



Questa del Rio News

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\$95.6 Million Granted to Fund Green Hydrogen Project in Questa

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) announced via press release that it received a \$95.6 million award to fund green hydrogen in Questa. The grant is from the Empowering Rural America Program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The green hydrogen project has been underway for three years with support from local and national leaders. The project is an innovative clean energy initiative which will benefit the entire KCEC service territory in northern New Mexico while repurposing reclaimed water from the closed Chevron mine.

"This project's success sends a clear message: New Mexico is, and will continue to be, a national leader in clean hydrogen," said Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. "Not only will this facility substantially upgrade Northern New Mexico's energy resilience, but it will also provide hundreds of jobs to our state's rural communities."

This funding announcement is in addition to a \$500,000 award KCEC received from the United States Department of Energy earlier this year to fund planning and safety studies for the proposed project.

This funding will support the production, infrastructure, and adoption of clean hydrogen in targeted communities of New Mexico, specifically in the Village of Questa and Town of Taos, as well as for two federally recognized Tribes of Native American Pueblo People – Picuris Pueblo and Taos Pueblo.

"This project will create jobs in Questa while providing green energy for our regional communities, including Questa. It's a big deal for our local community and economy. I am grateful to KCEC for getting this award. It's a major step in redefining Questa from an old mining community into a new green energy community. This will also start to redefine our post mining economy and bring much needed jobs as well as potential tax revenue to the Village of Questa. This is the culmination of several years of hard work and great partnerships." Questa Mayor John Ortega says.



Courtesy Photo

Kit Carson CEO Luis Reyes and Questa Mayor John Ortega discuss the Green Hydrogen Project at the Building Advanced Energy Summit in Albuquerque, NM in September 2024

As part of the planned project, each of these communities will have custom green hydrogen facilities and corresponding renewable energy generation technology within their borders. Once complete, the KCEC Questa Green Hydrogen Project will signify a leap forward in actualizing green hydrogen generation. "By moving substantially closer to fully funding this important and innovative project, our community has proven we can tackle big goals when we work together," said Bobby Ortega, president of the KCEC Board of Trustees.

The project includes utilizing solar generation to power facilities, co-siting facilities alongside a closed mine Superfund wastewater treatment plant, and creating long-duration (up to 16 hours) energy storage technology. The project will also stimulate jobs and new economic impact for the Village of Questa.

Once completed, the project will transform KCEC's energy infrastructure and exponentially increase system resiliency.

The awarded project in the Village of Questa could serve as a blueprint for other communities to combine clean energy transition projects with local economic development stimulus.

"This is a big deal for a collection

of small-town communities," said Kit Carson Electric Cooperative CEO Luis A. Reyes Jr. "KCEC is extremely grateful to the USDA, RUS, our elected officials and community groups who have shown it is possible to progress multiple important goals at once with a big idea that brings our communities brighter, more resilient futures. This project is transformative as it ushers in the next generation of renewable electric generation technology that addresses the country's growing energy needs."

"I worked hard to pass the transformative clean energy investments in the Inflation Reduction Act so we could achieve our ambitious climate goals while creating good-paying careers and substantially lowering utility costs for hardworking New Mexicans," said Senator Martin Heinrich. "This includes the new Empowering Rural America Program that aims to dramatically expand clean power generation and delivery to rural communities like the ones in Northern New Mexico served by the Kit Carson Electric Coop. I'm pleased to see Kit Carson's application for this program advance. I will continue working to deliver strong investments to communities all across our state to build a cleaner, healthier, and more affordable energy future."

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Questa del Rio News

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Providing public access and representation for historically underserved communities in northern Taos County and the San Luis Valley, preserving the culture, history, traditions & stories of the people through strong, meaningful journalism.

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EDITORIAL

Pepeñando Piñon



Courtesy Photo

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

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November General Election Preview

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

This year's general election is on November 5, 2024. You can register to vote and update your voter registration by visiting www.sos.nm.gov. You can also register to vote using a paper voter registration form. These forms can be retrieved at your local elections office at 105 Albright St, Taos, NM 87571.

October 5 is the registration deadline for the November election. In New Mexico, however, you can also register to vote on the day of the election, November 5.

From October 8 through November 2, voters can cast their votes during early voting at the Taos County Courthouse. The early voting site in Questa at the Questa Municipal Hall, 2500 Old State Rd. 3, opens on October 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This year's ballot will include presidential candidates and local and statewide initiatives. Some initiatives on the ballot as of this paper's print date include:

Constitutional Amendment 1:

Proposing an amendment to Article 8, Section 15 of the constitution of New Mexico to extend a property tax exemption, to veterans with less than 100 percent disability and their widows and widowers and basing the amount of the exemption on a veteran's disability rating.

- **Breaking it down:** Currently in New Mexico, 100 percent disabled veterans and their widows/widowers do not have to pay property taxes. If this passes, it would amend the New Mexico constitution to extend the exemption to any veteran and their widow/widowers, regardless of their disability rating.

Constitutional Amendment No. 2:

Proposing an amendment to Article 8, Section 5 of the constitution of New Mexico to amend the property tax exemption for honorably discharged members of the armed forces and their widows and widowers.

- **Breaking it down:** If this passes, it would amend the New Mexico consti-

tion to reduce the amount of property taxes any honorable discharged member of the armed forces and their widow/widowers is required to pay.

Constitutional Amendment No. 3

Proposing to amend Article 6, Section 35 of the constitution of New Mexico by allowing the dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law to appoint a designee to the Judicial Nominating Commission.

- **Breaking it down:** If passed, this would extend the nominating authority for the Judicial Nominating Commission to the UNM School of Law dean. Currently, the following people are able to nominate individuals to the Judicial Nominating Committee: Chief Justice of the NM Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, Chief Judge of the District Court, Chief Judge of the Metro Court, Governor, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and President of the State Bar.

Constitutional Amendment No. 4

Proposing an amendment to Article 10, Section 1 of the constitution of New Mexico to provide that the salaries of county officers shall be established by the Board of County Commissioners, remove references to the First Legislative Session and clarify that any fees collected by a county official shall be paid into the treasury of the county.

- **Breaking it down:** This, in part, is a technical fix to clean up article 10, section 1 of the NM constitution which would remove wording which refers to "first legislative session" as it doesn't make sense outside of this time frame. Additionally, it appoints the authority directly to the Board of County Commissioners to set county officer salaries, removing ambiguity. This would ensure the fees collected from tickets issued by county officers goes directly to the county treasury (or bank account).

Bond Question 3 – Higher Education

The 2024 Capital Projects General

Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvement and acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed two hundred thirty million two hundred fifty-eight thousand four hundred dollars (\$230,258,400) to make capital expenditures for certain higher education, special schools and tribal schools capital improvements and acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

- **Breaking it down:** Capital improvement and acquisition bonds are a way for cities and other governments to fund large-scale projects. If this is passed, it would cap the amount of general obligation for improvements to higher education, special schools, and tribal schools at \$230,258,400.

Bond Question 2 – Library Acquisitions

The 2024 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of library acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$19,305,000 to make capital expenditures for academic, public school, tribal and public library resource acquisitions and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

- **Breaking it down:** Capital improvement and acquisition bonds are a way for cities and other governments to fund large-scale projects. If this is passed, it would cap the amount of general obligation for improvements to higher education, special schools and tribal schools at \$19,305,000

Bond Question 4 – Public Safety

The 2024 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of public safety radio system improvement bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$10,297,100 to make capital expenditures for public safety radio communications systems stabilization and modernization and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

- **Breaking it down:** if this is passed, it would authorize capping the sale of public safety radio system improvement bonds not to exceed \$10,297,100 to improve the public safety radio communication systems for law enforcement.

Bond Question 1 – Aging and Long-Term Services Department

The 2024 Capital Projects General Obligation Bond Act authorizes the issuance and sale of senior citizen facility improvement, construction and equipment acquisition bonds. Shall the state be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$30,758,100 to make capital expenditures for certain senior citizen facility improvement, construction, and equipment acquisition projects and provide for a general property tax imposition and levy for the payment of principal of, interest on and expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the bonds and the collection of the tax as permitted by law?

- **Breaking it down:** if this is passed, it would authorize the sale of senior citizen facilities, construction, and equipment acquisition bonds, not to exceed \$30,758,100 to make improvements for certain senior citizen facilities.

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- Minimize Harm.
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Lawrence A. Ortega & Associates Consulting Engineers

BY LORA ARCINEGA

Being a civil engineer in his hometown was something Lawrence Ortega had wanted to do ever since he was in junior high school. After graduating from Questa High School in 1967, he began to take steps to make this dream come true.

After graduation, he moved to Las Cruces and attended New Mexico State University, obtaining his degree in civil engineering in 1972. He and his wife Rosalie then made a big move to Texas, where he worked for the city of Dallas designing water and sewer facilities. His wife, who had majored in education, worked for the Dallas Independent School District as an educator.

After a year in Texas, the couple started a family with the birth of their eldest son, Lorenzo. Soon after, they had their daughter Melissa. The duo realized they wanted to return home to continue to grow their family. “The weather is better here, the climate is better, and the city was too big for us—Questa was always in our hearts, so we knew it was time to return home,” Lawrence says.

Upon their arrival back in New Mexico, Lawrence took a job with a consulting and engineering firm in Santa Fe, where he worked for five years, officially becoming a licensed engineer in 1976. While his career was taking off, Lawrence and Rosalie welcomed twin sons to their family in 1977. “It was a busy time but we were young and we could handle it,” Lawrence says.

During his time with the firm in Santa Fe, he was assigned to the Village of Questa as an engineer, and worked

closely with then-Mayor Max Ortega Sr. “It was a pleasure working under Max at the time. He was a very progressive mayor and had the best interest of the community in mind.” Lawrence fondly remembers working for other village leaders—former Mayors John Gaillour and Bobby Ortega. “Like Mayor Max, all were very pro-Questa and had the best interest of the community in mind,” Lawrence recalls.

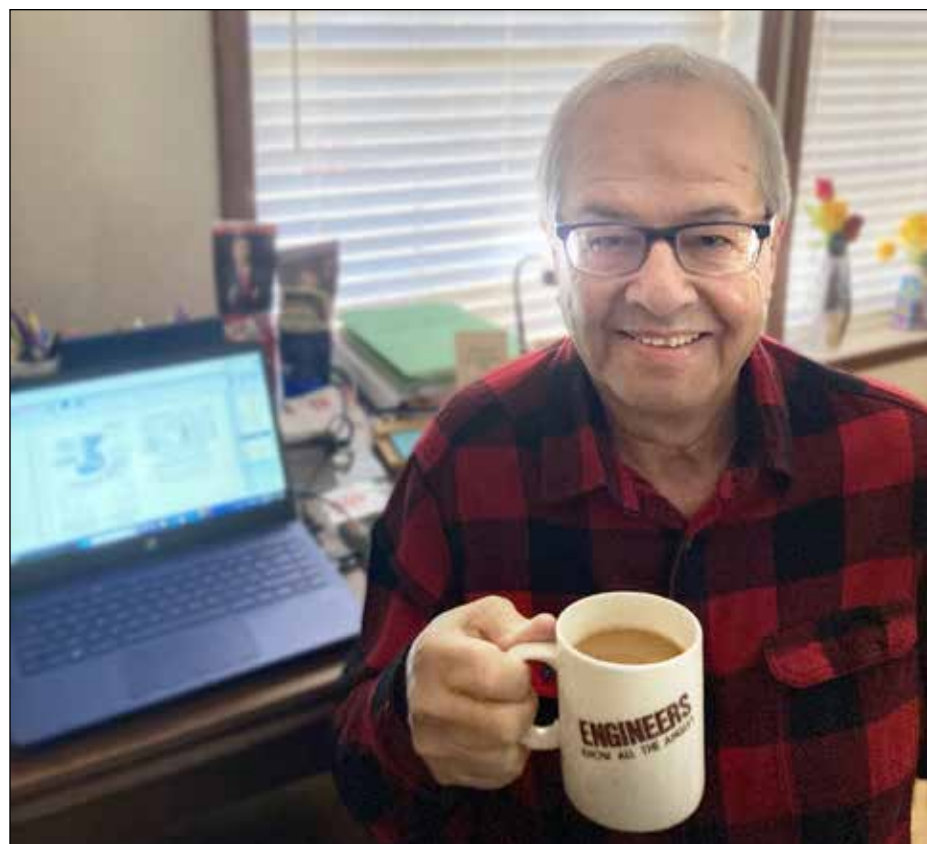
In 1981, Lawrence left the Santa Fe firm and entered into partnerships working alongside other engineers throughout Taos county for several years. Lawrence believes he was the very first licensed engineering consulting firm based in Taos County dating back to 1981.

It wasn’t until 1988 that he decided to venture out on his own and start his own engineering company called Lawrence A. Ortega and Associates. “I always had aspirations to be my own boss and make decisions for my own company. It was very rewarding to see a design come to fruition.”

“As a civil engineer, your main role is to serve the public with public works projects and projects the local government and elected officials believe in.” His profession has allowed him to help people who may want a house, bridge, or foundation designed or even a driveway to their house. “The most satisfying part of my career is that my work was functional for the overall betterment of the community. That is so important to me.”

Engineering projects can range from months or even years to complete, Lawrence mentions. Specifically, his job as an engineer is focused on creating plans for his clients. He then goes through the rigorous process of ensuring his work is up to code and addresses all of the main objectives of his client. Once plans are finalized, his client enlists a contractor to complete the work, based on his design and plans. “The main goal through my work has always been to ensure it is done well and done right.” Throughout his career, he has worked with the Village of Questa, the Town of Taos, and Taos County.

His career started in Texas, continued in Santa Fe, and eventually led him and his family back to his hometown of



Courtesy Photo

Lawrence Ortega

Questa. In 1995 Lawrence and Rosalie completed their family after the birth of their son, Jesus. “It was a big surprise for us! Lorenzo and Melissa had graduated already and the twins were seniors. We were starting all over again with a newborn but Jesus kept us active.”

During his career, Lawrence also ran a ranching business which operated with up to 75 head of cattle, with help from his dad and kids. Currently, he has less than ten cows. While ranching can be a lot of work, Lawrence says it’s therapeutic and considers it a hobby. “I was brought up working on a ranch, it’s in my blood and I enjoy it,” he says, and it keeps him connected to his ranching roots.

When asked what prompted a career interest in engineering, Lawrence said that he just always wanted to be an engineer. “I always did well in math and took courses such as geometry, trigonometry, and calculus to help prepare me. I also had a high school counselor, John Gonzales, who helped me tremendously in following my ambition and helped me get information for the university I was interested in attending,” he says. “Having the support I needed in school and also

having parents who believed in me was instrumental in giving me the courage to pursue a career in engineering—I’ll never forget that.”

After 48 years of service, Lawrence’s business still operates to this day, at a reduced capacity. “The thought that somebody still needs my service and help, that’s what keeps me going.”

While having a long and esteemed career is a big accomplishment for Lawrence, he acknowledges the importance family has had in his journey. “I’m proud of my engineering career, my civic duty, and my ranching, but I’m most proud of being able to do this alongside my wife of 54 years, Rosalie. She’s been my rock and has supported me through it all. We have five kids—four sons and one daughter, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. All of our family is a huge blessing!”

Lawrence expressed how proud he is of his family as well as the support he’s received over the years from his kids and family. “One of the things that’s been most rewarding to me is being able to come back to my community and help out and make an impact. I love this community.”

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What's the Buzz with "Compound Living?"

What is compound living? And why are so many people on social media suddenly obsessed with the idea of living on a compound?

Well, during the pandemic, people may have done a lot more "unconventional" things, for the sake of safety and comfort. People in the city moved out of the city and bought land to live in more rural areas. There has been more of a demand and a rapidly increasing number of people who have been looking to build family compounds. In fact, if you do a Google search for "family compound" you will see that interest has reached a 10-year high in the United States.

But what exactly is it? For starters, we are not talking about the kind of compound that put northern New Mexico



Courtesy Photo

Compound living is experiencing a resurgence

on the national news not too long ago. This idea of a compound living arrangement is where multiple dwellings are located on the same property, often for extended family members. These dwellings may be joined together or built around an open area, and the enclosure may be formed by a wall, fence, hedge, or other structure.

These multigenerational homes and households have always existed, it's just that now there's a resurgence in the desire to live in closer quarters. As more people join compound life and document their lives on social media, more interest builds in this alternative arrangement.

