



Questa del Rio News

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Questa Youth Grapple With More Devastation and Loss

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

On Sunday, August 18, Questa felt resounding devastation as news spread of the untimely death of 15-year-old Questa High School Sophomore Amarissa "Missa" Cintas.

Amarissa was a daughter, granddaughter, niece, tia, sister, and best friend. She was a team manager for the Questa Wildcat Cheer team and adored her 1-year-old nephew Ayden.

Questa continues to grapple with grief and devastation, just one year following the death of 13-year-old Amber Archuleta, Missa's cousin who was killed on July 28, 2023.

Social media posts circulated, ranging from community leaders to local non-profit groups sharing condolences and support for the local community. Vida del Norte Coalition posted on Facebook, which read in part, "Vida del Norte is committed to helping support our youth in their time of need and sorrow. We will do whatever is asked of us and whatever the kids ask of us. We are asking our community to open their hearts and minds and understand that our children are hurting."

Questa Mayor John Ortega shared "I am saddened by the losses our community has had in the last couple of weeks, but deeply saddened for the loss of a youth in



Courtesy Photo

Amarissa Cintas

our community. Please pray for the family of this young lady. Please pray for our first responders as well."

Rosie Turpin from Rosie's Smokehouse offered students a supportive space to enjoy free coffee and cinnamon rolls for the community on their first day back to school after this tragedy occurred.

The Questa Independent School District expressed sorrow while showing support for their students. The district posted, "we are saddened about a recent loss to our school community. This loss is

sure to raise many emotions, concerns, and questions for our entire school, especially our students. Questa ISD has a School Crisis Team made up of professionals trained to help with the needs of students, parents/caregivers, and school staff at difficult times such as this. We have counselors available for any student who may need or want help or any type of assistance surrounding this loss. We encourage you, as parents/caregivers, to also feel free to use our resources."

Nothing can bring back Missa Cintas, nor can any words change the tragedy which took place on that Sunday in the small village of Questa.

Now, all that's left is looking at what CAN be done.

As a community, together we can give our youth safe spaces to feel heard, seen, and understood. We can allow them to feel sadness, anger, grief, and anxiety. Together, we can show them that they are safe and can learn how to process their emotions without fear of embarrassment, retribution, and repercussions. Our children need us to allow them to be kids, giving them space to make mistakes, space for support, and space for vulnerability while we remain their anchor in unconditional support and love.

If you need support and are in crisis, dial 988 or visit 988lifeline.org to chat with a trained professional.

Repeated Mudslides Shut Down Hwy 38 Between Red River and Questa for Several Hours

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

In August, there were approximately four separate mudslides on NM Highway 38 between Questa and Red River which shut down the road for several hours, making travel from Questa to Red River impossible. Heavy rain in the days leading up to and on the days of the mudslides were the leading cause of the repeated incidents.

On August 7, the first reported mudslide that shut down the road occurred



Photo courtesy Elyse Yarbrough

around 3:30 p.m. near mile marker 9. The road remained closed through 6:30 p.m. as NMDOT worked to clear the debris. No injuries were reported in this incident.

A few days later, on August 11, another mudslide was reported around 3 p.m. between mile marker 8 and 10, the same approximate area as the slide on August 7. Upon speaking with dispatch, the *Questa del Rio News* discovered that three

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Questa del Rio News

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Cultures Merge In Red River

By Contributing Writer
YORDANA KURHANEVYCH

Businesses in Red River often work with the Department of State to bring college and university students from overseas to work here during the busy summer season. Yordana Kurhanevych is a Ukraine national currently working in Red River at Yesterday's Diner.

As I was preparing to move to America from Ukraine, one of my biggest concerns was who I might be living with. The first person I met was **Katya Herasymchuk**, also from Ukraine, who is studying Japanese philology, the study of language in oral and written historical sources. "Adapting to life in a new country has been quite smooth. My hometown is Kherson, one of the most war-stricken and devastated cities in Ukraine. I no longer miss Ukraine, as returning there seems frightening. The only thing that worries me is my mother, who still lives in the dangerous city," she says. "I like the climate here. It reminds me of Lithuania, where I lived. The spicy seasonings: I'm not used to. The most memorable experience so far was a horseback riding trip in the mountains. The natural beauty is simply breathtaking. And interacting with Americans is also enjoyable. The brief "small talk" conversations I have with others add positivity to my day, and shows the friendliness of people here.

