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Questa del Rio News

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Questa del Rio News Website Selected To Be Archived At The United States Library of Congress



Courtesy Photo

Left: Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Buiding, Washington DC. Visit [QuestaNews.com](https://www.questanews.com)

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

In mid-July, *Questa del Rio News* was contacted by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. They reached out, seeking permission to archive stories from this paper, as it has been identified as an “historical and culturally significant website, designated for historical preservation.”

The request reads, in part, “The Library hopes that you share its vision of preserving digital content and making it available to current and future generations of researchers. As the internet has become an increas-

ingly important and influential part of our lives, we believe the historical record would be incomplete if websites like yours are not preserved and made a part of it.”

Questa del Rio News has accepted this honorable request and moving forward, our site and social media page will be scanned at regular intervals to be added to the national archives.

“It is such an honor for our work to be seen as culturally and historically relevant to the official historical record of northern New Mexico,” says *Questa del Rio News*

Editor Mikayla Ortega. “It’s been our goal to tell and maintain the history of our people, to the best of our ability. We are a unique culture, and our traditions are slowly disappearing as we lose our older generations. Maintaining these stories, traditions, history through our reporting... this is how we are doing our part to ensure our stories live on.”

Questa del Rio News encourages you to reach out to share your story, tradition, and history with our publication. You can submit your ideas to editor@questanews.com.

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See page 3 for details about our funding.

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MIKAYLA ORTEGA Editor/ Jefe de Redacción editor@questanews.com

LYNN SKALL Business Manager/Gerente de negocios

JESSICA TRUJILLO Assistant Editor/Editor asistente

MARTHA SHEPP Copy Editor/Editor de copia

DINA COLEMAN Sales Associate/Asociada de ventas
sales-1@questanews.com

JEREMY ORTEGA Sales Associate/Asociada de ventas
sales-2@questanews.com

EMILY WILDE Graphic Design & Pagination/Diseño gráfico y paginación

LORA ARCINIEGA Reporter/Reportero

Wendy Vigil Photographer/Photógrafa

TERESA DOVALPAGE Translator/Traductora

Columnists/Columnistas:

Monthly Features/Presentaciones Mensuales:

DUANE ABEL

BRYCE FLANAGAN

MARTA GLOVER

JAY BOUCHARD

CHARLENE R. JOHNSON

CLAIRE CATLETT

SHARON NICHOLSON

J. ORTEGA

DAWN PROVENCHER

MANDY STAPLEFORD

BARBARA TRACY

JOHN WALSH

MICHAEL WILSON

ELLEN WOOD

BRITTANY MAES

CHUCK KROON Distribution Manager/Gerente de distribución
chkroon@gmail.com (575) 586-2360

MICHAEL BARBEE Calendar Coordinator/Coordinadora de calendario
events@questanews.com

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MIKAYLA ORTEGA

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Questa del Rio News

PO Box 1072

1 Highway 38

Questa, NM 87556

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

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

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Immersion in a New Culture: A Ukrainian Becomes Friends with the USA

By Contributing Writer
YORDANA KURHANEVYCH

Businesses in Red River often work with the Department of State to bring college and university students from other countries to work in their businesses during the busy summer season through the Summer Work Travel program. We spoke with Yordana Kurhanevych, who is currently working in Red River at Yesterday's Diner. She expressed interest in writing for the Questa del Rio News. This is her story.

Just a few months ago, living in the USA was nothing more than a dream for me. But now, that dream has become my reality. My journey began in March when I applied for the "Work and Travel 2024" program. Now, I'm here, and I couldn't be happier.

But who am I, and how did I come to write this article? I'm Yordana, a 19-year-old journalism student from Ukraine. One day, while serving orders at Yesterday's Diner, the restaurant where I work, I had the good fortune of meeting Mikayla Ortega, a journalist from *Questa del Rio News*. I expressed my interest in journalism, and she said she would love for me to write an article for the newspaper. I was both astonished and thrilled! Just imagine—my first article in an American newspaper! Isn't that another dream come true? So here I am, sharing my story with you.

To be honest, the first week was difficult for me. I have been living in war-stricken Ukraine. The long road, the adaptation period, the language barrier, and the different time zones between America and Ukraine made it hard to communicate with my family and friends. There was also a lingering guilt for being safe while they endured 20-hour power outages and constant shelling. Even now, that feeling hasn't gone away. Despite being in the USA, I can't bring myself to turn off the air raid notifications from Ukraine on my phone. I want to stay informed because a piece of my heart remains there. Not one day goes by without checking the news and I am constantly donating to help our people.

Although I am processing, I am thoroughly enjoying my time in the USA. I have a wonderful opportunity to



Courtesy photo

Ukrainian Yordana Kurhanevych experiencing America

immerse myself in a new culture, make friends with people from all over the world, gain new experiences, share my own, and just have a great time. Why not seize this chance?

America has impressed me with its openness and the sincerity of its people. Their smiles and ability to find the positive in any situation are truly inspiring. It's something worth learning. I am touched by how everyone who learns about my Ukrainian background expresses support, shows interest in the events in Ukraine, and sincerely sympathizes.

In Red River, I feel at home. Having grown up in a small town in western Ukraine with mountains, I immediately found familiar notes here. The climate is pleasant and familiar. I am also incredibly lucky with my employer. Dee Sims and her family have become my real American family. They always surround me with care, support, and a genuine desire to introduce me to all aspects of life in America. Thanks to them, I feel comfortable and cozy here.

I appreciate that interactions with customers here are friendly. We can talk, joke, and sometimes even exchange contact information. In Ukraine, the service industry is more restrained.

Also I feel my English improving. At first, understanding conversations was tough, but over time, I've gotten better.

NEW CULTURE cont'd on page 3

State Library Offers New Mexicans Free New York Times Subscriptions

By NASH JONES, KUNM

The state library is offering all New Mexicans free online subscriptions to the New York Times. The state Department of Cultural Affairs announced the resource this week, along with an app to download e-books and audiobooks at no charge.

The New Mexico State Library offers daily, prepaid subscriptions to the Times' news, cooking, and games sections. Residents can redeem codes on the library's website each day for digital access. Users must create an account with the newspaper to view the content, but no credit card information is required.

Deputy State Librarian Kate Alderete said in a statement, that connecting all New Mexicans to a national and international news source like the New York Times not only furthers the state library's mission, but "is essential to the health of a democratic society."

Alderete added that people experiencing news fatigue can also "switch over to games," like the crossword puzzle, or cooking, which offers a plethora of recipes.

The library also touted the Palace Project app, where New Mexicans can check out thousands of e-book and audiobook titles. Users can download the app to Apple or Android devices and register for a free account with the New Mexico State Library.

The app also has accessibility features like screen readers for people with visual impairments and fonts that can support people with dyslexia or other learning disabilities.

"The State Library's goal is to ensure equal access to fun and useful information for all New Mexicans," said Alderete.

<https://nmstatelibrary.org/accessnyt/>

NEW CULTURE cont'd from page 2

Although I still sometimes struggle to express my thoughts clearly. Americans always notice my accent and are curious about my origins. However, they are always understanding and ready to help.

One of the most memorable experiences was celebrating Independence Day. Previously, I had only seen such grand parades in movies, and this year I was lucky enough to be part of one. Unfortunately, Independence Day in Ukraine is not as joyful now. We honor the memory of those who have died in the war, so true celebrations are impossible.

For the first time in three years, I saw fireworks. Initially, the sounds of explosions scared me because they reminded me of the shelling in Kyiv. But eventually, I got used to it, and the fire-

works enchanted me and they rang out to celebrate the freedom of this country. The freedom that has given me restful nights, peaceful days and so much joy. That freedom is a beautiful thing and I celebrate it.

In Red River, we have formed our own small community of students from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Turkey. We spend a lot of time together, cook dishes from our countries, and share thoughts and emotions. The language barrier is no longer an obstacle to our communication.

This American summer has been a time of new discoveries, sincere emotions, and invaluable friendships for me. I will fondly remember this unforgettable journey that has given me so much new and interesting experiences. But this is just the beginning. *To be continued...*

We would like to issue two corrections in our July 2024 issue.

Correction: In our story "The Significance of La Reina de la Fiesta," we incorrectly identified the 2023 Reina as Ashlynn Rael. The 2023 Reina was Karina Rael.

Clarification: In our story "100-Mile Pilgrimage for Vocations Tradition Continues," we inadvertently left Georgiana Rael off the list, as a walker from Questa.

Questa Mayor Elected and Appointed To The National Association of Latino Official Board

By STAFF WRITERS

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) held its 41st annual conference June 18 through 20, in Las Vegas, Nevada, where a new president and board of directors were appointed to serve on the national organization's leadership.

Mayor John Ortega was nominated for his first term for the Class of 2027.

A full list of board officers include:

- California State Senator Bob Archuleta (D)

- Illinois State Senator Cristina Castro (D)
- Lynwood Unified School District School Board Member Julian Del Real-Calleros (R)
- Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia (D)
- Mayor of Village of Questa John Ortega (R)
- City of Hawthorne Mayor Alex Vargas (I)

The event brought a thousand Latino leaders and their supporters

from across the country to facilitate the meaningful exchange of ideas and foster solutions around the most current pressing policy issues.

Mayor Ortega will work with leadership across the nation to advance NALEO's mission to increase Latino political engagement, improve effectiveness of Latino policymakers, mobilize the Latino community to participate in civic life, ensure Latino elected and appointed officials are effective advocates, and improve the academic success of Latino students.

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

- ADELITA AND KOREY MEAD, AEDON HANNON, ASSOCIATED PRESS, BARBARA TRACY, BRITTANY MAES, BRYCE FLANAGAN, CHARLENE R. JOHNSON, DAWN PROVENCHER, DOMINIC VALLEJOS, DUANE ABEL, ELLEN WOOD, GAEA MCGAHEE, GILBERT JR. BRYAN GARCIA, GHOST WRITER MIGUEL, J. ORTEGA, JOHN ORTEGA, LIVING WORD MINISTRIES, MARCUS CHAVEZ, MARTA GLOVER, MELLIE RODRIGUEZ, MIKE RIDDLE, NASH JONES, PEGGY TRIGG, QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL, SHARON NICHOLSON, TERESA DOVALPAGE, TONER MITCHELL, YORDANA KURHANEVYCH

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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.

EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE AND DONOR TRANSPARENCY POLICIES

The *Questa del Rio News* retains full authority over editorial content to protect our best journalistic and business interests.

- We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations to support our paper. Our editorial decisions are not made based on donor support.
- We give no right of review or influence of editorial content.
- We are committed to transparency in every aspect of funding our organization.
- Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services, or opinions.

- We accept gifts and grants from individuals, organizations, and foundations to help with general operations, coverage of special projects and specific topics and maintain editorial control of that coverage. Our editorial judgments are made independently – not based on or influenced by donors. We do not give supporters the rights to assign, review, or edit content.
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- Download PDF of correction policy go to <https://questanews.com/about/>

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Red River Mountain Adventures

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Many people travel to northern New Mexico to enjoy the fresh air, closeness with nature, and connection to the land we call home. For this reason, giving people the right tools and guidance they need to respectfully enjoy our precious outdoors is a big priority for Red River Mountain Adventures.

Co-owner Stuart Church and his girlfriend Katy place great importance on ensuring their customers are well prepared to head out on local trails for fun and adventure. “This is our home and it’s important for us to teach people about recreating responsibly,” Stuart says.

The business rents out golf carts, OHV side-by-sides, and jeep wranglers, with options for multi-day use. Katy notes that they are the only jeep rental place in Red River, giving people the ability to explore popular trails and immerse themselves in the beauty of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Stuart was born and raised in Red River and has a deep appreciation for the place he calls home. “I decided to take on this venture along with Dirk



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

Neal. He’s my co-owner in this venture. I took over from Steve Gorsich. Becoming a business owner was a big leap of faith, but it’s better than working for someone else,” he says.

Business ownership runs in Stuart’s blood. His mother, Dee Sims, owns Yesterday’s Diner, and sister Jessica Rael owns HustlNHart. His co-ownership of Red River Mountain Adventures was a natural fit.

Educating customers is a big priority for Katy and Stuart. “We currently have a popsicle incentive for our customers—if they bring back a trash bag full of litter, they will get a free popsicle—and it’s working! The kids really enjoy it,” Katy says.

Katy and Stuart are running the business for the most part alone. “We have a few locals who can fill in for us here and there, but we’re really a mom-and-pop shop,” Stuart says.

The duo says they are always working to reinvest in the local community. Just recently, they paid artist Michael Riddle to paint their business sign. “We always try to stay local, whether it be a mechanic, a contractor, anyone we have to hire for our business—our goal is to hire locals and keep business in our community.”

Red River Mountain Adventures is currently open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the fall, they plan to reduce to 6 days a week. They are closed during the winter months.

If you’re interested in renting a vehicle from Red River Mountain Adventures, the website is www.redriverohv.com. They are located at 800-A E. Main St. in Red River, New Mexico and their phone number is (575) 754-6363.

The Grill at the Monte Carlo Modernizes Business Model



By STAFF WRITERS

The Grill at the Monte Carlo owned by the Gallegos family, is making big changes to its business model. In early July, they announced there would be online ordering available, a first in the northern New Mexico scene.

The business is using Toast Tab, an online portal used to order and pay for orders in advance. Additionally,

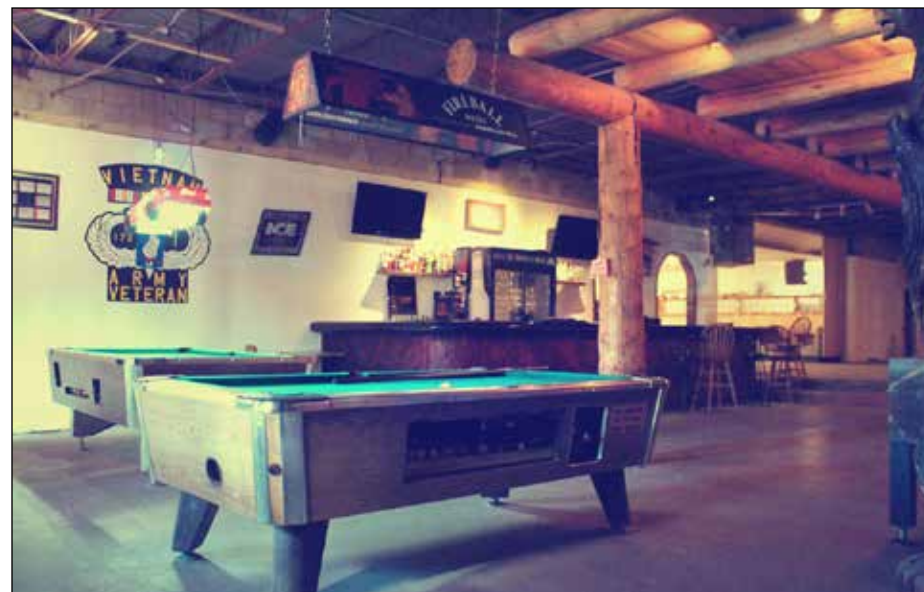
patrons will now be able to purchase gift cards online. The restaurant also announced a loyalty program for regulars who frequent the restaurant.

The Monte Carlo’s options range from typical pub fare to traditional New Mexican options. According to the Yelp description, the beloved local family-owned establishment has been serving authentic New Mexican cuisine for over 35 years.

The Grill at the Monte Carlo is located at 2435 Highway 522 Questa, NM 87556.

Photo by E. Wilde

Interior, El Monte Carlo



August 21: Grand Opening of the Questa Business Bridge and Questa Business Resource Day

By LYNN SKALL

Director of the Questa Economic Development Fund

Come celebrate the grand opening of the Questa Business Bridge at the Questa Public Library on Wednesday, August 21, from 3 to 6 p.m. Join Mayor John Ortega, area dignitaries, and community leaders as they officially launch the opening of the Business Bridge and cut the cake to celebrate this grand opening!

There will be a ribbon cutting, giveaways, drawings, and a \$100 grand prize. Plus, it's a "business resource day" with information and exhibit tables from partner service organizations.

"The Business Bridge is more than a business center, it connects the community to training and business resources, and expands what the Questa Public Library has to offer," said Mayor Ortega. "It provides services locally, so Questeños don't have to leave our community to take advantage of these opportunities."

Malaquias Rael, Chair of the Questa Economic Development Fund added, "the Business Bridge supports and promotes local enterprise, encouraging entrepreneurial activities and strengthens our business climate where businesses are poised to grow, and new jobs are created."

Business resource day offers communi-

ty members the opportunity to meet representatives from area, regional, and state organizations that champion businesses by providing support services, funding, collaborative partnerships, advocacy, and personal assistance. Meet ambassadors from HIVE (the Hub of Internet-based Vocation and Education), local funding institutions, New Mexico Workforce Solutions Center, Chambers of Commerce, UNM, the Small Business Development Center, local foundations, economic development entities, and local resources.

Peter Mitchell, the Questa area regional representative from the New Mexico department of economic development, will be in attendance. Mitchell explains how he and his partner, Paige Ryan, work as "connectors"—"the state offers so much beneficial information and so many resources on funding, incentives, and tax benefits to help you launch and grow your business; it's our role to help connect you to the right people for the right support at the right time."

Lynn Skall, Director of the Questa Economic Development Fund, explains that QEDF was awarded a \$25,000 LEADS grant from the NM economic development department to launch the Business Bridge. "A portion of the funds were used to enhance the 'business center' aspects

of the Library, including the purchase of a commercial-grade copier (with scanner and fax) for public use, two desktop computers, and a 75-inch 'smart white-board,' which is a giant rolling monitor for presentations, webinars, and training, with touch-screen technology."

"The balance of the LEADS funds, along with another grant from Triad Systems/LANL, are used to host on-going business training and coaching sessions," said Skall. Weekly workshops focus on relevant topics that help members of the community start and grow their businesses, such as "Introduction to Entrepreneurship," "Business Registration and Permitting," "Social Media for Your Business," "Small Business Accounting and Tax Basics."

Once a month the Business Bridge also sponsors one-on-one confidential business consultations with the director of the Small Business Development Center Anwar Kaelin, a class for seniors that

helps with technology support; and NM Workforce Solutions open sessions that will provide job seekers with career services and business owners with employment resources.