So, is it feasible for your family? What about you and maybe a group of

friends? After all, for some people, the idea of living next door to their mother-in-law sounds like... well, we won't go into that—while for others the concept of a block full of your besties and their kids sounds like the American dream.

The idea is simple: Keep your loved ones nearby so you can help each other out and benefit from sharing resources. And it is economical. For many, it's the positive concept of growing up amongst family. You not only share the land, but you share meals and the joy of living together as a larger family unit.

Similarly, a compound can be as simple as buying the house next door to your parents, best friend, or sister, and tearing down the fence that separates your properties. This allows your kids

to easily move between homes while keeping the rest of the fencing in place, ensuring they're safe in both places.

Of course, there are challenges in living so closely, too. You're tied up in each other's business, everyone has an opinion about everything, and then there's your cousin's annoying habits...

But overall, the positives outweigh the challenges. Almost everyone wants to come back after college, the military, or living and working away for a while. Or there's the instance of when you move to a new city or state and slowly everyone follows you because they like the idea of living close together.

There are some local properties that would best accomplish this idea of living on a compound and where the best opportunities might suit you and your own multigenerational living concept. Whether you are looking to live closer to schools and town or are looking to be further out, where you can farm and grow your own vegetables, I am always happy to help go over the options and what that might look like for you.

I know as we look at the housing market we think everything is still so steep. I'm here to say there is hope on the horizon... some prices are gradually coming down. Also, we remain hopeful that interest rates are coming down too: interest rates have hit an all-time low, the lowest we've seen since February of 2023!

Historic St. James Hotel in Cimarron Closes its Doors

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

A Facebook post shook social media with the announcement of the planned closing of the historic St. James Hotel in Cimarron on September 16.

This historic property has been sewn into the fabric of northern New Mexico for 152 years. The property was originally built in 1872 by Henry Lambert, the former personal chef to President Abraham Lincoln. He held this position until Lincoln's assassination in 1865, when Lambert then traveled west in search of gold. He settled in Elizabethtown, New Mexico, where he opened a saloon and restaurant.

According to the Legends of America website, Elizabethtown, Cimarron, and the surrounding areas were owned by Lucien B. Maxwell. The Maxwell Land Grant is the largest ever recorded in the country. When the land grant was

sold, Lambert was enticed to travel to Cimarron, where he later established the Lambert Inn in 1872, currently known as the St. James Hotel.

The area was a notorious hot spot for wild west outlaws, with non-existent law and order, due to its convenient location just off the Santa Fe Trail. The hotel was a common stopping place for Jesse James, Wyatt Earp, Buffalo Bill Cody, Doc Holliday, and Billy the Kid, to name a few.

The hotel and saloon quickly gained a reputation for violence, with 26 men reported to have been shot and killed over the years. Walking through the property, you can still see bullet holes in the bar's ceiling from gunfights. When the property had a roof replacement in 1901, as many as 400 bullet holes were found in that ceiling!

The hotel is believed to be haunted by restless spirits who roam the property. Mediums and psychics have posted on



Courtesy Photo

St. James Hotel closed on September 16

social media, detailing their experiences staying at the St. James Hotel. Some common themes through the experiences are cold spots on the property and

smells of cigar smoke or perfume.

Room 18 has been locked and closed to guests for years, due to the ill-tempered spirit who is believed to be Thomas James Wright. He was shot in the back after winning the rights to the hotel in a poker game. His spirit is known to push guests and make them feel unwelcomed.

We reached out to the St. James hotel owner several times to get details behind the closure and have received vague responses, including "it was time," and "the owner was getting tired, so it was time."

The permanent shutdown of this historical building is devastating to many residents and visitors alike. With the limited jobs in the Cimarron area, this will also have an economic impact on the overall economy. We will be keeping abreast of any developments of new ownership for the hotel in coming months.

The Grill at El Monte Carlo Represents Questa at NM State Fair Green Chile Cheeseburger Challenge

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

On September 9, hungry fairgoers gathered to watch the Green Chile Cheeseburger Challenge. Restaurants from across the state brought their best green chile cheeseburger-making skills forward to compete for first place and earn the title of green chile cheeseburger aficionado of New Mexico.

Questa's own The Grill at El Monte Carlo was chosen to participate, with Mark Gallegos and his wife Christina Mares Gallegos leading the pack. His employees, Miguel Ramirez and Patricia Garcia, traveled to Albuquerque, ready to dazzle judges with their skills and talents with their regionally famous green chile cheeseburger. The Grill at El Monte Carlo was the only Taos County restaurant to represent the north in the competition.

"This is the Super Bowl of Green Chile Cheeseburger contests in this State," State Fair General Manager Dan Mourning said.

Other competitors included:

- Downshift Brewing Co. – Lincoln County
- Del's Family Restaurant – Quay County
- Effingbar & Grill – Bernalillo County
- Savoy Bar and Grill – Bernalillo County
- Craft Republic – Bernalillo County
- Big Mike's Burgers and More – Valencia County



Courtesy Photo

The crew from the Grill at El Monte Carlo pose for a photo at the New Mexico State Fair

- lencia County
 - Sparky's Burgers, BBQ & Espresso – Dona Ana County
 - Isleta Grill – Isleta Pueblo
 - Slate Street Billiards – Sandoval County
- The winner of the Blind Judging Competition was the Isleta Grill of Isleta Pueblo and the winner of the people's choice award was the Craft Republic

of Albuquerque. While The Grill at El Monte Carlo didn't place in the competition, the business shared to Facebook: "The dust has finally had time to settle and WOW... We are so absolutely grateful for all the well wishes and luck y'all sent our way! The social media posts, the calls, the texts, all our friends and family that showed up to help and support us, the crew that stayed be-

hind at home to keep the ship running and everyone at home cheering us on. Thank you from the crew and The Grill at El Monte Carlo! We had tons of great feedback on our burger and fully plan to go back next year, and bring that title home! Until then, stop by and grab your fresh New Mexico Green Chile Cheeseburger—we're always grillin'!"

LOR FOUNDATION UPDATE BY AEDAN HANNON

A Questa Local Empowers Young Leaders

Leadership is both a talent and a skill that is developed over time. To learn leadership, you need mentors, training, and practical experience. But those opportunities can be few and far between for young women who live in rural communities like Questa. It's a

problem that one Questa local set out to solve after participating in a conference through the University of Wyoming.

In early August, Madalena Miera shared her idea to launch a local youth leadership program with LOR Questa community officer Maria Gonzalez. Miera wanted to hold a series of workshops that would educate and empower young women, giving more than three dozen Questa girls the chance to learn from successful female leaders. As part of the series, the young women would be paired with mentors who would work with them to set professional goals and prepare them to become Questa's next community leaders. With support from Localogy and LOR, Miera and her organization Con Alma y Corazón will host a two-day summit on October 18-19 and begin workshops next year, giving Questa's young women

the opportunities they deserve. Questa's budding young leaders can contact school counselor Brian Salazar to register for the summit.

"For some people, leadership is a gift. But for many others, we have to work at it," Gonzalez says. "For too long, young women in Questa have had few opportunities to strengthen their leadership. We were thrilled to support Madalena because these new workshops will encourage and prepare a new generation of leaders in Questa, setting up our young women for success."

Miera's workshops are one of the roughly two dozen projects LOR has supported in Questa so far this year. Other locally led projects have expanded student learning, bolstered Questa's water infrastructure, and cared for local pets and stray animals. With 2025 right around the corner, we'd love to sup-

port more community solutions led by Questa locals. If you have a community project you want to bring to life before the end of year, reach out to Gonzalez today!

You can always get in touch with Gonzalez at maria@lorfoundation.org or (575) 665-2001 for help getting your community project off the ground. But if you're looking for a time to chat with her in person, she'll be at the Village of Questa's Trunk o' Treat on November 1 at the Business Park Loop. What could be better than sharing your idea to improve the lives of locals over a piece of candy on a cool fall night? For Gonzalez, the answer is: nothing!

LOR works with rural communities in the Mountain West to enhance livability and prosperity while preserving the character that makes each community unique.



Ricardo León

By LORA ARCINIEGA

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.

“Step outside your door and go in some direction, any direction, and see where it’s going to take you.” These are words shared by Cerro native Ricardo León. León grew up on a small ranch and farm in the shadow of the Latir wilderness. Growing up, he spent his summers irrigating alfalfa fields and riding his bike throughout Cerro and the Sangre de Cristo mountains. As an adult, he meandered his way through several professions, seeking one that would speak to his passions and love for his northern New Mexico community.

León graduated from Questa High School in 2001 and shortly thereafter moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico where he attended New Mexico Highlands University, majoring in art studies. During those early college days, in order to make ends meet, he became a member of an Interagency Hotshot crew, performing some of the most demanding and hazardous tasks in wildland firefighting. This is when he got his first taste of natural resource management.

In the fall of 2006, León got married to the love of his life, Questa native Diane León, and they started a family, which led Ricardo to look for work close to home.

By 2006 he found himself working where most Questeños were working—the Questa MolyCorp Mine. He



Courtesy Photo

Ricardo León

started as an underground worker and then moved to the surface, working on milling equipment as a millwright. In 2008, he and many other workers were laid off.

León went on to find a temporary job with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This position allowed him to drive every single route in the Rio Grande National Monument before it was designated as such. He recalls that Esther Garcia, the mayor of Questa at the time, was working with the BLM to find recreation opportunities in Questa. “Little did I know I was going to be able to lay out the Vistas trail, which was my first experience with recreation management.

His boss with the BLM encouraged him to earn a certificate as a civil engineering technician, a two-year program, which would eventually open opportunities for him to apply for a permanent job with the BLM. Although Ricardo was determined to make this happen, a hiring freeze for the job that he was hoping for slipped through

his fingers.

Continuing to look for ways to provide for his family, Ricardo had one more temporary job with the BLM and a stint with Kit Carson, inventorying power lines, before he went back to work for the mine in 2010 until the final 2014 layoff and closure.

“I was heartbroken. The closing of the mine was one thing, but the thing that really crushed me was leaving the people that I was working with and losing the camaraderie and fellowship that I’ll never get back.”

After being invited to work for the mine contractors, León decided to try another path, returning to school at the UNM-Taos campus. While he was considering pursuing some Solar Panel technician training there, he learned from a UNM counselor who noted that he was just one class shy of an associates degree in pre-science! “I walked into her office thinking I was going to be a solar technician, and 15 minutes later, I walked out of there having changed my degree to forestry.”

León needed to get an internship as part of the program. After hitting some roadblocks he was soon offered a job as a multi-resource technician with the Forest Service in Questa. “I was riding a horse all summer, monitoring range conditions. During the winter I was the snow ranger.” León chuckles, recalling conversations with his mom about his desire to be a professional snowboarder when he grew up and her telling him that was highly unlikely.

It was 2017 and his boss encouraged him to earn his forestry degree because he saw potential for bigger and better endeavors. León agreed and pursued that degree, which opened up lots of doors, not only for jobs in forestry but also in recreation management—which is what Ricardo finally settled into. Currently, he is the recreation and lands staff for the U.S. Forest Service for the Questa Ranger District. He helps people with getting access to their private land through Forest Service lands, helps people to make a living through outfitting and guiding, and manages recreation sites.

León recalls how his upbringing has shaped his career path. The land that has always provided for him and his family now provides a career for him. “Locals have a very strong connection with the resources around us and we use them all the time. We go for wood and end up having the best bologna sandwich you’ll ever have on the top of a mountain. You go looking for piñon and you have the best conversation you had in a while with your family. Our ‘recreation’ is disguised as work,” he says.

Ricardo remembers watching his parents over the years, irrigating their fields and taking care of their animals. This had a direct effect on his chosen path and career interest. He describes his family—wife Diane of 18 years, 17-year-old daughter Alyana, and 16-year-old son Ricardo as his biggest motivators.

Although initial attempts at obtaining a degree in art didn’t result in a degree, art still remains one of his passions. Busy wearing many hats, he still makes time to create art in his spare time. One thing is for sure, Ricardo kept heading in a direction even while hitting roadblocks. He leaves our readers with these words, “You do not fail, you either succeed or you learn. Keep trying new things until you find something that drives you.”

Taos County Historical Society Program: A Personal View Of Southwest Indian Detours

By CONTRIBUTING WRITER
MICHAEL WILSON

In the summer of 1926, the people of Taos and Taos Pueblo looked on with curiosity and no doubt wariness as several Packard, Franklin, and Cadillac limousines pulled up, carrying well-dressed Anglo tourists and female guides dressed in “Navajo-style” uniforms. They were the vanguard of the Fred Harvey Company’s new venture, Southwest Indian Detours, which gave adventurous travelers on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway the opportunity to take one-, two-, or three-day “detours from their train trip to explore New Mexico’s Indian ruins and living pueblos.”

Over the next 15 years the Indian Detour experience would deeply change the tourist experience in Taos County and the rest of the state.

Motoring in northern New Mexico in the 1920s and 1930s was arduous and challenging, but the “Harvey Cars” always traveled in convoys of at least two vehicles and the drivers always had mechanical training. Promises of luxury travel notwithstanding, the dudes and “detourists,” as they were called, must have been relieved to disembark in front of the old

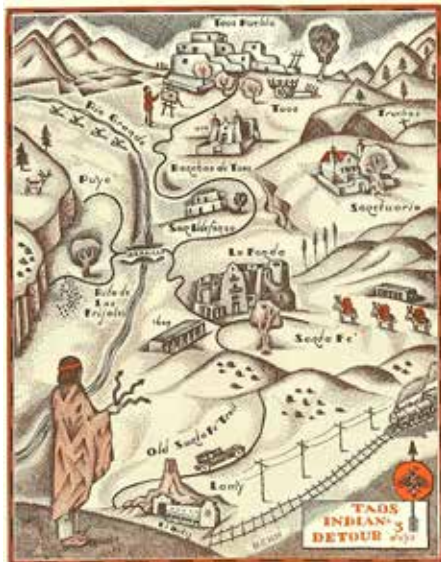


Photo Courtesy Fred Harvey archives

Three-day Indian Detours excursion to Taos

Hotel Don Fernando, their base in Taos.

Cost for the three-day trip was \$40 in 1930 (\$750 today). Starting in 1929, an optional fourth day was offered by adding the “Enchanted Circle” route north of Taos, “an exceptionally scenic 90-mile swing through the Cimarron and Red River canyons, the Mexican villages of Questa and Arroyo Hondo, the Carson National Forest, and the upper Taos Valley,” according to the Detours promotional booklet.



Photo Courtesy Fred Harvey archives

Indian Detours limousine at Taos Pueblo

The Detours continued through the 1930s, successful and profitable and always adding new routes. After World War II, with great improvement in roads and a rapid increase in car ownership, the Detours became obsolete and dwindled.

Presenter Maggie Duval, a proud Taoseña and Historical Society volunteer, is the granddaughter of R. Hunter Clarkson, Ford Harvey’s assistant and the creator/manager of the Detours, and the great-granddaughter of A.G. Wells, vice-president of the Santa Fe’s passenger division. In her program, “Off the Beaten Path: Discovering My Roots Via the

Southwestern Indian Detours,” she will present a multimedia overview of the Detours and discuss her journey to piece together fragments of her family’s history by retracing the Detours.

What: Taos County Historical Society program “Off the Beaten Path: Discovering My Roots Via the Southwestern Indian Detours”

Who: Maggie Duval, presenter

When: Saturday, October 5, at 2 pm
Kit Carson Coop boardroom,
118 Cruz Alta Road in Taos

Contact: Michael Wilson, (612) 743-6546

“Native Bound Unbound” Participates In AI Institute At The University Of Oxford In England

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

In August, we covered the work that Native Bound Unbound (NBU) is doing to break the silence of historic captivity, documenting indigenous stories of slavery. The organization is led by anthropologist, historian, and native son of Questa, Dr. Estevan Rael-Galvez. NBU has been working to speak with people and families whose families’ oral history of slavery and captivity has been evident through many generations.

Recently, NBU was selected to participate in a Humanities and AI Institute Summit, which took place at the University of Oxford, England from September 11 to 13. Dr. Rael-Galvez attended.

The goal of the Institute was to advance efforts to advance the use of Artificial Intelligence-based (AI-based) technology for research in the humanities. While AI is rapidly moving across multiple disciplines, AI technology in the human-



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Estevan Rael-Galvez taking a selfie in the highly recognizable great hall of the University of Oxford, Oxford, England

ities has moved at a much slower pace, especially where scholars and practitioners who work with delicate cultural artifacts are involved.

