daisy for as long as I possibly can," she says.

To register for driving school in either Questa or Taos, you can call Vilma at (575) 770-7253. You can also reach her at the Taos Youth and Family Center. The class costs \$400 per student and in order to register, students need an original birth certificate, original SSN card.

Costilla Native to be Inducted into the Akademia Hall of Fame

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Costilla native Gerald Henderson, whose performing name is Don P, is an up-and-coming rap artist in the music scene, with a several awards under his belt for his work over the past two decades, including Hip Hop MVP, Best Hip Hop Album, and soon he will have the title of Akademia Hall of Fame inductee added to his list.

"Growing up, I listened to music like Metallica and Black Sabbath, because that's what my mom and dad liked. It had a big influence on me, and I decided to join a band in middle school and played drums," Don P says of his early

interest in music. Fast forward to his high school years, Don P says his cousin and friends all took an interest in rap music, therefore they started to create rap songs as a group.

"We were called Kuntry Made Entertainment and my cousin Donovan Vigil, who went by D-Boi, along with other friends, made music together. Learning percussion early on made the beat easy to work with, but the lyrics are what drew me to create," he says.

Graduating from Questa High School in 2006, Don P went on to attend the University of New Mexico for a couple of years, majoring in graphic design,



Courtesy Photo

Gerald 'Don P' Henderson

where he mostly studied art. Ultimately, he decided to pursue a career in carpentry, and has worked with 5 Star Remodeling for 17 years, using his creativity to make beautiful, custom cabinets for homes and businesses in the Taos area.

While his job allows him to use his natural-born talent to make a living, he says it's given him the ability to create a life he loves, creating original rap albums using his creative genius to relate to listeners across New Mexico and Colorado.

Don P is currently a solo musician and has performed at venues throughout central New Mexico, including

HALL OF FAME cont'd on page 28

The Life and Impact of Johnny James Gonzales

By Contributing Writer
MERCY ALARID

On September 10, 2023, Pastor Johnny James Gonzales passed away after a long battle with cancer.

When Johnny was 17 years old, a prophetic word was spoken over his life. Nineteen years after this dream was divinely planted in his heart, this dream came to pass. In 2017, he and his wife Kristi moved their young children to Questa and planted a “life-giving church.”

Johnny James Gonzalez was a great friend, brother, and pastor to many people. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing and camping. According to his mom, Johnny always excelled in academics. Johnny participated in the spelling bee for five years, from third grade until he was in the eighth grade. In 1994, he won first place in the state spelling bee contest; former New Mexico Governor Bruce King wrote to congratulate him for this feat. He went on to compete at the national level. Johnny was very smart and had a way with words. In 1998, he graduated from Questa High School, the same school that his son Izziah is now attending.

Johnny completed his associates degree in general studies at the University of New Mexico, and later became a licensed journeyman electrician. In 2004, he married Kristi Vialpando and together they formed a family and made a life in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Even early in their life, as they started their family when they only had two children, Izziah and Micah, they strongly maintained that they were done having kids. It was “TWO AND NO MORE”... and then there were FIVE; Izziah, Micah, Mariah, Zachariah, and Hezekiah.

Johnny was very generous with anyone he met. He gave lavishly and sacrificially, time and time again. Those who knew Johnny well knew that he had many victories, trials, and dreams — lots of dreams. Most of them involved our small community of Questa.

Johnny’s business, Double Eagle Electric of New Mexico, was very successful and both Johnny and Kristi were fruitful in ministry in Albuquerque; but in their hearts, they pined for Questa. Questa was their promised land. Johnny shared many of his dreams with those closest to him over the years, but there are two that could be distinctly remembered by some.

Johnny and Kristi always felt a calling



Courtesy Photo

Johnny and Kristi Gonzales with their five children

to go back to Questa. He and Kristi wanted to pastor a church there; he had dreamed and prayed about it for 19 years. Johnny gave up a lot for his promised land. He gave up income. Clientele. Convenience. Comfort. He gave up not one, but two beautiful homes, to live in Questa. He downsized every time. First to a smaller home in Albuquerque and then to a tiny parsonage next to Freedom Center. They lived there for a few years before moving into their current home. Johnny was diagnosed with cancer and even when he got sick and he could have received better treatment in Albuquerque or Santa Fe, he chose to continue his life here because he loved Questa. He loved his family. He loved his church.

A few years after moving back to Questa, Johnny and Kristi would become lead pastors of their church and changed the name to Freedom Center. His dream of protecting and providing for Questa came to pass and continues with Kristi at the helm of the church.

The second dream to be remembered is the dream of starting a community center that would serve the youth of

Questa and give them a place to play sports, have fun, and be loved. That one has not come to pass yet, but be assured, it will come to pass, because as Johnny knew, God’s promises never fail. Some in our lifetime and others through our lifeline.

The number nineteen (19) has been a significant number for Johnny:

1. He waited 19 years to pastor a church in Questa.
2. Johnny was diagnosed with cancer in 2019.
3. When he died, he was in room 219.
4. He took his last breath at 4:19 a.m.
5. He was married to Kristi for 19 years.

Johnny was laid to rest on September 19, and just like that the number 19 went from being significant in Johnny’s earthly life to being significant to many in this community today.

Johnny died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar. Johnny, even though he died, still speaks loudly through his faith. His faith still speaks and it will continue speaking through his children, his church, and his Questa community. Johnny lived a life



Courtesy Photo

Johnny Gonzales

of service. Serving his community, his friends, his family. Whether it meant giving out clothes and food to people or praying with a grieving father at El Pueblito Cemetery; he was here to serve. He also prioritized serving and honoring veterans and fathers with special breakfasts and prayers.

I know today many young people in particular are being moved to make a decision to follow Jesus. I echo Johnny and Kristi’s prayers and plead with you to honor Johnny’s memory by saying yes to Jesus.



Excellence In Economic Development

By LYNN SKALL

The Questa Economic Development Fund has invested millions of dollars in community projects since its inception in 2008. Committed to help strengthen and grow the long-term economic vitality of the Questa area, the nonprofit is governed by a board of five trustees, with day-to-day operations administered by a paid director, recently recognized by the State.

On Tuesday, September 12, QEDF Director Lynn Skall was awarded the New Mexico Economic Development Organization Certification at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development. The certification is earned by demonstrating success in specific economic development programming, events, and activities, along with a three-hour interview with community leaders.

Luis Reyes, CEO of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, talked about the work being done on the green hydrogen production facility in partnership with QEDF, the Village, and Chevron. He added, "Questa is fortunate to have a dedicated economic development director; Lynn ensures that Questa is part of the regional conversations and part of the teams working on the economic development solutions."

Board Chair Malaquias Rael spoke of the many initiatives that QEDF has accomplished around business support services, tourism, workshops, networking, and community communications. "The welding lab, and other sponsored classes at the high school, enable our youth to learn a skill they can use immediately upon graduation. It is our goal to have our kids stay in our community and work where they live."

The QEDF projects and operations are funded through annual contributions from the Chevron Mining Co. Many of the goals identified in the 2015 Questa Economic Development Strategic Plan have been explored, accomplished, or are still in the works, such as the development of the Agricultural Co-op and the area-wide Acequia Asso-



Courtesy Photo

From left to right: QEDF board member Louis Herrera, QEDF Executive Director Lynn Skall, and QEDF board member Brent Jaramillo accept the award for excellence

ciation, both currently being proposed to help protect local land and water, and safeguard these cultural traditions.

Additional funding is received through grants for specific projects, such as the Questa Business Center currently being developed, support for the *Questa del Rio News*, Questa "New Mexico True" out-of-state advertising, advancement of outdoor recreation attractions, including the Questa to Red River Trail, and proposed trails and climbing in Largo Canyon.

"It is humbling to be recognized as an organization that is working tirelessly to serve Questa and its surrounding communities. This could only be possible with the leadership of the QEDF board of directors and its partners who truly believe that Questa and its people are truly authentic. I would be remiss if I did not recognize Lynn Skall for moving this organization to new heights. Lynn has been a catalyst like her predecessors to move us forward," says Chairman Malaquias Rael.

QEDF works with the Village of Questa, providing matching funds for capital improvements, and special projects like the business park that is ready to welcome new businesses. All QEDF

funding is leveraged to maximize its value and investment in the community.

Direction for QEDF initiatives is led by a five-member board, which includes a non-voting fiscal trustee and Chevron representative. At the September 5, 2023 board meeting, each of the current five board members were reappointed to their seats for 3- or 5-year terms. (See the sidebar for a list of board members.)

The QEDF board meets monthly on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m., in person at the Questa Visitor Center and also via Zoom. The community is welcome to attend.

Director Skall invites residents and businesses to get involved and get in touch, "We encourage the Questa community to share their feedback and ideas with us around economic development and the projects we're working on. Our board meetings are open, and our board members are approachable — let us know what questions or suggestions you have for the QEDF."

For more information and to get in touch, contact Director Skall at lynn@questaedf.com, or leave a message at (575) 586-2149; email Chair Rael at mvr@questaedf.com.

QEDF Voting Board Members

MALAQUIAS RAEL, JR.,
Chair, mvr@questaedf.com

BRENT JARAMILLO,
Village of Questa council representative,
vice chair/treasurer

JOHN ORTEGA,
Questa mayor

MARCUS RAEL, JR.,
Legal counsel

LOUIS HERRERA,
Member-at-large

Non-Voting Board Representatives

GABE HERRERA,
Chevron representative

MICHAEL GAILLOUR,
Fiscal trustee

QEDF Monthly Board Meetings

DATE: First Monday of the month

TIME: 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Questa Visitor Center, 1 Hwy 38

For an agenda or to join via zoom:

Email in advance to confirm: lynn@questaedf.com
(Times and days can vary.)



Jose Lovato

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Being raised in a community where your history connects to every part of your present, it is 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 those who have pursued lives outside of the community – through our Representando series. This series is dedicated to those who are Representando communities in northern Taos County, in various facets of life.

For our October series, we interviewed Costilla native Jose Lovato. Jose graduated from Questa Junior/Senior High School in 2003. Upon graduation, he immediately moved to Denver with his now-wife Danielle (Rael) Lovato so he could attend college. “My first daughter was born when I finished school, so I was on a fast track to get my degree so I could start working and providing for my family,” Jose recalls.

He attended the ITT Technical Institute in Denver where he obtained his electrical engineering degree in three years. He became an engineer and project manager in Denver and he and his family lived there for ten years. Having worked for Fortune 500 companies, Jose’s family was on an upward trajectory, until suddenly it came to a screeching halt in 2010. “The tech bust happened and many of us working in this industry were laid off. There were no jobs, it was a scary time for me, with a family to provide for,” he says.

Returning home after living in the city is not an easy thing to do for many, however, Jose found himself returning out of necessity to sell wood to make ends meet. It was then that home provided more opportunities for his family’s future. He was able to make connections with Luis Reyes, the CEO of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative in Taos.

While Jose didn’t have much experience with fiber optics, his engineering background proved that skills translate.

“I remember when I met with him, he told me ‘if you can get fast internet to Amalia and Costilla, then I know we can reach rural areas, and I know Taos will be an easy project for you.’ I knew I could do it, and that’s what I did.”

Having grown up in a time when on-line access was the dial-up 30 seconds to a minute-long wait, Jose knew firsthand the importance of having fast-speed internet in rural communities, and how impactful that could be for younger people who utilize the internet for educational purposes.

He is proud to say that Amalia was the first location Kit Carson provided fast internet to through this project.

Working his way up through the cooperative, Jose has now been with Kit Carson for 13.5 years and currently serves as general manager of the internet.

Seeing the impact his work has made on local communities that have historically been marginalized and forgotten in the forefront of progress, Jose finds pride knowing his work contributed to providing access and inclusion to communities just like the one he grew up in.

“It’s great to see what we’ve done over the past nearly 14 years. My parents used to stay away from computers and now, I can’t get my dad off the computer sometimes,” he says as he laughs.

His work is not done. While he is working to reach more rural communities in the northern areas of the state to bring additional access, he is also working to grow the opportunities for education integration and career advancement with the work currently being done at Kit Carson Cooperative.

“I have been working with the Santa Fe Community College to help us get certifications for guys who have worked in the field who didn’t go to college but have the skills to do the work,” he says.

In addition to his work at Kit Carson, Jose also serves on the Questa Independent School Board, Credit Union Board of Directors, and is the Mariachi Booster Club President.

“In my work with the school board, I am working to get the public education department (PED) to recognize internships with Kit Carson as school curriculum, not only for Questa students but for Penasco and Taos kids, too,” Jose says.

Jose was elected in 2013 to the school board. At that time, the school had been taken over by the PED. It was a tumultuous time for Questa Independent



Courtesy Photo

Jose Lovato

Schools. This didn’t scare him away, but instead motivated him to work to make meaningful changes to help the school district get back on track.

“There was a lot to learn when I joined the board. I am grateful I had leaders like Bernie Torres, who showed me the ropes of navigating politics while pushing forward for meaningful change,” he says.

He is proud to say that the school is in much better standing today than ever before. Many of the programs which were lost — including welding, home economics, and woodshop — have been reintroduced as electives.

When asked what the main contributions to the downfall of the school were, he attributes much of it to the instability of the leadership. “We had so much turnover with superintendents and principals who were using Questa as stepping stones or who weren’t invested in our mission to serve our students. With that instability, it will eventually trickle down and that’s what happened. We are so grateful we have a long-term superintendent who is now invested in

our students,” Jose says.

When asked what the future holds, Jose says he is focused on maintaining his busy life and involvement for as long as he is able.

Jose and Danielle recently joined the co-ownership of the Questa Wildcats Den, where his wife manages back-end operations. Together, they have three children: two daughters and one son. Their eldest daughter is a college student, in her second year at the University of New Mexico MD program where she is studying to be an anesthesiologist. Their other daughter is a sophomore at Questa High School, and their son is a second-grader at Alta Vista Elementary School.