Business Bridge coordinator Jessica Trujillo explains that "the classes are free to everyone; we try to tailor the workshops and training to the community's needs and interests, so let us know what you'd like to see offered."

For more information on the Questa Business Bridge or the business resource day, email QBB-Coordinator@QuestaEDF.com.

WHEN: Wed, August 21, 3 - 6 p.m.

WHAT: Questa Business Bridge Grand Opening and Business Resource Day

WHERE: Questa Public Library, 6-1/2 Municipal Park Road, Questa

CONTACT: Lynn Skall, lynn@questaedf.com or (575) 586-2149

Questa Launching Business Retention & Expansion Program

By LYNN SKALL

Director, Questa Economic Development Fund

The Questa Economic Development Fund was awarded a \$23,000 Local Economic Assistance and Development Support (LEADS) grant in July from the New Mexico Economic Development Department to launch a business retention and expansion (BRE) program. This is an economic development initiative bringing business owners and community leaders together to help strengthen the local economic environment.

Lynn Skall, director of the QEDF explains that, "the key objective of a BRE program is for community leaders to sit down with individual area business owners and have engaging conversations



Courtesy Photo

Monique Parker

about the issues that impact and challenge the business. What obstacles are they facing that may be preventing them from growing? What support do they need? What solutions would they like to see implemented?"

The grant enabled QEDF to hire Monique Parker as a part-time BRE Coordinator. Parker is a long-time resident of the

QBRE cont'd on page 11

Cerro VFW Renovation Project Celebrates Grand Opening

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Cerro VFW has reached a momentous milestone, completing the renovation begun over a year ago. On Saturday, July 13, the community gathered at the Cerro VFW to celebrate the success of the new and improved building. Marty Martinez and his band performed for the crowd.

We spoke with Adelita “Dee Dee” Mead, the Cerro VFW Quartermaster/Adjutant who worked on project management with her husband, Cerro VFW Commander Korey Mead.

Together, the pair coordinated volunteers to assist with repairs. In an opening day speech from Commander Kory Mead, he gave thanks to the community for their tremendous support, saying “Several large donations came from the LOR Foundation, Taos Community Foundation and Kit Carson, and those were instrumental in bringing our VFW back to life. We went through the entire process of re-establishing our non-profit in accordance with the State, and now we’re fully insured and ready for events. I want to especially thank Mr. David Cisneros, Past Post Commander, for his unwavering dedication to get this building repaired, always in remembrance and honor of his cousin, our Post’s namesake, PFC Charles Castulo Cisneros.

Muchas gracias to Mr. and Mrs. Demecio Duran, for helping with literally everything from painting, to donating a cow elk hunt for our on-going raffle and much more, and all our active Post members and VFW Comrades from Las Vegas, NM VFW Post 1571. We had the help of some amazing people, Navy Seabees, Army Combat Engineers, Air Force Load Masters, talented electricians, carpenters, and contractors come in and help us out. Lastly, and very importantly, my mother-in-law, Ms. Charlene Chavarria for all she has done; she’s a constant amazing supporter and proud VFW Auxiliary Lifetime Member, and all the VFW Auxiliary members in our community. We are currently seeking 15 new members to renew the Cerro Charter, if anyone is interested in joining either the Auxiliary or our Post, please let us know.

Early on in the project, Dee Dee says that although they received grants from Kit Carson and the Taos Community



Courtesy Photo

Commander Korey Mead and musician Marty Martinez

Foundation, they were not able to afford contractors and materials therefore the work was largely done by the skills and abilities of the members. We have veterans who were in the Navy, Army logisticians, combat engineers, Air Force Supply and mechanical engineers, many of whom came out and did their part.

When discussing how this project was achieved, she says she and her husband put a lot of work into its success. “Korey and I were usually there most days. People would stop by as they had time. We also raised some generous donations through our GoFundMe,” she says. “We couldn’t have achieved this success without the support of the community. People donated materials, skills, and money, which helped us substantially. Even when people would simply share our GoFundMe, it helped immensely.”

When asked why this project was so important to Dee Dee, she was quick to point to the building as a cornerstone for the Cerro community. “This building is where our community comes together to celebrate, to mourn, to find one another in life-changing times and lean on one another. We needed to get it up and running to continue to serve its role in our community.”

Having served in the military herself, Dee Dee wants to ensure current members can honor the sacrifice of our veterans, both living and deceased, through



Courtesy Photo

Dee Dee and her husband Korey stand proudly at the Cerro VFW Grand Opening Celebration

their work. “Through the renovation, we found so many things from the past, like documents with writing on them from the 50s and 60s. Seeing these pieces of our history gave us so much motivation to keep going, because we did this to honor them,” she says. “We have a display of military items and memorabilia of notable veterans at the VFW from our own communities. This is a way we’re going to honor our veterans every single day.”



VILLAGE VOICE

North Kiowa Road Residents Meeting

By STAFF WRITERS

The Village of Questa is calling for a meeting with residents who currently own property on North Kiowa Road.

Between 1993 and 1998, the New Mexico Department of Transportation’s construction work along North Kiowa Road impacted landowners with some land acquisition. Because of that roadway construction project, small slivers of land now remain as Village of Questa properties. The Village wants to begin the process of returning these slivers of property back to their respective owners.

There are a couple of hurdles to cross, such as survey costs, and determining fair market value of the small segments of property.

The Village is seeking input from current landowners, and we hope to address your concerns and answer your questions at this informative meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacob LaFore at (575) 586-0694 or email: jlafore@villageofquesta.org

When: Thursday, August 8, 6 p.m.

Where: Village of Questa Council Chambers

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Exploring New Mexico's Diverse Home Styles

Northern New Mexico is rich in diversity and architectural styles, influenced by Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo cultures and history. The unique blend of traditional and contemporary styles is one of the many reasons new homeowners are moving to

the Land of Enchantment. This region offers a heritage and culture that not everyone understands, from traditions handed down through generations to property passed from one family member to the next. Whether it's a ranch where your family raised animals with their blood, sweat, and tears, or a cabin in the mountains filled with memories of ski trips and summers, the history and architecture of northern New Mexico tells stories of the past.

For this month's column, I will discuss various types of New Mexico-style homes and their modern-day costs. Please note that these are only estimates, and prices fluctuate and vary depending on many differing variables. My expertise lies in helping you find your New Mexico paradise when you are ready to buy.

Adobe homes are made from natural elements like clay, sand, straw, water, and grass. The word "adobe" is Spanish for "mud brick." The mixture is formed into bricks, compacted, leveled by hand,

and left to dry in the sun, which is ideal for this climate. Adobe structures are strong and durable, with thick walls that help keep buildings cool in the summer and warm in the winter. This building tradition dates back to the 1400s, long before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors. While adobe construction is labor-intensive and time-consuming, these homes can last for thousands of years if well-built and maintained. DIY adobe construction costs between \$55 and \$85 per square foot, while hiring a contractor can cost between \$150 and \$250 per square foot.

Log cabins, rich in mountain charm, have a special place in northern New Mexico. These cabins provide a distinct separation from everyday life, offering a connection to nature. Historically used in European countries, log cabins became the standard home for mountain living in the early 1800s. Cabins in our real estate market are typically priced between \$200 and \$500 per square foot, excluding new builds.

Frame construction, using standardized dimensional lumber, is now the dominant method in New Mexico. This technique allows builders to enclose large areas at minimal cost while achieving various architectural styles. New frame builds in northern New Mexico are being purchased in the median range of \$400 to \$500 per square foot. Although it is usually cheaper to buy a home than to build one, constructing a new home offers a customized residence tailored to your needs.

Whether you are drawn to the historic charm of adobe homes, the rustic appeal of log cabins, or the modern efficiency of frame construction, this region has something for everyone. As you explore your options, remember that finding the right home is about more than just the price per square foot—it's about finding a place that feels like home and fits your lifestyle. When you are ready to make your move, I am here to help you find your perfect piece of New Mexico paradise.

Cultivo: Youth Working Cerro Vista Farm Grow Produce To Sell

By Contributing Writer
GAEA MCGAHEE

Cultivo (Community, Unity, Land, Tradition, Innovation, Vocation & Opportunity) is a nonprofit program under Localogy, a local 501(c)(3). Our mission is to grow food security, cultural continuity, and economic vitality in northern Taos County by inspiring, educating, and equipping the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

This season we've focused on hiring, mentoring and instructing 6 to 10 paid youth interns to work mainly at Cerro Vista Farm and sell what they produce at Questa Farmers Market. At Cerro Vista, farmer Daniel Carmona is sharing his decades of locally adapted farming experience with a regular cohort, ages 10 to 17, along with their mentors.

The goal for Cultivo in short is to "Keep It Growing," to keep local agricultural projects vital, at Cerro Vista Farm, and more broadly, in northern Taos County.

Cerro Vista has rented field and high-tunnel space to the Cultivo enterprise and through June and July youth interns have been growing cucumbers, lettuce, kale, tomatoes, basil, zucchini and much more. They are selling this produce at the Questa Farmers Market (QFM). Cultivo has received funding



Photo by Gaea McGahee

Left to right: Mikhael Oskarsson, Will Place, Daniel Carmona, Dominik Anaya-Rael, Joel Santistevan, Trey Cloud. Carmona, center, gives green onion harvest instruction to mentors and interns at Cerro Vista Farm July 12

from Chevron Grants For Good, a Rural Roots Grant, and has applied for additional funding. This financial support in addition to the market vegetable enterprise, helps pay the teens, their mentors, and rent the land, tractor use, wash and storage facilities, etc. We are growing carrots and cabbage for the Sangre de Cristo Valley Market in Questa, too. If we are successful this season, we hope to do more next year!

The youth interns, mentors and farmer Daniel Carmona collaborative-

ly plan and execute the farming and marketing operations. Now that they've successfully grown food and begun selling the vegetables at QFM, I wanted to check in and share their voices here.

On July 2 we harvested garlic scapes from garlic planted in October 2023. Carmona has developed the Cerro Rojo land race, garlic he's been growing for 28 years, which originally he acquired from Jack Yaple (who grew it for 15 years nearby, prior to Carmona acquiring seeds): it's developed from

Spanish Roja. It is a land race because it has been growing in this location for over 42 years.

Cultivo interns could be the next generation of farmers. Some are admittedly mainly interested in earning money at a local job that seems fun and is outdoors. Key to our success is access to an established business model, shovel-ready infrastructure, and intensive mentorship — all provided at Cerro Vista Farm with farmer Daniel and the Quintana family, Fred, Lena, and their kids Esperanza (Espe, the Fiesta Queen this year), and Elias, who have farmed with Carmona for nine years. Supporting mentors Heather Armstrong, Mikhael Oskarsson, and I work with the teens weekly to plant, weed, harvest, wash and pack the produce, and track farm data and sales along with our careful record keeper, Daniel Carmona.

At the Sunday Questa Farmers Market, Cultivo interns, along with QFM interns, are participating in a market business selling produce. This additional role for youth adds to the other youth-led micro-businesses at QFM, which include running a coffee booth and making pizza in the horno. The pizza makers are adding Cerro Vista produce, plus what

LOCAL AG cont'd on page 21



Supporting Road and Trail Maintenance in Questa

From the still waters of Eagle Rock Lake to the plains and canyons of Río Grande del Norte National Monument, Questa's landscapes are as rich as the village's history. And they also offer plen-

tiful recreational opportunities—if you know where to find them.

During the Red River Restoration Project (a local, state, and federal effort to improve aquatic habitat and remediate the effects of the Questa Mine), crews built a trail within village limits with public access points to the river. But a map was never created for the trail, leaving residents and visitors without a way to navigate.

Even if residents did find their way to the Red River or one of Questa's other plentiful trails, would-be hikers would often find them obscured and obstructed by overgrowth and debris. The same was true for many of Questa's smaller roads because the Village of Questa's Utility Department did not have the tools it needed.

Wanting to ensure locals had access

to the bountiful outdoor opportunities around them, village staff developed a solution and approached LOR Questa Community Officer Maria Gonzalez with an idea in June. With the support of Gonzalez and LOR, the village is buying three new attachments for its tractor and designing and printing a trail map for the river trail, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the natural resources Questa has to offer.

"Our landscapes are important to who we are as a community," Gonzalez says. "They support not only our local economy but our heritage. And our transportation infrastructure is key to connecting locals and visitors to the land."

The grant marked the first transportation idea that Questa locals have put into action with the help of LOR this

year. With transportation issues affecting nearly everyone in the Questa community, Gonzalez hopes to support more solutions in the coming months that make streets safer, paths cleaner, and travel around the village easier.

Gonzalez is always excited to collaborate with locals and brainstorm about community projects, no matter how small. If you have an idea, share it with her at maria@lorfoundation.org or by calling (575) 665-2001. Your small idea could make a big difference for Questa locals.

LOR works with rural communities in the Mountain West to enhance livability and prosperity while preserving the character that makes each community unique. LOR supports locally led community projects that improve transportation, housing, the environment, education, civic engagement, water, health, and the economy.

40 & 90 Years: Strength Found In Merging Two Family Churches

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Living Word Ministries (LWM) of Questa has a lot to celebrate. According to Pastor Gayle Martinez, LWM regularly welcomes 85 to 100 people each week for Sunday services. Additionally, this August marks 18 years since LWM successfully merged with El Buen Pastor Church. Their celebrations will take place August 2 through 4 and include an outdoor worship and picnic on Friday at the Questa Lodge, a service honoring their past on Saturday at LWM, and a worship service blessing the pastors at LWM on Sunday. Their celebration theme is centered on honoring their past and celebrating their future.

If you plan to attend a church service at LWM on a Sunday you may have a hard time finding a parking spot, but the story about getting to this point is a labor of love.

El Buen Pastor Church was established in 1934 in Questa. It was a church built by those who loved the gospel. One of those founding members was the father of Ofelia Maritnez, Federico Gonzales. As a young girl, Ofelia remembers her father applying mud plaster to the walls of the church when it was first being built. "We grew up in the church," she says, attending services on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. "We were always at the church and we were raised with strict rules." Ofelia's father was a layman in the church at the time and along with Ofelia's mother, Carmelita Quintana, they learned to love the Lord. "I was taught that If you're a Christian in church then you're also a Christian

in school." As a child, Ofelia remembers waking up at 5 in the morning to prepare for church service.

Attending El Buen Pastor Church as a child is how she met her friend Julia Rolfe (then Gonzales). They would have singing competitions while wearing white blouses and long blue skirts, and then gather at Ofelia's home after church services. They became best friends and remain so to this very day.

Julia remembers walking to El Buen Pastor Church on Cabresto Road from her family's home on South Kiowa Road in the winter. "We would walk in pants and then when we'd get to church we would change to our skirts because pants weren't allowed," Julia recalls. "There was no TV, no radio, no toys; we played in the silo in the wheat," Julia says. Both ladies remember that families didn't have a lot growing up but they were always looking out for each other and their pastors. "If we saw someone who didn't have something, like beans or flour, we'd make sure to share what we had," says Ofelia.

Debbie Martinez, daughter of Ofelia, remembers that families played a huge role in the church. "Everything happened together. We focused on the youth and we had great pastors along the way" says Debbie.

The original location of El Buen Pastor Church used to be on Cabresto Road. It later added a second church on Llano Road where the current LWM church is located; however, the original location of LWM, founded by Dan and Evelyn Quin-

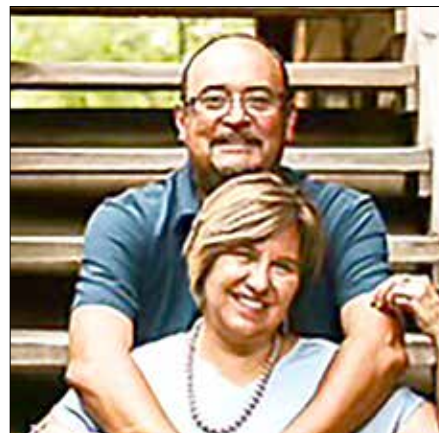


Photo Courtesy of Gayle Martinez

Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez

tana in 1984, was actually just north of Questa, in El Rito. The cinder block-built church started its life on donated land as a home bible study. The church saw a few pastors come through their doors, including Juan and Diana Padilla. At one point in LWM's history, they were without pastors and Pastor Peter had visited the church service to give a presentation. At that time, LWM had three couples who were attending services and after lots of prayer and conversation, Pastor Peter and wife, Pastor Gayle Martinez, accepted positions at LWM, in 2006. They had been with Good News Christian Fellowship in Taos as associate pastors. Membership eventually grew and, with limited space, kids had Sunday school in a school bus, which they weren't opposed to.

El Buen Pastor Church was without pastors and LWM was growing out of their space. Conversations about a merger

between the two churches began. The process took about a year and services took place at both churches. "It was like bringing two families together. We were getting to know each other," says Pastor Peter. Then after some time, the property and church was deeded over to LWM and work on renovating the building took place. The merger of the two congregations took place officially in 2016, where pastors Peter and Gayle have been serving for 18 years.

These stories are foundational to current church practices. Family is central. Youth still have a role and as a congregation they are still instrumental in the community. The LWM church building has recently gone through some renovations, making it a beautiful, inviting space.

Sunday is not the only day you see this church congregation active. There is always something that the parishioners are offering the community, whether it be their weekly bible study, grief support groups, youth basketball clinics, vacation bible school, or back-to-school events, to name a few. This church has been integral in our community, doing great things for many years. Pastor Gayle mentions that their outreach programs are focused on families, encouraging strong marriages, and having an active youth program, all of which echoes their foundation.

The leadership team is equally impressive. Their pastoral leaders include Lead Pastor Peter, co-pastor Gayle Martinez,

TOGETHER cont'd on page 11

Blue Bus Grant Expected to Increase Transportation Access in Rural Northern New Mexico

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The “Blue Bus,” owned and operated by the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD), announced via press release in mid-July that it has received a \$9.5 million grant from the US Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program.

The district plans to utilize the funding to enhance the connectivity between Santa Fe, Española, and Taos while creating hubs along the transit route. Additionally, seven diesel electric hybrid buses will be added to the Rural Rapid Transit system, which will increase the number of buses serving the route overall to 21.