The Summit aimed to create a dig-

ital repository centered on lives of the enslaved Indigenous people across the western hemisphere, to be cataloged and documented. The challenges faced in this monumental endeavor are reflected in

many humanities projects: namely how to identify, digitize, transcribe, translate, encode, and associate data from historical documents on a large scale, and with precision.

Dr. Rael-Gálvez says, “We are working to create a well of knowledge, one that has been largely obscured, made so in part by previously inaccessible records, hidden in archives, but also made so by lack of paleographic attention and translation. In attending this Institute, I am able to learn from the work of colleagues from around the world, working or proposing to work at this intersection of AI and the humanities. Ultimately, the goal is to create a pathway to use this developing technology of AI automation at various points in our process to scale up our efforts and create efficiencies.”

For continued updates on the work of the organization, you can follow them on social media @natboundunbound.

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<https://sites.google.com/questaedf.com/questabusinessbridge/class-schedule>

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Questa Achievers 4-H Group Close Out Successful Year

By STAFF WRITERS

The Questa Achievers 4-H group, led by Denise Winslow-Lawrence has closed out another successful year, helping local area students ages 5 through 18 gain important skills in a variety of subjects.

Whether students participated in community learning activities, Arts and Crafts, Photography, Crochet, Sewing, Gardening, Welding, Leatherwork, Baking, Scrapbooking, or the most popular activity of raising animals, they expanded their knowledge with important hands-on skills and grew in confidence, independence, resilience, and compassion.

In April of this year, the group held a Teddy Bears Picnic and Tea Party at the Questa Library. The group gathered teddy bears to donate to Questa and Red River police and EMT departments so they could distribute them when they respond to calls where children are involved in traumatic situations.

In June, the group attended a Wild Rivers tour where students had the opportunity to learn about the animals in the area while committing to leaving

no trace of trash and pollution when visiting the local recreation areas. Kids also had the opportunity to do a hike and scavenger hunt. The group intends to do a similar activity next year.

The group finished up the year participating in the Taos County Fair. The youngest members, ages 5-8, are called Cloverbuds. While this age group doesn't compete against others, they are encouraged to show their projects at the county fair, including rabbits and poultry projects. Paisley Apodaca and Azealah Wilson showed rabbits they raised this year.

The junior and senior members who competed in showing rabbits were Candice Stroback, who showed two Dutch rabbits and Olivia Seim, who showed her Netherland Dwarf rabbit. Candice won the Rabbit Showmanship Award for the third year in a row. Her rabbit poster also won in the senior category. She went on to the State Fair, winning second place. Olivia won Best of Breed in Netherland Dwarfs and took her rabbit to the State Fair where they won Best Oppo-

4H GROUP cont'd on page 11



Courtesy Photo

Azealah Wilson showing her rabbit



Courtesy Photo

Paisley Apodaca showing her rabbit



Courtesy Photo

Olivia Seim with her Netherland Dwarf



Courtesy Photo

Candice Stroback with her Dutch Rabbit



Courtesy Photo

Jackson and Jeremiah pose with their poultry projects



Courtesy Photo

Amber Cote poses with her Buff Orpington hen



Courtesy Photo

Adrienne poses with her goats



Courtesy Photo

Adrienne and Bo show their lambs

QUESTA ACHIEVERS
4-H GROUP 2024



Ariana Medina

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

We received a nomination for Ariana Medina to be recognized in our October Outstanding Youth Report.

Medina is 16 years old and a junior at Questa High School. She was born and raised in Questa by her mom, Angel Medina. "It has just been me and my mom and my sister our entire lives," Medina says.

Medina has been cheering since she was quite young. "My mom has been a cheer coach for a long time, so I got started really young, at just 3 years old. I knew since I was very young that I wanted to cheer, and my mom has always supported that."

Medina is not only a cheerleader, but she also plays volleyball, participates in track, and has played in Mariachi. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and takes college classes through UNM-Taos.

When asked how she juggles everything she's involved in, she says "I try really hard to not have homework. I go from school directly to volleyball practice until about 6 p.m., then after that, I go to cheer practice until 8 p.m. When I get home, I eat dinner, then go to bed—so I need to do my homework during school to ensure I don't fall behind."

When asked how living in Questa

has impacted her journey, she says "I have been in Questa my entire life. I cannot imagine being raised anywhere else. I love our community because over the years, I've seen us grow much more united and be much more supportive of each other. I see things like the [Questa] farmer's market or other community events and it shows that our community is so strong."

Medina says she has enjoyed seeing her classmates grow up alongside her, as they've learned and experienced so much together. "When you're small, you don't really think about the future, but now, I just love that we have experienced elementary, middle, and high school together. We've grown together and that's an experience I will carry forever."

When she graduates high school, Medina has her sights set on becoming an ultrasound technician. "I want to attend school at NMSU and I have a goal to make it on the cheer squad! I have my sights set on this goal and I want to make it a reality."

Although Medina is only 16 years old, she already has two state championships under her belt in cheer. The team won state for the first time when she was in 8th grade. "It takes blood, sweat, and tears. It's also really important to trust your teammates so you can be united toward the same goal." In addition to her cheer championships, Medina has also been in the National Honor Society since she was in 7th grade and placed fourth in the state for pole vault in her 8th grade year.

When asked who her hero is, Medina says her mom is her biggest hero and support. "My mom has endured a lot in her lifetime yet she's always been there for me and my sister. She is my rock, and I am grateful for her."



Courtesy Photo

Ariana Medina at the NMAA State Cheer Championship competition

Northern NM Students Encouraged to Participate in International STEMarts Lab Challenge

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The STEMarts Lab is looking for local starts in northern New Mexico to participate in the STEMarts Lab Challenge. Space technology allows for many innovative endeavors, including utilizing satellites to give farmers insight on soil moisture levels, as well as giving patients satellite-linked devices to monitor their vitals to improve their health. The possibilities and innovations space technology can give us and our future is endless.

Because of this, the STEMarts Lab is announcing the launch of a STEMarts Challenge for students, ages 14 to 20, in northern New Mexico. Students are encouraged to draw their vision on how space and science technology can enhance life on earth.

“This challenge bridges art and science by encouraging students to think creatively about how space technology can solve real-world problems,” stated



Courtesy Photo

Agnes Chavez, New Mexico-based new media artist and founder/director of STEMarts Labs. “We’re excited to see how students will rise to the occasion.”

This year’s challenge is focused on students from:

- Northern New Mexico
- Guadalajara, Mexico

- Ireland
- Linz, Austria
- Lisbon, Portugal

The deadline to submit is November 1. Winners will be announced on November 29. Cash prizes between \$100 and \$500 will be awarded to winners in various categories.

New Mexico teachers are encouraged to explore the theme “Space for Earth—Space for All” with their students. Teachers can visit [STEMarts.com](https://www.stemarts.com) where they can find a standards-aligned curriculum tool and classroom lesson guide, ensuring easy integration of the challenge into teaching plans.

To register your student for this challenge, visit <https://www.stemarts.com/get-involved/educators/intl-design-challenge/> or scan the QR code:



New Mexico Schools See Drop In Chronic Absenteeism

By TAYLOR VELAZQUEZ, KUNM

Schools across the country saw students chronically absent post-pandemic, with New Mexico one of the hardest hit. However, the state public education department recently reported a significant decrease in students missing school last year.

Students who miss 10 percent or more of school, which amounts to about 18 days, are considered chronically absent. These absences include any days missed either for illness or other reasons.

During the 2022-23 school year, over 39 percent of students were in this category. But for the most recent school year, the New Mexico Public Education



Photo by Naomi Salazar

Questa Junior High School

Department (NMPED) is now reporting a decline, to about 32 percent.

Deputy Education Secretary Candice

Castillo said that this is a complex issue, with no one-size-fits-all solution. Rather, it’s about working with individual school districts to learn their specific needs, since repeated absences can hurt a student’s academic success.

“They increase their risk of falling behind academically, they increase their risk of not graduating from high school—there’s also a lot of research [that shows] when students start missing that many days, their social-emotional health can get compromised,” said Castillo.

She states that the department’s goal is to get attendance rates where they were before the pandemic, if not better. This comes as the state has seen little improvement over the last few years.

Castillo added that the decline the state is seeing now is due to several

factors. That includes about \$5 million in funding from the state legislature to support the state’s seven largest school districts, as well as NMPED providing more technical assistance to support schools’ attendance improvement plans.

Also, Castillo credits the new Be Here NM campaign that focuses on bringing awareness to strong communication between parents and schools with tools and resources to support attendance efforts.

NMPED has scheduled a New Mexico State Attendance Conference in late October that will bring together over 400 school professionals and community members to talk about strategies for getting students engaged in learning.

4H GROUP cont’d from page 10

site of Breed.

Three members showed poultry at the County Fair. Amber Cote placed second with her Buff Orpington hen. Her poultry poster also qualified to participate at the State Fair. Jackson Ortega placed second with his Wyandotte hen and Jeremiah Ortega received first place and Best of Breed

with his Rhode Island Red hen and 3rd place with his Wyandotte hen.

In large livestock, Adrienne Rael received a first place win with her lightweight lamb and a third place with her lightweight goat. Noah Rael also received third place with his lightweight goat. Bo Ortega showed two market lambs this year and placed second in lightweight

and fourth in heavyweight. “The competition is tough in large livestock and I’m so proud of the kids that take on the hard work of raising these animals,” says Denise Winslow-Lawrence.

JT Radcliff participated in the photography exhibits once again this year. His work went on to the State Fair where he earned second and third place awards.

Kingston Trujillo-Gist entered a stamped leather band and key chain at the County Fair, each earning a second place ribbon.

New enrollment begins October 1, 2024 through February 1, 2025 for youth members ages 5 (in kindergarten) to 18. Please contact Denise Winslow-Lawrence at (575) 200-9947 if you know of a child interested. There is no cost to join.

WILDCATS 2024 HOMECOMING



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7th Grade Class



8th Grade Class



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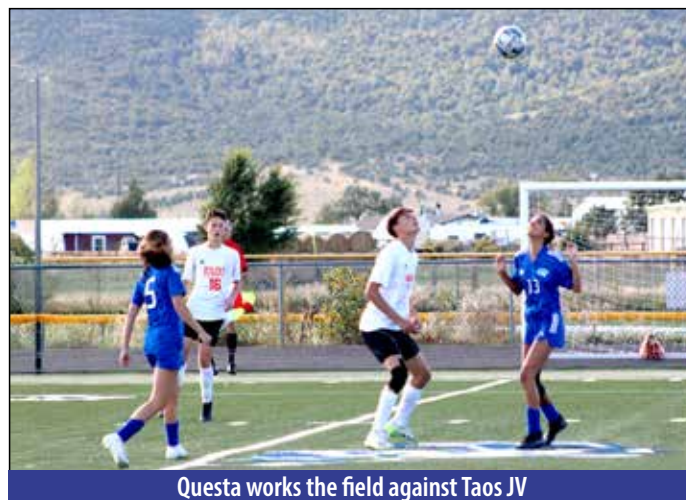
Sophomore Class



Junior Class



Senior Class



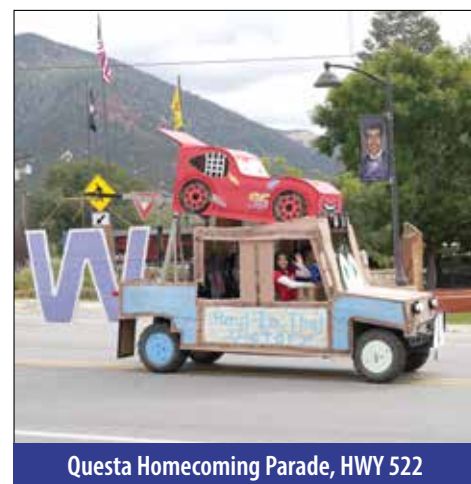
Questa works the field against Taos JV



Questa dominate against Ramah Mustangs for their homecoming game



Joshlyn Medina, Homecoming Game



Questa Homecoming Parade, HWY 522



The Sights of Homecoming: A Wildcat's Tale

By STAFF WRITERS

This year's homecoming theme was "A Wildcat's Tale." It was special for the students, staff and community, bringing everyone together to show their Wildcat pride. Several students participated in dress-up days for spirit week, joining together in unison on Wednesday, September 18 for Incredible Wildcats theme, showcasing their finest blue and white Wildcat pride.

The students participated in a pep rally on Thursday and a bonfire on Friday.

The Ladycat varsity volleyball team played their homecoming game against the San Luis Centennial Rams on September 19 and brought home a sweeping 3-0 win.

The Wildcat soccer team took on Taos Tigers JV on September 20 and lost 1-0 in an overtime matchup. The Wildcats are currently 1-6 record so far this season, with junior Alyse Lovato leading, with an average of 1.5 goals per match. Lovato has scored 6 points this season, junior Donny Santistevan has scored 2 points this season, and Aaliyah Santistevan has scored 1 point this season. Junior Ricardo Leon leads with assists per match, averaging 1 per game.

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The Ceramic Cafe Opens on Thursdays for the Fall Session

We are excited to announce that the Ceramic Cafe is reopening after a summertime hiatus! Since the cafe's initial opening one year ago, much inspiration and creativity has flowed through our community's one and only open studio for ceramics.

The Ceramic Cafe is a self-guided ceramic space located in the Questa Youth Center art room, where community members of all ages are welcome to come and create with clay. The cafe is facilitated by ceramist Anna Fuenning, who has had a lifetime of experience as an artist and creator, with a focus in clay and ceramics. Our community is fortunate to have her guiding this space, as she loves sharing her knowledge, encouraging others to explore their own artistic expression, and

helping people discover just how accessible clay can be!

The fall session of the Ceramic Cafe will begin on October 10 and run until November 21. It will be open every Thursday evening in the Questa Youth Center from 5 to 9 p.m. Community members are encouraged to come and check it out, even if you only have an hour to spare or can only make a visit one time! But don't wait... Fall session is only seven weeks long! The timing of this Ceramic Cafe aligns perfectly to get out and create some beautifully intentional holiday gifts and offerings.

The Ceramic Cafe is free to the community for exploration, with tools and clay provided; however, regular users will be encouraged to buy their own bags of clay, the cost of which covers/includes basic glazes and kiln firing. All ages are welcome to come to the Cafe and can come and go as they please, however, children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

For more information on the Ceramic Cafe, please reach out by email to questacreativecouncil@gmail.com or (575) 586-5658

Ceramic Cafe

October 10 - November 21

Every Thursday 5 - 9 p.m.

Questa Youth & Family Center



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

Historical Photos Preserve Our History And Shape our Future



Photo by E. Wilde

Flavio Cisneros (in striped shirt) sharing his family's story and his collection of antique irons

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

On September 7, the Questa Library held an unveiling of a new permanent display entitled "Our Historical Images," giving local residents a window into Questa's past to see what our village was like between 1939 and 1943. These images were taken by photographers John Collier Jr. and Russell Lee, who photographed Questa extensively in this time period, as part of President Roosevelt's initiative to document and educate Americans about the living conditions of rural areas across the United States.

These photos have been stored and cataloged in the U.S. Library of Congress, Washington D.C., and remain keepsakes, now available at the Questa Library for all to view, and learn more about the land and place many of us call home.

In addition to these curated photos, many locals brought their own family photos and yearbooks which had been passed down to them.

Former State Historian Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez was a keynote speaker at the unveiling, sharing his passion and appreciation for this new addition to the library. Rael-Gálvez is currently the executive director of Native Bound Unbound, a collective hemispheric effort to create a digital repository centered around lives of enslaved Indigenous people across the Americas. In an interview with the *Questa del Rio News*, Dr. Gálvez said, "In each one of us, there is an aching consciousness to know who we are, and by fully learning about and acknowledging our history through

events like this, we are able to transcend generational trauma and proceed forward in healing."

Local retired history teacher Flavio Cisneros reflected, "Deep down, I believe that you have to know the history of your community, because you need to know where you come from." Cisneros has been deeply involved in many efforts to maintain and document the history of Questa, which he enjoys. Raising his grandson Ernesto Cisneros, he says, "Knowing where you're from and where your relatives are from [matters]. A lot of kids today don't know whose family belongs to who, and they don't really care. But knowing your history helps you from repeating the same mistakes as those before us, it helps us understand why choices were made."

Rael-Gálvez says that through his work, he aims to help paint a more accurate and complete picture of the families dwelling in northern New Mexico. Looking at the photos of our past gives us courage to discover a time and the truth of our people. "Through my work, Native Bound Unbound... [the] repository helps people learn more fully what our history is. The common belief that we are a Hispanic people, and our ancestors settled directly from Spain is not fully accurate. Our history includes Native American and Indigenous roots who were often enslaved people. There is some generational trauma in that, but being able to fully see and accept our history for what it allows us to transcend the jagged edges of our past and it holds healing if we're able to transcend them."