When asked how he is able to serve his community in such a meaningful way, Jose makes no hesitation in raising up his wife Danielle and their children, who have been his support and anchor through the years. “I couldn’t be involved and give as much as I do if it wasn’t for them. My wife makes me a better person every single day and I do everything I do for my family,” he says.

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Village of Questa Rehires Lobbying Firm to Help the Village Reach Fiscal Goals at Legislature



By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Village of Questa has approved a contract with Robert Romero and Associates LLC for a second year for professional services related to lobbying for the upcoming New Mexico legislative session. The contract states that the lobbying firm will be compensated at \$3,333.33 per month, \$40,000 per year.

Questa del Rio News obtained a copy of the Village of Questa's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) for fiscal years 2025-2029.

The ICIP is a planning tool administered through the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration for capital outlay requests administered for periods of five years. Although the ICIP is not a funding source, it does include information in each project for state and federal funding opportunities. The ICIP for the

Village of Questa was passed on July 25, 2023, along with a contract for professional lobbying services.

2025

- Sewer system improvements, \$4,500,000
- Cabresto Road improvements, \$1,050,538 (\$1,279,939 funded to date)
- Embargo Road improvements, \$950,209 (\$200,200 funded to date)
- New and replacement water lines, \$150,000
- Water system improvements, \$2,500,000 (\$141,831 funded to date)
- New Fire Department building, \$3,500,000
- Install and update sewer lines, \$500,000 (\$2,300,357 funded to date)
- Ambulance emergency vehicle, \$375,000
- Questa Rodeo grounds, \$437,500
- Water rights purchase, \$100,000 (\$27,828 funded to date)
- Green hydrogen facility, \$5,000,000
- Animal control program, \$200,000
- La Ciénega demolition, \$750,000
- Questa skatepark, \$40,000
- Lower Embargo Road improvements, \$510,462 (\$73,599 funded to date)
- Old Llama Road improvements, \$997,889

- Public Works HVAC vehicle, \$75,000 (\$290,000 funded to date)
- Questa Convention Center, \$300,000
- Rehabilitation/reconstruction bridge #8532, \$764,000 (\$534,000 funded to date)
- Shirley Road improvements, \$151,655 (\$80,000 funded to date)
- Library improvements, \$125,000 (\$75,000 funded to date)
- Police Department vehicles, \$300,000
- Fire Department pumper truck and equipment, \$812,500
- Questa Municipal NR 2 Airport rehab, \$750,000

2026

- Sewer system improvements, \$500,000
- New and replacement water lines, \$3,850,000
- Water rights purchase, \$150,000
- Green hydrogen facility, \$5,000,000
- Animal control program, \$50,000
- La Ciénega demolition, \$1,000,000
- Questa skatepark, \$818,750
- Questa Convention Center, \$5,000,000
- Questa Municipal NR 2 Airport rehab, \$1,500,000
- Administration building improvement, \$750,000
- South Kiowa bridge 8609 replacement,

- \$1,875,000
 - Recreation facility improvements, \$1,250,000
 - Regional trail project, \$165,000
- ## 2027
- Install and update sewer lines, \$1,500,000
 - Ambulance emergency vehicle, \$375,000
 - Water rights purchase, \$100,000
 - Regional trail project, \$1,000,000
 - Veterans Park improvements, \$106,250
 - Municipal Park improvements, \$1,000,000
 - Police Department safety improvements, \$800,000
 - Senior Center property improvements, \$2,225,000
 - Youth Center parking improvements, \$575,000
 - New water storage tank, \$1,115,000
 - Sidewalks and trails in Questa, \$1,203,000
 - Judicial Complex renovation, \$1,250,000
- ## 2028
- Water rights purchase, \$50,000
 - Regional trail project, \$710,000

Village of Questa Passes Budget for FY 2023-24

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Questa del Rio News obtained a copy of the Village of Questa's budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. See the budget summary below. The budget was passed as Resolution No. 2023-2027, entitled "Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Adoption," on July 25, 2023.

General Operating Fund

Cash Assets: \$1,300,334.17

Revenues: \$1,324,747

- Local taxes: \$767,187
- State taxes: \$413,400
- Licenses & permits: \$4,455
- Charges for services: \$10,225
- Fines & forfeits: \$2,100
- Miscellaneous revenues: \$27,380
- Intergovernmental grants: \$100,000

Expenditures (Governing Body): \$90,790

- Salaries & wages: \$44,400
- Employee benefits: \$7,562
- Travel costs: \$15,000

- Purchased property services: \$6,248
- Supplies: \$3,000
- Operating costs: \$14,580

Municipal Court: \$42,407

General administration: \$624,523

Elections: \$13,482

Law enforcement: \$661,624

Animal control: \$2,500

Library: \$89,536

Community centers: \$1,551,158

Corrections

- Assets: \$13,140
- Revenues: \$1,200
- Expenditures: \$3,000

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Assets: \$97,268
- Revenues: \$323,728
- Expenditures: \$537,312

Fire Protection

- Assets: \$29,888
- Revenues: \$84,279

Expenditures: \$94,279

Recreation

- Assets for \$12,539
- General operating costs for recreation: \$585
- Expenditures for parks & recreation: \$17,511

American Rescue Plan Act

Assets: \$93,611

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project

- Assets: \$37,500
- Expenditures: \$37,500

State Legislative Appropriation Project

- Assets: \$137,238
- Expenditures (Capital Purchases): \$115,000

Road/Street Projects

- Assets: \$217,548
- Expenditures: \$217,548

Water Enterprise

- Assets: \$66,201
- Revenues: \$351,500
- Water Utility/Authority expenditures: \$348,371

Solid Waste Enterprise

- Assets: \$37,500
- Revenues: \$290,048
- Solid Waste Utility/Authority expenditures: \$288,918

Wastewater/Sewer Enterprise

- Assets: \$65,583
- Revenues: \$196,552
- Wastewater Utility/Authority expenditures: \$198,795

Airport Enterprise

- Assets: \$3,349
- Expenditures: \$17,382

Motor Vehicle

- Revenues: \$30,000
- Expenditures: \$80,246

Water Rights

- Assets: \$27,829
- Revenues: \$5,000

Total Funds

- Assets: \$2,214,125.00
- Revenues: \$2,771,994.00
- Expenditures: \$3,666,125.00

Tax Increases in Village of Questa?

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Questa Village Council meeting on September 12 featured proposals for a potential 2 percent increase in the municipal gross receipts tax (GRT) as well as a 5 percent increase to lodgers tax, as methods to increase revenue for the Village.

The current GRT rate for the Village sits at 8 percent. The primary purpose of the proposed GRT increase is to improve funding for the Village Public Safety Department

Village Administrator and Finance Director Karen Shannon explained that she wrote the draft proposal for a 2 percent GRT increase because that is the maximum increase the Council can implement on their own without approval from the public; any higher increase must be reviewed and approved by the public.

Mayor John Ortega argued that a 2 percent increase in the GRT might be too harsh on residents and suggested lowering it by one percentage point. The Council seemed to be in agreement. The Council expressed gratitude for the draft of the lodger's tax, saying it is needed.

A recording the September 12 Village Council meeting is available at the *Questa del Rio News*' Facebook page at following URL: <<https://bit.ly/3ZoBtrJ>>.



Karen Shannon

Courtesy Photo

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\$10,000 Costilla Neighborhood Association.

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

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New Mexico Governor Declares State of Emergency over Gun Violence, Federal Judge Blocks Order

By AUSTIN FISCHER,
MEGAN GLEASON,
The SourceNM

New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed an executive order in early September saying gun violence in the state “constitutes a statewide public health emergency of unknown duration.”

The order issued on September 8 encourages local mayors and sheriff’s offices to ask for “an emergency proclamation and implementation of temporary additional restrictions” under the state

Riot Control Act.

“To my fellow citizens: get loud. Step up. Demand change: from your neighbors, from your friends, from your communities, from your elected leaders,” Lujan Grisham said in a news release. “Enough is enough.”

This state law gives the governor numerous emergency powers, including the ability to outlaw the possession of firearms or any other deadly weapon outside someone’s home or business, except for police.

There were at least 2,090 shootings in New Mexico between 2014 and 2022,

killing 1,323 people and injuring 1,280, according to data collected from media, police, and other sources by the non-profit Gun Violence Archive.

The governor’s order also invoked the Public Health Emergency Response Act and the All Hazard Emergency Management Act. It directs the state departments of health, homeland security, and public safety to coordinate with her office “to provide an effective and coordinated response.”

On September 13, a federal judge in Albuquerque issued a ruling to temporarily stop the parts of the public

health order issued by New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham that banned the possession of firearms in public settings.

U.S. District Judge David Urias issued the ruling from the bench Monday after hearing from multiple groups who sued in five different civil lawsuits. Urias did not rule on parts of the public health order related to drug use and monitoring, or suspending the state-run program to help minors accused of crimes avoid juvenile prison.

This is a developing story. Visit the sourcennm.com for continued updates.

Federal Government to Conduct Emergency Test in October

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Don’t stress, it’s just a test! The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will be conducting emergency tests across the country for phones, televisions, and radios on Wednesday, October 4.

The tests will happen in two portions. You can expect to see tests on cell phones right around 12:15 p.m. The tests will alert cell phones, very similar to Amber Alerts. There is no reason to take action or be worried, as it’s just a test.

The second series of tests will deploy right around 12:20 p.m. and will be streamed on televisions and broadcasted

across radios. The testing should conclude by 12:30 p.m.

FEMA and the FCC have noted that they will not deploy the tests if there is an actual disaster occurring at any point on Wednesday, October 4, to ensure people don’t confuse test alerts with actual warning information. If the tests are postponed, the backup date has been

designated for October 11 in the same time frame.

The tests are happening to make sure federal emergency management coordinators can ensure the national alert system is still an effective way to warn Americans about emergencies, natural catastrophes, attacks, and accidents at the national level.

SENIOR MENU: OCTOBER 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Breaded Cod w/ lemon, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw w/ dressing, Wheat Roll, Banana	3 Cheese Tortellini w/ Meaty Marinara Italian Veggies, Tossed salad w/ light Italian dressing, Wheat roll, Cantaloupe and Grapes	4 Pepper Steak, Peppers and onions brown rice, Stir Fry Vegetables, Pineapple	5 Cobb Salad w/Bacon, Light Ranch Dressing, WW Crackers, Fruit salad	6 Swedish Meatballs, Egg Noodles, Peas Spinach Salad w/ Light Raspberry Vinaigrette, Wheat Roll, Spiced peaches
9 Closed Indigenous Peoples Day	10 Sweet & Sour Pork, Brown Rice, Asian Veggies, Vegetable Egg Roll, Mandarin Oranges	11 Chicken Fettuccine, Cauliflower and Broccoli, Garlic Bread stick, Apple slices	12 Red Chile Beef Enchiladas, Pinto Beans Tossed Salad w/ light Italian Dressing, Orange	13 Chicken Fried Chicken Breast, LS Chicken Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Asparagus, Wheat Roll, Plums
16 Polish Sausage, Sauerkraut, Parsley, Potatoes, Carrots, Wheat Roll, Pears, Vanilla Nonfat Greek Yogurt	17 3Chicken & Rice Casserole, Broccoli Spears w/ Red bell pepper, Tossed Salad w/light Italian Dressing, Wheat Roll, Fruit Cocktail	18 Beef Burrito Supreme, Spanish Rice Calabacitas, Diced Mango	19 Baked Chicken in Mushroom Sauce Tomato Wedges, Lemon Herb Orzo Wheat Roll w/ butter, strawberries	20 Turkey Roast, Yams, Vegetable Medley Wheat Bread w/ margarine, Fruit Salad
23 Fish Sandwich w/ Tartar Sauce, California Veggies w/Dressing Sorbet w/Berries	24 Teriyaki Chicken, Brown Rice Stir fry veggies w/ snap peas, Fortune Cookie, Wheat roll, Mandarin Oranges	25 Lean Beef Fajita, Peppers and Onion Wheat tortilla, Refried Beans, Salsa Roasted Zucchini, Mixed Fruit	26 Salisbury Steak w/Brown Gravy, baked sweet potato w/ margarine, chives, Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Wheat Roll, Watermelon	27 Tuna Salad, Beets, Cold Peas, Crackers Banana in Gelatin
30 Red Chile Cheese Dog, Three Bean salad, Roasted Cauliflower, Orange	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN! Turkey Sandwich, Pasta salad, Baby Carrots & Celery Sticks, Tropical Fruit		Taos County Senior Program (575) 737-8927 PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE	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.

RR MAYORAL RACE cont'd from page 1

time to develop relationships in Santa Fe and in Washington DC that will benefit our town. There are so many funding resources available to municipalities right now, but it is difficult for a small community to navigate through the red tape. With my experience and proven track record I am confident that I am the person to continue leading Red River into the future.

Michael Nail

Why are you running to be Mayor of Red River, New Mexico?

I am running for mayor because I have been in a leadership position since the age of 21, from owning and running a successful business to also being a city fire chief. I believe that with my experience and leadership skills I bring new energy and new ideas to town so we can take the next steps forward.

I am in a unique position to be able to dedicate as much time as it takes to the job. I absolutely love Red River and the community. I grew up in a small town but have never been part of a community that is so passionate about their town. I know that together we can and will make a difference.

What do you think are the most important issues that need to be addressed in Red River today?

Workforce housing is one of the biggest issues we face today. Businesses in town are all understaffed, mostly due to no affordable housing or no available

housing. The town has also approved multiple large infrastructure projects that are coming up over the next year, a few have already started. With my experience and availability I will be able to manage these projects at maximum efficiency. This will cut down on delays and inconveniences to businesses. Red River businesses must capitalize on revenue during the busy seasons to be able to operate throughout the year. I will make sure that happens with the right project management.

Why do you think you can do a better job than incumbent Mayor Linda Calhoun?

Number one for me will be better communication and transparency because that's what builds trust in the community. I will utilize all means of social media, email, the town's text messaging system, videos, and personal visits to individuals and businesses to make sure we get the communication out to the public. All communications will be done in a timely manner, not last second. We will be more transparent than ever. Nothing will be hidden from the public!