“This grant marks a pivotal moment for our region’s transportation infrastructure,” said NCRTD Executive Director Anthony Mortillaro, “it will allow us to advance our vision of

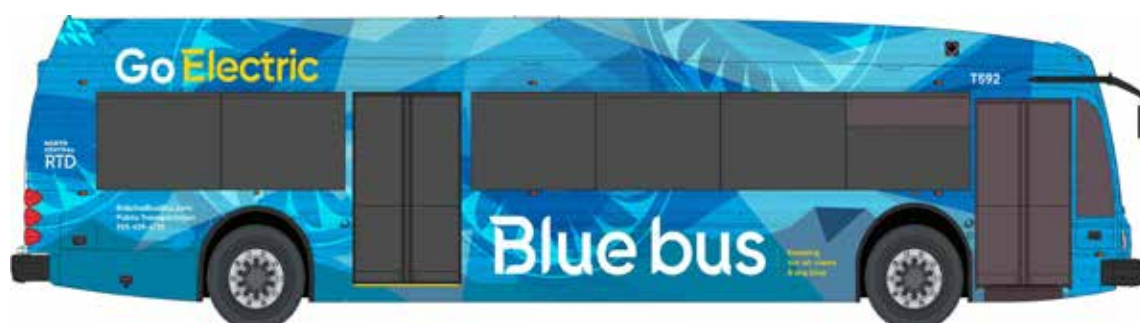
integrated mobility and community vitality through the development of an innovative Rural Rapid Transit system that will connect our communities and help the environment.” *Questa del Rio News* specifically asked the NCRTD how this would impact those who live in the northern Taos County region. Rick L’Amie, a spokesperson for the district, responded, “The people of Questa and Red River will eventually be able to take a bus to Taos to connect with our proposed Rural Rapid Transit network,

which will have more buses operating with a higher frequency between Taos and Santa Fe. When the system is fully built out over the next 20 years, buses will operate as often as every 15 minutes along the route.”

Currently, the district is only able to operate a bus on this route every 3 to 5 hours on weekdays. In addition, weekend service is expected to commence. As a part of the district’s efforts to increase trip frequency across the network, L’Amie says “there will be priority

signalization technology installed on the buses that communicate with stop lights to extend green lights as a bus approaches, allowing buses to make faster trips with less stops.” They also plan to operate all buses with zero emissions by 2045, meaning buses will be all-electric or have some other emission-free technology.

The district plans to work toward these improvements in phases. Phase One implementation may start as soon as October of 2026.



Prototype of the electric blue buses coming to New Mexico in the future

Love Questa? Have an idea that could make life here even better? **Let's talk.**

LOR supports projects created and led by locals, focusing on solutions that improve the lives of all kinds of Questa residents—from teachers to truck drivers, student athletes to visual artists. **So far, LOR has funded over 45 projects in Questa, with grants ranging from \$800 to over \$28,000. And the best part? No formal applications or deadlines required.**



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Representando al Norte: Gilbert Jr. Bryan Garcia

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 August issue, we spoke to long-time educator and Questa native Gilbert Jr. Bryan Garcia. Graduating from Questa High School in 1992, Garcia moved to Portales to attend Eastern New Mexico University. He obtained his bachelor's degree in elementary education, with a minor in history. Upon his college graduation in 1997, he moved to Odessa, Texas, where he taught for two years. These two years helped Garcia recognize that nothing compares to home.

Garcia decided to move back to New Mexico in 1999, finding his first teaching job at Santo Domingo Elementary School. "I sincerely missed New Mexican culture, food, faith, traditions. Landing at Santo Domingo School helped me realize that even though we don't have the same backgrounds, we have the same reverence and devotion to our cultures and traditions." He taught for three years at Santo Domingo School, then was quickly promoted to principal for his remaining years.

An interesting coincidence—during his first few years as principal, he co-led the position with a familiar face. "Rich-



Courtesy Photo

From left to right: Gaspar Garcia (brother), Amanda Garcia (sister-in-law), Andrew Garcia (son), Lucrisha Garcia (wife), Gilbert Bryan Garcia, Samantha Garcia (daughter), Lorraine Garcia (mom), Gilbert Garcia (dad)

ard Torralda was my principal in Questa my freshman and sophomore year. He then served with me as co-principal at Santo Domingo," Garcia says with a chuckle. It was then that he realized the teaching community network across the state is small and close knit. "Something [that] growing up in Questa taught me was that your reputation precedes you. It's the reason I am compelled to be humble, kind, and respectful because you never know who you will cross paths with next."

In 2007, Garcia moved on to work for Rio Rancho School District where he served as a principal from 2007 through 2018 at Puesta del Sol Elementary School. "We moved to Rio Rancho because this was the community where we raised our children, so we wanted to be fully connected to the community," he says.

In January of 2019, after over 20 years as a public educator, Garcia decided to pursue a different opportunity with the Albuquerque public school district as a Community Schools Development Specialist, a position he currently holds. His job is to recognize and address inequities in areas across the district and provide community school models, which help students feel more connected to their peers, community, and support systems for them and their families.

"Questa Schools are community schools. This position for me is a personal one, because I saw firsthand how our community would come together if any of our classmates had gone through a loss, or if their families needed help. We

carried each other and the school was our hub of connection where we fostered these relationships from kindergarten to 12th grade," Garcia says.

Garcia says he is eternally grateful to his parents and grandparents for teaching his Spanish as it has helped him break down barriers and communicate across communities. "It's because of them I can have conversations with kids in Spanish. Being bilingual has been a key skill in my career and gives me a strong connection to my culture, heritage, and family. I am so blessed that my family showed me the value of learning and using my language."

His experience growing up in Questa is part of what drives his passion to provide equitable opportunities for kids in the Albuquerque school system. "Some kids are one broken down car away from being homeless. Their families don't have any support systems and that broken down car means loss of a job, it means living in a shelter, it means everything in their lives gets upended. Having a community school, a hub of connection for students, means we can address these barriers and provide help and support so students can succeed, in spite of barriers."

Currently, Garcia is proud to report that over 60 schools in the district have implemented this community-based model. In May of 2024, he traveled to Washington D.C. for a White House Summit on Chronic Absenteeism. He was able to discuss the success the district and community has seen with chronic absenteeism dropping from 44



Courtesy Photo

percent in 2021-22 to 22 percent for the 2023-24 school year.

When asked why he decided to pursue education, he is quick to point to his upbringing in northern New Mexico. "I was very fortunate to be raised by the best parents, Gilbert and Lorraine Garcia. Me and my brother Gaspar were beyond blessed to have them, my grandparents, tias and tios, padrinos, cousins—our entire family was such a blessing. Having this upbringing is what drove me to pursue servant leadership, working with students to give them support they may not have."

Garcia is the proud father of a son, Andrew, and daughter, Samantha. He recently got married to his best friend, Lucrisha Garcia, in May of 2023. "My new marriage has brought me closer to my faith, [my] family, and has brought out the values of my upbringing in Questa. Both our families love us and we are so happy that we found each other," he says.

TOGETHER cont'd from page 8

worship pastor Celina Trujillo, and associate pastor Jimmy Rael. Church elders include Dan Quintana (Living Word founding member), Debra Martinez, Jose Martinez, and several deacons and creative art leads.

Get on their social media to discover the multitude of good things this church is doing for our community.



Photo by Lora Arciniega

(Left to right) Julia Rolfe, Debbie Martinez, Ofelia Martinez

QBRE cont'd from page 5

Questa area, living in El Rito for over 20 years. She brings a portfolio of professional experiences that make her ideally suited to oversee this project, from owning her own business in Taos County, working as a marketing communications consultant for Fortune 500 companies in Silicon Valley prior to her relocation to northern New Mexico, to teaching and mentoring through the UNM-Taos.

Parker will be coordinating the Questa BRE Program. She will be convening the businesses and community leaders, hosting roundtables to brainstorm solutions to issues, all while keeping a record of the information and outcomes. Ultimately, Parker will compile a report

of all the data collected during the personal visits and interviews and present the findings to the Questa community in the spring of 2025.

As a business owner, please expect to hear more about the Questa Business Retention and Expansion Program, and how you and your company can participate in this process.

Community leaders, who will be key stakeholders in administering the program, will be invited to participate from government, economic development organizations, foundations, and other relevant institutions.

For more information about the Questa BRE Program, email Monique Parker at QBRE-Coordinator@QuestaEDF.com.

FREE INDIVIDUALIZED TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CLASS

AUGUST 9




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In Person Tech Support for Seniors!

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To reserve your spot for an individualized session, visit or call the Questa Public Library at (575) 586-2023.

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Call 575-586-2023 for more information

*Sponsored by Friends of the Library

Living Word Ministries

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC

Bring or purchase a picnic dinner. Enjoy the night with worship, games special water baptism, followed by fireside smores & singing.

REVIVAL SERVICES CELEBRATE WITH US!

AUGUST 2 - FRIDAY - 6 PM
OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC

Questa Lodge & RV Park
8 Lower Embargo Rd Questa, NM

- BRING OR PREORDER A PICNIC DINNER
- WATER BAPTISMS

To pre-order picnic meal: scan QR code



AUGUST 3- SATURDAY - 6 PM
HONORING OUR PAST
40 & 90 YRS

Living Word Ministries
12 Llano Rd Questa, NM

- DESSERT RECEPTION

RSVP Saturday, Aug 3: Scan QR Code



AUGUST 4 - SUNDAY - 10:30 AM
CROSSING OVER CEREMONY

Special Sunday Service
LWM 12 Llano Rd Questa, NM

- POTLUCK RECEPTION

RSVP Sunday: Sunday, Aug 4
Scan QR Code






We look forward to seeing you!



**QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

From the Librarian's Desk

SHARON NICHOLSON,
Library Director

The librarian's office is less cluttered, the refrigerator and freezer are almost empty, the limbo equipment is stashed away, and the garden will be quiet on Tuesday and Friday mornings. No more trucks to explore, tents to pitch, helicopters to land. Summer Reading 2024 has come to a close.

There were 12 sessions during June and July this year. A total of 61 kids were registered in the program. Vida Camp added 42 to our numbers on two occasions. With 520 visits during the 12 weeks, the total number of participants averaged 43 each day!

This year's staff and programs were amazing. Monica McClelland directed the program with flare and grace. Library Assistant Andie Ortega kept records and assisted Monica. Kate Mann kept the library intact and functioning for regular library guests. Volunteers Margaret Lejuste and Linda Betz wel-

comed the kids each morning and heard what they had read during the week. Parents were quick to pitch in wherever they were needed.

Thank you to everyone who made Summer Reading 2024 a true adventure. All the truckers, Larry Sanchez, Mayor John Ortega, the Village of Questa, Questa EMS, Fire and Police Departments, Lyle Groves, Jenny Kostecki, Twirl, Spencer Warnock, Nick and Alex from the Forest Service, Claire Cote, Cat Gilliam, Joyce Archuleta, Mark Lewis Wagner, John Walsh, the crew of CareFlight 16, Friends of the Questa Public Library and, of course, Smokey Bear.

We are now planning Summer Reading 2025. Get ready!



Courtesy photo

CareFlight 16 Finishes Out Questa Library's Summer Reading Program

By STAFF WRITERS

The Questa Library closed out its successful summer reading program on Friday, July 19, with a very special celebration—Frito pies, games, prizes, and the CareFlight 16 helicopter made its grand appearance. Children were able to look inside the helicopter, try out some of the gear, and get hands-

on experience of what it's like inside CareFlight 16.

A post on CareFlight 16's Facebook page reads in part: "We always want to encourage our children to reach to the stars and they can be whatever they want to do. Thank you to Questa library for inviting CareFlight 16 to your reading event."



Courtesy CareFlight 16

Artist Shares the Story of Questa Inspiring his Creative Journey

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Michael Riddle was raised in Questa. He always had a keen eye for art, often being able to create designs from a young age. "I remember in elementary school, I used to freehand sports team logos for my friends. It's just been something that has intrigued me."

It was during his senior year at Questa High School that he uncovered his true potential. "I took Mrs. Vialpando's art course, and it was really the moment that I realized I loved painting."

Riddle prefers acrylic to oil paintings, as he says it's easier to change and manipulate with little down time. "Oil paintings require a lot of patience and I like to have the freedom to go in and make changes to my work."

Currently, Riddle works as a freelance artist, often being commissioned by businesses in northern Taos County for work. Much of his work is focused on trout-related art. He also does custom paintings, digital logo design, and digital drawing.



Courtesy Photo

"When I am commissioned, I like to speak with the customer and ask a lot of questions. I do my best work when I can be creative and make their vision come to life," he says. Riddle says patience is key when producing his best work. "When my customers are patient, it gives me the time



Courtesy Photo

Mike Riddle painted a mural at General Mills

and space to produce something great."

Last year, he had the opportunity to design the beer labels for Boxing Bear Brewing Company. He created the label for Just Jonesin' 3, a strawberry mango Goose Beer.

Riddle lives in Albuquerque and has a 14-year-old son named Braden. Although his home is not living in northern New Mexico, he is deeply connected to his roots and maintains connections across



Courtesy Photo

A look at the Just Jonesin' 3 beer logo created by Mike Riddle, for the Boxing Bear Brewing Company

the northern New Mexico area, which has resulted in many opportunities to create art for local businesses.

After working for 13 years at General Mills, Riddle decided to take a leap of faith toward becoming a tattoo artist. "I am currently in the process of completing a tattoo apprenticeship and plan to become a tattoo artist, hopefully soon. This is one way I can be an artist and help people's visions come to life."

You can follow his journey on Instagram @MikeRiddleArt.



August 10-11: Questa Art Tour!

The Questa Art Tour is always one of the earliest studio tours in New Mexico, and the 2024 tour is no exception! Hosted and organized by the Questa Creative Council, the tour will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, August 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Over 40 artists will open their doors to visitors who come from several states away, and also welcome plenty of local art lovers. You're invited to come meet your artistic neighbors

and support their creativity by visiting them and perhaps even purchasing artwork.

The tour route's 18 designated hubs or studios are located from the south side of our historic village, to Cerro, throughout El Rito and Sunshine Valley and on northward to Costilla and Garcia, Colorado, all buffered by the Carson National Forest and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

Art and crafts were developed in this isolated area not only from inspiration but from a basic need for goods. This all could not be more evident than in the community-restored San Antonio de Padua church, where everything from the new stained glass to the re-created sconces and woodwork was handmade locally, often by members of the same families who built this historic, adobe church in the mid-1800s. The church is an exhibition stop, #7, on our community's truly unique art tour.

Look for multiple artists at Art

Questa Gallery (stop 2), the Questa Public Library (stop 9), and at the Oasis of Lorien (stop 14) in the El Rito neighborhood, north of Questa.

A stop you must not miss is the unique home studio of Jill Kamas, architect, painter, silversmith and hat-maker (stop 17). Her studio also serves as an artist-in-residence for upcoming artists. On Saturday evening, a dance party and food truck will be on-site; stop by!

Local potter Sandra Harrington, co-owner of Art Questa, says, "I love having my gallery open for the Art Tour. This is also where I work, and this chance to talk to folks about my methods and inspirations is something I welcome."

In addition to pottery, sculptures, housewares, and inspired paintings, you'll also find quilts and santos, unique furniture, leatherwork, photography, and jewelry from the intricately beaded to fused glass, to contemporary welded

designs, and more. As you survey the offerings, you'll feel and appreciate the work of a new generation of artists that is adding to local artistic traditions.

Many northern New Mexican artists have gallery representation from Taos to Santa Fe to Denver, and beyond, but many do not. Much of the fun of exploring art tours is finding that diamond in the rough, or the well-priced art not marked up to pay commercial rents and advertising.

We hope to see you all on the tour! We will have plenty of paper map-guides at each stop and at the information booth (stop 5) at the Questa Visitor Center. You can also get a snack there, water up, see which local restaurants are open, and make note of the local businesses who sponsor the tour with their support. Or download the map at QuestaCreative.org.

Learn more about each artist on the Questa Art Tour at QuestaCreative.org. More info call (575) 586-5658.



Courtesy Photo

Hub 2: Potter Sandra Harrington



Courtesy Photo

Hub 7: St. Anthony's Catholic Church



Courtesy Photo

Hub 18: Karen Ahlgren's studio in Garcia, CO



Courtesy Photo

Hub 11: "Blue Church" by Mary Jo Kelly

September Exhibit at the Library... Historical Photos!

BY STAFF WRITERS

Do you remember or do you have a story to share about these faces, places or activities? If you do, please come out to the Questa Public Library in September and October to help us identify places and faces shown in our Questa-area WPA historical photos.



Photo by
John Collier

School
Children
1943

Questa-based Artist Featured in La Veta Art Show

By STAFF WRITERS

The Spanish Peaks Arts Council, based in La Veta, Colorado will be featuring with Questa artist Monique Parker and La Veta-based artist Albert Anderson Clymer.

A press release reads, the gallery is showcasing contemporary Western art by Albert Anderson Clymer and Monique Parker that explores people, landscapes, and various artistic interpretations of Southwest culture and spirituality.

Monique Parker is a self-taught, late-blooming artist living in Questa for the past 21 years. She has an MFA in creative writing from Antioch University. She is a yoga therapist, teacher of Vedic chanting, and a Vedic astrologer. When her Taos Yoga Therapy studio closed during the



Art by Monique Parker

Corn Mothers

pandemic, she bought canvases and paint and started making offerings to the Divine through her brush. Her paintings are inspired by her many immersive pilgrimages to India and the deep respect she feels for the

Indigenous Peoples and their wisdom teachings. "Much like Tibetan prayer flags that release holy prayers, my paintings are a way for me to offer blessings to the world," Parker says.

An opening reception with the artists will take place on Saturday, August 31 between 5 and 7 p.m. where the artists' work will be sold for 20 percent off for this night only. The art exhibition dates will be from August 27 to September 28. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Albert Anderson Clymer will be donating twenty percent of the proceeds from his art sales to the La Veta High School art department. The address of the Spanish Peaks Art Gallery is 132 W. Ryus Ave, La Veta, CO 81055.