Questa Dropped Stitch Group Wins Awards At Taos County Fair

By STAFF WRITERS

Questa's "Dropped Stitch" knitting group brought home multiple awards in the Taos County Fair. The results are as follows:

- Sharon Nicholson: Knitting-1st place
- Sharon Nicholson: Child's sweater-1st place
- Kate Mann: Hand-knit shawl-2nd place
- Kiersten Figurski: Knit child vest-1st place
- Peggy Trigg: Mixed technique quilted wall hanging-2nd place
- Kayliana Verderaime: stuffed toy doll with crochet hat-2nd place

- Kayliana Verderaime: crochet toy-3rd place
- Kayliana Verderaime: stuffed rabbit-1st place
- Kayliana Verderaime: Best of show stuffed doll with knitted sweater-1st place
- Kayliana Verderaime: Crochet toy doll-Best of Show
- African Violet: Denise Winslow-Lawrence-1st place
- Marigolds: Denise Winslow-Lawrence-Best of Show

Congratulations to the Questa knitting group!



Courtesy Photo

Sharon Nicholson's 1st place projects



Courtesy Photo

Kayliana Verderaime with her winning projects



**QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Friends Of The Questa Library

By SHARON NICHOLSON,
Library Director

The Questa Public Library gets by with a LOT of help from our Friends!

Established in 2011, the Friends of the Questa Public Library have raised more than \$150,000 over the years, through book and bake sales, donations, and grants. These funds have supported children's programming, provided furniture and equipment for the library's new wing, paid for the construction of the outdoor patio and garden, and contributed to new and emerging technology.

But money isn't the only thing the Friends contribute—last year, members dedicated their time supporting programs and fundraising events, author talks, summer reading programs, and art happenings at the library. In addition, the Friends have rallied countless

times over the years to advocate for adequate library funding and facility expansion and upgrades.

October 20 through 26, 2024 is the 19th Annual National Friends of Libraries Week, and it's the perfect opportunity for our community to give our Friends a big shout-out for all they do to make a positive impact on us every single day.

The Friends of the Questa Public Library are always looking for new members and volunteers. They have fun while working to make our community better. Becoming a member is affordable and easy. Just ask a librarian staff member for an application.

Joining the Friends of the Questa Library is a terrific way to make new friends of your own, give back to our community, and make the library even better.



Courtesy Photo



**Wednesdays
1:30pm-2:30pm**

Engage your baby
with reading, songs, crafts
and more!



Ages 0-3
Older siblings welcome.

Mothers Circle

A listening-based gathering
for mothers with children
under 5 years old.
6-week session

**October 2nd-November 6th
Wednesdays
2:30-3:30 pm**

(after Kitty Club)
Led by Monica McClelland

*real connections
non-judgemental
non-comparing*



6 1/2 Municipal Park Road, Questa, NM 87556

Latir Volunteer Fire Department Celebrates 40 Years



Photo by E. Wilde

The 40th Anniversary celebration was a well attended event on Sunday, September 7, at the Latir VFD station

By LORA ARCINIEGA

On Saturday, September 7, the Latir Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) celebrated their 40th anniversary with a family-friendly free event that welcomed neighbors and community members, volunteer firefighters from the Enchanted Circle, and several former members from around the state and even the world, all under special tents at the fire station on Jaracito Road. Over 200 guests were in attendance, exceeding expectations.

"I could not be more excited about the turnout we had from our local community. Since the beginning of COVID-19, events like this have been few and far between in our neighborhood, and we were thrilled to be able to open our space and show our community that we are here for them. It felt like the days of old when communities gathered around their little firehouse, and that's exactly what we want Latir to be—a welcoming place for everyone, where the community is alive," said LVFD Fire Chief Tyler Eshleman.

Volunteer firefighters have long played an invaluable role in protecting lives and property and the LVFD is no exception. Founded in 1983 and fueled by compassionate and helpful community members, the LVFD celebrated the evolution of their four-decade history, honored past and current members, and fostered awareness of fire safety at home and on the job. "The 40th anniversary celebration typified what makes the El Rito/Latir community so special and highlighted the important role that LVFD plays in the community and the



Photo by E. Wilde

LVFD Fire Chief Tyler Eshleman recognizing past and present department members



Photo by E. Wilde

Elaborate custom cakes made by Amelia and Tyler Eshleman

vital role the community plays in the fire department," said Fred Patton, former LVFD member and retired career fire chief and paramedic with the National Park Service.

Another important goal of the celebration was to show appreciation for the support from everyone in the community, including auxiliary volunteers, donors, sponsors, and local businesses.

Following the heartfelt speeches and presentations, the evening was filled with live music, a delicious buffet of barbeque and desserts, and activities for the whole family. "The outpouring of support from community members really affirmed that we are moving in a positive direction. We look forward to



Photo by Fred Patton, U.S. Forest Service

Amellio Quintana and daughter Amayah with Smokey Bear



Photo by Fred Patton, U.S. Forest Service

Besty Pierce with other local residents and volunteers

holding more community events and open houses, and creating more ways for our friends and neighbors to get to know their first responders. I think we're doing something special at LVFD right now and I invite anyone who is curious to come learn more about how to get involved," said Chief Eshleman.

The commitment from volunteer firefighters and their impact on our community cannot be understated. Their presence ensures that help is available when the need arises. Cynthia Najim, event producer, LVFD member, and president of LVFD, Inc., expressed, "My personal and professional philosophy has always been: Genuinely nurture relationships and good things will



Photo by Mark Wagner

Epic drone shot of the celebration and the landscape



Photo by E. Wilde

Fire Chief Jona Olsson awarding exclusive appreciation coin to volunteer Abigail McElhane

follow. Especially in the spirit of higher service. This event is a prime example. Our deepest gratitude to everyone who made this celebration happen—those laboring behind the scenes and all of you who attended!"

The LVFD is always seeking new volunteers. Currently, their active roster of first responders/firefighters is 17 and their number of auxiliary members is 12. The LVFD extends a warm invitation to anyone who wants to attend trainings and meetings to see if they're ready to take the plunge. "All are welcome! Come and learn what the LVFD is about and how you can participate," says Chief Eshleman. Contact LVFD at (575) 586-5635 for more information.

Red River Oktoberfest

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Red River's Oktoberfest, presented in partnership with Red River Brewery & Distillery, Edelweiss Condominiums, and Rio Colorado Cabins, will take place October 11 through 13, 2024.

This three-day festival includes a full itinerary for event-goers. The website for the event states that food will be served all day, with hot breakfast, delicious German food, New Mexico craft beers, wines, and spirits. In addition to the vast food scene, artisan vendors, games, and contests for all ages will be available, and let's not forget the gorgeous fall colors to view and enjoy!

We caught up with band leader Isaak Klaus of the Lederhosen Junkies, a lead act headlining the weekend's entertainment. The band is traveling to New Mexico from New Braunfels, Texas. "I've never been to New Mexico, so I am really excited to explore the area," Klaus says. Coming from a family with strong ties to their German heritage, Klaus says his band's music showcases this, helping crowds feel their culture, traditions, and heritage through their polka music. "I grew up listening to

polka music and attending German festivals. I have always enjoyed the music, so in 2020, we decided to form our band and bring our love of our music to people."

Klaus says he's excited to see how New Mexicans will receive their music. "There are a lot of similarities with Tejano Mexican music and polka. There's the incorporation of the accordion and beats that are shared across genres. It's going to be a great time."

Klaus says he's incredibly excited to travel to New Mexico in October. "Thank you in advance to New Mexico and Red River for having us out. This is a milestone for our band and we are so excited to play for you."

For tickets and information: <https://redriver.org/events/annual-events/oktoberfest/>



Courtesy Photo RedRiverChamber.org

Oktoberfest Event: Daily Schedule 2024

Friday, October 11

10 am: Gates open
10:30 am: Opening ceremony and welcome toast
11 am: DJ Luisa
11:30 am-12:30 pm: Lederhosen Junkies in concert
12:15 pm: Preisverlosung: New Mexico beer knowledge raffle
1 pm: Bavarian Binge: Bratwurst-eating competition
1:30-2:30 pm: DJ Luisa
2:30-4 pm: Lederhosen Junkies in concert
4 pm: Bester Bart: beard & mustache competition
4:30 pm: DJ Luisa in concert
5:30 pm: Alcohol service ends
6 pm: Gates close

Saturday, October 12

10 am: Gates open
10:30 am: Red River Strongman: Men—Farmer's Carry; Women—Keg Press
11 am: DJ Luisa
11:30 am-1 pm: Lederhosen Junkies in concert
Preisverlosung: Preisverlosung: New Mexico beer knowledge raffle (12:15)
1-1:30 pm: Mr & Mrs Oktoberfest competition
Junge Adelige ("young nobles") & Konig & Konigin (King & Queen) divisions

1:30 pm: Red River Strongman: Men—Farmer's Carry; Women—Keg Press
2 pm: Booth award voting closes
2:30-4 pm: Lederhosen Junkies in concert
3 pm: Oktoberfest Schnitzeljagd: Oktoberfest scavenger hunt raffle
3:30 pm: Children's log painting workshop
4 pm: Awards announced for best booths, Bavarian Barn Raisers: Judged best beer & people's choice
4:30 pm: DJ Luisa
5:30 pm: Alcohol service ends
6 pm: Gates close

Sunday, October 13

10 am: Gates open
10:30-11 am: DJ Luisa
11-11:30 am: Red River Strongman: Women & Men, Deadlift
Noon: Lederhosen & Leashes: The best dressed pet costume contest
Oktoberfest Schnitzeljagd: Oktoberfest scavenger hunt raffle
12:30-2 pm: Lederhosen Junkies in concert
Preisverlosung: New Mexico beer knowledge raffle (1:15)
Children's log painting workshop
2-3:30 pm: Red River Strongman: Women & Men, Kegload
3:30 pm: Alcohol service ends
4 pm: Gates close

Halloween And Harvest Roundup

By LORA ARCINIEGA

I think one of the best parts about the beginning of fall is the weather, the smells, and the changing leaves that come along with it. If you have a view of Flag Mountain, then you've been watching the leaves begin to change since mid-September. The late monsoons brought much needed rain to our area and families have reaped the benefits of a prolific piñon harvest. Now, it's time to gather wood if you haven't already, and get prepared for the next few months of impending holidays... beginning with Halloween!

I have fond memories of Halloween at my house, growing up. We always started trick-or-treating early in the evening and were home just before it got dark. My siblings and I would dump out our candy on the living room floor and begin to make trades. Reese's, peanut M&M's, and Snickers were always a high-value trade.

I remember my mom gathering candy in large pumpkin dishes and anxiously awaiting the trick-or-treaters' arrival—some we'd recognize and some we

didn't. Some were just learning to walk, all of them were hoping we might be one of those houses that gave out full-sized candy bars.

As a parent now, I take my children around to a few houses and allow them to show off their costumes of superheroes and quintessential princess costumes. They too have begun to trade candies, and make their candy last for months, hidden in stashes throughout the house.

This year there is no shortage of community events.

The Village of Questa Trunk-or-Treat has been a tradition now for more than five years for Questa and surrounding communities. Many local businesses and other entities join in on the fun, decorating their car trunks and offering kids candy, games, and treats. And it's free, sponsored by the village. Last year the event saw about 250 visitors and had 32 participants hosting the event. This year's date is Friday, November 1, at the Questa Business Park, off Hwy 522, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Join Roots and Wings Community

School for their **Annual Harvest Festival** on Saturday, October 19 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 35 La Lama Road in Questa. This is an event for the whole family with arts and crafts, games, raffles, live music, and refreshments.

Mark your calendars for an evening of more fall family fun at **Questa River Fest**, hosted by the River Community Church on Saturday, October 26 from 5-7 p.m. at 65 S. Kiowa Road. Admission is free to enjoy live music by Alto, hayrides, carnival games, inflatables, bumper cars, food/drinks, prizes, and more! For more information Rachel@rccquesta.org, or call (281) 732-8263.

The Amalia Neighborhood Association will be hosting their **Annual Halloween Party** on Sunday, October 27, starting at 3 p.m. with their Trunk-or-Treat at the Amalia Community Center.

A free **Children's Halloween Carnival** is being held at the Red River Conference Center on October 31 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Families can expect games, prizes,

dinner, crafts, and dance music provided by DJ JP! Although this is a free event, donations are appreciated and go towards the Red River Valley Charter School Ski Days. If you are interested in donating or volunteering for the event, contact Jenny Church at (575) 770-9896.

Questa's 35th **Cambalache Harvest Festival** is taking place on Sunday, October 6 from 10am - 5pm in conjunction with the last day of the Questa Farmers Market. Attendees will celebrate the end of the harvest season with live music, traditional foods, art vendors, kids crafts, the annual Quetta Vigil Memorial Frito Pie Eating Contest, and the dramatic burning of the Cucui. Located at the outdoor community market at the Questa Visitor Center. For more information contact Cynthia Rael-Vigil at (575) 779-9249.

Many of our locals attend the **Town of Taos Halloween Community Event** on Taos Plaza, where treats are handed out to trick-or-treaters. This free community event takes place on Thursday, October 31, from 3 to 6 p.m.



By Toner Mitchell

Feeling Lucky

We've probably all done this as children, but I spent a decent amount of time as a young boy contemplating which would be worse: being blind, or deaf, or without the sense of smell. The reason I went through this exercise was that I was crazy about fishing. To be exact, I had grown dependent on throwing a line in the water, and I didn't know why. I loved the way trout looked, especially streambred brown trout and cutthroats, and who could separate that from the breathtaking sight of the Sangre de Cristo mountains? I also needed to be able to see where I was walking or throwing my fly.

But what would the sight of these spectacular landmarks be worth without the far away rush of mountain wind, the songs of birds, and the urgent yet friendly roar of creeks and rivers? How much would be lost if we couldn't smell pine needles on a hot summer day or a surprise whiff of mint? Fortunately, I don't think I'll ever learn the answers to these questions. I've fished



Courtesy Photo

for many years and have a good idea of how blessed I am to have done so without physical limitations.

Until last month. Playing tennis during my family vacation, I rushed

the net for an overhead, stumbled, and landed with all of my weight on my two closed hands. My right hand swelled up to the size of a catcher's mitt. My left thumb was ruined, and neither of my

wrists could support any weight.

For the first week I had difficulty opening doors or holding a sandwich. Typing was painful, even riding a stationary bike at the gym. You don't know how much you need something until it's gone, and I felt this no more poignantly than when I thought about fishing. How would I cast? What if I slipped or tripped? Thus, was my tennis injury the beginning of my road to a more sedentary form of fishing?

No offense to Eagle Rock Lake or Eagle Nest Lake or some of the meadow streams in the Jemez, but I'm going to fish the Rio Grande gorge until my legs won't let me. But I didn't figure on my hands. They've healed quite a bit, but I'm not sure I trust them. If I fall, as is likely in the gorge, will it be my elbow that takes the brunt or my face? I've made it through a hip operation and made it back to the Rio, and I suppose my hands will return to normal and I'll be able to fish again and arrest a fall. But one of these days it will be over.

Things fall apart, as they say. This is just a fact. The mountains around Questa have been falling apart for millennia, pushed up by subterranean forces and torn down by water, ice, and wind. I suppose there's consolation in there somewhere. Maybe as we age, we (hopefully) leave the impression that we are coming and going at once. Maybe we move through time while it also moves through us.

Tree Planting: An Art And Science

By LORA ARCINIEGA

I have lots of memories of my grandfather taking care of his trees. He planted trees, trimmed his trees, always making sure he had some shade and fruit trees on his property. There was never a shortage of willow branches to get into trouble with and poplars always lined our driveway. At age 90, my grampo still roams his property and recently planted some new fruit trees that he's diligently trying to protect from deer.

Many landowners can relate to this—whether you plant your trees or they exist naturally, people like to be around tree cover and nature. I have some friends who recently planted some apple trees on their property, a cousin who was wondering which would be the best species to plant on his sage steppe, and a husband who is working on a tree-planting contract for our local forest.

Tree planting at any scale takes careful consideration. Your goal may be to provide food for your family, some shade to your home, or a desire to help restore an area that has lost significant tree cover due to recent wildfires.

Planting at a large scale—say thousands of acres—requires planning years ahead of time. Most national forests plant trees to recover once-forested areas that have lost trees due to natural events such as wildfires, wind storms, or insect outbreaks.