I have researched different towns in New Mexico to see what they are doing. Farmington's website has everything one could possibly want for town transparency – links to budgets, town projects, public information requests, and phone numbers/emails for the mayor and all the council members. Also, I do not own a business in town, so therefore, I have no hidden interests. Every business and resident will have the same level of

importance. Another huge benefit in the town's favor is that I can put in a regular 40-hour work week every week. If there is a week when I must put in 60 to 80 hours because that's what it takes, I have the available time. I don't have to worry about opening and running a personal business every day in addition to being mayor. I can dedicate 100 percent of my time and focus to the Town of Red River. I will use my management skills to leverage the town's current employees and bring out the best of their talents so they can succeed. I will also utilize and listen to all the town's committees to bring out new ideas.

The mayor is not just one person running the show; I will empower the whole town. I want the entire community to be involved as much as possible. Doing that will propel us to take the next steps forward as a town to set up the next generation for success.

Robert Swan

Why are you running to be Mayor of Red River, New Mexico?

Red River has been my home for the past 35 years. I am currently 58 years old and when I was in my 20s I spent a lot of time traveling around the world. I told myself that if I ever found a place better than Red River, I would move there. I never found that place. Obviously, Red River is a beautiful place, but what makes it special is the people and the community we have; it is like no other. The people are so supportive of one another and continually work together for the betterment of the community.

I attribute much of my personal success in family, business, and life in general directly to this community.

At this point in my life, I feel it is simply time to start giving back in the greatest capacity I can, which is why I am running for mayor.

What do you think are the most important issues in Red River today?

Red River, like all towns, has issues that through time must be dealt with. Our current issues revolve around off-highway vehicle use, housing, and improving communication between the city and the residents, among other things. In regards to current and future issues (which are inevitable), the goal is always to strive for resolutions that will retain and enhance the lives of our residents.

Why do you think you can do a better job than incumbent Mayor Linda Calhoun?

Linda Calhoun has been the Mayor for a very long time. I believe in giving credit where credit is due and our town has prospered in part due to her leadership. However, at this point in time, I strongly believe it is time for a change. I have a very different approach to doing things. I have brought a start-up company to a market leading position in a relatively short period of time due to my leadership skills, use of technology, abundant energy, and vision of what our future could look like. I will bring these same attributes to the job of mayor if elected.

LOR Foundation Helps Create A Student Success Space

By Contributing Writer
JAY BOUCHARD

Over the past several years, students in Questa had to deal with stay-at-home orders, online learning, and ultimately returned to the classroom to find the world permanently altered by a global pandemic. It's no wonder, then, that students have been experiencing higher levels of stress and anxiety. Those feelings of anxiety were deepened this past summer by violent events that shook their community.

Now that school is back in session, school counselors in Questa have seen an uptick in students requesting mental

health resources and, in many cases, looking for a safe place to express their emotions. Students have sought out one counselor in particular at the high school, in whom they feel comfortable confiding — and she has wanted to create a space where students can feel welcome, work on their assignments independently, and gather themselves before returning to the classroom.

The space, though, did not have many amenities to help students cope. She reached out to Maria Gonzalez at the LOR Foundation over the summer and explained her vision. With a grant

from LOR, the Questa Independent School District was able to purchase a variety of items to transform this into a student-success space. Those items included floor lamps, bean bag chairs, a star projector, art supplies, adult coloring books, weighted blankets, sensory toys, and more.

"Kids in our community have been through so much recently," Gonzalez says. "LOR listened to the counselors at the schools, and we knew this type of solution could help address issues of mental health among high-schoolers in Questa."

Supporting the health and safety of students is something Gonzalez cares deeply about, and she's eager to hear more ideas from Questa residents about how LOR could help improve the quality of life for all of the community's residents. If you have an idea you'd like to share with Maria, she is hosting open houses (with coffee!) at her office (62 Highway 38) from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on October 3, 10, 17, and 24. She would love for you to stop by and share an idea. You can also reach out to her directly at maria@lorfoundation.org or by phone at (575) 665-2001.

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Come on Down to the 35th Annual Questa Cambalache on October 1

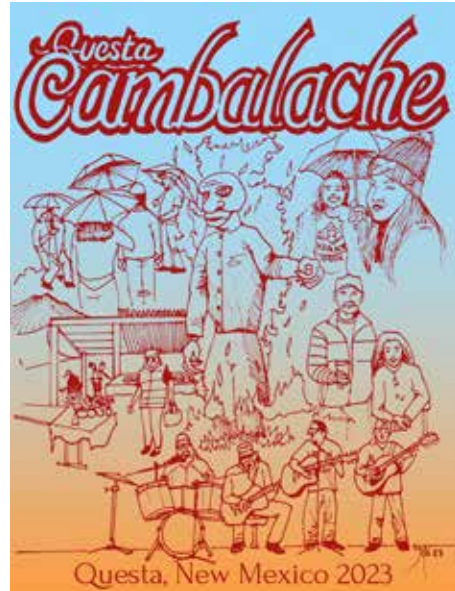
By STAFF WRITERS

The 35th annual Questa Cambalache festival will take place on Sunday, October 1 at the Questa Farmer's Market - Visitor Center site. There will be local vendors booths to visit (and support), and great live music to listen to from local musicians as the community comes together, in anticipation of burning the traditional Cucui.

Cambalache began as a harvest festival (like many cultures around the world) among native peoples and later with their colonizers. The word cambiar means small-scale bartering in villages or trading places. The Village of Questa's annual fall harvest festival celebrates this ancient tradition and combines it with another, the burning of Cucui. There are many names for burning man — Zozobra, Coco, or Coca, and there are many spellings and pronunciations, such as Cucuy, Cucu, Cuca, Cucu.

Mr. Cucui is a mean guy, like a scarecrow. He is made of old clothes stuffed with straw, and a papier-mâché head. In his lap he holds a box labeled penas that people write down on pieces of paper, expressing their sorrows and fears. If it's true that Cucui is a bogeyman, we shouldn't hold that against him — he carries all those heavy burdens and brings them to the festival. So, although he is not the perfect party guest, he is the guy who will take all your worries away.

Attending the celebration is free, but we encourage locals to patronize local vendors at the event.



Schedule of Events

10-11 a.m.

Michael Rael and Friends

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Marty Martinez

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Billy and Johnny Archuleta & QHS Mariachi Band

1:30 - 2 p.m.

Ballet Dancers

2 - 2:45 p.m.

Frito Pie Eating Contest

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

Lorenzo Martin Martinez

4 - 5 p.m.

Los Blue Healers

5 p.m.

Burn Cucui



Courtesy Photo

Locals gather in 2021 for the burning of the Cucui in 2021

18 Years of Oktoberfest Celebrations in Red River



Courtesy Visit Red River

By STAFF WRITERS

Red River's annual Oktoberfest celebration is returning for its 18th year. Event-goers can expect to celebrate amongst the best craft beer, wine, spirits, artisans, and food vendors from across the state.

The three-day event will include live entertainment and contests, including a mustache competition to

make for a fun family-friendly weekend. The event has expanded to include a kid zone for children to play.

The event will be from October 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and October 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Brandenburg Park in Red River. Tickets start at \$15.

To purchase your event glasses, shirts, or tickets, visit <https://tinyurl.com/RROktoberFest>

Concert Raises Money for Local Acequia Associations

By STAFF WRITERS

The second annual local fundraising concert for northern New Mexico acequia associations, Dia de Las Acequias del Norte, was held on Saturday, September 9, at Molycorp Field in Questa, New Mexico.

Musicians included Darren Cordova y Calor, the Dwayne Ortega Band, Los Blue Healers, Hartless, and the UZ Band — to name a few performers from northern New Mexico communities.

Over 250 people attended the concert, while people listened to traditional rancheras by local musicians from around the Questa area.

The Questa Cheer Team was also in attendance, completing community service during the concert, helping at the Questa Fire and EMS' hamburger stand to benefit local first responders.

Tickets were sold at \$10 per person, raising \$2,660 for the local acequia associations in northern Taos County.



Photo by E. Wilde

Dia de Las Acequias del Norte Concert, Sept 9, 2023 in Questa

Firefighters Train to Increase Readiness to Respond in Northern Taos County

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

Over 70 men and women from 11 different localities gathered for an annual firefighter training exercise, from September 15 through September 17.

The fire departments of Latir, Carson, Taos, Costilla, Moreno Valley, Taos Ski Valley, Taos County, Rio Fernando, Dixon, Red River, and Sierra Benita Rincon participated, with command and general staff over 70 firefighters and two state fire marshals. They converged at a training site about five miles west of Red River, near a local water sanitation facility.

Raynelle Sanchez-Cordova was this year's Incident Commander, assuming the lead for the safety of 70 participants involved in the exercise. Kristina Ortez, Rita O'Connel from Martin Henrich's office, and Senator Roberto Bobby Gonzales were all in attendance to see what goes into the work it takes to prepare local responders.

According to public information officer jona olson, structures had been constructed at the site for simulations, allowing trainees to learn how to negotiate entry into buildings that are on fire. There is also a large tower for ladder

simulations. Trainees learn three distinct skills at this training: (1) how to roll out and handle firetrucks' water hoses; (2) how to control water movement; and (3) how to move in, out, and around fire, as well as effectively utilize a variety of fire extinguishers.

This September training is conducted annually with more than 450 firefighters having been trained since 2001.

Local fire departments are always looking to recruit new members. If you're interested in joining, contact your local fire department.

You're invited to Trunk or Treat!

By STAFF WRITERS

The Village of Questa is inviting the community to join in on the Trunk or Treat fun, Friday, October 27 from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Questa Business Park at 2638 US Highway 522. It's free to attend and visit participating vehicles. There will be games, treats, and prizes.

If you'd like to enter your vehicle to participate in the treating, contact Valerie Vigil at vvigil@villageofquesta.org or by phone at (575) 586-0694.



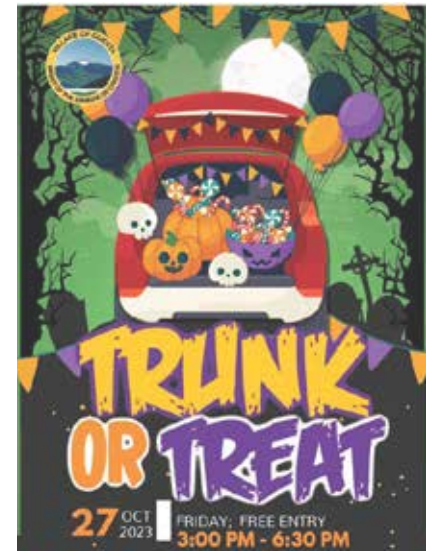
Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb

Firefighter is participating in extinguisher drill



Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb

Firefighters can be seen rolling hoses



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**QUESTA
CREATIVE
COUNCIL**



Perfect Weather for Painting and Appreciating the Outdoors

Aaah, finally the heat has broken. The last few years of warming summers have made it difficult for our area plein-air artists, working outdoors directly from nature, to continue their summer habits. Now, the beauty of autumn calls to our local artists.

One artist who loves this time of year is Judy Archuleta, of Cerro. Anyone who viewed her work at this past summer's Questa Art Tour would notice her love of color. "The flowers may be dying," Judy says, "but when the sky is so bright blue and ribbons of orange cottonwoods are running down the mountains beneath it, and the aspens are bursting with color — what could be more breathtaking?"

Judy always considered herself shy, but when she discovered art, it was a medium for self-expression that allowed her true self to shine. Judy was artistic even as a child, submitting sketches to newspaper contests when as young as age eight, though there was no budget for the luxury of art lessons in her hard-working family.

She lived in Texas briefly as a young adult, then returned to New Mexico to build a house and business in Taos in the 1970s. Pastels became her medium, since this media was less expensive and would not deteriorate due to lack of use, as she was busy juggling her time between artistic expression and raising three daughters.

The pastel drawings she posted at her business caught the eye of Taos pastel artist Ouray Meyers, who invited her to attend one of his private classes at which she learned many techniques to better her growing skills.

Judy returned to Cerro 20 years ago to tend to aging family members and grandchildren. She turned to painting more frequently, working now in oils and acrylics, capturing landscapes from the dramatic scenery of northern New Mexico, especially our sunsets. For a



Courtesy Photo

Autumn, by Judy Archuleta

time, she successfully marketed post-cards of the area.

Judy loves the outdoors, though often completes a painting back in her studio using photos as reminders. She does not work fast, but prefers to sit with a work and feel the direction its elements want to take. Often, she will add to a painting from memories of a time before the facts of a scene included decaying structures, for example. She may add a detail from another time or another location to fill a void in the balance of a painting.

Her work is still done around family obligations, though she feels now that she has come into her own and is painting the work she always dreamed of. Judy is always encouraged by the many seasons life brings and by the support of her faith. She works to record God's creation with her talents, and to bless those who view and display her art.

See more images of Judy's work at her Artist Profile Page on Questa Creative Council's website: [QuestaCreative.org/judy-archuleta/](https://www.questacreative.org/judy-archuleta/)

New: Ceramic Cafe begins!

The Questa Creative Council continues its Art for All series of informal classes and workshops at the Youth & Family Center with a new offering, called Ceramic Cafe. Beginning on October 19, the sessions will run Thursday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. weekly. This open studio will be led by Anna, a multi-talented artist of all things clay. Come and learn the basics or develop your skills in a friendly, fun, and informative setting. Ages 12 and up are welcome. All materials and tools will be provided. A suggested donation of \$5 per session will be much appreciated by the non-profit host! Find more info at [QuestaCreative.org](https://www.questacreative.org) or phone (575) 586-5658.

Shared Memories Through Textiles



Photo by Peggy Trigg

Quilt at Questa Library

By STAFF AT QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family history is often passed down through word of mouth, storytelling, or actual objects. You may remember your great-grandmother from a story your grandmother told you over dinner last Thanksgiving. Or maybe it was from that story your uncle told you while you were out fishing. Images and memories can also come from that photo on the wall or on the fireplace mantle. But often, those favorite memories come from textiles: a cherished quilt or set of hand-embroidered pillowcases. As long as you can feel or see these items, the memories stay alive.