Sports Programs Thrive: A Season of Opportunity

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Sports are a great way to teach your child responsibility, teamwork, dedication, and discipline. This spring and summer provided lots of opportunity for kids of nearly all ages to get involved or continue in a sport that is important to them.

Throughout April and May, the Taos youth soccer league gave kids ages 4 to 12 an opportunity to play teams from and around Taos every Saturday for 6 weeks. The games were held at Ranchos Elementary and practices were held in Questa. The youth soccer league has seen increases in the number of kids interested over the years, and offers play in the spring and fall.

The Taos youth baseball league has shown growth as well, with several teams coming from Questa, along with our first ever girls softball team. The softball team includes girls from ages 5 to 8 who compete with four other softball teams in the league. Questa had over 50 kids sign up to play youth baseball and filled all divisions, including T-ball,



coach pitch (three teams, including the softball team): minor and major league. Youth baseball games were held at Kit Carson Park in Taos.

Questa del Rio News talked with coach Marcus Chavez, who coached T-ball and the softball team this summer. Chavez, a 2014 Questa schools graduate, along with many other volunteer parents, has been involved coaching Questa youth teams over the past few years. A soccer coach as well, Chavez was influenced mainly by his father and his uncle. “They inspired me to be a

coach and I want to be a good role model for the kids from Questa. Coaching is in my blood and I love to see the kids grow with the sport,” he expressed.

Chavez takes pride in being a part of the Questa community and says he loves seeing the kids grow from one season to the next and recognizing their good work. “It starts when they’re young. They learn rules and learn to be part of a team.” The coach says that his vision is getting the kids involved when they are young and building their confidence—that way they are prepared and competitive as they grow with the sport.

The high school volleyball team has been gearing up for their fall season, offering open gym, a camp in Moriarity July 11 through 13, and the Mora Jamboree in late July. The camps offered competitive play with members of teams that the girls might not play during their regular season. Their season will officially begin the second week of August.

Girls’ high school basketball went to work as well, participating in three camps throughout the summer, finishing

with 16 wins and 4 close losses. Coach Steve Rael mentions that the summer camps give the girls an opportunity to work on fundamentals, develop team chemistry, and stay competitive.

Boys basketball also had a busy summer, taking part in three camps and scrimmage in Taos. The camps, along with offering open gym, gave the boys an opportunity for more playing time and gaining more experience, says assistant coach Justin Martinez. Coaches Mike Rael and Justin Martinez encourage camps and feel the players gain valuable experience playing teams of varying caliber during the summer.

Other sports that have been ongoing this summer with practices and strength training are high school soccer, football, and cheer.

These programs cannot and would not happen without the coaches and volunteers who take time and energy to focus on their programs. Some coaches span the spectrum, coaching many sports. We thank you for your dedication and interest in our youth sports!

Back-to-School Tips for Parents and Kids

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Our 2024-25 school year is upon us and *Questa del Rio News* wants to share some information and tips from our local schools for parents and students, for a good start to the school year.

The school year for Questa Independent School District as well as Red River Valley Charter School begins August 5, with both schools on a four-day school week. Roots and Wings Community School begins August 13, operating on a 4-day a week hybrid schedule.

The beginning of the school year can be exciting for some and somewhat daunting for others. Getting prepared both physically and mentally for the beginning of school can help with those first day jitters.

Here are some tips for a good start to the school year.

Get good rest: No matter how old you are, sleep is probably one of the most important things you can give yourself. For kids and teens it’s even more important. The National Sleep Foundation recommends that children 6 to 13 years old get anywhere between 9 and 11 hours

of sleep per night and for teens 14 to 17 years old, 8 to 10 hours are recommended. Early to bed, early to rise!

Establish a routine: Kids thrive on routine. They like to know what to expect and what lies ahead. If you don’t have one already, consider setting a routine for your child which could include some down time like reading, bath, and picking out clothes for the next day.

Create healthy eating habits: Provide your child with good, healthy snacks. Fruits (dried or fresh), vegetables, nuts, cheese, even beef jerky can provide that extra boost of energy and mental capacity to finish out the day.

Give your child some independence: Kids love making decisions and having a say. They feel empowered when they do so. For younger kids, consider giving them an opportunity to pick their own clothes or snack for the next day. Give them a few options and allow them to make the choice and pack it on their own.

Unplug before bedtime: Giving your child a chance to unwind before bed. By reading a story, drawing, or calm play can give them the downtime they need

for a restful night.

Communication: Communicate with your child and his or her teacher. This is key for a successful school year. For example, for our juniors and seniors this could mean making sure you know and they know how many credits they need to stay on schedule for the year or what important tests may be coming up. You know your child best. Read their signals. If they begin to struggle in the classroom, schedule some time to talk with teachers.

Celebrate the new school year. Get your child excited about the school year by having a little party or special dinner. Also, take advantage of the free community offerings like back-to-school events and free haircuts. For Alta Vista Elementary, basic school supplies were purchased through a New Mexico Public Education Department Family Income Fund to help all students. A few things are still needed, so check the individual school websites for a full list of school supplies. Alta Vista Principle Ms. Deyhle says, “We are ready for Alta Vista Wildcats to reach for the stars.” Good luck to all our students this year!

The following information on schools’ mission statements was found on our local schools’ websites.

Questa Independent School Mission

Challenge all students to accelerate their learning through rigorous instruction.

Red River Valley Charter School Mission

To provide every student the opportunity to develop academically, socially and physically through quality learning experiences, utilizing the Core Knowledge Curriculum. The Red River Valley Charter School philosophy of education is to create a foundation for self-initiated, life-long learning.

Roots and Wings Community School Mission

Our mission is to inspire our students to academic and personal excellence. Our innovative learning community creates classroom, farm and wilderness adventure—engaging the head, hands, and heart. Enabling students to achieve more than they think possible and to take an active role in our ever-changing world.



Dominic Vallejos

By STAFF WRITERS

This month, we received a nomination for Dominic Vallejos for our Outstanding Youth Report.

Vallejos is 16 years old and a junior at Questa High School. He prioritizes hanging out with his friends and enjoying life. Some things Dominic likes to do outside of school include snowboarding, fly fishing and skateboarding.

Vallejos is a young entrepreneur and owns a business called Dizzy Details. "I work as a mobile detailer, helping people cleaning their cars." His business offers pet hair removal, stain removal, plastics restoration, and paint protection. "My business is doing pretty good," he comments.

When asked why he decided to start a business at such a young age, Vallejos says he's worked since he was 13. "I have always had expensive taste so it's a priority for me to buy and afford my own stuff," he says. Having worked for several businesses between Questa

and Red River, Vallejos set out on his journey as a business owner because he saw it as a challenge and a goal he wanted to meet.

As for his advice for younger generations, Vallejos says "I want the youth to know you only live once. Do the most you can today. Take risks, make decisions and don't look back. Make the best out of every situation and scenario. And STAY SOBER. No matter how tempting it may seem, it's never good for you in the long run. STAY SOBER."

Moving forward, Vallejos says he is going to continue to surround himself with people who want the best for him and his future. "It's important to cut out distractions and lock in."



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Dominic Vallejos business details

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Plans for Clearing Debris from 2021 Storm in Carson National Forest

By STAFF WRITER

In December of 2021, a severe snow squall left thousands of acres of mature spruce-fir trees blown down in the Carson National Forest (CNF), resulting in multiple trees snapping, uprooting, and toppling over from the strong winds.

The most impacted areas include Cabresto Canyon, Middle Red River, Headwaters Rio Grande del Rancho, and Rito del la Olla drainages.

This weather event led CNF to establish the Windstorm Blowdown Project on 2,881 acres of land. After a nearly 3-year planning and strategizing effort, it was announced via press release that CNF Supervisor James Duran approved the project. According to the release, the project has three objectives:

- Reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire to nearby communities, infrastructure, watershed health and fire crew safety
- Reduce the threat of insect and disease activity in the spruce-fir habitat

- Continue hazard tree removal along roads and trails; remove trees that pose a threat to fire crew safety

This project focuses on strategic, accessible areas where high-severity wildfire could affect the wildland urban interface, infrastructure and the headwaters of critical watersheds. Some areas will not be treated, including within designated wildernesses.

The majority of the work will occur to the north, south and east of Red River. Other work is located near Pot Creek, off forest roads 439 and 442.

While the project is aimed at mitigating the fire risk and maintaining healthy forest habitats, it will also create opportunities for wood permit holders who are interested in collecting the sawed down wood for their winter wood supply. In areas that are inaccessible to vehicles, CNF intends to implement pile burning to eliminate smaller wood piles.

The release goes on to say this project is one of the priorities of the national Wildfire Crisis Strategy.



Courtesy Photo

Clearing efforts in the Red River area from September 2022

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Holding On To Local History

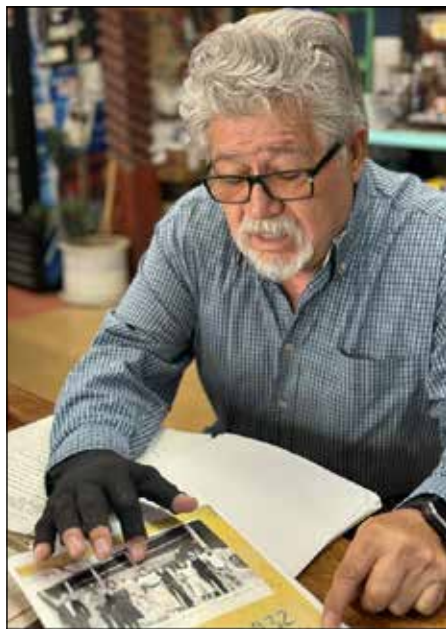
By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Many homes in Questa serve as storage spaces for our loved ones who have gone before us... grandparents, great-grandparents, tios and tias whose homes and belongings remain untouched for years at a time for fear of erasing the last things they left behind.

Michael Rael, Sr. recently started sifting through many of the belongings of his father, Malaquias Rael, Sr., who passed away in 2004. Twenty years after his death, Michael is uncovering the unique history of not only his family, but many families who came and settled in Questa.

“There is nothing like knowing and learning about your past. Knowing your history is what helps shape your future,” Michael says. In the articles and pieces of history he shared with *Questa del Rio News*, it’s clear his parents valued and carefully stored articles and items of significance to the northern Taos County area.

Michael recently discovered through a DNA test that while he is approximately 50 percent Hispanic, he has roughly 30 percent Native American DNA. “If it wasn’t for the DNA test, I wouldn’t have ever really recognized or realized that I have native blood—these things are important for us to acknowledge and



Courtesy Photo

Michael Rael shared pieces of history and relics from his father, Malaquias Rael Sr.’s collection

recognize,” he says.

When speaking to many of the documents now in his possession, he talks of his memories of Matanzas that his grandfather Solomon held once a year. “I remember when we would kill an animal, we would use every part of the animal, including the blood and the brain. Frying blood and eating it, that is a Native American practice, and we didn’t realize how much our cultures take and give from each other.”

Recognizing the historical disenfranchisement of the area, Michael says this is part of what makes northern New Mexico so special. “In this area, we have a big mix of Spaniard and Native American cultures who settled the area. We are our own people, unique to the land and maintaining our culture, history, traditions—and keeping them alive is the only way we will maintain our identity.”

One of the articles Michael shared with our publication is a published paper book entitled “El Centenario.” It’s focused on Questa local Felix Sanchez’s life between 1988-1999. It was published in the year 2000. The 21-page book is written in English and Spanish, detailing memories throughout Felix’s life ranging back from the 1900s and what led to his family’s settling and expansion in the Questa area.

One excerpt from the book is entitled “A Little History.” It reads: “The Questa Concilio 44 was a group founded in Questa in 1936. The first list of members from Nov. 26, 1936, to May 26, 1937, and includes such community leaders as Marcelino E. Martinez, Moises Rael, J.E. Rael, J.P. Rael, J. Antonio Rael, Esequiel Rael, Agapito Vigil, Luis R. Montoya, and others. The first ‘Presidente’ was Antonio J. Trujillo who was the postmaster at Questa for many years. The other officer was the ‘Secretario’ Libby L. Herrera.

The first minutes (recorded in Spanish) were of a meeting on July 7, 1937, and the first mention was of monies in the amount of \$315.65 which was gathered by dues paid by its members to help the sick and those who fell into hard times.”

The book goes on to say that over the years, the organization changed dramatically, but existed to help community members in the area. In 2000, the organization worked with Questa High School to award a senior with a scholarship so that that student could pursue an education. The book says, “in order to get the scholarship, the Hispanic parents had to take the initiative to stress the importance of education for their children but also, to pass on their culture to their children to maintain the community.” Felix Sanchez was a member up until the time he passed away in the early 2000s.

The history uncovered in Michael’s father’s storage is just part of the story of northern New Mexico. It gives a glimpse into the past and the beliefs, traditions, and practices of our ancestors—why they lived the ways they did, how their choices were made, and how their work led us to where we are today.

“We are a rich people not because of our belongings, but because of what we were left: that is our culture and our history and our people,” Michael says.

Regional Project Aims to Break the Silence of Slavery

By STAFF WRITERS

Native Bound Unbound is a non-profit organization led by Executive Director Dr. Estevan Rael-Galvez, anthropologist, historian, a native son of Questa, and Indigenous slavery scholar. Dr. Rael-Galvez has served as the state historian of New Mexico, the executive director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center, and senior vice president of historic sites at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Native Bound Unbound is working to uncover stories of Native American captivity and slavery. The current project is entitled “Breaking the Silence of Slavery.” The organization is looking to speak with people who have stories of slavery and captivity which have been passed down in their family. The organization is inviting members of the public to participate in a series of conversations and story-gath-



Courtesy Photo

Left photo: Servant Blanket woven by Guadalupe, an Indian Servant of Gaspar Gallegos in the San Luis Valley. Middle photo: Slave Deluvina Maxwell holding an object. Right photo: Chaps and bridle made by Luis Valdez and held by Demetrio Valdez of Antonito, Colorado.

ering events.

Dr. Rael-Gálvez says, “the story of Indigenous slavery has been quieted over the years by whispers as much as by silence, even by those who have inherited it. If there is any hope for transcendence

and healing, we must first break this silence. This is the goal of these gatherings.”

Although “Breaking the Silence” gatherings are local, they are set within a hemispheric project, Native Bound Unbound—Archive of Indigenous Slavery

(NBU). NBU was launched in 2022 with the support of the Mellon Foundation. The objective is to create a digital repository centered on the lives of the enslaved

SILENCE cont’d on page 18

Historical Society Program Aug. 3 Spotlights Presbyterian Missionaries In Northern New Mexico

By Contributing Writer
MICHAEL WILSON, Taos County
Historical Society

When the Spanish arrived in 1598 to colonize what became Nuevo Mexico, the Catholic missionaries who accompanied them began the monumental task of converting the peoples they encountered to their new religion. And when Americans began arriving in large numbers in the mid-1800s after invading and conquering what is now New Mexico in 1848, Protestant missionaries followed in their wake to evangelize the Native and Spanish-speaking peoples of their new territory.

Baptist and Methodist missionaries, representing two of the three largest Protestant denominations at the time, were the first to arrive in the early 1850s. They found a few willing converts, particularly as they began distributing bibles to a population unaccustomed to reading scripture on their own. But the white, English-speaking missionaries mostly encountered disinterest and even hostility from the newly conquered Nuevo Mexicanos. The Baptists soon quit the field.

The Presbyterians, however—the other of the three largest Protestant denominations at the time—began sending missionaries after the Civil War. They found considerable and lasting success for one crucial reason: they spoke Spanish.

The Taos County Historical Society's monthly program on Saturday, August 3, will feature Virginia Dodier, co-chair of the TCHS Archives and Library Committee, who will explore this topic in her talk entitled, "Our Mexicans": Nuevo Mexica-



Courtesy Photo

Virginia Dodier

nos. Presbyterian Missionaries in Northern New Mexico, Civil War to Statehood.”

The talk will focus on the lives of Hispano clergy and evangelists, including José Yñez Perea, Gabino Rendón, Vicente Ferrer Romero, and John Whitlock, who all founded Presbyterian churches. Their work, as well as that of teachers and evangelists, and the construction of churches, schools, and hospitals, was funded by Presbyterian congregations across the U.S. through the Board of Home Missions. Though the Hispanic people of New Mexico were fellow Americans, the mission organizers back east thought of them as “Our Mexicans.”

The legacy of the missions of 150 years



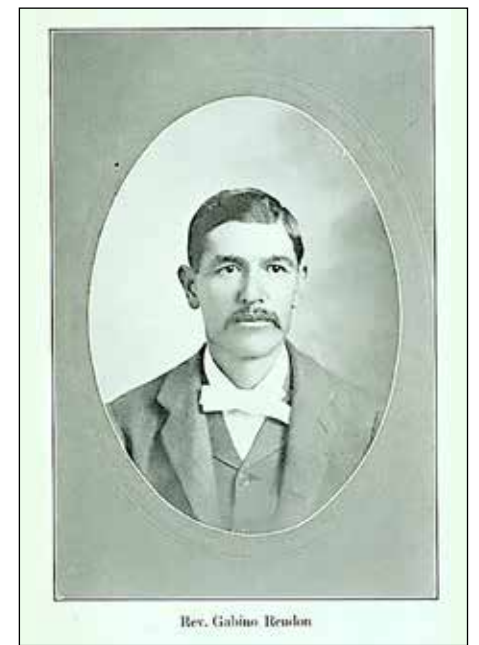
Courtesy Photo

Gabino Rendón

ago is evident in the many Presbyterian churches in towns and villages throughout northern New Mexico. As Taoseña Carmen Lieurance says, the Presbyterian missionaries left a church structure “like the bones of a strong skeleton.”

Ms. Dodier is a museum professional, archivist, librarian, and published author. She holds degrees in fine art, art history, and library and archives science. She retired to Taos in 2018, where several of her ancestors were born. One of the subjects of her talk, the Rev. John M. Whitlock, was the grandfather of her grandfather, John Whitlock Hernandez.

The talk begins at 2 p.m. at the Kit Carson Electric Coop boardroom, 118 Cruz



Courtesy Photo

John Whitlock

Alta in Taos. Admission is free for TCHS members, \$5 for non-members.