Angelica Lucero is a senior at New Mexico State studying Elementary Education: My grandma is the owner of Yesterday's Diner. This summer I came to help and knew I would be training foreigners but what I didn't know is that I would make lifelong best friends in just two months! There was a lot for them to learn before I returned to school, but each day these girls came in eager and ready to work. They are now able to run the front of the Diner themselves. After exhausting days at work we all ate dinner together every night, went for walks and confided in one another during hard times. I can't imagine coming to a new country not knowing anyone, learning a new menu, new culture, all while still learn-

ing English! When we all went to watch fireworks in Eagle Nest for the Fourth of July I noticed the girls seemed nervous. Of course they hear loud noises like this every day, but not as a celebration. I just remember silently thinking how proud I was of them. They opened my eyes and helped me realize how blessed and truly lucky I am."

Tatyana Voronko is a student of Chinese philology from Ukraine: "My adaptation to America began with euphoria and excitement—everything seemed like a fairy tale at first. However, life in America is quite different from what's portrayed in TV shows. The difficulty was in being far from my parents and starting to feel responsibility for my own life. In the beginning, I had a strong desire to return home. But now, everything is going well. My parents—my father is a military officer and my mother is a doctor—are doing incredible work for Ukraine, and I am endlessly grateful to them for the opportunity to come here. The most memorable experience was when we rode in golf carts and took the ski lift up the mountain. Recently, we started interacting with students from China, Colombia, and Moldova. It's incredibly interesting to learn about other cultures and make friends from around the world."

Zhanelya Azimkhan is a graduate student from Kazakhstan. "When I set off on my journey, I dreamed of a larger city, but fate put me in the small town of Red River. At first, this seemed like a drawback, but over time, I realized it was great for my personal development. Angie [Lucero] helped us navigate American realities, taught us slang, and shared various customs. We communicated only in English, which greatly expanded my vocabulary and language skills. Adapting to new foods was also challenging. I was used to soups and salads, whereas spicy food with chili is popular here. Initially, I didn't like it, but over time, I grew fond of chili and want to bring recipes to Kazakhstan. I overcame my fear of water and had

CULTURES cont'd on page 3

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

AEDON HANNON, ASSOCIATED PRESS, BARBARA TRACY, BEN LEGLER, BRITTANY MAES, BRYCE FLANAGAN, CHARLENE R. JOHNSON, DANESSA GONZALES, DAWN PROVENCHER, DUANE ABEL, ELLEN WOOD, ELYSE YARBROUGH, GERALD D. CARR, GHOST WRITER MIGUEL, J. ORTEGA, JAMES ARCINIEGA, JENNIFER VIALPANDO, JOCELYNE ORTEGA, LARRY SALAZAR, LINDSEY DICKENS ROESSLER, MARTA GLOVER, MELLIE RODRIGUEZ, NASH JONES, PEGGY TRIGG, QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL, SANGRE DE CRISTO VALLEY MARKET, SHARON NICHOLSON, TERESA DOVALPAGE, TRACY PARK, TONER MITCHELL, YORDANA KURHA

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mudslides in total had occurred, causing widespread rocks, mud, and debris to shut down the road for several hours. At approximately 5:30 p.m., officials worked to clear one lane, allowing traffic to alternate east and west to pass.

Mudslides between Red River and Questa are not uncommon. While thankfully, no injuries were reported in any of the August incidents, many locals and tourists were inconvenienced by the road closures each time.

We reached out to the NMDOT to ask if any upgrades or mitigation efforts are planned for this stretch of road to

prevent and limit future impacts to travelers. Public Information Officer Jim Murray of NMDOT District 5 said, "at present, we do not have anything in our long-range plans regarding NM Highway 38. We will continue to respond to clear the road whenever these events occur."

According to Ready.gov, if you're traveling in an area prone to landslide activity, especially during rainy, wet weather, it's important to remain alert and vigilant. Keep watch for any change in the landscape such as moving trees or boulders moving into the roadway. If you see an active mudslide in progress, do not attempt to pass the area. Stop and turn around, leaving as quickly as possible.