Personally, my memories came from those special textiles. I love to rub my fingers over the little French knots and think of my great-grandmother making each one, so precious and caring. I like to picture her at the blue sewing table using her old featherweight Singer sewing machine to create that silly, but beautiful throw quilt. These are items that bring me back to my past.

These objects can be your home

and your heart. And you have stories to pass on, to share with your family and friends.

One way to do this is to display a textile to share: the Questa Public Library would like to offer you the opportunity to share your story. The library would love to display your historical quilt or other textile. We would love to hang the textile next to a photo or a written description or story of that special person. As some of you may know, we have three quilt-hanging bars that will safely and carefully hold your quilt. You can hang your quilt for as long as you like.

We typically change out the textile display when we are putting up a new art display. The next display, the Youth Art Display, will be hung in November. We will be having an opening on November 4, with food and music. We hope that you can join us by sharing a bit of your history or favorite memory at the Questa Public Library.

For more information, please stop by the library, or email Sharon at library@villageofquesta.org or Peggy at pegtrigg@gmail.com.



Photo by Peggy Trigg

Be Part of the Library Textile Display

Questa Local to be Featured at Taos Art Gallery

By STAFF WRITERS

This next First Friday, October 6, Questa visionary and modern mystic painter Maria Mikhailas will be featured in The Taos Artist Collective Gallery for the month, along with local artists Rosemary Ryan and Ken Pieper. The October First Friday Gallery Walk will be from 5 to 8 p.m.

Come see Maria's new work, newly and creatively framed by local Questa frame and furniture maker, 'Mose' Jerry Rainault, inspired by historic retablo framers. The gallery encourages the public to stop by to see all our more than 40 local artists' work.

About Maria Mikhailas

Throughout her life, Mikhailas' artistic expression has paralleled her spiritual journey, leading her to create images inviting contemplation or meditation. As a child, she knew she wanted to be an art-

ist. Her first formal training began when she was a fourteen-year-old exchange student in Mexico and took art classes at the Instituto Cultural in Guadalajara. Back in her hometown of Santa Barbara, California, Maria took advantage in high school of exploring watercolor with interior designer Jack Baker as well as taking classes with other local painters. But it was not until she stepped into the studio of Taos mystic artist Herman Rednick in 1970 that she knew she had found her direction and her mentor. Maria's studio is in El Rito/Latir north of Questa, and is a hub every year for 5 artists in the Questa Studio Tour.

About the Taos Artist Collective

The Taos Artist Collective gallery showcases regional artists in the disciplines of painting, watercolor, photography, sculpture, jewelry, and fiber arts. The gallery was originally founded as



Courtesy Photo

Angel of the Fir Trees, oil on canvas

the Enchanted Dreams Foundation and Antique Emporium to benefit children with autism. In 2009, the gallery was transformed into the Taos Artist Cooperative, and sits on the northwest corner of Kit Carson and Paseo del Pueblo Norte. Taos Artist Collective address is 106 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, Taos.



Courtesy Photo

La Santa Muerte, Lady of Compassion, giclee print on canvas

Kitchen Table Serves as Symbolic Centerpiece Exhibition

By STAFF WRITERS

A new Millicent Rogers Museum exhibition centers around the notion that artistic traditions and practices center around the kitchen table. According to the press release sent by the museum, "practices are passed on at kitchen tables – whether in a kitchen, in a classroom, in a yard, or at a church. The kitchen table takes form anywhere and everywhere as a meeting place and a place of learning, observation, exchange, and storytelling. It becomes the glue that gives meaning to artistic legacies that emerge from mentorships, friend-

ships, families, and loved ones."

The exhibition will feature 20 New Mexico artists that ground artistic mentorship in families and social circles as a sustainable cycle of legacy and stability. The exhibition will run from October 14, 2023, to January 24, 2024. It is sponsored by the National for the Arts Challenge grant.

Artists featured in this exhibition include:

- Michael Gorman (Diné/Navajo)
- Carl (C.N.) Gorman (Diné/Navajo)
- Zonnie Gorman (Diné/Navajo)
- Christopher Gorman (Diné/Navajo)

- Anthony Gorman (Diné/Navajo)
- Anita Rodriguez
- Shemai Rodriguez
- Margarita Paz-Pedro (Santa Clara Pueblo descent/Mexican-American)
- Nora Naranjo Morse (Santa Clara Pueblo)
- Charine Pilar Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)
- Barbara Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)
- Cavan Gonzales (San Ildefonso Pueblo)
- Eric Marcus (Taos Pueblo)
- Angie Yazzie (Taos Pueblo)
- Mercedes Montoya

- Jessica Herrera
- Jodie Herrera
- Dante Biss-Grayson (Osage)

The exhibition is guest curated by Michelle Lanteri, PhD, Curator of Collections, Albuquerque Museum.

Reception

Saturday, Oct. 14, 4 - 6 p.m., free admission

Meet the artists and enjoy refreshments. Kitchen Table Arts-in-Action Program Day: Sunday, Oct. 15, free admission

Good Luck Wildcats!

(575) 586-0423
questacreditunion.org

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2573 State Highway 522, Questa

Questa Ladycat Volleyball Team Sits First in the District

2023 MIDSEASON RECAP
AND LOOK AHEAD

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Questa Varsity Girls Volleyball team has started the season off well, with a 5-3 record, giving them the first place seat in the 2-A district. They started the season strong, with the first month of their season proving three wins over Cimarron and a win over Clayton, 3 sets to 0.

The Ladycats participated in the annual Cimarron Invitational Volleyball Tournament on Sept. 8-9, coming in with an impressive second-place finish.

The Ladycats are led by Juniors with Delilah Rael with 1.6 Kills Per Set and 39 Kills overall, Alianna Gonzalez with a .236 Hitting Percentage and 10 Total Blocks, Alyana Leon with 101 Assists. Junior Kiara Arellano has 36 digs and 19 kills Ashlynn Rael has a total of 10 total blocks this season. Sophomore Jocelyn Ortega is a strong team leader, ranking 10th in the state with a 3.9 ratio for digs per set with Alyana Leon ranking 28th with a 3.0 ratio for digs per set.

The Ladycats have four non-district games left this season before district play begins:

- Home against Coronado (Gallina), 5 pm, Tuesday, September 26.
- At Dulce, 4 pm, Saturday, September 30.
- Home against Dulce, 6 pm, Thursday, October 5.

Questa plays their first district game of the season at home against last year's district champions, Escalante, on Tuesday, October 10, at 6 p.m. The Ladycats finished 5-5 against their district opponents in the 2022-2023 season.

meanwhile the Ladycat JV team is showing a promising future, currently sitting 3-2 this season. Sophomore Ariana Medina holds the lead for serving 16 aces



Courtesy Dylan Crabb

Jocelyn Ortega (foreground) hits the ball while Amalia and Alianna Gonzalez, and Alyana Leon watch

so far this season and Jenae Dominguez averaging 1.3 digs per set per game.

Questa Wildcats Varsity Football Mid-Season Recap

By C.W. MARTIN

The Questa Wildcats varsity football team began the season with a tough schedule, playing three of their first four games on the road. After facing Clayton and Logan, the Wildcats' best game this season came on the road, in a 56-52 shoot-out loss against a very good Dulce Hawks team. All four of those games were against non-district opponents.

Questa is playing this season in an 8-man football structure with a promising future for the team, as their junior varsity team is undefeated with a 3-0 record.

The junior varsity team beat Clayton

34-6 and beat Logan 48-6. They shut out the McCurdy Bobcats from scoring at all, with a 28-0 win.

The Wildcats varsity team's remaining schedule has them playing against their district counterparts. Questa played a 2-2 Menaul Panthers (Albuquerque) Saturday, September 30 in Albuquerque. (Score not available at press time.) The varsity team's last home game of the season comes against a 1-4 Pine Hill Warriors (Pine Hill) team for their Homecoming Game on Saturday, October 7, at 4 p.m. This may be the Wildcats' best chance for their first win of the season.

In their season opener against Dulce,

Pine Hill lost 60-14 at home. The Wildcats played a much better game against that same Dulce team.

The varsity season finale comes against the Legacy Academy Silverbacks (Albuquerque), on Friday, October 13 at 6 p.m. in Albuquerque. In the two games against opponents that Questa has faced, Legacy Academy won 62-26 over the Clayton Yellowjackets and 34-30 over the Tatum Coyotes.

The Wildcats have much to look forward to in the remaining games of the 2023 schedule, as well as the next few seasons. Freshman quarterback Covo Cardenas, sophomore running back James



Licensed Photo

Wildcats in action

Allen and sophomore offensive lineman Joaquin Martinez are all eligible to return for the 2024-2025 season.

Questa Wildcats Varsity Soccer Mid-Season Recap

By C.W. MARTIN

The Questa Wildcats varsity soccer team has started the season 4-2. Despite beginning the season with four games on the road, the Wildcats came away with an impressive win over Santa Fe Prep JV 5-3 and a 1-0 shutout win over West Las Vegas.



Photo by Santana Santistevan

Questa won against Santa Fe Prep 3-1

The Wildcats soccer team is led in scoring by sophomore Alyse Lovato, with four goals and eight points overall. Sophomore Frank Palermo has scored two goals this season, and senior Nathaniel Rael has scored one. Senior Marcus Mascarenas leads the team with 0.5 assists per game. Sophomore Dedrick Rael has added 0.3 assists per game.

The Wildcats are currently fourth in the New Mexico Class A/3A District 5.

The Wildcats played their first home game against Santa Fe Prep on Saturday, September 23 and won 3-1. The team has a strong senior team with Seniors Issac Ortega, Ricardo Sanchez, and Antonio Romero leading the team game over game.

NFL Flag Football Clinic Returns to Northern New Mexico in October

By STAFF WRITERS

The SMART Sports NFL Flag Fundamentals football clinic is returning to northern New Mexico for a second year on October 20 and 21 at the

Questa High School football field. Both boys and girls ages 5 to 14 are eligible to participate. The clinic is free.

This year's coaches include former Dallas Cowboys player Demetric Evans and former Philadelphia Eagles

player Bobby Taylor. Participants will receive a free NFL flag football t-shirt. This event is sponsored by the Town of Red River and Chevron.

To register, call the Red River Visitors Center at (575) 754-3030.



QISD Suspends Part Of Sports Policy

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

The Questa Independent School District (QISD) Board voted to suspend the current policy regarding interscholastic sports. Superintendent John Maldonado told the Board that they still need approval from the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) to fully amend the policy.

At the start of the academic year, the QISD's policy on student athletics aligned with the policy of the New Mexico Athletics Association (NMAA) stating that junior varsity athletes could play up to varsity if desired and varsity athletes could play down if desired. However, parents expressed some frustration and the Board suspended the policy during the September 6 meeting.

QISD Athletic Director Ernie Griego, speaking with the *Questa del Rio News*, explained that the concern is likely over safety regarding younger students participating in a rough contact sport like American football.

The Questa News inquired of Athletic Director Griego about the need for a junior varsity team.

"There were a lot of parents that did want [a junior high team] because we had been doing youth football for many years prior to it so they kind of didn't want their kids sitting idle for two, three years," responded Griego. "I looked at the numbers... Last year we had 23 boys playing varsity, and then I had these youth kids coming up... Any time we're gonna have this junior high program, now's gonna be the time to try and have the numbers, and

build this program back up."

Griego further explained that he just wants to see young students stay active because it's difficult to keep kids active today.

The policy came in front of the QISD Board for the second time during their September 18 meeting as procedure dictates and there was another vibrant discussion amongst the Board members with a smaller spectating crowd. Superintendent Maldonado recommended a return to a more strict policy of keeping athletic teams with their corresponding grade levels next year. Board Vice-president Esequiel Romero wanted to go back to the stricter policy immediately.

"The policy has been a headache... 9th grade needs to play up, that's it," said Board Vice-president Romero.

Vice-president Romero and Board Member Jose Lovato expressed regret towards this policy and lamented that, whatever decision they come to tonight, it's not going to be a win. This policy seems to be dividing the community.

The eventual vote came down to 2-2 with Board President Jason Rael and Vice-President Romero in favor of reverting back to the more strict policy and Board Members Lovato and Juan Cisneros leaving the current policy in place. The tie vote means no action is taken and interscholastic sports remains in place. The issue can still be brought to the Board at a future meeting.

A recording of the September 18 meeting is available at the following URL: <https://bit.ly/3ELtYS4>.




Photo By Dylan R.N. Crabb

From left to right: Board Member Juan Cisneros, Board Secretary Michael Cordova, Board President Jason Rael, Board Vice President Esequiel Romero, and Board Member Jose Lovato



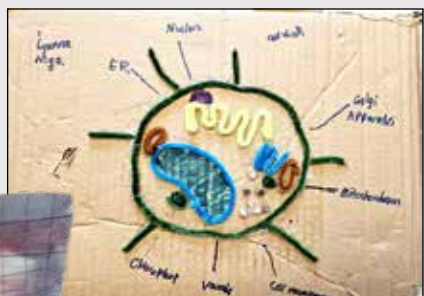
Photo By Dylan R.N. Crabb


Standing room only at the QISD board meeting




SPROUTINGS
Photos by John Walsh

Science Project: A Plant Cell







Shoe Drawing by Hayley C.




Drawing by Hayley C.

Science Project: Balloon Race Car







Questa Achievers Shine at Taos County Fair



Courtesy Photo

Jolene, Adrienne, and Allison waiting while their rabbits are being judged



By Contributing Writer DENISE WINSLOW-LAWRENCE

The Questa Achievers 4-H Group are the northernmost group in Taos county. The group has been busy this year with some fun arts and crafts projects and taking care of the animals they raised and showed at the Taos County Fair, with some qualifying to show in the State Fair!