Here in the arid southwest, the time for planting trees typically occurs during the spring melt, monsoon season, or the early fall. Soil moisture is required. The type of species to be planted depends upon the goal of the planting effort, elevation, and takes into account future climate.

In most cases the most popular



Photo by Jim Arciniega

Collection of ponderosa pine cones

species planted in the dry west is ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Ponderosa pine can grow across highly variable biophysical settings (slope, aspect, soils, etc.) and as the species ages, its bark gets thicker and more fire- and bug-resistant.

This fall, forest tree-planting crews will be putting 150,000 conifer species into the ground by hand to help restore tree cover lost from recent wildfires. These very young trees have been grown at a nursery for the past one to two years from locally collected seeds.

The seedlings are kept cool when they arrive from the nursery and as soon as the sun begins to rise, several hundreds of trees will be planted, in an attempt to avoid the roots over-drying from heat and air. After planting, tree survival is monitored, but just like your

SCIENCE & ART cont'd on page 19

Wildlife Law Violation Checkpoints For Hunting & Fishing

By STAFF WRITERS

The Department of Game and Fish has announced via press release that they are starting to conduct checkpoints throughout the state. The goal is to collect biological data of hunters through the hunting season while also working to identify and detect wildlife law violations.

The checkpoints may cause minor delays for hunters who encounter DGF officers. The release goes on to say that department officers may be assisted by other law enforcement agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Police, or county sheriff's offices.

As always, the public is encouraged to report to officials any wildlife crime or suspected crime, such as poaching wildlife without a license. Operation Game Thief is a New Mexico DGF program, which pays rewards to citizens who turn in poachers.

Rewards for reporting cases vary based on the animal in question, as follows:



- \$750 for cases involving elk and bighorn sheep
- \$500 for deer and oryx
- \$350 for antelope
- \$250 for turkey, bear, cougar, javelina, ibex, Barbary sheep, endangered species, small game, fish, raptors, and fur-bearers

To report a wildlife crime, you can call Operation Game Thief toll-free at 1-800-432-GAME (4263). Callers can remain anonymous. Violations can also be reported online at by googling "Operation Game Thief New Mexico."

SCIENCE & ART Cont'd from page 18

newly planted fruit trees, these tiny seedlings are susceptible to animals, frost, and sun damage.

If you are considering planting trees on your property, some things to consider are overall tree size, water requirements, potential problems, and minimum temperatures. For example, planting a spruce in a dry area will require lots of water and shade to survive, whereas a pine requires less shade and water.

When you first plant a tree on your property, watering the trees regularly for the first two years is important. At

this point the trees are establishing their root system and are vulnerable to weather and animals.

Next time you walk out in the woods or in an area with trees, consider the amount of time it took for the tree to get to that point and think about how that tree got there. That may happen when you're hunting this season and that squirrels' lost cache of pine seeds 40 years ago is now giving you cover. Let the moment bring back that childlike curiosity you had for trees when you were seven years old and just enjoy being in the presence of something that has stood the test of time.

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The Strategic Water Discussion: A Critical Dialogue For New Mexico's Future



Courtesy Photo

State Representative Tara Lujan introduces the panel, including moderator State Representative Susan Herrera, NM Acequia Association Director Paula Garcia, former NM State Engineer Mike Hamman, and member of the NM Produced Water Research Consortium Mike Hightower

By LYNN SKALL,
DIRECTOR, QUESTA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FUND

The New Mexico Energy Policy Symposium, held on September 12 and 13 in Española, brought together state leaders, experts, and community members to discuss pressing energy and water issues. One of the most noteworthy panels focused on "Integrating Water & Energy Strategies in NM."

The discussion centered on the potential of "non-traditional" water resources, particularly treated brackish and produced water, to address the state's water scarcity challenges. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's announcement in December 2023 to allocate \$500 million for a strategic water supply initiative has sparked significant debate among constituents, highlighting the complexities of water management in NM.

The Governor's initiative is based on findings that the state has substantial aquifers of salty-brackish water - estimated at two to four billion acre-feet - that require treatment for human and agricultural use. A proposed brackish water treatment plant, capable of producing 25 million gallons per day, could generate up to 27,900 acre-feet of potable water annually, an amount that would cover 70% of the annual consumptive water use in the Albuquerque area.

Panel moderator, Representative Susan Herrera, acknowledged the emotional weight of the water issue, "This has gotten so emotional that people can't

even talk about it. Yet, we have to have this conversation." She urged participants to share their perspectives on the strategic water plan.

Mike Hightower, a former engineer at Sandia National Laboratory and a member of the NM Produced Water Research Consortium, emphasized the potential of non-traditional water sources. He explained the differences between shallow and deep brackish water, noting that the use of deeper brackish water is less susceptible to having impacts on fresh water, and the use of 'produced water' sources at 5,000 - 8,000 feet below the surface won't affect freshwater supplies.

The Consortium is currently exploring the integration of desalination technologies with the treatment of produced water from the San Juan and Permian Basins. To date, they have initiated ten to twelve pilot tests separating oil and salinity from produced water, effectively meeting state water quality standards for agricultural and industrial use.

He added that desalination of non-traditional water requires energy, and it can easily use renewable energy such as wind energy at night for pumping and treating water when it would otherwise be wasted.

One of the most promising aspects of this initiative is the plan to add treated water to the Rio Grande or Pecos Rivers at the state line to satisfy the state's river water supply compact requirements

WATER DISCUSSION cont'd on page 27



BIRD IS THE WORD

By Bryce Flannagan

The Social Lives Of Birds

A pair of recent studies has shed light on the complex world of avian communication, and adds further support to the argument that there is more to birds than meets the eye when it comes to intelligence and culture.

The first study, published in The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and done in tandem with our own New Mexico State University and University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, investigated the dialect of the Costa Rican native, the Yellow-naped Amazon Parrot, over a period of 22 years. The team began in 1994 by identifying three distinct “contact” calls—a type of call used across different animal species, primarily used to inform

a nearby listener of the caller's location. They found unique calls in the north, south and at the Nicaraguan border.

For the next 11 years, these calls remained unchanged and the regional boundaries were the same. But in 2016, the boundaries of the north and south calls shifted, and new call variants appeared in the south. Some birds were even calling in both northern and southern dialects. The cause of this was a rapid decrease in their habitat due to agriculture practices, leading to the parrot being marked “critically endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The abstract for the study states, “These results suggest cultural traditions such as dialects may change in response to demographic and environmental conditions, with broad implications for threatened species.”

You don't have to look far for a human parallel: New Mexico has two official state languages, Spanish and English, the result of centuries of changing cultures and state boundaries. The authors of this parrot study stress the importance of further research on the relationship between learned vocalizations and demographic disruption, but the findings are clear—birds of the same species can form unique regional



Courtesy Image

dialects, and they can then learn new dialects as intermingling increases!

The next study comes courtesy of University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and relates to interspecies relationships during migration. Previously, scientists believed that

different species of birds sharing a space or flight path was mere coincidence, but this research suggests birds form interspecies communities as they migrate.

Researchers used the data collected

SOCIAL BIRDS cont'd on page 29

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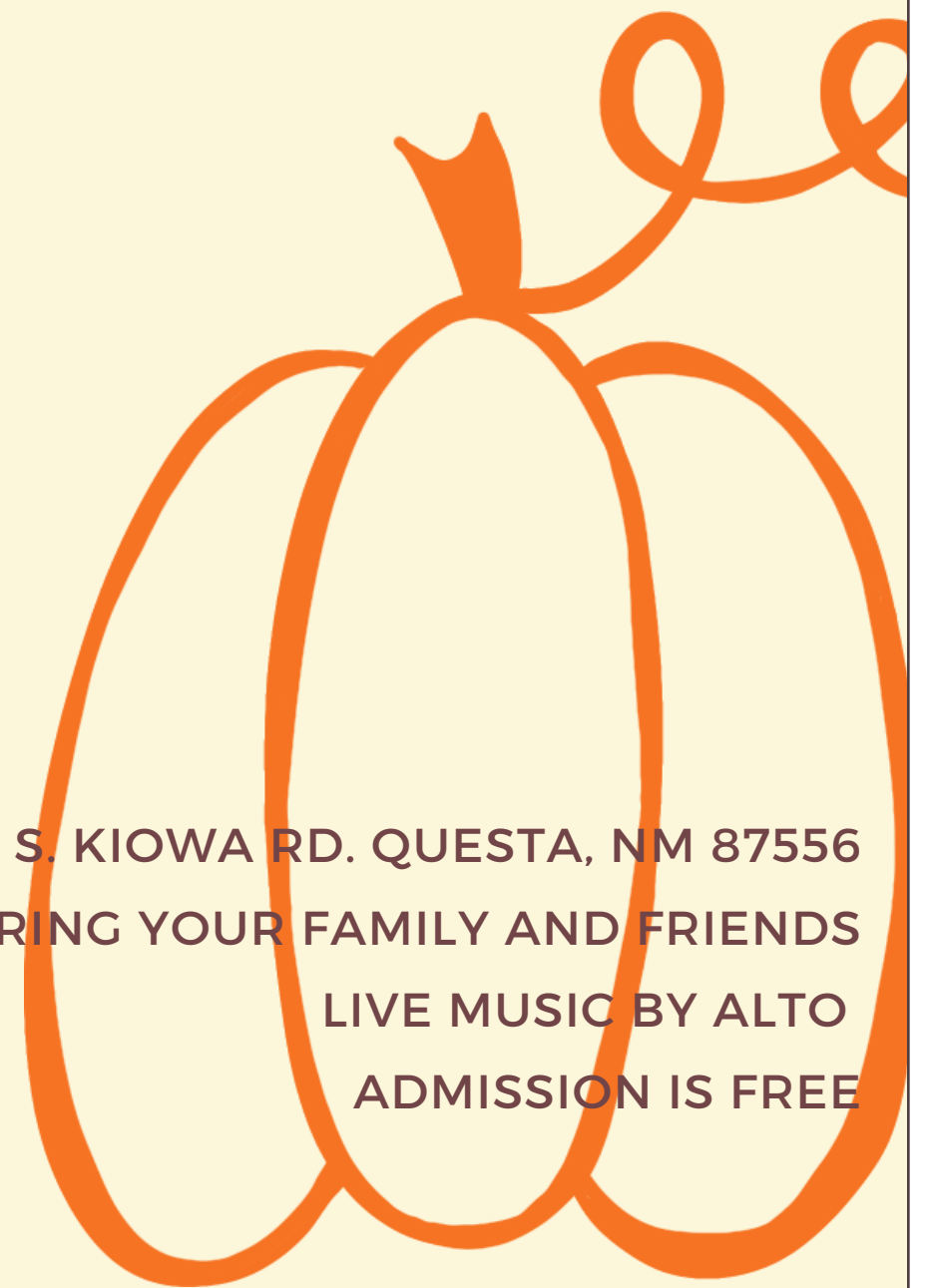
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**BODY
MIND
SPIRIT**



By **BARBARA TRACY**

The Therapy Of Tears

I have been exploring information on a therapy that I have been using for many, many years: the therapy of tears.

I began to realize that there was more to tears than just streaking the dust-covered face of a child, or getting a response from others.

And of course, there are a myriad of reasons that humans cry. What I am

speaking of here is not endless sobbing or crying over something and clinging to the story that feeds the tears.

What I am speaking of here is a deliberate intention to cause tears to flow so that the body can release stress one may be feeling. What I have found is that simply shedding a couple of tears are all I need to reset my mood or adjust any mental discomfort I may be experiencing.

There are some of us that may be affected more than others when experiencing life challenges and circumstances. There is one therapy always available immediately—tears.

When I start feeling out of sorts, that's my signal to shed a few tears. When I'm speaking of tear therapy here, I am speaking of realizing you are actually having a therapy session with every emotional tear you shed. For my own tear therapy, I usually find a quiet place to be, make myself comfortable, and then I close my eyes. Of course, closing your eyes de-

pends on what you choose to trigger your tear therapy. You can choose sad music, memories, photos, even a sad movie. For me it is usually the image of holding my mother's hand. It has never failed.

When stress begins to affect our feelings and responses to life and tension has set in, when those signals arise in us, there is a way to relieve some of this discomfort—and it only takes one or two tears.

Tears are a step toward healing. Letting the tears flow can improve our mood. It may take about 20 minutes to notice the relief, so just relax into the feeling.

What has happened when we release our therapy tears? Emotional tears release a stress hormone, cortisol. Cortisol is a very important hormone in the body that, at normal levels, supports overall health. When we are overly stressed, when we lack sleep, or when we don't get adequate exercise, or partake of unhealthy eating

habits, we are opening the door to an overabundance of cortisol, and that can affect our entire being—physical, mental, and emotional.

I want to note here that not all tears release hormones. Tears in our eyes from cutting up onions, wind and cold, and the like... these are not emotionally charged tears associated with sadness or joy for example, and therefore carry no hormones.

“Crying is cleansing. There's a reason for tears, happiness or sadness.”

—Dionne Warwick

So, not only does shedding a few tears help us feel better, they also release oxytocin, which is known as the love hormone. This hormone will help reduce stress. Then we see that endorphins are also released—the feel-good chemicals that help ease physical and emotional pain.

“Tears are God's gift to us. Our holy water. They heal us as they flow.”

—Rita Schiano

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Grn. Chile Chicken Posole (chicken, hominy, green chile, onions) Tossed salad w/ Light Ranch Dressing Crackers fruit salad	2 Spaghetti (meat, spaghetti, NAS Marinara sauce) Italian Blend Vegetables Wheat roll w/ margarine Tossed salad w/ Italian Dressing Fresh Pear	3 Chicken Patty Sandwich (chicken Patty, bun, lettuce, tomato) Roasted Brussel Sprouts green beans pineapple chunks	4 Baked Dill Tilapia Brown Rice Pilaf Spinach Coleslaw w/ Dressing Roll w/ unsalted butter Mixed Fruit
7 Chicken w/ Mushrooms (chicken breast, Gravy, Mushrooms, Egg Noodles) broccoli & cauliflower Wheat roll w/ margarine peaches	8 Tater Tot Casserole (Beef, mixed Vegetables, Tater tots, Sauce) Tossed Salad w/ Light Italian Dressing Wheat roll Gelatin w/ fruit cocktail	9 Green Chile Pork Stew (pork, potatoes, green chile) Beets and onion salad Cauliflower tortilla Cinnamon Apples	10 Chicken Fried Steak mashed potatoes/Country gravy Broccoli Wheat Bread w/ margarine Chocolate pudding	11 Red Chile and Cheese enchiladas (sauce, corn tortillas, cheese, Lettuce and tomato) Pinto Beans Vegetable Medley light nonfat vanilla yogurt berries
14 CLOSED	15 Ham & Cheese Sandwich (Ham, Swiss cheese, bread, lettuce, tomato) Three Bean Salad Pasta Salad (Vegetables, Pasta) grapes	16 Green Chile Meat Burrito (ground beef, green chile, Tortilla) Vegetables w/ unsalted butter Tropical Fruit salad	17 Chicken Pot Pie (Crust, chicken, mixed veggies, sauce) California blend veg Crackers Mandarin oranges	18 Open Faced Turkey Sandwich Turkey, wheat bread, gravy Herb Roasted Red Potatoes green beans Light Vanilla Nonfat Yogurt Apricots
21 Chicken Fajita (chicken, Peppers and Onions, Tortilla, Salsa) Black beans and Red bell Peppers Carrot Raisin Salad Fruit Cocktail Applesauce	22 Chef Salad (Romain lettuce, Egg, Chicken, tomatoes, Cucumber, Light Ranch Dressing) Crackers Fruit salad	23 Pork Stir Fry (Pork, Sauce) Asian Vegetables Chow Mein Noodles (cooked) Mandarin Oranges & Pineapple Fortune Cookie	24 Chicken Adovada (Diced Chicken, red Chile Sauce, Calabacitas) Roasted Brussel Sprouts flour tortilla banana	25 Tuna Salad Sandwich (Tuna, mayo, veggies, bread, Spinach, tomato) Tomato and Red Onion Salad Beets Sun Chips Orange
28 Chili w/ beans (ground beef, Tomatoes, onion/green pepper, pinto beans) Chateau Blend Vegetables corn bread w/ margarine Applesauce	29 Chicken Noodle Soup (chicken, noodle, onions, celery, carrots, broth) bread w/ margarine Tossed Salad w/ Light Italian Dressing Plums	30 Cheeseburger (patty, Cheese, hamburger bun lettuce, slice tomato, slice onion) Potato Salad vegetable medley Mixed Fruit	31 Smothered pork (Pork, BBQ sauce) Cornbread stewed tomatoes w/ GC Roasted Zucchini Wheat roll, Pear	All Meals Served With 8oz. 2% Milk as available

SENIOR MENU: OCTOBER 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.