Contact: Michael Wilson,
(612) 743-6546

Who: Taos County Historical Society

What: “Our Mexicans”: Nuevo Mexicano Presbyterian Missionaries in Northern New Mexico, Civil War to Statehood

When: Saturday, August 3, 2 p.m.

Where: Kit Carson Coop boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta, Taos

Admission: Non-Member \$5
Members: FREE

Questa Korean War Veteran Honored for His Role in Healing Field

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Questa native and former U.S. Army Corporal Claudio Rael was honored on July 24 by the New Mexico Department of Veteran Services (DVS) for his role in honoring veterans for their service, long after his service ended.

DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera presented a plaque, a DVS Cabinet Secretary coin, and a state flag to former U.S. Army Corporal Claudio Rael at the conclusion of the agency's annual all-staff training conference on July 24.

The Korean War veteran, who turned



Courtesy Photo

NM Department of Veteran Services Cabinet Secretary Herrera (left) honors former U.S. Army Corporal Claudio Rael of Questa

96 years old on July 26, plays a prominent role in hosting a unique Memorial Day display on his land in Questa. For the past two decades, Rael and his family have graciously allowed the use of a large plot of family-owned land for the placement of 1,000 eight-foot-tall American flags in honor of the service and sacrifice of U.S. service members—and especially, our nation's fallen veterans. The five-day-long holiday display has drawn thousands of people to see and pay their respects every single year.

“For him to want to continue to serve and honor his fellow veterans

speaks volumes about veterans helping veterans—ensuring that there is still a voice for those who are no longer with us,” said Secretary Herrera. “We here at DVS, and the rest of New Mexico, truly value you as one of our great citizens and heroes.”

Rael, who spent the bulk of his post-service life as a rancher and employee of the former MolyCorp mining facility in Questa, was clearly moved. He managed to whisper, “thank you very much,” before being honored with a lengthy standing ovation by DVS staff and his friends and family.



By Toner Mitchell

Cimarron River: A Forgotten Favorite

As we all know, northern New Mexico is where most of the state's best trout fishing is located. Streams like the Pecos, Red, Rio Grande, Chama and, of course, the San Juan in the Farmington area are magnets for fishermen. Anglers love the Rio de los Pinos, especially in the fall, and New Mexicans view the Conejos in southern Colorado as our own. Just over the hill from Questa is Eagle Nest Lake, another favorite fishery for New Mexicans and out-of-staters alike.

The fishery many of us forget about is the stream flowing out of Eagle Nest, the

Cimarron River. Like most New Mexican "rivers," the Cimarron isn't one. Averaging a mere 15 feet wide, it's really a creek like the Red River in Questa. Like the Red, the Cimarron is lined with hook-grabbing vegetation that tests an angler's skills. The Cimarron is full of brown trout, some surprisingly large.

The primary fishing area on the Cimarron is the 8 miles of stream between Eagle Nest dam and the town of Ute Park. The uppermost 1.4 miles from Tolby Campground down to the next bridge on Highway 64 is under Red Chile regulations, which means catch and release with single hook barbless lures and flies. This stretch has plenty of slow currents, deep holes, and undercut banks.

From there to Ute Park, a stretch that includes the Gravel Pit ponds, angling is under regular regulations allowing a 5-fish daily harvest on any legal tackle. Regardless of the regulations, the Cimarron is best fished with flies, due to its relatively shallow depths and preponderance of snags along the banks and in the stream itself. Dry flies work best, hoppers and ants, parachute adams, elk hair caddis (matching the abundant spruce moths in



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Cimarron Greenery

the canyon), little yellow stonefly patterns, and beetles. Trailing a small dropper nymph increases your chances, but remember the snags.

The Cimarron is locally notable for its high fish populations and prolific insect hatches. Nevertheless, inadequate winter flows and a consequent build-up of silt

have diminished the fishery over time. In response, the Cimarron Watershed Alliance (CWA) embarked upon a restoration effort in 2021 with the intention of enhancing trout habitat throughout the canyon. Similar to the Red River restoration in Questa, the Cimarron restoration entailed reshaping the channel to improve its function at low flows.

The restoration has been largely funded by the New Mexico Environment Department's River Stewardship Program, with the state Department of Game and Fish, and Trout Unlimited supporting CWA's leadership. CWA is currently restoring the upper 7.4 miles of stream to wrap up the project; by the end of this summer, Cimarron fanatics will have a brand new stream that will produce more trout and insects while delivering more efficient flows to the ranches and farms near the town of Cimarron, on the edge of the Great Plains.

The next time you're planning a fishing trip in the north, consider a forgotten gem right under your nose. With spectacular scenery and abundant public access, the Cimarron River promises some of the best dry fly fishing in the state.

Look At All That Piña!

By: LORA ARCINIEGA

Piñon is a staple when talking about New Mexico's products. Whether we're burning it for firewood or eating the nut, it's intertwined in our past and present.

First collected by Native American tribes throughout the 4-corner states, the piñon pine offers a nice treat for those who can patiently sift through forest debris to find this treasure.

The piñon pine, or *pinus edulis*, is a small (usually 10 to 35 feet in height) bushy evergreen tree, found in dry arid regions across the southwest US. Piñon pine can be found in pure piñon forests or growing alongside juniper and sage in foothill areas at elevations between 4,000 and 9,000 feet.

Humans are not the only ones that enjoy this delicate, buttery seed; many birds and rodents enjoy it as well. Large seed crops are produced every three to seven years, as it takes the cone three years to reach maturity.

Piñon is one of those highly desired and labor-intensive treats that many look forward to. It's a tradition that brings families and friends together and it begins with someone asking, "Wanna help me pick piñon?" Soon you will see cars lining the sides of roads where the piñon pine

tree resides and pickers out with their best strategies for picking the most piñon.

The practice of picking piñon is uniquely interwoven in New Mexico tradition because of the sheer abundance of the tree species. Although they have suffered from environmental factors, such as the Ips bark beetle and drought, you can still find areas where the tree survives and thrives.

The small dark seeds are ripe once autumn comes around and they have fallen to the ground. Once the seeds have dropped, you have a few weeks to harvest. Most people will sit or squat underneath a piñon and sift through the debris of pine needles and duff underneath to look for the good seeds. If you roll the seed between your fingers, you can feel the weight and then can determine whether it is a dud or a good seed.

Another way I've seen people pick is to lay a sheet underneath the tree and wait for the seeds to fall. It's kind of a signal for us... a signal that the season is about to change. It's like watching the wild sunflowers bloom and knowing that school is right around the corner. The same is true with piñon. Once you see the cones open and the seeds have fallen, you know that fall is upon us.



Courtesy Photo

Piñon pine tree with budding cones

The process is long and tedious but is worth it when you get your small bag of piñon filled, washed, and roasted. Roasting the nut brings out its rich, buttery flavor and makes it perfect for snacking. Here's a quick recipe: Rinse nuts and remove any debris present. Let them dry out in a strainer for a few minutes. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. You can add salt at this point if desired. Roast at 350 degrees for about 10-15 minutes, turning occasionally. Let them cool, then enjoy. Store in an airtight container.

Happy picking!

SILENCE cont'd from page 16

Indigenous people across the Americas, "name by name and story by story." Individuals interested in participating in any of these gatherings are asked to bring stories, photographs, documents, and artifacts that may have been made or held by an ancestor.

"Recovering these stories is critical for both tribal communities, who were impacted by these tremendous losses, as well as for the descendants of those taken, who became their ancestors—and 'Breaking the Silence of Slavery' begins to bring together both of these communities," said Rael-Gálvez.

Upcoming community meetings are listed below:

- Los Luceros Historic Site, Alcalde, NM – July 20, 2024, 2 – 4 p.m.
- New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, NM, August 4, 2024, 2 – 4 p.m.
- Hacienda de los Martinez, Taos, NM, August 17, 2024, 2 – 4 p.m.

Anyone with questions or interested in attending is asked to RSVP by writing to info@nativeboundunbound.org.

The organization says these gatherings have been made possible thanks to funding from the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Helicopter Installs Copper Chairlift Towers In Red River

By STAFF WRITERS

On July 8, the Red River Ski Area obtained a special-use permit for a helicopter from Timberline Helicopters, Inc. to install new towers for the new Copper Chairlift at the Red River Ski and Summer Area.

During the installation, the Scenic

Summer Chairlift, Tip Restaurant, disc golf, hiking, biking, and Nature Trail were closed to the public so crews could work on the installation.

The Ski Area is working with Doppelmayr USA as contractors to complete the work and to perform upgrades at the ski area.



Courtesy Red River Ski & Summer Area



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BIRD IS THE WORD

By Bryce Flannagan

Our State Bird: The Roadrunner

One of the most well-known birds in North America, the roadrunner was an iconic symbol to humans long before the animated antics of Looney Tunes brought them into mainstream popularity.

Hopi and Pueblo tribes revered roadrunners as medicine birds that could ward off malicious spirits with their unique X-shaped footprints made by their zygodactyl feet (meaning they have two toes in front and two in the back). These prints make it impossible to tell which direction the bird travels, thus confusing any would-be spiritual attackers. The speed of roadrunners and their bravery in devouring rattlesnakes

further added to their high regard among native peoples.

With these characteristics, the roadrunner was an ideal candidate for the cast of Looney Tunes, although Warner Brothers took several creative liberties in their depictions. Coyotes are a predator of roadrunners but wouldn't have to resort to rockets and traps to catch one in real life. Roadrunners can easily outrun most humans with their top speed of 20 mph but coyotes can run twice as fast. Good thing roadrunners have no problem flying when they need to escape danger—they just prefer ground transportation most of the time.

The call of a roadrunner is a far cry from the “beep beep” of its animated counterpart; in reality they make a soft, dove-like “coo” call and will use its beak to make a rapid clattering sound. The origin of the animated roadrunner's taunt originated with a background painter at Warner Brothers who would call out “beep beep” while carrying large canvases through hallways on set, and, unable to see in front of him, warned people to get out of the way.

This isn't to say that real-world roadrunners are any less remarkable. They've adapted to harsh desert climates through thermoregulation techniques, such as secreting concentrated salt

through a gland in front of each eye, which conserves more water than if they excreted liquid through urination. On hot days, they flutter the unfeathered area beneath their chin to cool down, and on cold nights they enter a state of torpor, lowering their heart rate and metabolism to the minimum needed for survival, to retain heat.

What little moisture they consume comes primarily from the blood of their prey. Opportunistic carnivores, roadrunners will eat anything that crawls or slithers along the ground. From insects like beetles and spiders, reptiles like snakes and lizards, to even tarantulas and smaller birds, they're not picky when it comes to supper. The roadrunner is not intimidated by the scorpion's stinger or the fang of a rattlesnake, even though they don't have immunity to the deadly venom. Roadrunners risk life and wing for a meal on a regular basis and are the only known predators of the tarantula hawk wasp, an insect with the most painful sting in the world.

When they're not doing battle with these most dangerous reptiles and insects of the desert, the roadrunner can be found with its partner raising their young together. They're monogamous and can mate for life, with both parents taking turns feeding the young and

protecting the nest. A male roadrunner will attract a female with a courtship display and by offering a gift like a tasty morsel of food. Once the hatchlings are three weeks old, the family will forage for food together until their offspring go off on their own.

Roadrunners are uncommonly common in New Mexico. You can hike around their territory for hours without seeing one, then one may pop up in your driveway when you get home. They're not typically found in the northern reaches of the state, but it isn't unheard of for a lucky birdwatcher to spot one dashing through the sage. Roadrunners are known in ornithological circles as being the bird most comfortable around humans. Considering they consume lethal prey for breakfast, it's not surprising that people don't scare them!

1 <http://www.native-languages.org/legends-roadrunner.htm>

2 <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/the-most-painful-wasp-sting-in-the-world-explained.html>

3 https://tucson.com/news/local/what-roadrunners-humans-have-in-common/article_159a3c13-e94f-548c-8873-08f3d42de790.html

Fire and Rain: a Monsoonal Outlook

By LORA ARCINIEGA

The monsoon season for New Mexico and the rest of the southwest is designated as lasting from June 15 to September 30. It is defined as a seasonal change in wind direction. During these summer months, the wind direction changes from a dry westerly direction to a southern direction, drawing up moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, bringing our summer rains.

Experts at the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center are forecasting below average precipitation across New Mexico, but this doesn't necessarily mean our state will experience dry conditions all summer. We have already had a fairly moist summer, and heavy rainfall has already occurred in some parts of the state. There is a high probability for hotter, drier conditions as we move into late summer and fall.

Our landscape, livelihood, and well-being come to mind when considering any moisture we are hopefully going to receive. The farmer relies on water and adjusts irri-



Photo By James Arciniega

Cloud buildup over the mountains

gation and cutting techniques, depending upon rainfall. Rain replenishes our water cycle, and has a certain calming effect on us. Petrichor is the word for that earthy, sweet, pleasant smell after it rains. Many people look forward to that scent that is brought to us when the rains come to our typically arid environment.

Our vegetation is also greatly affected by moisture (or lack thereof) and relies on

two forms of precipitation: snow and rain. This in turn has effects on fire behavior. Although monsoons bring rain, they also bring lightning and with lightning comes increased fire potential. The lightning threat really depends on the conditions of the fuels on the ground, i.e., moisture content. Persistent, hot, dry conditions can facilitate fire spread, so rainy and cloudy monsoon weather is desired when consid-

ering fire potential.

For example, our native grasses have two growing seasons. The first growing season relies largely on snowmelt, and the second on consistent moisture from the summer monsoon season. If there are long periods without moisture and temperatures are high, grasses “cure” and become ripe for burning. One season's excess moisture could lead to heavy loads of cured grass the following growing season. These heavy fuel loads could facilitate rapid wild-fire spread. Conversely, a below average monsoon season will lead to lower grass abundance the following year, leaving less grass available to burn in the spring.

Although equally dependent on precipitation, our trees are negatively affected by prolonged drought—more so than from the lack of steady moisture. Most have adapted to retain moisture during drought conditions by transpiring less. That is to say that they move less water through their foliage. Trees' growing sea-

MONSOONS cont'd on page 23

LOCAL AG cont'd from page 7

they grow at the QFM gardens, to the toppings on the Sunday pizzas.

I asked Dominik Anaya-Rael if he had a quote for this article. He thought for a moment, then said, "Sometimes life gives you scapes, you just gotta make pesto." Then he added what he felt was another meaning for his quote, saying, "take life's opportunities in your hand."



Photo by Gaea McGahee

Intern Dominik Anaya-Rael harvesting garlic scapes from Cerro Rojo garlic, Cerro Vista Farm in July

Interested youth may still join this farming season through early October:

Job Description: Grow and harvest food at Cerro Vista Farm, and sell this produce at the farmers market all season creating and operating a "Cultivo" farm booth.

This Paid Youth Internship offers youth the opportunity to build the local food economy. This job connects you to local food producers and helps you learn about local agricultural and vegetable farming in northern New Mexico. This program includes environmental education, small business operation, and community engagement. You will work in a supportive environment with Mentors and farm educators, gaining knowledge and skills.

To apply:

Contact: growersmakers@gmail.com, or call/text (575) 224-2102 for application form.

Pay: \$15 per hour

Part time: 5-10 hours per week. During the school year, the hours will mainly be on Fridays and weekends.

Ages: generally geared toward ages 14 to 18, but older and younger folks are welcome to inquire.

Visit cultivoproject.org for more information

Questa Farmers Market (QFM) is NO LONGER OFFERING EBT or distributing Double-Up-Food-Bucks (DUFEB) at our market.

In order to offer these food benefits, we joined the New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association in 2017. We had followed very specific rules around vendors and NM-grown produce in order to belong to this organization and offer these food benefits. 50% (or the largest portion) of our market's vendors needed to sell their own NM-grown local produce, this means fruits and vegetables grown within 100 miles of our market, but only from New Mexico. However, the agricultural communities of northern NM and southern Colorado are connected. It makes sense to open our market up to producers from the north, or

from further south in NM. We are now able to invite vendors who are food producers in Colorado as well as Texas and Arizona. This could bring more food into our market over time. Please help spread the word!

Questa Farmers Market is a program of Localogy, a nonprofit 501(c)(3).

Our mission ~ is to support small farm, garden and food based businesses, and youth through market internships and mentorship.

We remain focused on local food, and bringing more food into the Sunday market. We continue our Youth Internship and Mentorship Program, with a focus on engaging the next generation in the local food system. If you still have wooden tokens that say Questa Farmers Market on them, they have value and you may still redeem them for food at QFM.

Thank you for your understanding.

Interested in supporting this growing project? Visit www.cultivoproject.org
Please contact Program Director, Gaea McGahee (575) 224-2102 or email growersmakers@gmail.com
Cultivo is a program of Localogy, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) in Questa.

For more information about Questa Farmers Market visit: QuestaFarmersMarket.org
facebook.com/QuestaFarmersMarket
instagram.com/questafarmersmarket

AUGUST 10 & 11

Over 40 local artists will open their studio doors to you for the 9th annual tour.

JOIN US!

Questa

ART TOUR

MAPS & MORE: go to
QUESTACREATIVE.ORG

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**BODY
MIND
SPIRIT**



By **BARBARA TRACY**

The Human Family

A week or so ago, my husband and I were having lunch at a small restaurant, seated at an outside patio. The seating was rather close where we were, so those dining next to us were quite close as well. At one point, I dropped my napkin and the woman in the chair next to mine reached down and retrieved it for me. She had a beautiful smile as she handed me the napkin and when she did, she held on to my hand for a bit, just smiling. As we were leaving, we were

walking by others having lunch at their tables. I happened to look down at one table while passing and an older man reached his hand out and touched my arm saying, “have a nice day.” These are people I have never seen before nor do I expect to see again. Their mere touch was so sincere and spoke beyond what words could ever say.

The two people in my simple story who reached out to touch me in kindness and caring have absolutely no idea of my ideals, politics, religion, and so on. It didn’t matter—it was the loving touch of the human family.