The members are broken out into four groups, the Clover Buds, Novice, Junior, and Senior members. While the Cloverbuds, ages 5 to 8 years, are members of the group, they don't participate in showmanship competitions. While they don't compete, they can participate in raising and showing their animals, including rabbits or poultry. This year, two Cloverbuds showed poultry.

IT'S ENROLLMENT TIME FOR QUESTA 4-H!

4-H enrollment is open October 1, 2023 through February 1, 2024. Our local group, The Questa Achievers, welcomes youth ages 5 (in kindergarten) to 18 to join.

Contact Denise Winslow-Lawrence at (575) 200-9947 or the area-wide coordinator Monica Gonzales-Wilder at (575) 758-3982 for more information.

HERE'S A RECAP OF THE QUESTA KIDS WHO SHOWED AT THE TAOS COUNTY FAIR:

CLOVERBUDS

Cloverbuds, ages 5-8 years, are members of the group who don't compete, however they can participate in raising and showing their rabbits or poultry.

Jackson Ortega:Silver Laced Cochin Chicken

Jason P. Rael:Pekin Duck

The Novice, Junior, and Senior members of the group range from ages 9 to 18. They participate in showmanship competitions. Here's a recap of the Questa kids who participated in showmanship at the Taos County Fair and their awards:

POULTRY

Allison Segura: Pekin Duck2nd place

Amber Cote: Brahma Chicken.....2nd place

Amber Cote: Wyandotte Chicken.. 1st place, Best of Breed

Elijah Segura: Swedish Duck 1st place, Best of Breed

Jaylee Rael: Pekin Duck.....1st place, Best of Breed

Jeremiah Ortega: Silver Laced Cochin Chicken 1st place, Best of Breed

Jeremiah Ortega: Silver Laced Cochin Chicken ..2nd place

JT Radcliff: Bantam Call Duck..... 1st place

JT Radcliff: Bantam Call Duck6.....2nd place

RABBITS

Adrienne Rael: Mini Lop Senior Doe2nd place

Allison Segura: Mini Lop Senior Doe 1st place, Best of Breed, Reserve Grand Champion

Candice Stroback: Dutch Senior Buck 1st place, Best of Breed

Candice Stroback: Jersey Wooly Senior Buck1st place, Best of Breed Showmanship Award

Jolene Segura: Mini Lop Senior Buck..... 1st place

MARKET LAMBS

Bo Ortega: Lightweight.....5th place

Bo Ortega: Lightweight.....6th place

Diego Ortega: Lightweight.....2nd place

Mariana Ortega: Lightweight..... 1st place, Reserve Grand Champion. Showmanship award

Noah Rael: Lightweight.....4th place

MEAT GOAT

Jaylee Rael: Medium Lightweight.....4th place Medium Lightweight 5th place

OPEN GOAT

Adrienne Rae.....2nd place

INDOOR EXHIBITS

Allison Segura: Rabbit Exhibit poster 1st place Junior division

Candice Stroback: Rabbit Exhibit poster 1st place Senior division

JT Radcliff: Self-determined advanced photography..... 1st place

Unit 2 Photography Night Photography 1st place

Unit 2 Photography Good Composition 1st place

Unit 2 Photography Black and White with color 1st place

Unit 2 Photography Creative use of color 2nd place

Unit 3 Photography Action Photo 1st place

Unit 3 Photography Action Photo2nd place

Unit 3 Photography Shapes/Textures 1st place

Scrapbooking Questa Achievers..... 2nd place

Horticulture Produce Basket..... 1st place

Horticulture Floral Arrangement 1st place

Kingston Trujillo-Gist: Arts and Crafts Cyanotype photography3rd place

Creative Arts Buckle Bracelet 1st place

Creative Arts Leather Keychain 1st place

Creative Arts Leather Knife sheath 1st place

Several members of the Questa Achievers qualified to participate in the state fair exhibits. Below is a recap of the winners who qualified to show at a state level:

STATE FAIR EXHIBITS

Allison Segura: Rabbit Exhibit poster.....3rd place

Candice Stroback: Rabbit Exhibit poster..... 1st place

JT Radcliff 2:..... 1st place photography

1 - 2nd place photography

1 - 3rd place photography

1st place Fisheries poster

4 1st place Call Duck (4 different breeds)

Grand ChampionBantam Duck

Kingston Trujillo-Gist: 1st place Leatherwork keychain

1st placetiger knot bracelet



Courtesy Photo

Mariana auctioned her lamb with other members of the club helping out



Earthships

An Earthship is a passive solar home that is off the power grid and made of natural and recycled materials.

They originated in the 1970s, in Taos, New Mexico, created by architect Mike Reynolds, who refers to them as vessels, not houses.

An eco-conscious architect, Reynolds got inspired to make sustainable homes from upcycled trash and indigenous materials.

The results are some of the most beautiful, magical, organically flowing and uniquely sustainable homes on the planet.

It begins with digging in the dirt and ramming earth into old tires. Weighing up to 300 pounds and spanning almost three feet in diameter, the tires are load bearing and

fire resistant.

Further construction includes recycling bottles and cans as “bricks,” stacked with cement to make walls. South-facing windows illuminate and heat an indoor greenhouse where food can grow in any climate.

The roofs are designed to catch rainwater and snow, and collect it in cisterns, then filter it for use. Wind and sun produce the electricity.

Earthship Biotecture builds these autonomous homes around the world. They’ve organized global, sustainable, poverty relief projects.

They have an educational component, Earthship Academy, and you can buy building plans online.

Earthships are an extraordinary way to live in an extraordinary home that honors and gives back to our earth, instead of harming it.

This story brought to you by Arroyo Seco Live.

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Recycling Resumes in Taos County

By STAFF WRITERS

Taos County is accepting recyclables again at the Los Cordovas Transfer Station, located at 184 Los Cordovas Road, in Taos. The station is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Tuesday through Saturday. All Taos County residents are welcome to recycle at this location.

The following materials are eligible for recycling:

- Corrugated cardboard
- Mixed paper
- Shredded office paper
- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans
- White goods (washers, dryer, etc.)
- All rechargeable batteries (lithium, lead acid, nickel-cadmium, and lithium ion)

According to the taosnm.gov website, all loads must be tarped or secured properly. Additionally, cardboard boxes must be broken down and all Styrofoam removed

from boxes ahead of time. If you’re donating tin and aluminum cans, they should be separated from the rest of your load.

An attendant will be present during hours of operation, available to help you find the proper bins and sort things correctly.

Contact Lorenzo Gutierrez: (575) 779-8941, Edward Martinez: (575) 770-9127, or Daniel Young: (575) 779-4938 with any questions you may have.



Río Grande del Norte Monument Honoring Eric Valencia

By Contributing Writer
MICHAEL WILSON,
Taos County Historical Society

A landscape of extreme beauty and daunting harshness, President Barack Obama called it when he proclaimed the creation of the Río Grande del Norte National Monument in 2013. Anchored by the Taos Valley Overlook in the south and Ute Mountain in the north, the monument includes rugged, wide-open landscapes covered by looming volcanic cones and carved by deep, craggy canyons with rushing rivers. Sweeping plateaus, native grasslands, essential wildlife habitats, and prehistoric footprints add to the beauty and significance of Río Grande del Norte.

It’s vast. At 242,555 acres of public land, the monument covers 15 percent of Taos County and a smaller portion of Río Arriba County, land that is now forever protected from development. Evidence of human existence, such as petroglyphs, dwellings, and artifacts, dates back 10,000 years. Homesteaders tried without much success through the 1930s to eke out an existence, just as settlers in much of the rest of the country have striven to subdue the land to their own purposes. In Taos County, however, it’s been the land that shapes the people.

Río Grande del Norte monument manager Eric Valencia is the honored guest for the Taos County Historical Society’s monthly program on Saturday, October 7, at 2 p.m. in the Kit Carson Electric Coop boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta in Taos.

Valencia is passionate about Río Grande del Norte’s importance to our area’s economy and recreation, to the monument’s visitors, and to the pursuit of conservation. A skilled guide and interpreter, he plans to engage us on October 7 in a dialogue about the monument and the historic interplay of land and people in Taos County.

Valencia was named the Río Grande del Norte Monument’s first full-time manager in June 2022. He was born and raised in Pecos and earned a B.A. degree in history and an M.A. in public affairs, both from New Mexico Highlands University. Before coming to Taos he spent six years as chief of interpretation and visitor services at the National Park Service’s Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Laramie, Wyoming. Prior to that, he was a park ranger from 2004 to 2015 at the NPS’s Pecos National Historic Park.

Advocacy groups instrumental in the creation of the monument are delighted to have a native Norteño as its manager. Valencia enjoys hiking with his two dogs and has said he’s excited to get back to living a traditional lifestyle in northern New Mexico.

For more info on the Oct. 7 program, call Michael Wilson at (612) 743-6546.

Please join the Taos County Historical Society! Email Donovan Lieurance at tchsmembership750@gmail.com



Courtesy BLM

Eric Valencia



Courtesy Photo

Río Grande del Norte National Monument map



- What:** Taos County Historical Society monthly program Río Grande del Norte National Monument
- Who:** Eric Valencia, Monument Manager
- When:** Saturday, October 7 at 2 p.m.
- Where:** Kit Carson Electric Coop boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Road, Taos



By Toner Mitchell

For readers unfamiliar with Santa Fe's tradition of Zozobra, it's essentially like El Cucui in Questa's annual Cambalache celebration (October 1 at the Questa Farmers Market site). Similarly, the 50-foot-tall Zozobra is set ablaze, and with him a year's worth of anxiety and woe. Leading up to the burning in early September, Santa Feans can submit their penas (sorrows) – divorce papers, paid mortgages, etc. – and find solace in the knowledge that said penas will eventually explode into the New Mexico night in a multicolored bloom of fireworks.

It's a common theme across many cultures, Cucui, Zozobra, and the Zozobra knockoff known as Burning Man out in Nevada. When I lived in other states, my friends and I would often begin September by burning a newspaper effigy in honor of my Santa Fe upbringing. The instinct to annihilate sorrow is obviously universal, and since we first domesticated fire, human beings have had a love affair with combustion.

Speaking of combustion, this year's Zozobra took place on a day that barely

cooled off after sundown. I'd been up in Canjilon looking at a stream restoration project that would hopefully provide cool water for cutthroat trout and help local parciantes (individual irrigators) squeeze another watering or two out of the irrigation season. There wasn't much talk about climate change as we surveyed the project, and on the drive back home I tried to pretend that 100 degrees in September in Espanola, just like our monsoon-free summer, was perfectly normal.

In line to get into Zozobra, I met a couple from Los Alamos, the three of us grateful to be waiting in the shade of the big pink church. The wife researches climate response technologies at the lab, green hydrogen, nuclear, and carbon capture. She's optimistic we'll be able to solve this if we can just come up with actual plans, as opposed to staging traffic-blocking protests and gluing ourselves to fine art.

For the record, I believe humans have affected the climate with our industrial activities. At the same time, I've lost patience with the notion that the reason we haven't done more is due to our collective lack of awareness. Everyone knows about climate change, at least everyone who should, so the discussion should turn towards what that means and what to do to make human and non-human lives less brutal and more productive.

By my incomplete understanding,



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Zozobra in Santa Fe, 2023

the atmosphere is currently made up of approximately 4.1 ten-thousandths of carbon dioxide, an increase of about 1.3 ten-thousandths since the dawn of the Industrial Age around 200 years ago. It's difficult to fathom how such a concentration could affect temperature so much, or how it could supposedly account for a spike in global plant flourishing, as some climate skeptics claim. I do know it's getting hotter, though.

Some old-timers in the Jemez recently told me they've experienced much worse over the years. And on the Rio San Antonio a couple weeks ago, another scorcher of a day, the water temperature was surprisingly cool where beavers had

room to build; also surprising, there were pure cutthroat trout in the ponds and not just brown trout. Along with the account from the researcher I met in the Zozobra line, these little anecdotes — the history of dire precedents that came and went, nature persisting come hell or low water — keep my focus forward. If nothing else, it's a relief to remember that beavers and cutthroats are too busy to read the news.

Looking forward helps me keep a positive frame of mind amid the clucking of Chicken Littles. Not that they're clucking about nothing, just that it gets too loud sometimes to hear the small ideas that could make a difference at the local level. Like restoring streams so they can store water in the ground and extend flows during the summer. Like taking advantage of beavers' free labor and piloting energy projects on a Questa-sized scale. With all the federal infrastructure money washing around, I'm wondering if more of it could be spent on installing rooftop solar in schools in poor communities so that students could learn in well-cooled and heated classrooms.

Call me naïve, but I still believe that climate change can become less about arguing and more about people coming together to address a shared predicament in their own small ways. Maybe the penas in Zozobra's exploding head can become less about grief and more about hope.



BIRD IS THE WORD

By Bryce Flanagan

Robins, an American Icon

For centuries, from coast to coast, in cities and suburbs, fields and forests, the American Robin has established nests in every contiguous state and filled the ears of many an American with their cheerful song. The rusty red breast adorning male robins have captured the imagination — how did it come to be such a color? One European legend holds that as Jesus was crucified, a robin flew down and tried to pull the crown

of thorns from his head, becoming splattered by the blood of his wounds in the process. Indigenous tales associate the red coloring with fire, with stories of robins protecting people from cold by keeping a flame burning in their heart, or acting as guardians of fire. Robins are the most abundant bird in the country, yet despite their ubiquitous existence, they still fascinate and inspire.

Being the original "early bird," robins get their start at the first rays of morning light and don't clock out until a hazy sunset adorns the sky. While worms are thought to be a staple of robin diets (and indeed the average robin will consume 14 feet of wriggling pink invertebrates per day), insects make up about 40 percent of the robin diet; the rest being supplemented by berries and fruit. In fact, robins are one of the few animals to be observed deliberately intoxicating themselves from eating poisonous or fermented berries. Honey-suckle berries are a preferred substance for the robin to enjoy after a long hard day of singing and scavenging, resulting

in rocking and lopsided perching with half-shut eyes.