Taos County Senior Program (575) 737-8927

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE



LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

Don't Worry. Be Happy.

Don't worry?!! Easy to say—hard to do.

Yep! However, worry causes harmful stress, which is the number one aging factor and it's a primary heart attack villain.

But if we pull the covers off worry, poof! There's nothing there. There's no actual physical threat or pressure. It's an imagined future potential which may or

may not materialize. We mull over what could happen and that puts us in a continued stressful cycle and keeps us from being happy. All for nothing—because what we're mulling over isn't actually happening.

Worry takes us out of the moment, where peace is available and we can deal with real threats and pressures as they arrive. Another way we invite more stress into our lives is by continuously replaying in our minds stressful events that have already happened. I know I'm not the only one whose heart races when I see police lights behind me. Oh no, I'm over the speed limit! I'm probably going to get a ticket. Let's say I do get the ticket. The event is done and over with. Yes, I'll have to pay the fine and deal with points on my license, but the actual stressful event is finished.

Now say I get back home and call a

friend and tell her about my experience. I recall the police lights in my rearview mirror. I recall the moment when the officer tells me I won't be getting a warning this time. My heart again is racing. Then another friend calls. I retell the story in detail and am again flooded with the feelings of anger, fear, and frustration. I've now experienced the stressful event three times.

The truth is, we have a choice in how to respond when we think about a potential threat or a dreadful situation that has already occurred. Besides my practice of saying "Something good will come of this," one statement I heard years ago has really helped me to reclaim my power in the fallout of a stressful incident—saying "It is what it is." Accept it, then act. When we're caught up in stress, we become paralyzed and as a result, often make matters worse.

When we accept things as they are, we give ourselves the gift of returning to the present moment where we can actually effect change. I use a handy reminder to help me choose how to respond: it's putting sticky notes where I'll see them, that say "Something good will come of this" or "It is what it is." Or just "Don't worry. Be happy."

October is for octogenarians at Magpie gallery in Taos. Artists in their 80s (including me) have been invited to the curated show. I hope you'll attend the artists reception on Saturday, October 12, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Ellen Wood of Questa is an artist and award-winning author of the series of books, "The Secret Method for Growing Younger," available on Amazon.

Contact her at ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

Ellen Wood a.k.a. Maruška

Artist, Columnist and Award-winning Author

www.HowToGrowYounger.com

No te preocupes. Sé feliz.

¿No te preocupes?!! Fácil de decir, difícil de hacer.

¡Cierto! Sin embargo, la preocupación provoca un estrés dañino, que es el factor número uno de envejecimiento y el principal causante de los ataques cardíacos.

Pero si destapamos la preocupación, ¡puf! No hay nada ahí. No hay una amenaza física real ni ninguna presión. Es un posible futuro imaginado, que puede o no materializarse. Le damos vueltas a lo que podría pasar, y eso nos mantiene en un ciclo continuo de estrés y nos impide ser felices. Todo por nada—porque lo que estamos pensando no está ocurriendo realmente.

La preocupación nos saca del momento presente, donde la paz está a nuestra disposición y donde podemos lidiar con amenazas y presiones reales a medida que estas llegan. Pero es otra cosa cuando invitamos más estrés a nuestras vidas al repetir mentalmente eventos estresantes que ya han sucedido. Sé que no soy la única cuyo corazón se acelera cuando veo las luces de la policía detrás de mí. ¡Ay, no, ya me pasé del límite de velocidad! Seguro que me multan. Supongamos que me multan. Ya se acabó lo que pasó. Sí, tendré que pagar la multa y perderé algunos puntos en mi licencia de conducción, pero el evento

estresante real ya se terminó.

Ahora imagínate que llego a casa, llamo a una amiga y le cuento mi experiencia. Recuerdo las luces de la policía en el espejo retrovisor. Recuerdo el momento en que el oficial me dice que esta vez no recibiré solo una advertencia. Mi corazón vuelve a acelerarse.

Luego me llama otra amiga. Vuelvo a contar la historia con lujo de detalles y otra vez me inundan los sentimientos de ira, miedo y frustración. Ahora he experimentado el evento estresante tres veces.

La verdad es que podemos elegir cómo responder cuando pensamos en una posible amenaza o en una situación desagradable que ya ha ocurrido. Además de practicar el decir: Algo bueno saldrá de todo esto, hay una frase que escuché hace años y que realmente me ha ayudado a recuperar mi poder tras un incidente estresante: decir Es lo que es. Acéptalo, luego actúa. Cuando estamos atrapados en el estrés, nos paralizamos y, como resultado, a menudo empeoramos las cosas.

Cuando aceptamos las cosas tal como son, nos damos el regalo de volver al momento presente, que es donde realmente podemos efectuar un cambio. Tengo un recordatorio útil para ayudarme a elegir cómo responder: poner notitas adhesivas donde las vea, que digan: Algo bueno saldrá de todo esto o Es lo que es. O simplemente: No te preocupes. Sé feliz.

Octubre es el Mes de los Octoge-

narios en Magpie, en Taos. Artistas que tienen 80 años o más (incluyéndome a mí) hemos sido invitados a participar en la muestra curada. Espero que asistas a la Recepción de los Artistas el sábado 12 de octubre de 4 a 6 pm.

Ellen Wood de Questa es artista y la autora galardonada de la serie de libros "The Secret Method for Growing Younger," disponible en Amazon. Puedes ponerte en contacto con ella escribiendo a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

Ellen Wood, también conocida como Maruška

Artista, Columnista y Autora galardonada

www.HowToGrowYounger.com

JR (Malaquias) says: "NorthStar now offers computer programing and reprogramming."



**Uh...
unfortunately it
does not work
on friends and
family.**

**But we'll take
good care of
your car."**





Who Are You?

Halloween, one of the best fantasy days we celebrate with all ages, is here. Many folks begin making their costumes or thinking about what they want to be at about this time of year. Time goes so fast, especially if you are making your own costume. And the Day of the Dead is a chance to connect with the spirit world when the veils are thin. There are so many characters we can choose from in history, in fairy tales, movies, books—about becoming a persona you have always dreamed of for one whole day and go full-out with it. Your favorite costume could be when you were a kid in a school play or in a parade or at a party, or something you saw on TV or at the movies that inspired you to dress and act as that persona. Why, when, and where did you choose to reenact this character or thing?

Dawn

I always wanted to be the good witch Glenda in *The Wizard of Oz*. She was a persona I worked towards. The fairy godmother, Glenda... I wanted to be her because of that huge, fairy queen dress she wore, and I liked her voice. She was kind, and whenever she appeared it was a relief to see her. She encouraged you to find your own way, but would help when needed.

Margaret

Every summer on Nantucket Island this tennis club called “the casino” in Sconset had a costume contest for kids. It had a stage and a curtain and a dress-up room. I remember one year my sisters and I dressed up as Juicy Fruit gum. We had a posterboard outfit that was attached with straps. Each sister was a different flavor. I was the cherry-flavored one. It was a big deal and it was so fun. We paraded our costumes on stage in front of everyone. It was festive and exciting, especially if you won a prize. I was six years old. It was Halloween in July!

Jennifer

The last time I was in costume was at Burning Man. I dressed up like a hippie: wild pants, purple boots, pink hair, mermaid top, leopard jacket and ski goggles on my head. I felt outrageous. People

wore nutty, wacky clothes. I wanted to be in the “groove” with everyone there. Even my husband dressed up in a skinny tie-dye top and Liberace shorts. Having the freedom to dress however you wanted to was a lot of fun. Anything goes... I usually don't dress up. No costume parties for me. This was an opportunity to dress up when, I hadn't before.

Alice

“Go ask Alice,” remember that song? The character I love is Alice in *Wonderland*. I vividly remember dressing up like her. I even found a tree with a hole in it and tried going in it and it was pretty cool. Lost in a world of madness. At about age eight I had read the book and seen the movie. I related to Alice and I took it on. Lately, in the last few years I have dressed up like her to wander and wonder in the forest. I am known as her persona now.

Jim

“When I was in Leadville, Colorado in 1982, I worked at a mine called Climax Molybdenum. I was asked to join a wild west theater troupe. I portrayed Marshal Cimmaron. I was officially named Marshal Cimmaron by the judge in the theater group at a rodeo in Shane, Wyoming. We made all our own costumes and built our props. Later on I became an actor: Marshal Cimmaron and the

Bittercreek Gang. I started directing the show and got the actors, the introverts to open up. They were able to see a better side of themselves acting in front of an audience. We were in a lot of different shows and parades.

Conradical

I was invited to a Halloween party a few years ago and couldn't figure out what to wear. So I simply wore a MAGA hat that my daughter-in-law bought me as a joke. It was the easiest most perfect Halloween costume ever because it goes with everything from jeans to a suit. All one has to do is put on the hat and people assume you are a Trump supporter. Which is exactly what people at the party who didn't know me assumed. That is until I started talking. I was disappointed that more people at the party didn't get it without me having to explain it to them. But now the problem is, “How do I top that costume this year?”

Ashlee

My favorite costume was a fairy. I wore it to the Taos Inn. I was in my 20s. I have always been a fan of fantasy and sci-fiction. I created my own fairy not related to anything I read or see. No magic powers. I was a death fairy.

October 21, One Year Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Melissa Arguello Bennett

It is with great love and deep sadness that we lovingly remember and honor the memory of our mother Melissa Arguello Bennett. She left us one year ago on October 21st. We would want her to know that we continue to carry forward her strength, love, and relentless spirit.

Our mom was the wife of Ronald Bennett and daughter of Karen Quintana and the late Eddie Arguello, and sister to Michael, Christy, Manuel, Billie Jo, and William. We all miss her dearly, and her absence is felt deeply in their hearts and lives. Though she is no longer with us here on Earth, our mom's love, laughter, wild sense of humor, and kindness remain in the hearts of all who knew her.

Her memory will forever be a source of comfort, strength, and inspiration to all of us. She is deeply missed, but her legacy lives on through her family and friends, and the countless lives she touched. May her soul rest in peace, and may her loved ones find comfort in the memories they hold dear.

He who knows how to forgive prepares himself many graces from God. As often as I look upon the cross, so often will I forgive with all my heart.

—St. Faustina

Brianna & Emily

Join us for Mass on Sunday, October 20
at Sagrado Corazon, Costilla New Mexico at 10 am.

THE 2024 SEASONAL LAST DAY OF THE FARMERS MARKET
ARTS - KIDS CRAFTS - TRADITIONAL FOODS - LIVE MUSIC
QUETTA VIGIL MEMORIAL FRITO PIE EATING CONTEST AND
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2024

Quetta Cainbalaache

Sunday, October 6
10 am - 5 pm



A Traditional Northern
New Mexico Harvest Celebration

At the Quetta Visitor Center 1 NM 38, Quetta NM 87556

For more information visit questanews.com/events



This ad is proudly sponsored by Chevron



Fall Comfort Food

As the fall season settles in, there's no better way to embrace the cooler weather than by indulging in comforting meals made with seasonal ingredients. In this collection, you'll find recipes that highlight the warm, earthy flavors of autumn—from sweet pumpkin pancakes to savory zucchini parmesan pasta, and roasted acorn squash with a touch of maple syrup. Whether you're hosting a cozy brunch, a family dinner, or just looking for new dishes to enjoy during the harvest season, these recipes are sure to bring the taste of fall right to your table.

PUMPKIN PANCAKES

RECIPE COURTESY OF ALLRECIPES.COM

Ingredients

- 1 ½ c milk
- 1 c pumpkin puree
- 1 large egg
- 2 T vegetable oil
- 2 T vinegar
- 2 c all-purpose flour
- 3 T brown sugar
- 2 t baking powder
- 1 t baking soda
- 1 t ground allspice
- 1 t ground cinnamon
- ½ t ground ginger
- ½ t salt
- Cooking spray

Instructions

Gather all ingredients.

Stir milk, pumpkin, egg, oil, and vinegar together in a large bowl until well combined.

Whisk flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, allspice, cinnamon, ginger, and salt together in a separate bowl. Add to pumpkin mixture; whisk just until combined.

Spray a griddle or frying pan with cooking spray; heat over medium-high heat.

Pour 3 to 4 tablespoons of batter for each pancake onto the hot griddle and flatten batter slightly with a spoon.

Cook until small bubbles appear, about 2 minutes.

Flip and cook until golden brown, about 2 more minutes. Repeat with remaining batter.

Serve hot with maple syrup and enjoy!



Photo Courtesy of Dotdash Meredith Food Studios

Pumpkin Pancakes served with butter and maple syrup

ZUCCHINI PARMESAN PASTA

RECIPE COURTESY OF HALFBAKEDHARVEST.COM

Ingredients

- 1 lb Rigatoni, or any cut works
- 2 T extra virgin olive oil
- 3-4 medium zucchini/yellow summer squash, shredded or chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 T chopped fresh thyme
- Chili flakes
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- 2 T salted butter
- 1 c grated parmesan
- 1/2 c grated Pecorino or Manchego cheese
- 1 c fresh basil, chopped

Instructions

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook the pasta according to package directions until al dente. Just before draining, reserve 1-1/4 cups of the pasta cooking water. Drain.

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the zucchini, garlic, thyme, chili flakes, salt, and pepper. Cook until the zucchini is golden, 5 minutes. Mix in the butter. Using the back of your spoon or a potato masher, mash down the zucchini until it becomes a chunky sauce.

Add 1 cup of reserved pasta water and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Add the pasta, parmesan, and cheese, and toss until melted. Add more pasta water if needed to thin the sauce. Remove from the heat and toss in the basil.

Serve topped with fresh basil and pepper. Enjoy!

Notes:

If a smooth sauce is desired, transfer the zucchini to a food processor before adding the pasta, and puree until smooth



Photo courtesy of halfbakedharvest.com

Zucchini Parmesan Pasta with Rigatoni Pasta

ROASTED ACORN SQUASH

RECIPE COURTESY OF MARIA LICHTY

Ingredients

- 2 medium Acorn squash, about 1-½ lbs each
- 1/2 T olive oil
- 4 T butter to add flavor! If you need the recipe to be dairy-free or vegan, you can omit the butter and only use olive oil.
- 2 T maple syrup
- 1/2 t sea salt
- Cinnamon—optional, but so good!
- Candied pecans

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper

and set aside.

Place the squash on a cutting board. Use a sharp chef's knife to slice ¼" off the stem end and base of the squash. Stand it up on one of the cut ends and slice in half, from top to bottom.

Pro tip: If the squash is too hard to cut, pierce it a few times with a sharp knife. Microwave in 1-minute bursts until it's soft enough to cut.

Use a large spoon to scoop out the seeds and stringy parts. Place squash on a baking sheet with its cut side up.

Brush the cut sides of the squash with olive oil. Place 1 tablespoon butter in the cavity of the squash and drizzle evenly with maple syrup. Sprinkle evenly with sea salt and cinnamon, if using.

Roast for 40 to 60 minutes, or until squash is tender when pierced with a fork. Time will vary depending on the size of your squash.

Remove from oven. Drizzle with additional maple syrup and sprinkle with sea salt, to taste.

You can cut the halves into wedges to make the squash easier to serve and eat.

Garnish with candied pecans, if desired.



Photo courtesy of twopeasandtheirpod.com

Roasted Acorn Squash



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

In the Stillness, Healing: A Call for Inner Peace

By CONTRIBUTING WRITER
LOU MCCALL

The cover story of the *Questa Del Rio News*' September issue was heartbreaking: the life of a beautiful 15-year-old, full of so much promise, tragically cut short. The trauma will long remain. It is said that time heals all; we hope that fond memories will eventually outweigh the sadness...

Unfortunately, we are not alone. The tragedy of young people leaving this earth too soon is widespread; countless families and communities are also suffering. Like everything else in these troubled times, it seems to be getting worse. How hard it must be to be growing up right now.

Last year I attended my 50th high school class reunion (oh my!). The list of names in memoriam was sobering. We remembered classmates dying young in accidents, by suicide or drug overdoses, as well as those who died recently... Loss reminds us that everything is impermanent, everything that is born will die. Although we know this intellectually, it isn't real until it hits us, hard.