Photo courtesy Jennifer Vialpando

CULTURES cont'd from page 2

a great time rafting. Spotting a bear's den in the mountains was another highlight. I am amazed by how many animals roam freely in Red River, especially the deer that approach people and eat from their hands. It was also incredible to see the world's smallest bird—the hummingbird. I thought living with students from different countries would be challenging due to different mentalities and traditions, but it turned out to be very enjoyable. We share experiences and learn a lot about other countries. It truly broadens one's world view. What once seemed like fantasy is now part of my everyday life."

But this isn't our entire team. Later, two guys from Turkey joined us. They quickly blended into the team, and it felt like we had known each other for a long time.

Jan Huseyin Karabag is a medical engineering student: "When I was preparing to move to the United States, I was overwhelmed with anxious thoughts. All my acquaintances in Turkey warned me that adaptation would be tough and interacting with Americans would be difficult and risky. I was intimidated by unfamiliar people, a foreign culture, and the uncertainty that awaited me. But everything changed as soon as I set foot on American soil. My first impression was overwhelm-

ing: everyone around me was friendly, and this was not limited to Americans. People here are always apologizing and thanking—that was a true cultural shock for me. Such politeness is not common in Turkey, so it initially surprised me. Everyone around was so welcoming that I quickly felt at home. Life turned out to be simple and pleasant, and I didn't feel any nostalgia for Turkey. The only thing I really missed was Turkish coffee and the sea. For us, coffee is not just a drink; it's a whole culture. My foreign friends quickly grew fond of Turkish coffee, but unfortunately, our supply ran out. The only difficulty was the climate. It was much colder in Red River than in my hometown. During the first nights, I was freezing, but as soon as I mentioned it to my employer, she immediately gave me a heater. This was another confirmation that I am accepted here, and it was incredibly reassuring. Initially, food was also challenging. I even lost a few kilograms. In Turkey, we are used to having bread almost at every meal, but it's not as popular here. However, over time, I got used to the new food and now feel great. My life in America is truly eventful. Especially memorable was our trip to Santa Fe. We visited a church, saw many new places, ate delicious food, and even explored a canyon. It was unforgettable. We spent a lot of time together, laughing and talking. I have grown to genuinely



Courtesy Photo

Yordana and friends on a day adventuring out in Red River

love my new friends; being with them feels very comfortable. Now, thinking about returning home fills me with sadness, as leaving this city and these people who have become like family to me will be hard. America has changed me, and I will never forget this experience."

Arda Hakhtan Bahar is a pilot student: "Adapting to life in the US wasn't too difficult for me, thanks to my family's support. Many of my relatives have settled here for a long time, and they prepared me in advance for the changes I would face. I received numerous tips about local specifics, which helped reduce the stress of moving. However, despite all the preparation, some difficulties remained. The biggest challenge for me is food. I really miss

Turkish delicacies—the aroma of spices filling the kitchen and the homemade dishes I'm used to. I also miss Turkey as a whole—my loved ones who stayed there, my old friends with whom I spent a lot of time. The climate here also poses some challenges. I'm used to warm and even hot weather typical of my hometown. Here, everything is quite different: cold, rainy days have been a real test for me. I miss sunny days and the warmth I'm accustomed to feeling on my skin. My work is challenging, but I enjoy it. Moreover, my time outside work also brings much joy. My colleagues have become not only work partners but also friends. We often spend time together exploring the area and engaging in various activities. We've tried many new activities for me: rafting, which was a real test and an exhilarating experience, riding the lift to explore mountains and landscapes from above, and even enjoying horseback rides. Each day brings new impressions and adventures, helping to alleviate homesickness and distract me from nostalgia. Every new activity, new place, and new acquaintance makes life more interesting and helps me better integrate into this new environment."

Yes, we are all different, from various corners of the world, with different characters, lifestyles, and worldviews. But now we are all here, and we have managed to become a small, close-knit family.