When spring approaches, robins put away the booze and get down to the business of getting busy. The northern migration is no small undertaking: robins have been recorded traveling upwards of 3,000 miles to colder pastures in Alaska and Canada. Once a mate has been chosen for the season, the female will begin construction of the nest while the male will defend nesting territory by... singing. Yes, rather than brandish talons or beaks (though such scuffles aren't unheard of), robins prefer to settle their disputes with a tune. Sort of like American Idol, but for bird nests. Robins average four pale blue eggs per brood, and typically produce two broods per season, sometimes three. That iconic pale blue color that has adorned many a baby nursery is the result of the bile pigment, biliverdin, in the mother's shell gland. Biliverdin isn't exclusive to robins, it also lends blue hues to the eggs of blue jays, house finches, and song thrushes, and it's the

reason bruises on our bodies turn a purple-blue color while healing. To the dismay of many a would-be robin parent, only 40 percent of robin nests are successful in hatching chicks. Of that percentage, about one quarter manage to survive until November, and from then on robins have a 50-50 chance of making it to the next year. The entire robin population turns over every six years, as most don't live past the age of two, but it is possible for them to reach 14 years of age, as observed in one case.

While many species of birds are confined to specific areas, leaving out the rest of the country from enjoying the splendor of their colors and songs, robins have taken it upon themselves to be neighbors to every class and creed. Whether you work in a skyscraper or a mine, if you go home to an apartment or a cottage, whether you pray to a Father God or a Mother Earth, the robin does not discriminate on who gets to hear his song. We can all hear that chirping call at daybreak, challenging us to seize the day.

St. Anthony's Church Raffling Private Guided Elk Hunts

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa is hosting a raffle for three separate late-season private land guided cow elk hunts.

The locations for the hunts, all in New Mexico, include the Sandia Pueblo at the Bobcat Ranch in Eagle Nest, Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association (RCCLA) in Costilla, and with the Eric Kern Outfitters for a muzzle-loader hunt in Magdalena.

"God has no hands or feet except ours, we are his hands and feet. The fundraising committee needs your help

to sell or buy tickets. If you are unable to help, please pray for the success of this raffle," organizer Louise Gallegos says.

Tickets are being sold for \$25 each and the church committee is selling only 500 tickets. The drawing will be held in late October. Tickets can be purchased at Rael's Coffee Shop with Cynthia Rael-Vigil, at Questa Lumber, or by contacting Louise Gallegos via cell at (575) 586-0414.

The money raised will go to continue the construction of the church rectory, which has been a tremendously successful project thus far.



Courtesy Photo

Bull Moose Wandering Streets of Downtown Santa Fe, Relocated to Northern New Mexico

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

In the fall of 2022, a bull moose was spotted across the northern Taos County communities, with sightings documented on social media at the Tres Ritos Ranch in Cerro, Sunshine Valley, Costilla and Questa. Over the past 10 years, there have been only about a dozen sightings.

It was a beautiful New Mexico morning in Santa Fe on Tuesday, September 12, when a moose was once again spotted near Fort Marcy Park and immediately reported by people in town. Officers tracked the moose half a mile away, to Grant Avenue and Rosario Boulevard, just past the Casa Cuma Bed & Breakfast.

Officials say the animal showed very little fear of humans or pets, creating concerns for the safety of residents. Moose usually exhibit aggression toward humans and pets.

Officials with the Game and Fish Department accomplished the heroic feat of capturing the moose, removing him from the public scene at around 11 a.m. that same day. The moose was evaluated and determined to be in good health. He was estimated to weigh 900 pounds and believed to be between 4 and 5 years old. These animals are estimated to have a lifespan of between 15 and 25 years, and can weigh up to 1500 pounds.

Moose require a cool climate and wetland habitat near rivers and streams. This type of habitat is more abundant in Colorado, where a robust moose popula-



Courtesy NM Game and Fish

Bull moose grazes in field in downtown Santa Fe



Courtesy NM Game and Fish

Bull moose is euthanized and transported out of the downtown Santa Fe area

tion exists. Most sightings in New Mexico are of younger males emigrating from Colorado in search of new habitat and breeding opportunities. Females have been observed in New Mexico as well, but there are presently no known breeding populations of moose in the state.

Department wildlife biologists suspect that the moose captured in Santa Fe started its journey south from Colorado, perhaps a few years ago. It is also suspected that this is the same moose spotted in the Sangre de Cristo moun-

tains in the fall of 2022. The bull moose was spotted in the Tesuque area as he made his trip to the state's capital.

In the unlikely event that you encounter a bull moose, talk and make your presence known while slowly backing away from the animal. If you are charged by a moose, hide behind something solid like a tree, or take shelter in your vehicle or building. If a moose knocks you down, curl into a ball and protect your head until the moose retreats.

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BODY MIND SPIRIT



By BARBARA TRACY

Mystery, Yes

By Contributing Writer
BARBARA TRACY

I am sharing a story with you today not only because it is interesting, but also because it provides us with one more example of how the Intelligence that oversees the great mystery of life and death is ever present and knows our heart.

I have a granddaughter who is an advocate for the animal world. She has a simple home with her life partner. Over

the last few years, their home has become a sanctuary for the unwanted, the lost, and neglected animals. Somehow, without even trying, these beings find their way to this unintended sanctuary, and little by little it has blossomed into a home with 11 dogs, two cats, a chicken, and a couple of tanks of fish. My granddaughter and her partner make all the food for the animals from scratch and ensure that they have medical care, exercise, nutrition, and above all, love for each and every one of them.

During this period of expanding their family of animals, there have been losses as well. Tanana, a small mixed breed pup; Melvin, a family cat for nearly 17 years; and Cece, an older pup, passed away just recently. What my granddaughter shared with me and why I am writing about this, is that when each one of these beloved friends crossed over the rainbow bridge, within a very short time, a flock of geese would

fly over her house.

I can say that having this happen one time is coincidence, and two times may be an interesting coincidence, but three times — once for each passing — I know there is something happening, and it is not coincidence. It's a gift from something beyond our understanding, and that something is speaking to us by using a presence we can understand. In this case, what better sign for them than another of nature's creatures, the geese? I asked my granddaughter what she felt the message was saying and she said, "I like to think they stopped over to carry her away to a beautiful space."

I imagine there may be many who have received messages from the great mystery beyond this three-dimensional world we occupy. I feel that my granddaughter's experience with the geese tells us we are not alone, and no matter what our experience may be, there is something greater than us that sees

and knows what we need. In my granddaughter's case, the geese brought her comfort in a very difficult time.

Mysteries, Yes

(a poem by Mary Oliver)

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the mouths of the lambs.

How rivers and stones are forever in allegiance with gravity while we ourselves dream of rising.

How two hands touch, and the bonds will never be broken.

How people come, from delight or the scars of damage, to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always, from those who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company always with those who say "Look!" and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



By DAWN PROVENCHER

Resilience

Resilience is the ability to "bounce back" after a negative event. Think about a new rubber band versus an old piece of elastic. Stretch the first one and it will quickly bring itself back to its original shape. But the waistband of that old pair of shorts forgotten in the back of your closet? There is no quick return to ANYTHING, you may even hear some ripping and see some new fraying!

As important as it is to have good elastic holding up our shorts, it is even more important to encourage its development in our children. All of us experience setbacks, large and small, on a daily basis. The happiest and healthiest people have the "rubber band" resiliency that resumes our original state (sometimes even a BETTER state than before) after being stretched by a setback!

Science suggests our ability to be resilient to the loss of loved ones, financial crises, health issues, relationship problems, job loss and more, has a genetic basis, BUT we also know resilience can

be developed and strengthened through deliberate practice. Here are some ways to encourage resilience for our children.

Haven't we all said "I wish I could wrap my child in bubble wrap so the world can't hurt them?" Good news — we CAN and that bubble wrap is resilience. When your child experiences a failure or any kind of upsetting situation, encourage them to tell you about it. Acknowledge the experience and his or her feelings. "That must have really hurt..." or "When friends say things like that, it really makes us feel sad..." or "I know it was your favorite toy that broke..." or "Chico was the best dog, I know your heart is hurting..."

As parents, we may think we know exactly what to do in order to get past the hurt our child is feeling. Resist the urge to take the easy path of telling them what to do. (That's called "snowplow parenting" — you might be able to remove the snow sometimes, but not always. Your child has to know what to do when they find their way blocked with a mountain of snow and you aren't around!) Instead, ask them questions to help them identify ideas themselves. The younger the child, the more you may have to lead them. For example, "I would like to draw some pictures of Chico to help me remember how great he was, will you do that too?" for a young child, but an older child might need less guidance, such as "What could we do to help us remember Chico?"

Let children know they will eventu-

RESILIENCE IS YOUR SUPERPOWER

ally feel better. Acknowledge it will not happen immediately or without some action on their part. Travel with them through their times of painful memory and loss, and let them know seeking help from you or others who care about them is perfectly okay. Share your own personal experience of how you dealt with a similar situation, being sure it is developmentally appropriate. Ask their opinion of what you did.

When things are going well for your child, use together time to offer them age appropriate "what if..." situations. These can be pain-free opportunities

to practice resilience. "One hundred on your spelling test! Great! What if that score was a 50 instead? What would you have done?" or "Miguel didn't invite the new boy in the class to his birthday party? How would you have felt if that was you? What would you have done?" or "That's a picture of my grandma and I miss her every day. Some of the things I do to help me remember her are..."

Love and support, rather than simply SOLVING our child's issue, will encourage them to face not only this immediate challenge, but the next and the next.



LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

Your skin craves dry brushing

When you treat your skin to the simple act of dry brushing, you're doing more than just helping your body eliminate toxins. It also makes your skin healthier and cleaner by increasing blood circulation, removing dead skin cells, stimulating your skin's natural oil glands, and helping absorb the nutrients you apply with oils or lotions.

Not only that — it feels good, in-

vigorating your whole body. The most important reason to dry brush your skin, though, is to help the fluid of your lymphatic filtration system clean up the toxins, poisons, and metals.

Most likely you'll be doing your own dry brushing (a lover might get distracted), so get a brush with a long handle that's part of the brush, not glued on, to reach all areas of your body. Do not brush your face or nipples with the body brush. And of course, your body and the brush should be dry. Why not wet brush while in the shower or tub? Because wet brushing stretches your skin, so always brush before bathing.

How to Dry Brush Your Skin

1. Get naked.
2. Always brush towards your heart. This is so important because brushing away from your heart can cause the little valves in your veins to become blocked or damaged, leading to vari-

3. While you brush, feel what you're doing. That means put your consciousness on the part of your body that you're brushing. This will help keep you in the present moment, and while you're feeling the sensation of the brush against your skin, your mind chatter will begin to quiet down.
4. Treat the act of dry brushing your skin like a sacred ritual — stay attentive to what you are doing and adopt an attitude of love and gratitude. Get into the habit of telling your body you love it. And thank each part as you're brushing it. Loving and thanking your body are extremely important aspects of the process because your body's chemistry will then enhance your immune system.
5. Start brushing the sole of each foot. For the rest of your body, use smooth,

upward strokes — always toward your heart. Brush up each leg starting at your toes; then brush up your belly, butt and lower back, your arms from your fingertips up to your shoulders, and then brush down your neck, chest and upper back.

6. Take a warm, short shower to wash away the dead skin cells.
7. Drink at least eight ounces of water to flush away the toxins.

Go ahead and try dry brushing. You'll be amazed at what a loving relationship with your body can do for your health and wellbeing, and besides, it sure feels good!

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

A tu piel le encanta el cepillado en seco

Por la escritora
contribuyente ELLEN WOOD

Cuando apapachas a tu piel con el simple acto de cepillarla en seco, estás haciendo más que ayudar al cuerpo a eliminar toxinas. El cepillado también hace que la piel esté más saludable y más limpia al aumentar la circulación sanguínea, eliminar las células muertas de la piel, estimular las glándulas de aceite natural y ayudar a absorber los nutrientes que aplicas con aceites o lociones.

Pero eso no es todo—se siente muy bien, ya que energiza todo el cuerpo. Sin embargo, la razón más importante para cepillar en seco tu piel es ayudar a que el sistema linfático filtre y te limpie el cuerpo de toxinas, venenos y metales.

Lo más aconsejable es que hagas tu propio cepillado en seco (un amante podría distraerse), así que consigue un cepillo con un mango largo que sea parte del mismo cepillo, no que esté pegado a este, para llegar a todas las partes del cuerpo. No te cepilles el rostro ni los pezones. Y, por supuesto, el cuerpo y el cepillo deben estar secos. ¿Por qué no cepillarse en húmedo mientras estás en la ducha o bañera? Porque el cepillado en húmedo estira la piel, así que siempre cepíllate antes de bañarte.

Cómo cepillar en seco la piel:

1. Desnúdate.
2. Siempre cepilla en dirección al corazón. Esto es muy importante porque cepillar en dirección contraria al corazón puede hacer que las pequeñas válvulas que hay en las venas se obstruyan o dañen, lo que puede causar venas varicosas. Las venas están llenas de válvulas diseñadas para abrirse en la dirección que conduce al corazón.
3. Mientras te cepillas, siente lo que estás haciendo. Esto significa poner tu conciencia en la parte del cuerpo que estás cepillando. Te ayudará a mantenerte en el momento presente, y mientras sientes la sensación del cepillo contra la piel, tu charla mental comenzará a calmarse.
4. Trata el acto de cepillar en seco tu piel como un ritual sagrado—mantén la atención en lo que estás haciendo y adopta una actitud de amor y gratitud. Adquiere el hábito de decirle a tu cuerpo que lo amas. Y agradece cada parte mientras la estás cepillando. Amar y agradecer al cuerpo son aspectos extremadamente importantes del proceso porque la química del cuerpo mejorará el sistema inmunológico.
5. Comienza cepillando la planta de cada pie. Para el resto del cuerpo, utiliza movimientos suaves y ascendentes — siempre hacia tu corazón. Cepilla cada pierna hacia arriba comenzando por los dedos de los pies; luego cepilla el vientre, el trasero y la parte baja de la espalda también hacia arriba, los brazos desde los dedos hasta los hombros, y luego cepilla hacia abajo el cuello, el

- pecho y la parte superior de la espalda.
6. Date una ducha tibia y corta para eliminar las células muertas de la piel.
7. Bebe al menos 8 onzas de agua para eliminar las toxinas. Ándale y prueba el cepillado en seco. Te sorprenderás de cuánto puede hacer una relación de amor con el propio cuerpo

por tu salud y bienestar. Además, ¡se siente muy bien!