“The things that matter most in our lives are not fantastic or grand. They are the moments when we touch one another.” —Jack Kornfield

I feel in my heart that the human family listens too much to the noise of those who have a superficial view of the populace, telling us what we need and who we need in order to have a good existence as the people of this earth. Maybe it’s time to return to the heart of what

is real for us. Are we really divided by color, by religion, by politics, by personal ideals? Perhaps we create difference, and of course we appear different, but is that really separation? Or is it like the many colors and textures of a painting coming together to make a grand presentation of possibilities? away from wars, hatred, dissension and greed.

At the heart of the matter is the unity of the human family, not its destruction. It might seem that each of us as one person alone cannot make a difference in the direction of the separation that is appearing in the world, but I believe the following speaks to that in a beautiful way:

“Do not take lightly small good deeds, believing they can hardly help. For drops of water one by one fill a giant pot.” —Patrul Rinpoche

I came across some wonderful quotes from sages past and present that I want to share with you. Perhaps they may help open our hearts to see the preciousness of all things.

“The wisdom of the heart can be found in any circumstance, on any planet, round or square. It arises not through knowledge or images of perfection, or by comparison and judgment, but by seeing with the eyes of wisdom and the heart of loving attention, by touching with compassion all that exists in our world.” —Jack Kornfield.

“When you arise in the morning, think of what a privilege it is to be alive, to think, to enjoy, to love.” — Marcus Auralius

“Let’s trade in all our judging for appreciation. Let’s lay down our righteousness and just be together.” —Ram Dass

“You have the power over your mind, not outside events. Realize this and you will find strength.” —Marcus Auralius

“Nothing binds you except your thoughts; nothing limits you except your fear; and nothing controls you except your beliefs.” —Marianne Williamson

“Love is the bridge between you and everything.” —Rumi

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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		1 Baked Chicken Breast Brown Rice Pilaf Chateau Blend Végétales Wheat Roll Fruit cocktail	2 Loaded Baked Potato Tossed Salad w/Garbanzo Beans Crackers Cottage Cheese Orange
5 Hot Dog Three Bean Salad Roasted Cauliflower Chopped Watermelon Light vanilla nonfat yogurt	6 Beef Macaroni Garden Salad w/ Light Ranch Dressing Crackers Apricots	7 Spicy Chicken Strips Carrots Creamy cucumber salad Wheat Roll Pear	8 Hamburger California Blend Vegetables Tropical Fruit salad	9 Chicken Tacos Salsa, Zucchini, w/ diced Tomatoes Mixed Fruit
12 Pork Rib Sandwich Coleslaw Green beans Spinach Chopped Cantaloupe	13 Hawaiian Chicken Steamed Brown Rice Stir Fry Veg, Wheat Roll Mandarin oranges Gelatin	14 Roast Beef w/ gravy Parsley Potatoes Chateau Blend vegetables Wheat Roll Fruit Salad	15 Chicken Salad Sandwich Multigrain Chips Vegetable medley Banana	16 Frito Pie Pinto Beans Roasted Brussel Sprouts Diced mango
19 Orange Chicken Brown Rice Asian Vegetables Vegetable Egg Roll Tapioca Pudding	20 Soft Beef Tacos Salsa Pinto beans Squash w/Diced Tomatoes Applesauce	21 Chicken Fried Chicken Potato Salad California Blend Veggies Dinner Roll Spiced pears	22 Beef Steak Ranchero Sweet Potatoes Vegetable Medley Wheat Roll Orange	23 Herbed Baked Fish Tartar Sauce Broccoli Salad Italian Blend Vegetables Wheat Roll Pineapple Tidbits
26 Sweet & Sour Pork Brown Rice Asian Veggies Mandarin Oranges	27 GC Cheese Chicken Sandwich Herb Roasted red Potatoes Tomato and cucumber Salad Grapes	28 Red Beef Enchiladas Pinto Beans Roasted Zucchini Peaches	29 Spaghetti Capri Vegetables Tossed salad Garlic Bread Plums	30 Ham Yams Green Beans Wheat roll Strawberries and Bananas



SENIOR MENU: AUGUST 2024

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.



LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

Be Different!

Today I celebrate being different. Taking risks, doing the unexpected—is good for the brain and helps you grow younger. Thrill to the excitement of being different. Laugh at fear. Take risks. It makes you feel alive! Make new grooves in your brain by eating with your left hand, if you normally eat with your right. Dye your hair a

different color. Start a poker game in your neighborhood. Science has proven that the combination of mental strategy and socializing in a poker game is excellent for growing younger. Do it for nickels and dimes, as my friends and I do with knock gin, and expect to win—but if occasionally you don't, you won't lose the grocery money, playing for small change.

If there is something that you love doing, you just have to jump off the deep end and do it. I had to remind myself of that one weekend ten years ago. I was getting ready to go to the Oscars party in Taos with my friend Mike. It was a swanky affair, the newspaper said, so get out your fancy duds and win a prize for best dressed. I was planning to wear my

body-forming silver-sequined gown with a side slit so deep a woman half my age would think twice about wearing it, and a matching art deco-style silver headdress with hanging beaded fringe. I love that outfit. I bought it in 1982 and I feel so glamorous in it, plus I don't have to fix my hair; the headdress covers it.

As I was getting dressed, the old programming and conditioning flashed into my mind and I wondered about the appropriateness of a 77-year-old woman wearing an outfit like that. And just as quickly, my new thinking about aging took over and assured me it didn't matter. This was to be a fun event and that outfit was fun to wear. Besides, I had the perfect coat to wear with it: my full-length white

“mink” that I got on sale from a catalog for \$94 (it's even machine washable!) So I put on the silver outfit and the coat. Mike and I went to the Oscar party, and we won for best-dressed couple!

And for you if you're over 50? Consider the conditioning about aging that you feel may be lodged in your subconscious. Now it's time to start practicing so you can become that vibrant, sexy, capable older person you know you can be.

Be sure to stop by my house on August 10 or 11—my 8-pointed “Star House” is Hub #15 for the Questa Art Tour and I'd love to show you my paintings!

Ellen Wood a.k.a. Maruška

Artist, Columnist and Award-winning Author

www.HowToGrowYounger.com

¡Sé diferente!

Hoy celebro ser diferente. Correr riesgos y hacer lo inesperado es bueno para el cerebro y te ayuda a rejuvenecer. Emociónate con la alegría de ser diferente. Ríete del miedo. Corre riesgos. ¡Te hace sentir vivo! Crea nuevos surcos en tu cerebro comiendo con la mano izquierda, si normalmente comes con la derecha. Tíñete el pelo de un color diferente. Inicia un torneo de póquer en su vecindario. La ciencia ha demostrado que la combinación de estrategia mental y socialización que se produce durante un juego de póquer es excelente para rejuvenecer. Juega solo por cinco y diez centavos como lo hacemos mis amigos y yo, y espera ganar—pero si ocasionalmente no lo haces, no vas a perder el dinero que necesitas para la comida, pues solo estarás apostando unas moneditas.

Si hay algo que te encante hacer, sólo tienes que lanzarte al ruedo y hacerlo. A veces debo acordarme de un fin de semana de hace diez años. Me estaba preparando para ir a la fiesta de los Óscar en

Taos con mi amigo Mike. Era un evento refinado, decía el periódico, así que saca tus ropas más elegantes y gana un premio a la mejor vestida. Estaba planeando usar un vestido de lentejuelas plateado que moldea el cuerpo, con una abertura lateral tan profunda que una mujer de la mitad de mi edad se lo pensaría dos veces antes de usarlo, y un tocado plateado estilo art déco a juego, con flecos de cuentas que colgaban. Me encanta ese atuendo. Lo compré en 1982 y me siento muy glamorosa con él, además no tengo que arreglarme el cabello pues el tocado lo cubre.

Mientras me vestía, la programación antigua, el viejo condicionamiento, vinieron a mi mente y me pregunté si era apropiado que una mujer de setenta y siete años se vistiera con semejante traje. Y con la misma rapidez, mi nueva forma de pensar sobre el envejecimiento tomó las riendas y me aseguró que no importaba. Este iba a ser un evento divertido y ese atuendo era divertido de usar. Además, tenía el abrigo perfecto para combinarlo: mi “visón” blanco largo que compré en

oferta en un catálogo por \$ 94 (¡incluso se puede lavar a máquina!). Así que me puse el traje plateado y el abrigo. Mike y yo fuimos a la fiesta de los Oscar ¡y ganamos el premio a la pareja mejor vestida!

¿Y qué te digo si tienes más de 50 años? Considera los condicionamientos sobre el envejecimiento que pueden estar alojados en tu subconsciente. Ahora es el momento de empezar a practicar para convertirte en esa persona mayor vibrante,

sexy y capaz que sabes que puedes ser.

Asegúrate de pasar por mi casa el 10 o el 11 de agosto: mi casa, en forma de estrella de ocho puntas, es el centro del Questa Studio Tour y me encantaría mostrarte mis pinturas.

Ellen Wood también conocida como Maruška

Artista, columnista y autor galardonado

www.HowToGrowYounger.co

MONSOONS cont'd from page 20

son begins in late spring, and the amount of soil moisture is important as the growing season continues. If there is adequate soil moisture, trees will continue to grow and retain high moisture content in their foliage, but if moisture is lacking, tree needles become drier and subsequently more flammable. Any fuel on the ground (aka surface fuel) from small sticks to big downed logs can facilitate fire spread and intensity as well. Fine fuels like grass, twigs, and needles dry or moisten rapidly—from minutes to a few hours—where-

as coarse fuels such as big logs require long periods of consistent drying or moistening to adjust, on the order of weeks to months. Low moisture content can greatly increase fire intensity.

At the time of publication, the seasonal outlook from the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center for August and September indicates a high probability of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation. This could mean ripe conditions for easy fire spread this summer and less fire fuels produced for next year's potential spring fire season. Time will tell.

ART at The Star House! Hub #15



Questa Art Tour

92 Quintana Road
El Rito/Latir

August 10 & 11

Ellen Wood
aka Maruška
(My cow's name is Elsie.)



I DARE YOU

By MARTA GLOVER

These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things

Summer is already going so fast! It seems like we barely have time left to fit in all our favorite things to do. Soon enough we will be harvesting the rest of our gardens, getting kids back to school, and cutting firewood! I hope that you enjoy this summer weather and can be outside fishing, swimming, gardening, hiking, eating fresh produce, listening to live music with family and friends and our community.

My question to you this month is:

What is your most favorite thing to do in the whole wide world? Is it something you do daily, annually, by yourself or with someone or something? How long have you been doing this and why do you love it? Has it been motivated by the heart? Does your favorite thing have to do with sports, a craft, a hobby, a social group or a gathering? A favorite thing could be going to a special place to visit, or performing a

traditional ritual that has meaning to you.

Marta

My favorite thing to do daily is to sing. I sing with a group of special ladies every week. The music brings joy to me and those I sing with. The rest of the week I sing a song daily, sometimes playing the piano, even! I sang with my sisters and parents growing up. It always brought us together and we all loved sharing the music. Music brings connection.

Austin

My favorite thing to do is to complain and overthink. I like to complain, it's a natural gift. If you don't complain, things could get nasty, toxic, and cause illness if you hold it in. I got married to be able to complain more. This is how I can justify my complaints. The English are the best complainers., and then there is gardening.

Xiomara

My favorite thing is hanging out with my friends. I have a friend from preschool I like to hang out with, Zenida. We have been friends for seven years. We have done ballet class together and taken too many selfies of ourselves. Now we ride horses together. She is kind and funny. She is the tallest kid in the class and I am one of the shortest.

Brian

My Favorite thing is making and drinking a really good cup of coffee daily, every morning I wake up. I love the ritual of it, the slow sipping, the smell, the steam rising from the cup and letting

the morning go slow. My daughter Zara likes a honey steamer in the morning. Hot steamed milk with honey when she wakes up in the morning.

Paula

I have too many favorite things. I was raised around here, left, and always came back home. It's my favorite place to live. I would rather be here than anywhere else. The scenery, the environment, my friends, where all the family is. Every day someone is meeting at my mother's house. Family gatherings, cookouts, hikes, going for walks with my nieces and nephews. This is why I am here. A favorite thing in my past is riding motorcycles. I have been on a bike since I was young. It's been three years since I have been on a bike. My kids say, wear a helmet, can't go anywhere without a helmet. If I dared to do a favorite thing again, I would ride a Harley Davidson 3-wheeler (trike)!

Jennifer

I like to walk to my space of gratitude everyday. Every time I walk there the scenery changes. I live by the water; every day it looks different. It's a place I pray for people in need. I feel joyous when my son joins me there when he is visiting. Eight years ago, I discovered it and started making it a ritual. I work my day around how to get to my sacred spot. My most favorite place to go to is Nantucket Island off the coast of Massachusetts, my childhood romp and heart place. I cry every time I visit there.

Marcy

Well, that's a loaded question. My favorite thing to do in the whole wide world is to engage in passionate connection. I am being very discreet here so I leave that up to your imagination. I think it might be better if you asked what is one of your top favorite things or your second thing you love the best. My second is a cup of chai every morning when I wake up. Wakes me up and helps with my body pain. It's a ceremony. I make a cup of chai, pick a Tarot card, and I feel more awake and not as achy.

Lora and Jim

I could speak for both of us, pizza stuff is something we love to do in the summertime with family and friends. It gathers people together. We started making pizza outside on the barbecue nine years ago to avoid a hot oven inside. We experimented one evening. Now it is a custom. There is so much you can do with pizza, so many toppings, sauces and different crusts. We have four kids 8 and under, they love pizza and are our major taste-testers.

Jim has a story to add. "I am a forester for the Carson National Forest. One of my favorite things to do is climb trees to collect cones every fall. We do this for re-forestation. It's important to know the seed source that is producing the seedlings. In the fall, the seeds are ripe. There is a government nursery in Boise, Idaho where they freeze the seeds from all over the forest."

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



By DAWN PROVENCHER

The Best School Year Yet!

Having been an educator at the kindergarten through the college level AND a parent of two public-school-educated children, the ups and downs of a school year are very familiar to me. As an educator, I have heard all sorts of complaints and concerns about the education system, testing, teachers, and more. As a parent, I've heard the other side of the coin on the very same issues.

When school starts on August 5 for

students in our Questa Independent School District, children from the age of 3 to 21 will be back in their classrooms. Our children's education should never be an "us against them" situation. Parents and school personnel must rely on each other for support.

What can parents do in order for the 2024-25 school year to be the best possible experience for their children? The following tips will help.

BE POSITIVE Especially young children will mimic what they hear from their parents. Do not criticize the school, the staff, or their teacher in front of them. If you have a problem, direct your concerns to the appropriate adults.

ASK & LISTEN Ask your child every day what they did at school. Ask open-ended questions so you don't fall into the "How was school?"..."Okay" trap. "What did you do when you got to school? What was the best part of the day? Did you answer any of the teachers' questions? Tell me something you learned today." From

one of our children, then a first-grader, I learned that pigs were more dangerous to people than sharks, and from the other child (also in first grade), I learned there were more than 100 types of apples grown commercially in the US. Thirty years later, I still remember their pride sharing these facts with me that I hadn't known.

SLEEP! Establish a healthy schedule BEFORE school starts. This is important for all ages. Without adequate sleep, a child can't perform at their best. Don't think this gets less important as your child gets older. Research shows teens need MORE sleep than younger children and they often have a more difficult time with early morning wake-ups. They may fight you, but start with a schedule that allows 8 to 10 hours of sleep (without access to social media!) for your middle and high school child.

AFTER SCHOOL Ensure your child's safety after school. Whether they will ride a bus, a bike, walk, drive, or ride to and from school, and whether they will return to you, a sitter, a relative, or an empty

house, it is your job to make sure they are safe. Make sure they know each day what they are to do after school.

BREAKFAST My son took this one to the extreme when I learned he was eating breakfast at home, breakfast at the daycare that took him to school, AND breakfast at school when he started kindergarten! When he started complaining of stomach aches, I learned he was being fed by everyone! You just make sure your child gets a good breakfast before expecting much from their brain. Include protein and plenty of non-sugary beverages (water is GREAT!). A sandwich or dinner's leftovers—as long as they don't have a sugar-filled breakfast, they will do better with something in their stomachs before school.

CLASSMATES Talk about bullying with your children AND with their school. Talk about how to treat others and how to expect to be treated by others. If you are

BEST YEAR cont'd on page 28

JR (Malaquias) says:
**“Pesky rodents trying to
destroy your beloved
vehicle?”**



**Don't worry. The
folks at NorthStar
are gonna FIGHT
FIGHT FIGHT.”**

*We'll keep your
bestie on the road.*



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

Congratulations Nathan!

We are thrilled to announce the graduation of Nathan A. Lovato, who proudly earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Rocky Vista University on May 18th, 2024. Nathan's journey to becoming a doctor has been marked by unwavering dedication and tireless effort.

The son of David and Trish Lovato of Arvada, CO, Nathan is a shining example of perseverance and commitment. He has been a source of inspiration to his family, including his sister Erica Lovato, and his grandparents Damian (deceased) and Prescilla Vigil of Questa, NM, and Elicio and Margaret Lovato (both deceased) of Costilla, NM.

Nathan's achievement reflects not only his academic prowess but also his passion for healing and serving others. His hard work and determination have led him to this significant milestone, and we couldn't be prouder.

Nathan will begin his residency in June 2024 in Family Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, KS.

As Nathan embarks on the next chapter of his journey, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a future filled with success, fulfillment, and countless opportunities to make a positive impact in the world. Congratulations, Dr. Nathan A. Lovato!



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ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
AUGUST 2024

I HAVE A DREAM

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we warmly slide into the month of heat, love and flowers, the month of Leo, we enter into a month of five retrogrades, planets that seem to be going backward. This is an optical illusion since planets cannot reverse their prescribed path around the Sun. But from our geocentric perspective, meaning our perspective from this tiny speck of dust in the Universe we call the Earth, we sometimes see the differing elliptical paths of some of the planets as reversed. From an esoteric viewpoint, retrograding planets are expressing their most spiritual attributes, enabling us to see things differently, to ponder things from a different perspective. During this month when Leo reigns, the sign which rules love, perhaps we can use this time to ponder how much better we could love our fellow humans and try to understand different perspectives.