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

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Questa Business Bridge Offers Resources For Your Business

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Getting your business off the ground—or to the next level—can be a daunting task, but the newly established Questa Business Bridge can help you. It provides a wealth of information and many resources for both existing and startup businesses within the Questa community and surrounding areas. Initially funded with a state grant through the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF), the Questa Business Bridge (QBB) is dedicated to empowering the greater Questa community by connecting businesses and entrepreneurs to essential workspaces, business resources, professional services, and development opportunities.

The grand opening on August 21, with ribbon cutting and prizes, found many locals in attendance. It was ceremonially launched by Questa Mayor John Ortega and QEDF Chair Malaquias Rael at the Questa Public Library.

QEDF Director Lynn Skall organized and facilitated the event, with the aid of Emily Wilde of QEDF, and Business Bridge Coordinator Jessica Trujillo. A number of individuals walked away with Questa gift bags, swag from the Questa Credit Union, and one lucky person won the grand prize of \$100 in cash, all of which were raffled during the event. Questa's newest restaurant, Rosie's Smokehouse, provided scrumptious barbeque sliders and her famous homemade pickles; Wendy Medina of Evelyn's Treats made a cake worthy of the grand opening.

Over a dozen business resource partner organizations were in attendance, ready to discuss their business support services and distribute information to interested community members. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) was represented; their focus is to provide business consulting, information, and business training to new and emerging businesses. The SBDC also offers the New Mexico APEX Accelerator, which provides education and training on how to become a federal, state, or local government contractor. And did you know that a represen-



Photo by E. Wilde

Questa Business Bridge grand opening ribbon cutting, Aug 21, 2024. Pictured from left: Katrina Gonzales, Louise Gallegos, Brent Jaramillo, Mayor John Ortega, Malaquias Rael, Jessica Trujillo, and Lynn Skall



Photos by E. Wilde

Pictured are various raffle winners, Questa Public Library staff, Questa Business Bridge and QEDF personnel, participating vendors, government representatives and attendees. A very well-attended event indeed.

tative of the SBDC already regularly comes to Questa, on the third Thursday of each month, to provide one-on-one confidential business coaching?

The Questa Credit Union was also represented, and they are planning to offer small business loans in the new year as well as financial planning courses.

The New Mexico Small Business Association (NMSBA) assists for-profit businesses with access to experts at Los Alamos National Laboratories and Sandia National Labs. These experts can help

you gain knowledge and solve challenges utilizing the labs' cutting-edge technologies. For example, business owners are able to seek out technical experts and scientists to help improve their business model in terms of consistency, efficiency, standardization, and more. Technical Project Manager Megan Zipperian stated, "There's not a business we can't help out if we're creative enough."

If your business is in need of a micro-grant, the Regional Development Corporation (RDC) offers no-interest

loans and grants to for-profit rural and tribal-member-owned small businesses. The RDC partners with institutes of higher education to identify employer needs, then works with them to develop courses to create a well-trained workforce.

Representatives from the University of New Mexico were present and provided information on both associate degree and certification programs in Taos.

Taos HIVE (Hub of Internet-Based Vocation and Education) opened its doors in 2021 and is founded on three principles: education, entrepreneurship, and engagement. Taos HIVE offers free business coaching as well as help with brand development, social media strategies, email marketing, and business development. The HIVE STEMartsLAB empowers youth through art, science, and technology to prepare them for the 21st-century workplace. Director and Business Coach Rose Reza was excited to announce that a free HIVE-sponsored Youth Coding League is taking place in Questa this semester for youth in grades 5 and 6.

How is all of this applicable to you and your business? Say you are a business owner with a retail shop in the Questa area and you want to know how to make online ordering possible to reach more people via social media. The QBB can help with that by bringing that training to Questa through a resource such as Taos HIVE.

Or maybe you have an idea for a restaurant in Questa and are wondering how to get started with a solid business plan. The SBDC can help you right here in your own community.

Maybe you are currently a business owner and need a meeting spot outside your workplace or need help with training for your employees... the QBB at the QPL is now your spot for these resources.

The unique part of the QBB is the opportunity for local training and classes for entrepreneurs that's close to home. At our library, the QBB also offers commercial-grade printing capabilities, faxing and scanning, a touch-screen presentation board, and two new desktop computers for use by business owners and residents. The new Business Bridge is a multifaceted resource Questa has never had before—and these services are offered at no cost, with the exception of a nominal fee for printing and copying.