Ellen Wood de Questa es una autora galardonada y también una artista que utiliza el nombre de Maruška. El sitio web de sus libros y pinturas es www.Questacreative.org/ellen-wood. Para ponerte en contacto con Ellen escríbele a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

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Sunrise Clinic Rejected By Questa School Board

By DYLAN R.N. CRABB

At their September 6 meeting, the Questa Independent School District (QISD) Board rejected the memorandum of understanding (MOU) to contract with Sunrise Clinics for a school-based health center. The vote was 3 to 2 to deny the MOU. Board vice president Esequiel Romero and board secretary Michael Cordova voted in favor of the MOU.

The Board expressed a particular issue regarding a specific survey that the would-be health clinic would give to students in the absence of their parents or guardians, and then send on to state authorities.

"This student intake form for ages 12 and under, it says here," said Board President Jason Rael to Sunrise representative Timothy Dodge. "What does this have to do with the health of the student?"

Dodge explained that the form was a requirement from the New Mexico Department of Health.

"They require it," said Dodge. "Sunrise Clinics has been providing them to other school districts in the state, but if there's a question that the school district is not comfortable with, we simply don't provide that information or ask the question."

"If we start from the beginning," continued President Rael as he reviewed the survey. "It's... the seventh bullet — 'was the patient's parent present when this questionnaire was completed: yes or no?' — You're not going to trick me into thinking that because they signed a consent form

that you're not gonna ask these kinds of questions to a 3rd-grader without a parent present. That's what we were against from the beginning."

"That's what it is, Jay," said Board Member Cisneros.

"What I'm against is: how can somebody under the age of 12 answer these questions without their parents present," continued President Rael. "If you're 17, 18, 19, up through high school, I still think a parent ought to know what kind of questions are being asked of you, so does this packet [holding up the survey] go home along with the consent form?"

There was a back-and-forth between the Board president and the Sunrise representative as Rael appeared to cross-examine Dodge for more straightforward answers.

"No," confirmed Dodge.

"This could really get misconstrued, by the way I'm looking at it, in a report to [the Childrens Youth and Family Department]," said President Rael.

The Board expressed conflicting sentiments between the need for more access to mental healthcare in schools and their concern over an apparent lack of transparency between this proposed school-based health center and parents. That lack of transparency was ultimately the reason why the MOU was voted down.

A recording of the QISD's September 6 board meeting is available at the *Questa del Rio News* Facebook page at <https://bit.ly/45PWIKM>.



Have you ever dared yourself to do something while you were traveling that you would never do or think to do at home or out of your normal routine? It could have happened while you were out taking a walk, or in an airplane, on a business trip, a vacation, a family reunion, or a road trip, — somewhere not at your home base. A few of the interviews involved eating unusual food in foreign countries: cuisine you would never even thought of or dared to eat at home. A lot of these adventures happened when we were younger and naive, but we have since learned from the experiences. It's part of growing up and growing older. Many of us have tested the waters and gotten humbled by it.

What is one of the most daring things you have done when traveling?

Seeso:

Eating weird food in Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand while traveling in Southeast Asia. Ate random street food and never got sick. Went to crazy outdoor markets in Thailand. I drank snake booze in a seedy, sketchy bar. I had no fear of the food because it was fun to dare to experience it. To be in the moment and eat what the culture was doing and offering.

Megan:

One time driving from a camping trip on the northern coast in California. I was driving my red Nissan with my baby boy in the back. It was late out, nighttime, dark. Out of nowhere a huge buck runs straight out in front of me. I am driving at about 55 miles per hour. I slam on my brakes and skid forward. I stop head to head with the buck. He has huge antlers and he's staring at me. My heart is racing, his heart is racing, and then he runs off. It made me question which vessel was more powerful. Him or the car? It was profound. Can man-made stuff withhold nature? Nature proves it every day, it's an equal playing field: nature being stronger is what is humbling.

Michael:

I am in my 20s lost in London in my rental car. I fly from Houston to London to meet my friends who were coming over from Holland. We were going to rent a car in London and go visit our friend, Chris, in Wales, my guitar mentor. I was going to pick up the rental car, they were coming in on a ferry, then traveling by train and I would then meet them at the train station. This was all perfectly timed. There were no cell phones. You could only make public phone calls with a special coin. There are a lot of alleyways and roads. I need to get a map and find the Kings Cross railroad station and I am running out of time to meet my friends. I am on the wrong side of the car, everything is on the right. The lanes are reversed on the streets. All the street signs are above eye level. I am completely lost. I took a chance that I could figure out that it would be no big deal. Going to a foreign country alone humbled me and taught me to do more research beforehand.

Mitchell:

One time I ate a bunch of elephants in Africa. I never would have done that nor would I do that here. When you are traveling, you have to be open. The trail itself is the dare, what is happening. The elephant was very gamey. I was doing non-profit work, micro-financing chicken farms in small villages. It was a grassroots organization called The Elias Fund.

Harold:

I was on my honeymoon on the Pacific side of Costa Rica. I dared myself to be adventurous to go on the rocks while the tide was low... and not knowing when the tide was coming back in. The waves tend to be snarly there. I was fishing and lost track of time. I was out on a rock that turned into an island. I tried to make it back, jumped from the island to the main peninsula. I missed when I jumped and fell into the ocean. Huge waves and a rip current pulled me out. I was drowning, bobbing up and down, thinking I was about to die, screaming for help. I had to stop panicking. I put the fly rod in my mouth and floated on my back. I used my flip flops as paddles and floated back to shore with the last bit of energy and adrenaline I had. It was one of the scariest traveling experiences I have ever had and a huge life lesson.



Photo by Dylan R.N. Crabb

Visible at the long desk to the right (from foreground to background) are Board Vice-President Esequiel Romero, Board President Jason Rael, and Board Member Juan Cisneros.

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- 1:30 - 2:00 PM
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- 2:00 - 2:45 PM
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In this month's edition of Enchanted Eats, we present a variety of fall flavors. As northern New Mexico starts to feel and look like fall, with changing colors and cooler temperatures, a whole different set of tastes come this time of year!... from the sweet taste of pumpkin pie to a comforting bowl of soup. When thinking of the tastes and smells of fall, what are the first things that come to mind? For me, it's the juicy and sweet mixture of apples and cinnamon in an apple pie, warm potato soup on a cold day, and of course, pumpkin spice! Happy Fall!



Apple Pie

Crust
(courtesy of Fran Vialpando)

2 c flour
1/4 t salt
1/2 c oil
8 T ice-cold water

1. Mix dry ingredients together
2. Mix wet ingredients together
3. Mix all together
4. Knead until dough forms
5. Roll out two crusts

Filling
(courtesy of Valerie Segura)

18 c thinly sliced and peeled apples
10 c water
1 c cornstarch
1 t salt
3 T lemon juice
4 1/2 c white sugar
2 t ground cinnamon
1/4 t ground nutmeg

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, toss apples with lemon juice and set aside. Pour water into a pot over medium heat. Combine sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, salt, and nutmeg in a bowl; add to water, stir well, and bring to a boil. Boil for about 2 minutes, stirring constantly.
3. Add apples into the boiled mixture and return to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until apples are tender (about 6 to 8 minutes).
4. Spoon the apple pie filling into raw pie crust (1 large pie crust or 2 medium pie crusts).

5. Cover with a second disc of pie dough. Place the crust over the apple pie filling.
6. Use a sharp knife to trim the excess dough from around the edge of the pie plate. Use your fingers to pull both the bottom and top pie crust up and slightly away from the edge of the pie dish. Fold the edge under itself and press down to seal the edge in place until all edges are neatly tucked in. Use a sharp knife to cut slits or vents in the crust.
7. Sprinkle a cinnamon sugar mixture over the pie and place in the oven for 30 to 35 minutes.

Ham and Potato Soup
(courtesy of allrecipes.com)



3 1/2 c peeled and diced potatoes
3 1/4 c water
3/4 c diced cooked ham
1/3 c diced celery
1/3 c finely chopped onion
2 T chicken bouillon granules
1 t ground white or black pepper, or to taste
1/2 t salt, or to taste
5 T butter
5 T all-purpose flour
2 c milk

1. Combine potatoes, water, ham, celery, and onion in a stockpot. Bring to a boil; simmer over medium heat until potatoes are tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Stir in chicken bouillon, pepper, and salt.
2. Melt butter in a separate saucepan over medium-low heat. Add flour; cook and stir until thick, about 1 minute. Whisk in milk; cook and stir until thick, 4 to 5 minutes.

3. Pour milk mixture into the stockpot; cook and stir until warmed through.
4. Extras: sprinkle each bowl of soup with toppings like cheddar cheese, crumbled bacon, green onions, and/or chives.

Pumpkin Nut Bread
(courtesy of Marvine Segura)



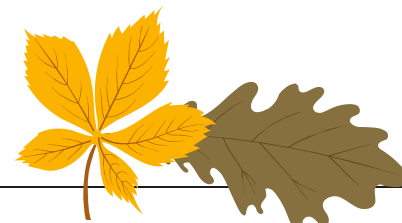
2-2/3 cups sugar
1/3 cup water
1 cup oil
4 eggs
16 ounces (canned or fresh) pumpkin purée
3-1/2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon (pumpkin spice)
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
2. Grease and flour loaf pan or mini-loaf pan or muffin pan
3. In a large bowl, whisk together 2-2/3 cups sugar, 1/3 cup water, and 1 cup oil. Whisk in 4 eggs until well combined. Add in 16 ounces (canned or fresh) pumpkin purée and whisk until well combined.
4. Whisk in 3-1/2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking soda, 1 teaspoon cinnamon (pumpkin spice), 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, and 1 teaspoon salt until combined.
5. Stir in 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans until incorporated.
6. Divide batter evenly between prepared pans. Sprinkle with additional chopped nuts or pumpkin seeds.
7. Bake for 35 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Pumpkin-Ginger Bread Pudding
(courtesy of Anne Burrell)

1 4-pound sugar pumpkin or kabocha squash
Extra-virgin olive oil, for brushing
4 large eggs
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
2 cups heavy cream
1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
1 loaf cinnamon brioche, challah or plain pound cake, diced (about 10 cups)
1/2 cup golden raisins
1/4 cup diced crystallized ginger
Confectioners' sugar, for garnish (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Cut the pumpkin or squash into quarters and remove the seeds. Brush the insides with a little olive oil and arrange on a baking sheet, skin-side up. Roast in the oven until the pumpkin or squash is soft all the way through, about 1 hour. Remove from the oven and let cool. Discard the skin and puree the flesh in a food processor. (The puree can be prepared 1 or 2 days ahead.)
2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. In a large bowl, combine 2 1/2 cups of the pumpkin or squash puree, the eggs, brown sugar and spices. Whisk in the cream and vanilla.
3. Combine the bread, raisins and ginger in a 7-by-11-inch baking dish. Pour the pudding mixture over the bread to cover and let sit 15 minutes. (You might not use all of the pudding mixture at first; add more if there's room in the dish once the bread has soaked.) Bake in the preheated oven until the custard is set, about 40 minutes. Spoon into bowls and sprinkle a dusting of confectioners' sugar on top, if desired. It's fall in a dessert.



ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
OCTOBER 2023

FROM EQUALITY TO TESTS

“We rise by kneeling, we conquer by surrendering; we gain by giving up.”
— Labours of Hercules, by Alice Bailey

We have come through the fall equinox, when the dark and the light hold equal sway, and into the sign of Libra, the sign of equality. Libra, in its “natural” home which is the seventh house, perches literally on the horizon line, below which is the dark side of the chart and above the light. Below are the six houses which are all about self-development, me and my family; above are the six houses – starting with Libra – which are all about learning how to relate to others, those “out there,” those not necessarily like me. The rational mind sees opposites, divisiveness; it has a hard time connecting things that seem different. But our intuitive mind, our highest nature, does not know what separatism is. Libra is the sign that wants to make connections, build bridges, and find ways to relate. Mid-month the Sun slips into the sign of Scorpio where we are tested as to how we are doing on our spiritual journey.

Separateness is one of the nine heads of the hydra, which is the test of Scorpio in the “Labours.” The other eight are the lowest expressions of: sex, comfort, money, anger, fear, desire for power, pride and cruelty. Fighting one head at a time could not succeed; only when Hercules fell to his knees and raised the entire hydra into the light did he finally pass the test. By attending to the personality’s lower expressions of this hydra, which dwells in the murk of our own unconscious minds, we evolve spiritually. When we can remember the lessons of Libra and her love of equality and justice for all, at least one of the heads can be raised into the light where the illumined mind knows: We are All One.

Everyone: All of the quotes this month come from the Labours of Hercules, each of which is applied to one of the zodiac signs. Read yours!

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

Dynamic: Now’s the time to make it legal.
Direction: Sign the document!
Soul Thought: “Balance the needs and judgment sound, and preparation for a major test.”

Taurus ♉ **Planet: Vulcan** ♃ **APRIL 19 – MAY 20**

Dynamic: You may hear bells ringing.
Direction: Hark ye well!
Soul Thought: What is the message?

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

Dynamic: It’s a time for grace and modesty.
Direction: With simplicity.
Soul Thought: “Hippolyte . . . wearing the girdle given her by Venus, queen of love; this girdle was symbol of unity.”

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

Dynamic: Is your conscience clear?
Direction: The Universe is on your side to define clarity.
Soul Thought: “A test which will awaken, on the inner side of life, the fullness of his wisdom.”

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

Dynamic: Going round and round about a decision?
Direction: Live with one as though it were a fait accompli.
Soul Thought: Changing your mind is allowed.