In esoteric astrology we use the Earth as one of our 12 planets. Since it is always 180 degrees away from the Sun, it is currently in the sign of Aquarius, the sign of humanity. Is it an illusion that humanity and love are separated by 180 degrees or is it simply a constant tension holding the two spheres in place? It's always been known that this transition into the Age of Aquarius would be an upheaval of differing perspectives, throwing the world into chaos. Before the New World Religion – a religion for ALL – can be created, every value, belief and ideal would be challenged, examined and held up to the light. Sixty-one years after MLK's memorable speech in August, 1963, we can ponder the highest meanings of Leo and retrograding planets. Like Leo's flowers we can lift our faces and follow the light, love and power of the Sun. This time for reflection encouraged by the retrograding planets could be a great time for reflecting upon perspective and the recognition that that's really the only Truth.

Everyone: A full, "Leo" blue Moon on August 19 in the sign of Aquarius to ponder.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: A time when the Mind and the Heart can work together.

Direction: In thought, word and deed.

Soul Thought: What is the heart brain?

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: There is a cause that needs your support.

Direction: Give it a voice.

Soul Thought: How to forge a dream into a reality

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – JULY 20

Dynamic: This could be a strongly spiritual month for you.

Direction: Pray for the world. . . or meditate.

Soul Thought: Or both.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ JULY 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: Some things have never seemed so dear, but what is real?

Direction: Examine your perspective.

Soul Thought: Then examine someone else's.

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: A Leo Sun with Aquarian Moon means. . .

Direction: Love all the People!

Soul Thought: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." —Declaration of Independence

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: It is a major time of change and you know that better than anyone.

Direction: Use the color, Indigo Blue.

Soul Thought: Love wisely applied, Wisdom lovingly taught – the second Ray.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♃ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: In a world of opposing views, you could be the fulcrum.

Direction: Find the balance; be the balance.

Soul Thought: "Judge not lest ye be judged." —Mathew, 7:1-3

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: You have the tools to sort out the Truth.

Direction: Use them.

Soul Thought: What is Truth?

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ♁ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: All of humanity is affecting you right now.

Direction: Take the highest perspective possible.

Soul Thought: What is the past, the present and the future?

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: You may feel a sense of wanting to pull back from it all.

Direction: Is it isolation or a time for deep contemplation?

Soul Thought: Or Initiation.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: Right now, you can see two sides of every issue very well.

Direction: Be the Observer.

Soul Thought: We need you.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: You are caught in the middle of the conflict.

Direction: Don't leave; look, listen, love.

Soul Thought: "We cannot walk alone." — MLK

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.



By J. ORTEGA

THE LONG GAME

Starring: Jay Hernandez, Dennis Quaid, Cheech Marin, Julian Works and Paulina Chavez

DIRECTED BY Julio Quintanal

RATED PG

Streaming on Netflix

First impression: "The Long Game" is an emotionally strong coming-of-age story about an unlikely Mexican-American high school golf team that had to overcome the racism and elitism of Texas in the 1950s. The movie benefits from the strong performances from leading man Jay Hernandez and future Latino newcomer stars-in-the-making such as Julian Works and Paulina Chavez, who light up the screen with their charisma and acting ability. "The Long Game" will be remembered better than most of the "minorities overcoming historical institutional racism" films of its genre.

When you think about the history and culture of the game of golf, what comes to mind? Maybe you think of stuffy elitism—where rich people play in lavish exclusive country clubs that are meant only for those deemed worthy through family or monetary connections. So, if I were to tell you there's a "based on a true story" story about some scrappy Mexican-American blue-collar kids who take up golf and dominate the sport at the high school level, you would think I'm crazy, right? Well, surprisingly, you would be wrong!

"The Long Game" is based on a self-published book by Author Humberto G. Garcia. He wrote about how, in 1955, five teenage Mexican-American caddies who really loved the game of golf created their own golf course in the middle of south Texas. The five teens had no professional instruction and had to use inferior outdated equipment, but remarkably, they somehow went on to compete against wealthy all-white teams and win the 1957 Texas State High School Golf Championship. Just typing this feels like a work of

fiction, but it actually happened, and it helped to inspire a new generation of Latino golfers and increase the popularity of the sport in specific Latino communities.

The movie has a great message about perseverance and determination to overcome obstacles and to believe in yourself and your abilities. The movie also goes to great lengths to show just how big the obstacles were for the upstart team and its coach, JD Pena, played by the underrated Jay Hernandez, a WW2 veteran who, despite his service, is discriminated against and denied membership to the local country club. It turns out that the club president is upfront with him—he has no issues with him joining but other members would have issues "seeing a Mexican on the course."

The movie also plays against the "white savior complex" by making Dennis Quaid Hernandez's assistant coach—I thought this was an interesting dynamic. Another great aspect of the film is the new Latino talent introduced in the film. Julian Works plays team captain Joe Trevino and his girlfriend Daniella is played by Paulina Chavez. These two young actors did great at stealing the scenes they were in. I can't wait to see the future projects that they will be taking on in Hollywood.

Also, legendary comedian and avid golfer Cheech Marin shows up and gets a laugh every time he's onscreen, so that helps this movie a lot when it comes to breaking the tension from all the casual racism faced by the team.

Final Verdict 4 out of 5 Stars Final



FOR MORE NEWS, PHOTOS & EVENT INFO VISIT QUESTANEWS.COM



As the back-to-school season kicks off, many parents are on the lookout for lunch ideas that are not only nutritious and nut-free, but also quick and easy to prepare. This collection of recipes caters to those needs, offering a variety of kid-friendly meals that ensure safety and satisfaction. Some of these creative lunch ideas can even be assembled using dinner leftovers, saving you time and effort, while reducing food waste. From DIY pizza lunchables to turkey club roll-ups and nacho kits, these recipes promise to make lunchtime a breeze for busy families, keeping your children energized and ready to tackle their school day.

All recipes listed are inspired by Kristen Chidsey, from amindfulmom.com and tested by real life toddler Sierra Trujillo.

DIY Pizza Lunchable

Ingredients:

- 1 mini-bagel or English muffin, halved
- 1 small container of pizza sauce
- 6-8 slices of pepperoni
- 1/4 c shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 spoon for spreading

1. Prepare the ingredients:

- Cut the mini-bagel/English muffin in half and place it in a compartment of the lunch container.
- Fill a small container with pizza sauce and secure the lid tightly.
- Place the pepperoni slices in a small section of the lunch container or in a separate container to keep them fresh.
- Measure out 1/4 cup of shredded mozzarella cheese and place it in another section of the lunch container.

2. Packing the lunch:

- Arrange the bagel/English muffin halves, the container of pizza sauce, pepperoni slices, and shredded mozzarella cheese in the lunch container.

- Include a spoon for spreading the pizza sauce on the bagel or English muffin halves.

3. Optional additions:

- To round out the lunch, pack some fresh fruit, like apple slices, grapes, or a banana.
- Add some fresh veggies such as baby carrots, cucumber slices, or cherry tomatoes for a balanced meal.

Instructions for your child:

- Spread the pizza sauce on the bagel/English muffin halves using the spoon.
- Top with pepperoni slices and shredded mozzarella cheese.
- Enjoy assembling and eating your mini pizzas at lunchtime!

Turkey Club Roll-Up

Ingredients:

- 1 large tortilla or flatbread
- 3-4 slices of deli turkey
- 1 leaf of lettuce, washed and dried
- 1 slice of cheese (cheddar or Swiss works well)
- 1/4 avocado, thinly sliced
- 2 slices of cooked bacon, crispy
- Optional: a small container of your favorite dressing or mayonnaise

1. Prepare the ingredients:

- Lay the tortilla or flatbread flat on a clean surface.
- Place the lettuce leaf on the tortilla, covering most of the surface.
- Layer the deli turkey slices evenly over the lettuce.
- Add the slice of cheese on top of the turkey.
- Arrange the avocado slices and crispy bacon strips over the cheese.

2. Assemble the Roll-Up:

- Starting from one edge, carefully roll the tortilla tightly, ensuring all the ingredients stay in place.
- If using dressing or mayonnaise, spread a thin layer on the tortilla before adding the lettuce, or pack it in a small container for dipping.

3. Packing the Lunch:

- Cut the roll-up in half for easier handling and place it in a lunch container.
- Add fresh fruit such as apple slices, berries, or a banana.
- Include a side of snap pea crisps or chips for a satisfying crunch.



Photos courtesy of mindfulmom.com

If you have a recipe you would like featured in an upcoming issue of Enchanted Eats, please submit to assistanteditor@questanews.com



We are thrilled to announce the newest member of the J&L Powersports family, Lacy James Newfer. Born at 4:08 PM on July 10th at her home in Questa. She was 5lbs 6oz and 20.5" long.



In celebration of our sweet girl, we are offering **10% off** all ATV & UTV FULL SERVICES for the whole month of August!



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OBITUARIES



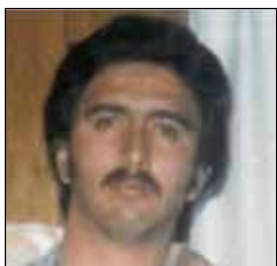
Oclides Martinez
d. July 15, 2024

Oclides Martinez, age 84, of Ranchos de Taos, passed away on July 15, 2024. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Patricio Martinez and Orlando Arellano; her parents Sergio and Dora Segura; granddaughter Patricia Martinez Medina; sons-in-law David Hudson and Kevin Rucker, and several siblings.

She is survived by her loving children: Anita Martinez (Larry), Patricia Jonaidi (Thabet), Joaquin Martinez (Doreen), Christine Hudson, Teresa Romero (Glen), Julia Martinez-Rucker, and Sergio Martinez (Monica). Oclides is also survived by 19 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, her brother Benito Segura, as well as other relatives and friends who will cherish her memory.

Oclides will be remembered for her devotion to family, her strength of character, witty sense of humor, outstanding cooking skills, and the warmth she extended to all who knew her. Her presence in the lives of her loved ones leaves an enduring legacy of love and resilience that will never be forgotten.

Services were held on Monday, July 22, at the Rivera Chapel in Taos, with interment following, at the Martinez Cemetery.



Vicente Vivian Sanchez
d. July 1, 2024

Vicente Vivian Sanchez of Arroyo Seco passed away on July 1, 2024, at the age of 68. He was born in 1955 to Martin C. Sanchez and Lila D. Sanchez.

Vicente was a hardworking man who had a great love for God. Anyone who knew Vicente remembers the bible in his pocket. His favorite prayer was the Lord's Prayer and he recited it frequently throughout the day. He had a great sense of humor and loved to make people laugh. He was an amazing conversationalist and enjoyed discussing new topics, sometimes engaging in conversations with strangers. He enjoyed daily walks. But most of all, he loved his family.

He is preceded in death by his parents Martin C. and Lila D.

Sanchez. Vicente leaves behind two sons, Alfred and Leonard Sanchez, granddaughter Maribel Sanchez, and great-grandchildren, his stepdaughter Flor Avelar and her children James and Katalina, his sister Mary L. Archuleta (Joe), brother George Sanchez (Nancy), brother Henry Sanchez, and many nieces and nephews. Services are pending at this time.



Cleve Rael
d. June 30, 2024

Cleve Rael, age 73, passed away peacefully on June 30, 2024 after a long battle with lung cancer.

Although he adventured off a time or two, making friends in many places, and even seeing the Beatles once. Questa, NM was his only true home. Cleve took pride in his home and his work, whether he was on the highway, in the yard at Questa Lumber, or customizing his family home.

Born on Cinco de Mayo, he naturally knew how to have a good time. He enjoyed playing horseshoes, a Lamb Jam, and spending time at the cabin with family. He also liked watching westerns, tending to his plants, and landscaping.

Cleve was a laid-back guy. The way he carried himself, the way he spoke, and listened, even the way he'd smile, were all distinct. He was loved by family, friends, and dogs alike. He was always genuine and humble, with an eye for the unique and antique. Cleve will be missed dearly.

Private services will be held at a later date. We invite you to please celebrate Cleve's memory in your own ways. We know that he will be with us all in spirit. Thank you for your understanding during this difficult time.



Shural Lynn Pacheco
d. June 28, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce Shural Lynn Pacheco, born February 3, 1993, passed away on June 28, 2024, surrounded by her family.

She was a dedicated, loving, adventurous mother to her beau-

tiful daughter, Gia. Shural had a smile that could light up a room, a contagious laugh, and the most beautiful blue eyes. Through her professional career as a hairstylist, she made everyone her friend, and provided a safe, fun, and loving environment to all of her clients. Shural was the life of every party and truly one-of-a-kind. The void of losing her will never cease.

Shural was preceded in death by her mother Lori Lopez, grandfather Samuel Lopez, grandmother Gisela Lopez, great grandfather Hilio Pacheco, and great grandmother Vivianita Vigil. She is survived by her daughter, who was her world, Gia; fiancé Anthony; father Phillip; great-grandmother Carlotta; her grandparents who were her second parents, Paul & Tina; sisters Kailyn (Estevan), Giselle; brother Samuel; stepmother Andy (Mario & Daniel); Stepmother Antoinette (Nadelynn & Kelan); aunts Liza (Kenneth) and Yvette (Carl); uncles Tim (Eldieanna), Steve (Stacy), and Ricardo (Tracy); cousins Jake, Donevon, Ashley, Danielle, Riley, Sean, Gabriel, Josh, Jeremiah, Landen, Nathaniel, Domonik, and Hazeleigh; her cousin who she always called her sister, Meagan (Justin); godson Micah; soon to be goddaughter, Emerly; numerous great-aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held on Friday, July 5, 2024 at El Buen Pastor in Espanola, NM.

Serving the family as honorary pallbearers: Kelan Maes, Samuel Soveranez, Jeremiah Martinez, Donevon Sanchez, Domonik Pacheco, Sean Montoya, Josh Montoya, Nathaniel Montoya, Gabriel Romero, and Landen Sandoval.

To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Shural Lynn Pacheco, please visit our flower store.



Dora Lou Hickam
d. June 25, 2024

Dora Lou Hickam, of Red River, passed away on June 25, 2024, just shy of her 92nd birthday. She was born August 5, 1932 in Cimarron, New Mexico, to Cliff and Bess Gimson. Dora Lou was delivered into this world by her grandmother, a locally renowned midwife.

Her family eventually moved to Taos where she spent most of her childhood, growing up with older brother, Ted. The family eventually settled in Raton where baby sister Barbara Ann was born, and where Dora Lou graduated from high school.

Her beauty was like no other. She was even one of the "Breck (shampoo) Girls."

She then began her professional career with the telephone company as a switchboard operator. This was during the Korean War, and she had fond memories of patching through overseas

calls to and from the "soldier boys."

In 1953 she married Al Hickam, and they had two children: a daughter, Johnna, and three years later, a son, Allen. Together they built two successful businesses. Hickam Plumbing started in Springer, New Mexico in the mid 1960s and then moved to Red River. A few years later, the famous Turkey Track Stables was their new venture that kept them busy during the summer months.

Dora Lou was a founding member of the Red River Women's Club, a longtime member of the Red River Historical Society, and belonged to the NM Republican National Committee while working the elections for over 20 years. She could be found working at the ski area, in various retail shops around town, and was the face of the Sundance Restaurant for many years, greeting guests nightly and rolling chili rellenos in the off hours.

Her final job was one she loved the most, being the historian of the Little Red School House Museum in Red River. She had a passion for her beloved mountain town, the history of it, the people, the landscape, and the wildlife found there. Above all, she loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

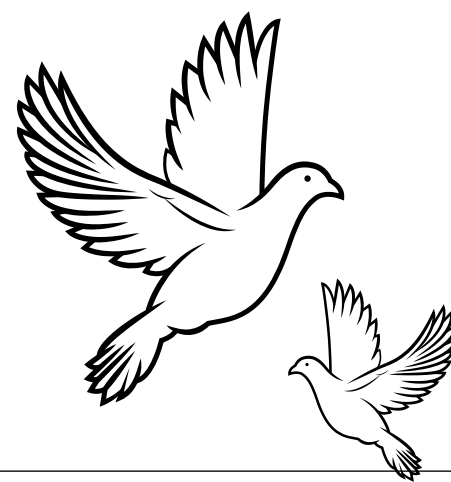
Dora Lou was preceded in death by her parents, Cliff and Bess Gimson; brother Ted Gimson (Nona); sister Barbara Wilkinson; husband Al Hickam; daughter-in-law Louie Hickam; and many lifelong friends and extended family.

She is survived by her daughter Johnna McClain (Stoddard); son Allen Hickam; grandchildren Cody May, Karee Wiggins (Will), Lacey Hickam, Brenna Lange (Matt); great-grandchildren Grayson and Garren Wiggins, Sterling Inman, Jocelyn Garcia, Ashlyn, Mikah, and Tripp Lange; sister-in-law Rose Harper; brother-in-law Wilk Wilkinson; nephew Randy Wilkinson; and niece Robyn Harper; and many lifelong friends and extended family.

Dora Lou's family was present for visitation at Johnson's Funeral Home, San Angelo, Texas, on July 1, 2024, with graveside services at Fairmount Cemetery, San Angelo. Pallbearers were Stoddard McClain, Cody May, Will Wiggins, Matt Lange, Grayson Wiggins and Garren Wiggins. Honorary pallbearer was Mike May.

The family would like to express unending gratitude for all the loving care provided to our Mom and NaNa: Dr. John Stevenson, DaVita Dialysis Clinic Staff, SageCrest - Mayfield Unit Staff and Hospice of San Angelo.

Donations in Dora Lou's memory may be made to the Red River Historical Society, PO Box 384, Red River NM 87558.



BEST YEAR cont'd from page 24

concerned about a bullying situation, talk with the teacher soon. Ask your child's school personnel how bullying is handled. Be a part of the solution.

HOMEWORK Be aware of what is expected of your child. Establish a time for your child to complete their work every day. No homework? This time needs to be devoted to some type of learning or reading. Look over their work. Have them

read to you. Make sure work gets to and from school, not wadded into a backpack. Many teachers will have a method, but if they don't, you can give your child a brightly colored HOMEWORK folder to ensure what they have completed gets done and turned in.