Many years ago, starting school at the Art Institute of Chicago was shocking; I was a long way from New Mexico! I didn't know anyone and felt very isolated. I was no stranger to student angst. As a child, I loved school, but high school felt like a waste of time. I wanted to go to college, so I endured it... For anyone who hates school, it gets better! Maybe high school was the best time of your life. For me, high school was a drag, college was fun, and graduate

school was a blast!

During my first semester in art school there were several suicides. The kindly dean of the school was devastated. He asked for anyone who might have ideas for creating a healthier school culture to please come see him. And I did.

At 18, I started meditating. I had an advantage over my classmates; whenever the world was moving too fast and I felt overwhelmed, I could stop, go within, and find stillness, calm, and faith. The dean and I talked about our need to connect with nature and spirit, and he invited me to teach meditation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. I thought he was crazy; he must have been desperate to help his troubled students.

In time, more changes were implemented, and the school brightened up. I like to think that a few young people finding that still calm voice within made a difference, in their own lives and that of the school. And the world.

Scientifically, the advantages of meditation have been well documented and do not conflict with religion or belief; contemplation is part of all wisdom traditions. Meditation is now accepted and understood as a natural ability we all have to calm our nervous systems and find clarity of mind. Media, peer pressure, and way too much stimulation competes fiercely with self-awareness. Our culture values appearances and materialism way too much.

What a difference for our young people and our world if schools and churches taught that world peace begins within.

WATER DISCUSSION cont'd from page 19

with Texas.

By using this treated water, northern NM will retain more of its snowmelt for acequias and river use, allowing for increased freshwater availability. Towns along the Rio Grande basin will also benefit from the increased local freshwater supply.

However, not all participants were fully convinced. Paula Garcia, Director of the NM Acequia Association, raised concerns about the legal framework governing non-traditional water use. "The statute is not well defined," she stated, referencing the constitutional laws that govern traditional water sources, protecting tribal water rights being the most senior, and acequia water being second most senior.

Garcia called for further clarity in the regulatory framework.

She acknowledged the benefits of using produced water in the oil fields, which reduces the demand for fresh water from the nearby community water-districts where it can be used for their agriculture.

Former NM State Engineer Mike Hammond praised the oil and gas industry for their shift from freshwater to produced water, now accounting for 70 percent of their usage.

He encouraged further collaboration and open dialogue around this issue, stressing the importance of exploring all available resources while investing in innovative solutions like hydrogen production and geological research.

Hammond emphasized, "this needs to be worked out in a collaborative and thoughtful way."



BY J. ORTEGA

FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA

Starring: Anya Taylor Joy, Chris Hemsworth, Tom Burke

Directed by: George Miller

RATED R

Streaming on Max

First Impression: It's a mixed bag for the long-awaited follow up to the rip-roaring "Mad Max Fury Road" from the previous decade. The movie tries really hard, but ultimately doesn't add much to the Mad Max universe, as backstage drama plagued the making of the film.

When legendary director George Miller rebooted his already iconic Mad Max franchise, many people were on the fence. Had too much time passed for audiences to care about the post-apocalyptic world of the original Mad Max from the late 1970s and 80s? Would people still show up even though the original Mad Max, Mel Gibson, wasn't attached to the project? Well, to say that "Mad Max Fury Road" was a success when it came to theaters in 2015 would genuinely be an understatement.

The movie was a smash hit among both audiences and critics. It grossed almost half a billion dollars, making it the most profitable of all the Mad Max films, along with its nomination for 10 academy awards, including best director and best picture. It ultimately walked away with six Academy Awards, which was the most of any film that year. The film also made its way into the zeitgeist of pop culture, being parodied on popular late-night shows like Conan and Saturday Night Live. The film has held up beautifully throughout the last decade with its blending of live action and special effects—and also let's not forget the iconic performances of Tom Hardy as Mad Max and Charlize Theron as Furiosa. Also, we can throw in the performances of Nicholas Hoult as the main War Boy and also the iconic arch-villain of the film, the War Lord

of War Lords Immorton Joe, played ferociously by the late actor Hugh Keays-Byrne.

By saying all this you may have gotten the impression that "Mad Max Fury Road" is one of my favorite action films of all time and in my opinion the best action film of the 2010s. So, the latest entry, "Furiosa: a Mad Max Saga," I may be grading a little on the harsh side since the film's predecessor is going to be superior to me—but again, that's just me. "Furiosa: a Mad Max Saga" represents a major hurdle to me: this project was never meant to be an origin tale, it was meant to be a sequel, the sequel to "Mad Max Fury Road." This is what critics and fans alike were hoping was going to be made, but a Hollywood feud between actors Charlize Theron and Tom Hardy pumped the brakes on any hope of a sequel featuring both actors. The insider gossip is legendary on how bad their relationship had become on the set of "Fury Road" and as production wrapped, they both ended up not speaking to one another.

To be fair, "Furiosa: a Mad Max Saga" tries very hard and succeeds with both action set pieces and an interesting backstory, but as a whole it just feels... unnecessary. Anya Taylor Joy is a good actress but just isn't Charlize Theron, in terms of carrying an action film. Chris Hemsworth gave an admirable try but his villain comes off more as cheesy than menacing.

This film is worthy of a watch, but just don't expect to learn anything new about the Mad Max universe that you may already know.

Final Verdict: 3 out of 5 Stars



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OBITUARIES



Carlos Roger Herrera
d. September 6, 2024

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved Dad, grandpa, and great-grandpa, brother, and friend. Carlos Roger Herrera, 87, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, September 6, 2024, surrounded by his family.

He was preceded in death by his wife Gloria Duran-Herrera, his infant daughter Denisa Herrera, his grandparents Juan Santos & Josephita Gallegos, his parents Domitilia Gallegos-Quintana and step-ather Felix Quintana, his biological father Alfredo Herrera Sr., his brothers Joe Bailon, Alfredo Herrera Jr. and Arturo Herrera, sisters Teresa Herrera-Henderson and Elaine Herrera-Steward, brothers and sisters in law Elsie & Cirilo Ramos, Lydia Esquibel, Arabella & Norbert Ortega, Angelica Cordova, Dolores & Eddie Garcia, Orlando Pineda, Esequias "Frenchy" LaForett, Bernie Henderson, Priscilla Herrera & Nancy Padilla-Bailon, and several nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sisters, their spouses and in-laws Carla (Stanley) Cisneros, Harold (Nadine) Herrera, Leotta (David) Miera; his grandchildren Carlos (Josette Ray) Cisneros, Marco (Ashley Romero) Cisneros, Nichole (Jerome) Threat, Julianne Miera, Justin (Lynette) Herrera & Jared (Savannah) Herrera; his great-grandchildren Arianna (Connor Mills) Cisneros, Isaiah Cisneros-Sandoval, Brooklyn Perez, McKenna Jade Cisneros, Joshua Miera-Boley, Aniyah Threat, Ava Threat, Chloe Threat, Calvin Jerome Threat II, Derrick Juelz Banks, Jayvin Herrera, Gian-Carlo Herrera, Luziano Herrera, Eliana Herrera & Abel Herrera, brother's & sister in-law's, Jennie & Antonio Calderon, Frances LaForett, Erma Pineda, Linda Herrera, Lillian & Larry Norton, Elvin Steward, Joe Esquibel, Antonia & Johnny DeHerrera, Andy Cordova, Elsie Mae & Clarence Lucero, numerous nieces and nephews, along with many other family & friends.

Rosary and viewing happened on Wednesday, September 11, at Rivera's Funeral Home in Taos. The mass of Christian burial was held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa, New Mexico on Thursday, September 12, 2024, followed by burial at San Pedro Catholic Cemetery, followed by a meal at the Questa VFW.

In this time of great loss, we are genuinely grateful for your thoughts, prayers, and support. Carlos' spirit will continue to live on in our hearts.



Ronald B. Rutledge
d. September 15, 2024

Ronald B. Rutledge passed peacefully in his home on September 15, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Judy, five children, and eleven grandchildren. A rigorous academic and nature enthusiast, he loved this area. The family will have a private celebration of life. Donations can be made to the World Wildlife Fund or the American Lung Association.



Sherley J. Gonzales
d. July 23, 2024

Sherley J. Gonzales-Ortiz passed away on July 23, 2024, in Questa, New Mexico. She was a 1977 graduate of Questa High School. She received her Doctor of Education degree in educational psychology with an emphasis in counseling psychology from Northern Arizona University in 1993.

Dr. Gonzales-Ortiz was the daughter of Andres and Louise Gonzales of Questa. She obtained her bachelor's degree in English secondary education from Eastern New Mexico University in 1984 and taught in the Tukumcari school system for one year. She returned to her alma mater, Questa High School, where she taught English, speech and drama, and served as the girls varsity basketball coach for three years.

Upon being awarded the prestigious Patricia Harris Roberts Graduate Fellowship, she attended New Mexico Highlands University where she acquired her master's degree in guidance and counseling. Immediately following the completion of this degree, she was accepted into the educational psychology doctoral program at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. She was awarded a bilingual education doctoral fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education, and as a graduate student she represented the Center for Excellence in Education at Northern Arizona University on various committees and in other university activities. She also served as president of the Organization for Culturally Diverse Graduate Students.

Dr. Gonzales-Ortiz was the academic advisement coordinator for the Center for Excellence in Education at Northern Arizona University, a counselor-psychol-

ogist at New Mexico State Hospital in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and worked at the Mental Health Institute in Pueblo, Colorado. Dr. Gonzalez-Ortiz started her own business, "Senior Harbors," in which she headed a team of four psychologists contracted with nursing retirement homes to counsel and comfort the elderly in Colorado.

Sherley was also a professional vocalist who performed in a big band, The Serenaders. She enjoyed singing at funerals, weddings, and many other occasions. She was a painter, played piano and guitar, and was a genuine empath. She loved her friends and family unconditionally. She will be missed by many.



Edna Mascarenas
d. August 21, 2024

Edna Mascarenas, age 73, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully on August 21, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ruben and Maria Jesucita Espinoza Salazar; son Gary Mascarenas; siblings Melvin, Willie and Frank Salazar.

Edna is survived by her husband Esequiel "Kelly" Mascarenas; children Rachael Romero (Miguel, Jr), Eric Salazar (Lisa), Darnell Mascarenas, Susan Sampia (Mike) and Raymond Mascarenas; 13 grandkids, 29 great-grandkids; siblings Carl Salazar (Rosemary), Jimmy Salazar (Vicky), Evelyn Quintana (Dan), Elva Sanchez (†Patricio Sanchez), Florence Atchly (†Howard Atchly), Maria Annabelle Torres, Gloria Chandler (†Dan Chandler) and Wilma Martinez; many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The funeral service was held Monday, August 26, 2024 at Living Word Ministries in Questa, with burial following at the Mascarenas Cemetery.



Connie Leon
d. September 3, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved mother Connie Leon, who at the age of 73 and a long battle with cancer, went to meet her Savior Jesus Christ. She passed away peacefully at her home in Cerro surrounded by her loved ones.

Our mom was born on December 5, 1950, to Richard and Margaret Leon. She is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her children

Anton (Geneveive), Juli (Marvin), Naomi (Peter) and Sidni: her cherished grandchildren Alyssah (Jose), Audri, A.J., Daniel, Anthony, Jeremy, Katalina, Alena, Jeremiah, Pancho and Cristo; great-grandchildren Aria, Noah and Peter. She will be missed by her loving brothers and sisters Teresa, Juanita (Robert), Joseph (Joann), Ricky (Rachel), Jose (James), and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Our family would like to thank everyone for the love and prayers they provided to our mom and family. A special thank you to the nurses at Mountain Home Healthcare and all her brothers and sisters at Living Word Ministries. We would also like to thank Joaquin and De Vargas Funeral Home for taking care of our mom as she was placed to rest.

The funeral service was held Saturday September 14, 2024 at Living Word Ministries in Questa with a meal which followed at the Questa VFW.



Ronald J. Acosta
Join our
"Celebration of Life"
Gathering

Ronald J. Acosta, age 67, was born in Los Angeles, California, and passed away unexpectedly on April 29, 2024. He got to know the people of Questa by catching rides to and from work. Ronald enjoyed his artwork: the landscapes, the portraits, and enjoyed drawing famous actors. A memorial service has not been scheduled yet. Funeral service will be held on October 10 and burial will be at the Cerro Cemetery at 12:30

followed by a meal at the Monte Carlo Grill. Funeral service will be held on October 10th 2024 burial will be at the Cerro, cemetery at 12:30 followed by a meal at the Monte Carlo. If there's anything that you'd like to change or do just go for it, that's just the information.



Gustavo Vallejos
d. September 2, 2024

Gustavo Vallejos made his journey to meet his Lord and Savior on Monday, September 2, 2024.

Gus was born January 1, 1941 to Pulidor and Ignacia Vallejos of Amalia, NM. In 1964, Gus married the love of his life, Roberta Gallegos, and had three

OBITUARIES

beautiful children, which began his life of legacy and love.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Pulidor and Ignacia; his son Gus Vallejos Jr.; his grandson Ryan Vallejos; siblings Celso Vallejos, Rosalie Chacon, Gabriel Vallejos, and Glenda Ayana-Vallejos.

Gus is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Roberta Vallejos; children Rona (Robert) Blanco, Paul Eric (Lisa) Vallejos and daughter-in-law Lori Vallejos; grandchildren Tracy Schultzy, Carlos Padilla, Kevin Vallejos-Laws, Savannah Padilla, Donhovan Vallejos, Paul Vallejos Jr. and Jacob Vallejos; great-grandchildren, Amadais Vallejos, Leah De La Rosa, Katalaya Schultzy, Matthias De La Rosa, Carlos Padilla Jr. and John Ryan Schultzy; siblings Ernesto (Anita) Vallejos, Becky Aragon, Geneva (Jerry) Pacheco, Laura Vallejos, Mark Vallejos; sister-in-law Marcella Vallejos, and many loving nieces, nephew, family and friends.

Gus worked many different jobs and places in his early years but worked and retired from Moly Corp Mine as an electrician, after 30 years of employment. Gus proudly served his community of Amalia and Ventero as fire chief of the Amalia-Ventero Volunteer Fire Department for 16 years. He was also a very

active member of the RCCLA, serving on the board of directors for 6 years.

One of the greatest things Gus will be remembered for is that he was one of New Mexico's biggest legends in northern New Mexican Spanish music. He paved the way with his music and talent for many other musicians he mentored and taught along the way. His talent was far beyond just singing and playing guitar. Gus was also a music composer and songwriter. His most recognizable songs include Dale Gas and Snapeya Baby, written and recorded by Gus y Gus and the Laser Beam Band in 1979. These were just a few of the many songs out of several records in Gus's long career as a musician. In 2012, the record Lamb's Book of Life was written and recorded by Gus Y Paul, after a vision and dream God had given Gus. This was one of his greatest accomplishments, knowing he was doing what God had truly called him to do. The songs, including Ya No Me Voy a Quedar, Lamb's Book of Life, and Run, Run, Devil were straight from heaven's throne room to Gus's heart.

Services were held at Living Word Ministries in Questa, NM on Saturday, September 14, followed by burial at the Amalia Cemetery in Amalia, NM.

SOCIAL BIRDS cont'd from page 20

from bird-banding stations, sites where scientists capture birds in mist nets, quickly record their information (size, age, species, sex) on an identification band, and release them back into the wild. Five stations across the country gave over 500,000 data records, corresponding to 50 bird species. Researchers began by noting when two different species were captured in the same net, and then accounted for factors like similar habitats and migration routes that would lead to chance encounters. If the same interspecies pairing showed up more frequently than a random encounter would, intentional pairing among different species was considered to be the case.

The researchers didn't record whether these were positive or negative interactions—just because a pairing showed up across multiple nets didn't mean these birds were necessarily working together—they could be in competition with each other. However, author Joely DeSimone was surprised to find that some songbirds, like Nashville and Tennessee Warblers, would intentionally seek each other out and forage for food together. Migration is a dangerous endeavor. Birds need to refuel as quickly and eat as much as possible every time

they land. If they're willing to share these resources with birds of a different species, then that social relationship must be crucial to their survival.

In the abstract of the study, the authors stress that "while interspecies interactions could result in costly competition or beneficial information exchange, we find that relationships are largely positive, suggesting limited competitive exclusion at the scale of a banding station during migratory stopovers." DeSimone is already planning on following up her pioneering study with another that will focus more closely on the nature of these interspecies interactions and how climate change is an influence.