All you need to do is take that first step and have your idea become more than just an idea!

For more information on the Questa Business Bridge, or to request a workshop topic for a business need, please contact Jessica Trujillo at QBB-Coordinator@questaEDF.com.



Supporting Free School Supplies And Other Questa Projects

It's been more than a year-and-a-half since Maria Gonzalez joined the LOR Foundation as its Questa community officer, and in that time she has helped dozens of Questa locals get their projects off the ground. One recent example: In July, Pastor Gayle Martinez of Living Word Ministries led an effort to distrib-

ute school supplies to dozens of Questa students and families before the start of the school year.

At the July 28 event at the Questa Farmers Market, students received free backpacks, pencil boxes, notebooks, pens, and other supplies funded by LOR, as well as free haircuts. The goal of the giveaway, Martinez says, was to support local students and families and help them get off to a strong start to the school year.

"There's been a consistent, demonstrated need," she says. "And I think for us, just when we see so many of these grandparents raising their grandchildren and knowing their financial situations, it was like, 'What can we do to help?'"

Here at the LOR Foundation we're also in the business of helping. We support Questa locals like Martinez who want to make a difference for their community. In her time as LOR's Questa community officer, Gonzalez has fielded

many questions about what LOR does and how we work in the community. Because we work in a unique way, we thought it might be helpful to quickly revisit how we support the Questa community.

At LOR, our mission is to lend a hand to locals who are making life better for Questa residents. We do that by funding community projects that locals come up with, and then lead. The projects we support can be related to housing, transportation, water, health, education, community engagement, the environment, and the economy.

As you look around Questa, you might have noticed that the projects we support aren't enormous. We support many small projects that can have an immediate impact because we believe that many small actions can create lasting change. We also believe philanthropy should be easy and accessible to everyone, which is why we don't have lengthy

grant applications, deadlines, or long waits to receive a check—all of which can be barriers to people who have great ideas. Gonzalez works directly with Questa locals to home in on their specific solutions—sometimes over coffee or a cheeseburger, or just a walk—and often grantees receive funds within just a couple of weeks.

"Questa locals know what our community needs and they're ready to take action," Gonzalez says. "We want to lend a hand and help them create the future they want for our community."

Each Questa community project begins with a simple conversation. To learn more about LOR and share your idea, get in touch with Gonzalez at maria@lorfoundation.org or (575) 665-2001.

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

Mini-Grants Available for Educators in Taos County

By STAFF WRITERS

The Taos Community Foundation announced that they are providing mini-grants for educators in Taos County and western Colfax County.

The application period is between August 12 and September 16. The grant will close promptly at 5 p.m. on the 16th. The grants will be awarded in early November of this year.

The foundation says they have streamlined the application process, making it easier for educators to submit their grant proposals.

Any school personnel who work directly with students—teachers, counselors, librarians, and other school personnel are eligible to apply for grants up to \$200.

The scope of funding is intended for educational projects. Proposals for operational or capital expenses will not be considered.

To apply go to taoscf.org/grants.



Town of Red River Introduces Business Retention and Expansion Program

By STAFF WRITERS

The Town of Red River Office of Economic Development and Tourism launched a Business Retention and Expansion program in August. The program is designed to provide tailored support to existing businesses within the community and foster overall economic growth, creating a supportive ecosystem that enables businesses to flourish and expand.

Red River currently has 205 registered businesses in town.

"This program is a testament to our commitment to nurturing the growth and success of our local businesses," said Director of Economic Development and Tourism Max Khudiakov. "By focusing on retention and expansion strategies, we aim to create a thriving business environment that will benefit both our local economy and the community as a whole."

The Business Retention and



Expansion program aims to support businesses within the Town of Red River by fostering connections with a network of partners, providing valuable resources and information on various small business assistance programs, as well as offering guidance on strategies for sustainable growth. Khudiakov remarked, "Our goal is to empower our existing businesses with the resources and tools they need to thrive, while also paving the way for future expansion and success."

The personalized assistance for local businesses could include helping them to expand their operations, enter new

markets, or enhance their overall competitiveness. By leveraging partnerships with industry experts and government agencies, the Town aims to provide businesses with the necessary support and guidance to navigate through various challenges and capitalize on growth opportunities.