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

Dynamic: You create some good dynamics this month for others.
Direction: Pat yourself on the back.
Soul Thought: But don’t rest on your laurels.

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

Dynamic: You may need to seek financial advice.
Direction: Or posit it in your spiritual diary.
Soul Thought: Answers from the Highest Advisor.

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

Dynamic: It may be time to do battle.
Direction: Be the Spiritual Warrior.
Soul Thought: “The light that shines at Gate the eighth is now blended with your own.”

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

Dynamic: Some high-falutin’ ideas are brought down to Earth.
Direction: Time to test your values.
Soul Thought: “The individual who is consecrated and true to the spirit acts as the spirit in terms of human needs.”

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

Dynamic: Beware of causing yourself a setback.
Direction: Unless you need a new perspective.
Soul Thought: “By a slightly altered perspective, many of the terrifying experiences of life may be transformed by a beneficent sense of humour.”

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

Dynamic: Uncertain finances first of the month may prove beneficial by the end.
Direction: Send out good vibes!
Soul Thought: Energy follows thought.

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

Dynamic: Though the struggle up the mountain continues, the view gets better.
Direction: Look up.
Soul Thought: In the shadow of the Father.



BY J. ORTEGA

The Machine

Starring: Bert Kreischer, Mark Hamill, Jimmy Tatro, Iva Babić, and Stephanie Kurtzuba

Rated R

Stream on Amazon Prime

First Impression: It’s a big swing and a miss from the immensely popular crowd pleasing and often shirtless comedian Bert Kreischer, whose story about his college study-abroad trip to Russia ending as a silly convoluted chaotic mess has put him on the comedy map.

If you’ve never heard about stand-up comedian and podcaster Bert Kreischer, I recommend you go to YouTube and type in “The Machine, Bert Kreischer” and there you will find his wildly entertaining true story on how he went to Russia when he was in college, along with the outrageous hijinks that occurred along the way.

Bert Kreischer told his story six years ago and it exploded on the internet with over 56 million views, garnering Kreischer massive fame and a huge new audience in the stand-up comedy scene. That story took Kreischer from performing in small or midsize comedy clubs to performing in 10- to 20,000-seat nationwide theaters with sold-out audiences.

Along with his new stand-up success, Bert Kreischer has also made massive inroads into the lucrative comedy podcasting world where he joins fellow comedian Tom Segura in their “2 Bears 1 Cave” podcast. It brings in one million listeners a week, due in part to the success of “The Machine” story.

So, with all this new-found success, what’s the logical next step? Well, apparently Hollywood caught wind of Bert and his infamous story, so here we are with “The Machine” where we get a fictionalized version of events that followed Bert, 20 years after the event.

We pick up in the modern day, where we are treated to a montage of the successful Bert burning the candle at both ends while his life starts a downward spiral. Bert decides he needs to take a break from stand-up and podcasting. He realizes he needs a reset with his family — the fame is starting to strain relationships he holds dear. The story continues with a scene at Bert’s teenage daughter’s birthday where he can’t connect with her and is also at odds with his father, played by Mark Hamill, who makes fun of Bert for taking a break and not providing for his family the best he can.

After we are introduced to the boring family drama, the real movie starts: cartoonish Russian Mafia associates crash the party and kidnap Bert and his dad and take them back to Russia where Bert is forced to relive his past actions in order to find a watch that is quite priceless to the Russian mob. And this is where the wheels fall off. We get a movie that is nowhere near as funny as it thinks it is, or has the heart that it thinks it has.

The movie doesn’t know what it wants to be — a zany off-the-wall slapstick comedy, an intense comedy action romp, or a family dramedy that tries to pull at your heart strings. For me it was all over the place and the jokes didn’t land as well as the writers thought they would, which is disappointing, because I am a huge fan of stand-up comedians and want them to succeed in their mainstream aspirations.

Hopefully, Bert will get more chances in Hollywood, because his comedic talent wasn’t allowed to shine as it should have, here in his own film.

Final Verdict 2 out 5 stars



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.

OBITUARIES



Alvin Gallegos
d. September 6, 2023

Alvin Lee Gallegos, age 55, a resident of Cerro, New Mexico, unexpectedly passed away on September 6, 2023.

He was preceded in death by his fathers, Porfirio Gallegos and Paul Archuleta (stepfather); brothers Rudy and Ivan Gallegos, and Kenny Archuleta (stepbrother).

Alvin was a hardworking man, jack-of-all trades, and spent many years in maintenance work, including the Red River ski shop, Molycorp Mine, U.S. Forest Service, Balfour Beatty, along with many other occupations. Being skilled in so many areas, he was quick to lend a hand to those around him. He enjoyed projects around the house, riding his motorcycle, and relaxing at the beach. Alvin deeply loved his family and friends.

He is survived by his son, Allen Gallegos (Janelle); his mother, Olivia Archuleta; his siblings Lydia, Russell and Joe Gallegos (Rhonda); grandchildren Zachariah and Malachi Gallegos, and Amelia Sturgis; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at Living Word Ministries in Questa.



Johnny Gonzales
d. September 10, 2023

Johnny Gonzales, age 43, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully on September 10, 2023 after a long battle with cancer.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Frank and Ruth Gonzales, and maternal grandparents Manuel and Idela Romero.

Johnny owned and operated Double Eagle Electric for many years and was the pastor at Freedom Center Church in Questa, New Mexico. In his spare time, he enjoyed taking apart machinery to machines to match them back together. But his biggest love was for his family.

He is survived by his wife Kristi Gonzales; children Izziah Gonzales, Micah Gonzales, Mariah Jane Gonzales, Zachariah Gonzales, and Hezekiah Gonzales; parents Ben "Speedy" and Sally Gonzales; brother Ben Gonzales, Jr.; mother-in-law Naomi Vialpando; sisters-in-law Juanita Swazo (Kaitlyn) and Alicia Vialpando (Francisco); nephew Elijah Molina; best friend who he considered as a brother, Eric Romero (Stephanie); and many aunts, uncles, relatives, and friends.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday September 19, 2023 at Living Word Ministries.

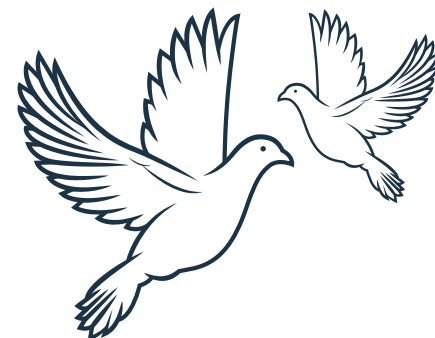


Joseph Marquez
1944-Sept 2023

Joseph was born in 1944 to Antonio and Maria Esmeralda Marquez in Espanola, New Mexico. Anyone who knew Joseph knew that he was the most loving father and husband a family could ask for.

Joseph was predeceased by wife Florence Marquez and daughter Lori Ann Michelle Marquez. Joseph is survived by daughters Eliza and Desiree, son-in-law Lee Roy Lucero, granddaughter Katrina Lucero, and grandson Demetri Baca. Joseph has been a member of the Morada, La Cofradia de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno, in Garcia, Colorado for 55 years. Joseph often said the best education he received was in the four walls of the Morada. Joseph attended Otero Junior College and University of Phoenix to complete his degree in Drug and Alcohol Counseling. Joseph was a drug and alcohol counselor for 33 years in both New Mexico and Colorado. Joseph's life was led by his faith. Joseph is known for saying, "Always put the Cross first, you must put your faith over your fear." Joseph was an avid sports fan. He called himself a die-hard Denver Broncos fan. Joseph was able to recite any of the Denver Nuggets players' statistics. Joseph was also passionate about fishing and bingo and could often be found at Route 66 Casino Bingo Hall.

Services were held on August 5, 2023, at St. Anthony's Parish in Questa.



HALL OF FAME cont'd from page 4

Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Espanola, Taos, and in Questa; in Colorado he has performed in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo. In October of 2017, he was recognized for reaching #1 on the music charts for KMIX Radio in Los Angeles. He anticipates expanding his music into Texas and California in the coming years.

Much of his drive and passion to succeed is rooted in showing his kids and other local youth that they can do what they want to do in life. "I have the drive and determination to do what it takes to be successful. I have worked my job to ensure that I can support my music — you do what it takes to be successful, and I think in a lot of ways, I am a positive

role model to younger generations. I want to show my kids and other kids that they have the power to do whatever they want in life and be happy doing it."

While his kids have been his major motivation, watching people enjoy his music makes the struggle worth it. "Watching people enjoy my music, it's the ultimate reward for all the hard work put into my music. It's worth writing the lyrics, the sleepless nights when I have visions and can't sleep because I am envisioning what I want the music to be — kinda like painters who envision a painting before they paint it, that's what creating music is like to me."

The awards ceremony will be held in May of 2024 in Los Angeles, California. To listen to Don P's music, you can visit ReverbNation.com/donp575.

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Come extract DNA from a strawberry, look at it under a microscope and see the building blocks of what makes a berry different from a human. Create a double helix strand of DNA as an art project... play, create and explore!

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with the LOR Foundation



10/3, 10/10, 10/17, & 10/24



**Need supplies or
support to start a
community project
in Questa?**

Let's talk about it over coffee. Swing by the LOR office **any Tuesday in October between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.** to connect with community officer Maria Gonzalez and learn how LOR can help you bring your idea to life. No appointment required.

The LOR Office is located at 62 Highway 38, Questa, NM. Questions? Contact Maria at maria@lorfoundation.org or (575) 665-2001, or visit us online at lorfoundation.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Dental Director- Questa Clinic- Questa, NM. This is a professional position of a highly complex nature involving the direction and coordination of the dental program of the primary care clinic. The work is performed independently with clinical oversight provided by the Corporate Dental Director and/or Vice President of Clinical Affairs. Administrative supervision is provided by the Program Administrator. The Dental Director must operate in accordance with the terms and conditions of the various contracts and grants providing for the funding of programs and projects. To see insights or apply for this position, visit the Presbyterian Medical Services website. <https://jobs.pmsnm.org/providers/join-us/>

Home Care Aide NEEDED For Elderly Veteran in Questa, NM. We are in need of a Personal Care Aide to assist one of our clients who is an elderly male Veteran and needs some help with bathing, dressing, grooming, and walking – to stay independent at home. The job is located in the city of Questa, NM. Paid at \$29/hour. Pay is \$25/hour base with a \$4/hour bonus to total \$29/hour. You get the bonus if you work all the shifts you agreed to work during that pay period. To apply, visit the Care Planning Institute, Inc website. <https://www.careplanninginstitute.org/hire/>

Security Guard- Securitas- Questa, NM. Observes and reports activities and incidents at an assigned client site, providing for the security and safety of client property and personnel. Makes periodic patrols to check for irregularities. Controls access to client site or facility through the admittance process. Prepares logs and reports as required. To apply, visit the Securitas website. <https://www.securitasinc.com/careers/>

Forestry Technician- US Forest Service- Questa, NM. This Forestry Technician position serves as a full assistant to the supervisor of a Fire Engine Module in areas with the added complexities of wildland-urban interface. The incumbent has primary responsibility for operation of the engine in responding to wildland fires and other projects as assigned. To apply, visit the US Forest Service website. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers>

Questa Senior Center - Cook. The senior center is looking for a cook to work M-F for 6 hrs/day. Incentive available if an individual applies before September 30! For more information or to apply, please contact the senior 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.

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



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 10 a.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 11 a.m. Green Tara. Friday 1 pm Green Tara both in-person and on Zoom. For more info www.earthjourney.org or contact Gabrielle at info@earthjourney.org or (575) 770-1682

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

AMALIA


SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH
1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 p.m.

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

RED RIVER

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP
Corner of River Street and Copper King Trail
Sunday 10:30 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

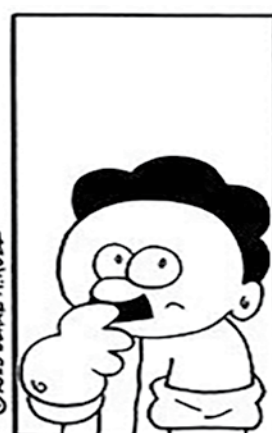
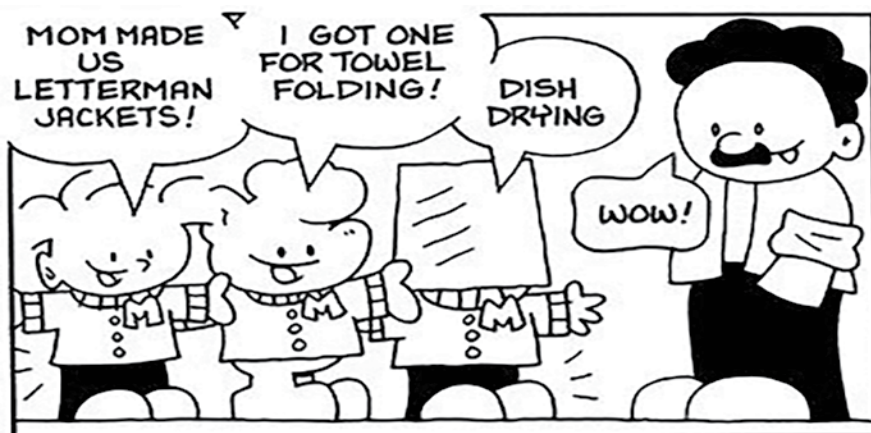


AA MEETINGS
Honesty, Unselfishness,
Purity and Love.

<p>QUESTA: Sundays 10-11 a.m. Questa Youth Center</p>	<p>RED RIVER: Tuesdays 7- 8 p.m. 417 E. High St. (Erik's Workshop)</p>
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DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR? FREE LISTINGS!
Enter your event Online! Scan QR Code here, or email us. Include the date, time, place, and contact Events@QuestaNews.com



zed by dane m. abel

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Opening October 19
Thursday evenings, 5-9 pm
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More info: questacreativecouncil@gmail.com




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