More than showing birds have a capacity for social relationships across species lines, conservationists hope that studies like this will allow for a multi-species approach to conservation. Migrating songbirds make up 80 percent of the 3 billion birds lost since 1970. Jill Deppe, senior director of Audubon's Migratory Bird Initiative, is encouraged by the study. "It gives me hope that we're going to advance our conservation actions at a pace that's warranted by the urgency of the declines we've seen. One species at a time just isn't going to be fast enough to protect these species and bend that bird curve."

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
OCTOBER 2024

SEEKING BALANCE

"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." —Chinese Proverb

As we shift away from the fall equinox when light and dark are balanced, we move into the sign which represents seeking balance, Libra. In this time of extremes, this seems a good idea. After we plant the seed of self-consciousness in the sign of Leo, then grow that seed in the sign of Virgo, becoming more and more conscious of who we REALLY are as opposed to this temporary, material vehicle chosen for this earthly go-round, we then unite our higher and lower selves in the most important partnership of all, the Sacred Marriage in Libra. Within this partnership, we must find the balance of living an earthly life while understanding and manifesting the highest possible part of ourselves, the Divine. This is a time of "weighing up" with the soul and the personality in the balance, hence the need for education. It is about the interplay and relationships of the parts to the whole. We are all parts of the whole.

This is a time of divine unrest, when we have the opportunity to manifest the best or worst of ourselves. Extremes are everywhere, from our global weather to our politics, from the most billionaires ever, to greater numbers of people in poverty, even in our Western, "modern" world. This is the time of Libra, when extremes manifest to find the equilibrium. Libra is the sign of justice, determined only after hearing both sides of a story; of judgment given without prejudice for race, color, gender, or culture. Hence the symbol of the blindfolded judge holding the scales. And it is one of the signs of education; Libra rules books, the stories. We all need to educate ourselves about our neighbors' stories, including the neighbors on the other side of the planet. Hence, Libra is also the sign of silence; only when we are silent can we hear those stories, our own inner partner and the sound of the universe to which we all belong.

Everyone: During these next new moons on October 2 and again on November 1, let's all stop in silence and listen. What can we all, working together, create by full moon?

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: The first half of this month may offer an opportunity to sign documents.

Direction: Read carefully.

Soul Thought: What is discernment?

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: You may end up signing something unexpected.

Direction: Forge a new attachment.

Soul Thought: What is the difference between signing in blood and giving your word?

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – JULY 20

Dynamic: Hopefully your recent actions have brought you new realizations.

Direction: About right relationships.

Soul Thought: Life is one form of education.

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ JULY 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: Things that have been unclear should be crystal now.

Direction: Take full advantage of new awareness.

Soul Thought: "Awareness is the greatest agent for change."
—Eckhart Tolle

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: It is a time for weighing things; ideas, beliefs, values.

Direction: Check whether your scales need adjustment.

Soul Thought: Who is the judge?

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

Dynamic: The play of light and dark in your life is worth observing.

Direction: And reflecting?

Soul Thought: Chiaroscuro.

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: You may be able to break an attachment now.

Direction: Determine if you really want to... now that you can.

Soul Thought: Hmmmmm.

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: You might be feeling more emotional than usual.

Direction: Cut through to the deeper meanings.

Soul Thought: INSIDE, not out there!

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ☷ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: As our days shorten, so you envision something new.

Direction: A time for creation.

Soul Thought: A new you?

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: There's a sense of waiting for something.

Direction: Wait.

Soul Thought: "Let me try and wait for His will in silence."
—Charlotte Bronte

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: You may feel a shift from moving forward to retracing your steps.

Direction: Something communicated to a friend?

Soul Thought: Now what? You know.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: You've seen the light at the top of the mountain.

Direction: Don't give up.

Soul Thought: The view will be worth it, soon.

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

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • OCTOBER 2024

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN OCTOBER!

OCTOBER 2: WED 6 PM
Questa Independent School Board Meeting at QISD Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. #A. For more info: call (575) 586-0421

OCTOBER 6: SUN 10 AM - 5 PM
Questa Cambalache Harvest Festival, live music, traditional food, entertainment, vendors, Farmers Market, Quetta Vigil Commemorative Frito Pie Eating Contest, burning of the Cucui. At the Questa Visitor Center, 1 NM-Hwy 38; for more info call Cynthia (575) 779-9249

OCTOBER 6: SUN 10 AM - 5 PM
Last Questa Farmer's Market of the Season, at the Questa Visitor Center, 1 NM-Hwy 38

OCTOBER 7: MON 6 PM
Questa Economic Development Fund Board Meeting in person at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd, and via Zoom. For a copy of the agenda, Zoom link, and more info, contact Director Skall lynn@questaedf.com or (575) 586-2149

OCTOBER 8: TUE 6 PM
Village of Questa Town Council Meeting at the Questa Village Town Hall, 2500 Old State Rd 3. For agenda: questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda. Info: call (575) 586-0694

OCTOBER 11: FRI 10 AM - 6 PM
19th Annual Oktoberfest at Red River Brandenburg park, 100 E Main St. Experience a stunning mountain backdrop, warm hospitality, and a unique blend of Bavarian and New Mexican culture. Schedule and ticket Info: redriverchamber.org/oktoberfest

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 Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park 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 now! Info: QBB-coordinator@questaEDF.com.

1 - 3 PM
TWIRL STEAM PLAY at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. Join Twirl at Questa Library for a CARDBOARD PLAY DAY! Have you ever wanted to build a fort, a rocket ship, or a doll house that you can take home with you? elementary-aged children and their families, parents and kids learn together as they play, create & explore! Info: email library@villageofquesta.org, or call (575) 586-2023

OCTOBER 12: SAT 10 AM - 6 PM
19th Annual Oktoberfest at Red River Brandenburg park 100 E Main St. Experience a stunning mountain backdrop, warm hospitality, and a unique blend of Bavarian and New Mexican culture. Schedule and ticket Info: redriverchamber.org/oktoberfest

2 PM
Melody Stalians Live Music at Bull O' the Woods Saloon, 401 E Main St., Red River. Info: visit bullothewoods.com/Bull_Events

OCTOBER 13: SUN 10 AM - 6 PM
19th Annual Oktoberfest at Red River Brandenburg park 100 E Main St. Experience a stunning mountain backdrop, warm hospitality, and a unique blend of Bavarian and New Mexican culture. Schedule and ticket Info: redriverchamber.org/oktoberfest

2 PM
Melody Stalians Live Music at Bull O' the Woods Saloon, 401 E Main St., Red River. Info: visit bullothewoods.com/Bull_Events

OCTOBER 16: WED 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Free Workshop: Create Your Website! In person with Ayla Parker, at the Questa Business Bridge, located at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For every level, computers available. To register and for info, email: QBB-Coordinator@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

OCTOBER 23: THU 10 AM - NOON
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting at Questa Public Library, 6-1/2 Municipal Park Road. Free one-on-one business consulting with Anwar Kaelin, Director of the Small Business Development Center. For an appointment and info: email Jessica Trujillo of Questa Business Bridge at QBB-coordinator@questaEDF.com

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

OCTOBER 19: SAT 12 - 5 PM
Roots and Wings Community School Harvest Festival at 35 La Lama Road in Questa. An event for the whole family with arts and crafts, games, raffles, live music, and refreshments. Info: (575) 586-2076

2 - 4 PM
Self-Massage Roller with Monique Parker at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. If you have chronically tight muscles and/or want to gently strengthen your core, this 2-hour introductory workshop offers a simple, effective, and inexpensive self-care tool. Bring your own 3' x 6" foam roller or purchase one at Yoga Sala. \$25-\$35 sliding scale for workshop. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

OCTOBER 22: 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: call (575) 586-0694

OCTOBER 23: WED 11 AM - 12:30 PM
Free Workshop: The Basics of Starting a Business with SBDC Director, Anwar Kaelin and Christopher Garcia. Hybrid; in person at the Questa Business Bridge, located at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road, and virtual. What every person should know before starting a business. To register and for info email: QBB-Coordinator@questaedf.com

OCTOBER 25: 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

OCTOBER 26: SAT 5 - 7 PM
FALL RIVER FEST at River Community Church, 65 S. Kiowa Rd. Fun night of food, carnival games, music, prizes, and hayrides for the whole family! Info: email Jesse or Rachel Hardy of River Community Church at Rachel@rccquesta.org, visit rccquesta.org, or call (281) 732-8263

5 - 8 PM
Orin Swift Paired Wine Dinner Experience by Chef Bila Conchas & Bistro at The Bistro at Red River, 201 West Main Street. Join us for a night of indulgence at the 4 Course Paired Orin Swift Wine Dinner Experience as we celebrate Winmonath aka Wine Month. Info: eventbrite.com/e/orin-swift-paired-wine-dinner-experience-by-chef-bila-conchas-bistro-tickets-1023088915487

OCTOBER 30: WED 5:30-7:30 PM
Free Workshop: Resume Writing 101 in person with Paula Romo of the New Mexico Workforce Connections. At the Questa Business Bridge, located at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. To register and for more information email: QBB-Coordinator@questaedf.com

OCTOBER 31: THUR
 Happy Halloween!

NOVEMBER 1: FRI 3 - 6 PM
Trunk or Treat at Questa Business Park, 3638 State Highway 522. Come join a safe, free family-friendly event hosted by the Village of Questa. Info: villageofquesta.org, or email vvigil@villageofquesta.org

Weekly Events

SUNDAY

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

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! 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: 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

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

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 at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522. With Gaea, 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. With Gaea, in person only, \$8. 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

THURSDAY

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

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 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

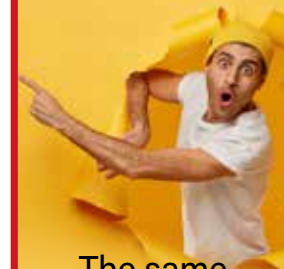
10 AM
Free Community Qigong at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa, in person only. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

7 - 9 PM
Weekly Recovery Program sponsored by Living Word Ministries, location in Taos to be announced. New Thirst Christ Centered Recovery Program offered weekly on Friday Evenings. Info: visit taoschamber.com/events/details/weekly-recovery-program-10-04-2024-22738

SATURDAY

9 AM
Free Community Tai Chi with Reto at Yoga Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa, in person only, free. Info: visit yogasalaquesta.org

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>

Artist Reception: October 12-Saturday 4-6 pm

Our LIVE LOVE LAUGH columnist Ellen Wood is one of the featured artists in the curated show at Magpie in Taos for Octogenerians. The Artists' Reception is Saturday, October 12 from 4 to 6 pm.

You're invited.



CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Caregiver for Parkinson's Disease patient in Questa area. Help with daily tasks, meds assistance, toileting, etc. M-F, 4-6 hr shifts, to start immediately, fewer days or hours okay. Two references-driver's license-certification (if any) required. Negotiable pay, depending on experience and/or certification. Call Jonathan (575)613-5844; heartsoundsmusic2@gmail.com

Questa del Rio News has a job opening for a Grant Writer/Development Manager. This position will be responsible to researching, writing, and submitting grants on a regular basis while building relationships with funder foundations and organizations. This position will also require establishing and building relationships with private donors. In addition to grants, the role will be responsible for setting monthly sales goals for two sales associates, while providing coaching and supporting throughout the month, to include creating invoices and collecting outstanding invoices on ads sold. Additionally, this role will lead an annual fundraiser on behalf of the newspaper. If you're interested, please email Mikayla Ortega at editor@questanews.com

Legal Notice

C&M Self Storage LLC. Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to the New Mexico Self-Storage Lien Act (48-11-1 to 48-11-9 NMSA 1978) to satisfy the lien of the owner. C&M Self Storage LLC 32 Sagebrush Rd, will be selling the following Unit(s) to satisfy the Owner(s) Lien in a Public Sale. Sale is to be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday October 24th, 2024. Auction will be held via in person through an auctioneer. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details. The Owner(s) reserve the right to ask for a minimum bid. UNIT: A06, 033, 080, 022 Suzanne Stanford 8601 W Hwy 290 Unit 44 Brenham TX,

Notices

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

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.

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 slvna.org or call (719) 657-7076.

North Central New Mexico Food Pantry: Second and fourth Fridays, 10 a.m. – noon at 140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. If you need an emergency

food box or other information, please call: Jeannie Masters (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194, or Nancy Parker (575) 586-2096 or (505) 699-7563. To make a donation, go to ncfpquesta.com or mail to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com. If you would like to volunteer, please call Jeannie (numbers above).

Questa One-on-One In-Person Business Counseling with Director of the Small Business Development Center at UNM-Taos Anwar Kaelin. FREE and CONFIDENTIAL offered on the third Thursday of every month, 10 a.m. to noon at the Business Bridge at the Questa Public Library. 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

POEM
OF THE MONTH

Halloween

Ghouls, goblins, and spirits galore,
A black cat sitting at the back door.

Witches stirring a thick herbal brew,
Full moon glowing all night through.

Pumpkins grinning a wicked glare,
Sheets floating over a crisp fall air.

A painted face or a scary mask,
An empty house with a haunted past.

The last harvest is stored away,
Winter frost will be here to stay.

One more thing there is to be done
Trick or Treat for candy—hurry run!

—Señor Miguel / Ghost Writer

CHURCH DIRECTORY

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH
Father Andrew Ifele (575) 586-0470
Sunday 8 a.m. only.

MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:
Costilla - Sagrado Corazon - Sunday 9 a.m.
Cerro - Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe - 2nd & 4th Saturdays 4 p.m.
Amalia - Santo Niño - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 p.m.

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

LIVING WORD MINISTRIES
Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez
12 Llano Road, Questa
Service: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Nursery and Kids' Church at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
www.lwmsite.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 oeaohoo17@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

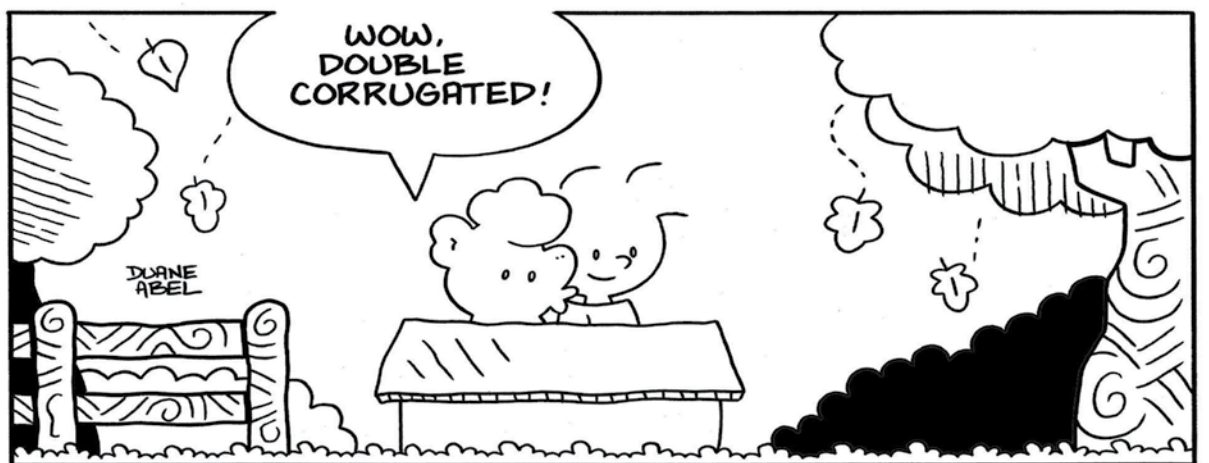
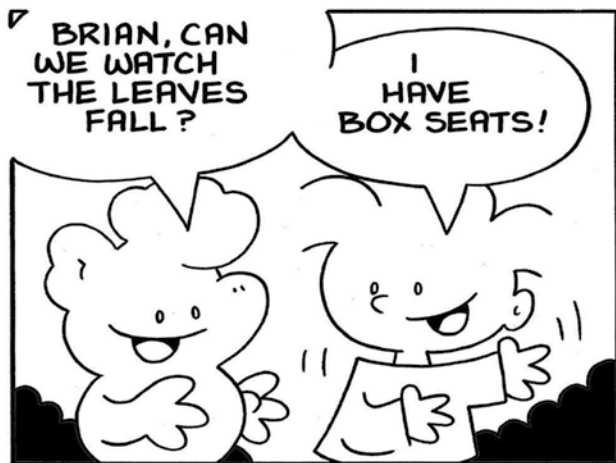


AA MEETINGS
Honesty, Unselfishness,
Purity and Love.

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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zed by duane m. abel

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY



***fall session
Oct. 10-Nov. 21**
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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 Localogy 501(c)(3)

QFM
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[i](#) [f](#)

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