LEARNING CONCERNS Talk with the teacher, counselor, and/or principal if you think your child is struggling with a certain skill or subject. I worked in Special Education and had a child who received these services. Do NOT think these

services are negative for your child. It is your responsibility to make sure your child receives the instruction she or he needs. When our oldest child was tested in early elementary school and was diagnosed with learning disabilities, we were shaken at first, but then quickly got on board and became his most vocal advocates.

He received the help he needed and went from a third-grade non-reader to a perfect ACT score in language just a few years later. Now in his thirties, he still reads several books a week AND is an

English teacher!

ADVOCACY As an educator, I told parents "I won't believe everything they say about you, if you won't believe everything they say about me!" If your child comes home with a concern about someone at school, make sure they know you will get all the information you can. Meet with school staff and hear all sides of a situation. Don't assume before you have all the information.

Make this your child's best school year yet!

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If you own a rental property, you must consider using Active Guard bed liners as your best defense against these prolific intruders. Active Guard bed liners are the only bedding product that kills bed bugs and dust mites. Don't leave your property unprotected! Call Good Riddance!

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310 RED RIVER IS BACK!

Thanks to the hiring of additional drivers, free Blue Bus transit service will be restored for the 310 Red River route on Monday, Aug. 5, 2024. Service operates Monday through Friday from 5:55 a.m. to 6:40 p.m. Enjoy a convenient commute between Red River and Questa. Hop On Board Today!

Eastbound - To Red River								
Trip Number	1E	2E	3E	4E	5E	6E	7E	8E
NM-522 & Supermarket Rd	5:55	6:45	7:35	8:25	3:20	4:10	5:00	5:50
Red River Conference Center E. River St @ Jumping Jack	6:20	7:10	8:00	8:50	3:45	4:35	5:25	6:15

Westbound - To Questa								
Trip Number	1W	2W	3W	4W	5W	6W	7W	8W
Red River Conference Center E. River St @ Jumping Jack	6:20	7:10	8:00	8:50	3:45	4:35	5:25	6:15
NM-522 & Supermarket Rd	6:45	7:35	8:25	9:15	4:10	5:00	5:50	6:40

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RideTheBlueBus.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • AUGUST 2024

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN AUGUST!

JULY 31: WED 5:30 - 7:30 PM FREE Business Model Canvas Workshop at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. Come and learn how to create a business plan so that your side-hustle can become your main hustle! Info: email Jessica Trujillo of Questa Business Bridge at QBB-Coordinator@questaedf.com, or visit forms.gle/XnZ44kUjnyoWBnLm9

6 PM Household income survey meeting at the Village Chambers. Your participation is critical for the success of future funding applications for state and federal programs for community water and wastewater projects. Contact Jacob LaFore at (575) 586-0694 or jlafore@villageofquesta.org for more information.

AUGUST 2: FRI 6 PM 40th & 90th Living Word Ministries Anniversary Celebration Outdoor Picnic & Worship, Questa RV Park & Lodge at 8 Lower Embargo Road, bring a picnic dinner. Info: gaylelwm@msn.com

AUGUST 3: SAT 6 PM 40th & 90th Living Word Ministries Anniversary Celebration Honoring Our Past. Dessert Reception at LWM, 12 Llano Road. Info: gaylelwm@msn.com

AUGUST 4: SUN 10:30 AM 40th & 90th Living Word Ministries Anniversary Celebration Crossing Over Ceremony, Special Sunday Service and Potluck Reception at LWM, 12 Llano Road. Info: gaylelwm@msn.com

AUGUST 5: MON 6:00 PM QEDF Board Meeting at the Questa Visitor Center or via Zoom. Contact Director Lynn Skall for a copy of the agenda and Zoom link. Info: lynn@questaedf.com

AUGUST 7: WED 5:30 - 7:30 PM FREE Business Model Canvas Workshop Series #1 at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. Come and learn how to create a business plan so that your side-hustle can become your main hustle! Info: email Jessica Trujillo of Questa Business Bridge at QBB-Coordinator@questaedf.com, or visit forms.gle/XnZ44kUjnyoWBnLm9

5:30 - 7:30 PM Soil Health Principles in Orchard Systems in San Cristobal Hands-on workshop: creating the best soil health for your orchard. Learn the best cover crop mixes and varieties, the importance of planting seasonality, planting times, no-till methods, and other soil health principles. Participants will receive free publications on best practices for soil health for fruit orchards. 59 Camino Del Medio, San Cristobal NM 87564 Register at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/sjcbq8f>

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

AUGUST 8: THUR 6 PM North Kiowa Road Residents Meeting at the Village of Questa Council Chamber. Between 1993 and 1998, the NM Department of Transportation's work along North Kiowa Road impacted landowners when some small slivers of land became Village of Questa property. The Village wants to return these back to their respective owners. Info: Jacob LaFore at (575) 586-0694 or email: jlafore@villageofquesta.org

AUGUST 9: FRI 10 AM - NOON Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd. Info: visit questafoodpantry.org, or call (575) 586-0486

1 - 3 PM FREE Individualized Technology Support - registration required at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Road. FREE In Person Tech Support for Seniors! Bring your device and all your questions to get personalized support from our tech guru, Martin. Reserve your spot for an individualized session! Info: email Jessica Trujillo of the Questa Business Bridge at QBB-Coordinator@QuestaEDF.com or call (575) 586-2023

AUGUST 10: SAT 10 AM - 5 PM 9th Annual Questa Art Tour Over 40 artists showcase their work in 18 different hubs from Questa to Costilla, welcoming visitors and local art lovers. You're invited to meet and support your artistic neighbors and even purchase artwork! Stop by the Questa Visitor Center for maps and info, 1, NM-Hwy 38 at the Questa traffic light. See article on page 13. Info: visit questacreative.org/about-the-tour

7:30 AM - 4 PM Enchanted Circle Bicycle Tour at Red River Ski Area, 400 Pioneer Road. There's no better way to experience the raw, natural beauty of Northern New Mexico! Info: visit theridecollective.com/enchantedcircle

AUGUST 11: SUN 10 AM - 5 PM 9th Annual Questa Art Tour Over 40 artists showcase their work in 18 different hubs from Questa to Costilla, welcoming visitors and local art lovers. You're invited to meet and support your artistic neighbors and even purchase artwork! Stop by the Questa Visitor Center for maps and info, 1, NM-Hwy 38 at the Questa traffic light. Info: visit questacreative.org/about-the-tour

AUGUST 13: TUE 6 PM Village of Questa Town Council Meeting at Questa Village Town Hall, 2500 Old State Rd 3. For agenda: questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda. Info: visit questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda, or call (575) 586-0694

AUGUST 14: WED 10 AM - NOON FREE Funding your Business Workshop with WESST at Questa public Library, 6 1/2 municipal park road. Info: email Jessica Trujillo of Questa Business Bridge at QBB-coordinator@questaedf.com

5:30 - 7:30 PM FREE Business Model Canvas Workshop Series #2 at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. Attendance at all sessions is recommended for comprehensive learning. If you miss any, we suggest meeting with Anwar Kaelin (SBDC) or Ayla Parker (HIVE) for personalized guidance. Info: email Jessica Trujillo of Questa Business Bridge at QBB-Coordinator@questaedf.com, or visit forms.gle/XnZ44kUjnyoWBnLm9

AUGUST 15: THU NOON - 4 PM In-person, one-on-one, business advising with Anwar Kaelin, Director of the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos. Part of the Questa Business Bridge at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL for anyone in any stage of business, anyone with a great idea. Make an appointment by visiting: calendly.com/sbdctaos. Info: visit calendly.com/sbdctaos

5 PM Cerro VFW Post #9516 Monthly Meeting at Cerro VFW, 108 NM Highway 378, Questa. Info: call (575) 586-2352

AUGUST 19: MON 3 - 5 PM Questa Library Book Club at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. Read any book with a body part in the title... like "Lonely Bones"! Read and share the experience with the group. We have lively, thoughtful discussions. Join us! Info: email library@villageofquesta.org, or call (575) 586-2023

AUGUST 21: WED 3 - 6 PM Questa Business Bridge Grand Opening and Business Resource Day at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. Tour the Business Bridge, ribbon cutting with Mayor Ortega, giveaways, drawings, and \$100 grand prize. Meet regional organizations that support your business needs. Come celebrate and learn more! See article on page 5. Info: email Lynn Skall of Questa Business Bridge at Lynn@questaedf.com

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

AUGUST 23: FRI 10 AM - NOON Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd. Info: visit questafoodpantry.org, or call (575) 586-0486



AUGUST 27: TUE 6 PM Village of Questa Town Council Meeting at Questa Village Town Hall, 2500 Old State Rd 3. For agenda: questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda. Info: visit questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda

Weekly Events

SUNDAY

Area Church Directory is on page 31 #PAGE NUM, please call to confirm service times

10 AM Qigong, Online ONLY at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. Zoom link and info: yogasalaquesta.org.

3 - 6 PM Open Mic at Noisy Water Winery, 518 E. Main St, Red River. Get ready for a night of music, poetry, and laughter at Noisy Water Winery's Open Mic Night! Whether you're a seasoned performer or a first-time participant, join us for an evening of creative expression, fine wines, and a supportive audience. Info: visit redriver.org/events/open-mic, or call (575) 754-9957

MONDAY

8 AM Transportation for Qualified Seniors at Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd. Accepting donations, by appointment only. Info: call (575) 586-0508

10 AM Kundalini Yoga with Julian at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. in person only, \$8-\$15. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

5 PM Free Community Yoga at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. Gentle practice with Rae in person only, free. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

7 PM Kickboxing with Reto at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. In person only, sliding scale \$5-\$15. All classes free for teens. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

TUESDAY

8 AM Transportation for Qualified Seniors at Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd. Accepting donations, by appointment only. Info: call (575) 586-0508

10 - 11:30 AM BINGO! at the Questa Senior Center, Highway 522. Info: email Mellie Rodriguez of Questa Senior Center at mrodriguez@taosnet.com

6 - 7:45 PM Kundalini, Meditation and Gong at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. With Jiwanshakti, in person and online. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

4:30 - 5:30 PM Free Kids Ballet with Miss Tuesday at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. In person only. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

WEDNESDAY

8 AM Transportation for Qualified Seniors at Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd. Accepting donations, by appointment only. Info: call (575) 586-0508

9 AM Gentle morning yoga with Gaea at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. In person only, \$8. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

1:30 - 2:30 PM Wildcat Kitty Club at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. A weekly fun program for our youngest guests. We have stories, kitty-sized activities and crafts, friendly play, and opportunities for parents and caregivers to share the joys and trials of being new at the game of raising these incredible small beings. And there are always snacks and treats! Info: email library@villageofquesta.org, or call (575) 586-2023

5:30 PM Power Hour Yoga with Gaea at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. In person only, \$8. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

THURSDAY

8 AM Transportation for Qualified Seniors at Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd. Accepting donations, by appointment only. Info: call (575) 586-0508

10 AM - 11:30 PM Thursday Painting! at Questa Senior Center, Highway 522. No materials will be provided, please bring your own paint materials! Info: email Mellie Rodriguez of the Questa Senior Center at mrodriguez@taosnet.com

2:30 - 4:30 PM Dropped Stitch at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. We knit, crochet, laugh, teach and learn. Bring your projects. All skill levels are welcome. Info: call (575) 586-2023

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

FRIDAY

8:30 AM Gentle morning yoga with Gaea at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. In person only, \$8. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

10 AM Free Community Qigong with Julian at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa. In person only, free. Info: yogasalaquesta.org

7 - 9 PM Weekly Recovery Program at Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Rd, Questa. New Thirst Christ Centered Recovery Program offered weekly on Friday Evenings. Info: visit taoschamber.com/events/details/weekly-recovery-program-08-02-2024-22729

SATURDAY

There are no activities listed for Saturdays at time of publishing. Check the online Calendar for up to date information. See below for link.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

The same area online calendar is now shared on all of the following sites...

QuestaNews.com
QuestaCreative.org
QuestaLibrary.org
Questa-NM.com
VisitQuesta.com

Try it today!
<https://questanews.com/questa-events/#/show?distance=15>

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is currently hiring Multiple Positions: Fall Conservation Crew Supervisor, Fall Conservation Crewmembers, Public Health Crewmembers, and Conservation Manager. Join our organization and make a difference in our community. Visit our website for full position descriptions and to apply: <https://youthcorps.org/> Rocky Mountain Youth Corps is a non-profit organization located in Taos, NM.

Village of Questa Motor Vehicle Dep't. Clerk: The Village of Questa is currently looking to hire a full-time MVD clerk. This position includes weekends off, benefits, paid holidays, and retirement. Please contact Valerie Vigil at (575) 741-5334 or email at vvigil@villageofquesta.org. Applications can also be picked up at the Village Administration Department.

NOTICES

Blue Bus 310 to Red River is back! Thanks to the hiring of additional drivers, free Blue Bus transit service will be restored for the 310 Red River route on Monday, Aug. 5, 2024. Service operates Monday through Friday from 5:55 a.m. to 6:40 p.m. Enjoy a convenient com- mute between Red River and Questa. Hop On Board Today! See Bus Schedule on page 29 or visit Ride The BlueBus.com.

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. Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call (575) 586-0508 for more information.

SLV spay & neuter alliance mobile clinic offers low-cost spay and neuter services for cats and dogs in San Luis, Alamosa, and other towns in southern Colorado on a rotating basis. Surgeries include age-appropriate rabies and distemper vaccines. Microchips, bordetella vaccines, dewormer, nail trims, and mat removal are available at additional cost. Book appointments easily online at slvsna.org or call (719) 657-7076.

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.

North Central New Mexico Food Pantry: Second and fourth Fridays, 10 a.m. – 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 ncfquesta.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 Director of the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos Anwar Kaelin. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL offered on the third Thursday of every month, 1– 4 p.m., 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 p.m.: <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

LEGALS

4B-501. Notice to creditors by publication and notice to creditors by written notice (mailing or other delivery). For use with Rules 1B-304, 1B-306, and 1B-401 NMRA STATE OF NEW MEXICO IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TAOS COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Ronald J. Acosta, DECEASED. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the estate of the decedent. All persons having claims against the estate of the decedent are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of any published notice to

creditors or sixty (60) days after the date of mailing or other delivery of this notice, whichever is later, or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned personal representative at the address listed below, or filed with the Probate Court of Taos County, New Mexico, located at the following address:
 Dated: June 16, 2024, Printed name: Yollanda Acosta, Address: PO Box 641 New Mexico 87556
 USE NOTE: See NMSA 1978, Sections 45-3-801 to 45-3-803 for notice to creditors provisions. [Approved, effective September 15, 2000; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 07-8300-005, effective March 1, 2007; 4B-301 recompiled and amended as 4B-501 by Supreme Court Order No. 18-8300-014, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after December 31, 2018.]
 45-3-801. Notice to creditors.
 A. A personal representative upon appointment may publish a notice to creditors once a week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the probate proceeding is pending, announcing the personal representative's appointment and address and notifying creditors of the estate to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of the notice or be forever barred.
 B. A personal representative may give written notice by mail or other delivery to a creditor, announcing the personal representative's appointment and address and notifying the creditor to present the creditor's claim within four months after the published notice, if given as provided in Subsection A of this section, or within sixty days after the mailing or other delivery of the notice, whichever is later, or be forever barred.
 C. The personal representative is not liable to anyone for giving or failing to give notice pursuant to this section. History: 1953 Comp., § 32A-3-801, enacted by Laws 1975, ch. 257, § 3-801; 1993, ch. 174, § 71; repealed and reenacted by Laws 2016, ch. 69, § 715. <http://public.nmcompcomm.us/nmpublic/gateway.dll/?f=templates&fn=default.htm>

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.com (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 Chenrezig 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

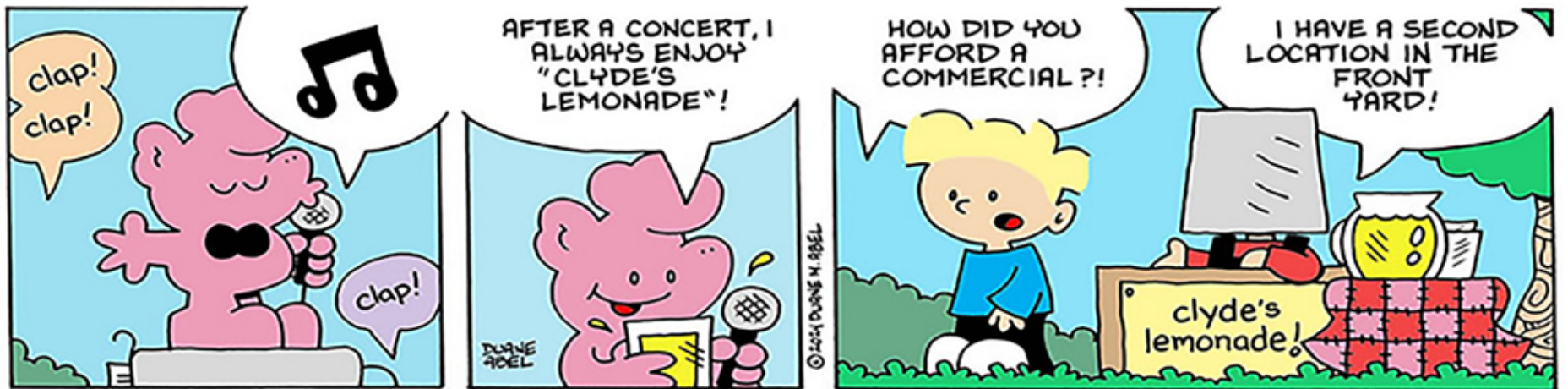


AA MEETINGS
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 Purity and Love.

QUESTA:
 Sundays 10-11 a.m.
 Questa Youth Center

RED RIVER:
 Tuesdays 7- 8 p.m.
 417 E. High St.
(Erik's Workshop)

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QUESTA FARMERS MARKET

Questa Visitor Center through Oct 6

Farmers & Gardeners from NM Colorado vendors may join!

sundays 10 to 2

- Local musicians
- Food entrepreneurs
- Paid internships for teens

(575) 224-2102 • QuestaFarmersMarket.org
A Nonprofit Program of Locality 501(c)(3)

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