In the coming months, the Business Retention and Expansion program will roll out a series of workshops, seminars, and one-on-one consultations designed to equip local businesses with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in an ever evolving economic landscape.

For more information about the Town of Red River Office of Economic Development and Tourism's Business Retention and Expansion program, you can contact Max Khudiakov, Director of Economic Development & Tourism for the Town of Red River at mkhudiakov@redriver.org or (575) 754-1708.

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Lawmakers Approve a “Historic” Investment in Affordable Housing

By PATRICK LOHMANN,
THE SOURCE

A key part of what state lawmakers called a “historic” investment in affordable housing will take a major step forward in September, when applications open for what will ultimately be \$125 million in loans to develop middle-income housing and affordable housing infrastructure.

An interim legislative committee Monday approved rules for administering a new revolving loan program to boost the state’s housing supply. Up to \$30 million in low-interest loans will be available to applicants, largely private and nonprofit developers, when the first round of loans opens up in early September.

The loan program is overseen by staff from the New Mexico Finance Authority and approved by a newly created board, which includes members appointed by the governor, commercial developers, and others.

Lawmakers approved the loan program in February, part of what they touted as the biggest one-time investment in housing in state history. In total, the Legislature approved about \$200 million in one-time spending, including \$20 million on homelessness initiatives

and \$50 million for the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, which was recently rebranded as Housing New Mexico.

The loan program is spurring development of “workforce housing,” which authority officials say is housing for those who make too much income to qualify for federal or state housing aid but too little to afford anything in the current hot housing market.

The program also seeks to subsidize infrastructure projects that would support new affordable housing development, which are projects that qualify for state and federal subsidies.

Taken together, the two goals of the loan program are to complement existing programs by various local and state housing agencies and Housing New Mexico, which oversees numerous programs for low-income renters and prospective homebuyers.

Point system defined for applicants

The rules and a related policy guide describe a 100-point system that will reward applicants whose projects are in rural areas, use local developers, are close to amenities and transportation, are affordable, and have more than 65 percent of the project costs covered by the entity seeking a loan.

Under the guidelines, up to 40 points could be awarded for projects that demonstrate they meet a community need, use inclusive design techniques, or use local apprenticeship programs and developers.

Up to 25 points can be awarded for projects that use the funding efficiently, pay it back quickly, and keep costs low.

Applicants seeking funding for a project that spends more than \$100,000 per dwelling unit won’t receive any points, for example.

A maximum of 15 points would be awarded for projects that are ready to be built quickly and successfully, showing a “high potential for success based on financial feasibility,” and having an experienced development team in place.

Finally, up to 20 points could be awarded for projects that demonstrate local governments have bought in through zoning reforms and flexible land use regulations. “Development of attainable housing is frequently hindered by and made more costly by local government regulations,” the guidelines note.

The loans will be 60 percent of the Wall Street Journal prime rate on the day they are issued. The current rate is 8.5 percent, so such a loan given today

would be 5.1 percent.

Loans to be capped at \$15M

Marquita Russel, CEO of the Mortgage Finance Authority, told the legislative committee Monday that the staff who developed the guidelines tried to tailor the policy even more narrowly, identifying specific gaps for funding prioritization, including locations in New Mexico where such housing projects were highly needed, whether they should be for infrastructure or development, whether they should be multi-family or single-family, and other factors.

“Ultimately, there wasn’t enough statewide data to really support that kind of prioritization,” she said. “So they couldn’t decide where there were gaps, because the data is inconsistent or in some instances just missing.”

Still, recent studies show New Mexico is experiencing a housing affordability crisis. A report late last month by Housing New Mexico found monthly rent increased by nearly 17 percent since 2018, and 28 percent of homeowners spend roughly a third or more of their incomes on mortgages. Also, homelessness in

HOUSING cont’d on page 11



Exploring Unique Homes

What makes New Mexico different? Many people come to New Mexico to see the natural history preserved by the dry desert—from the high mountains formed by the very volcanoes that are in them (Valle Caldera) to the low plains, where you can still find trails forged by the wagons that explored the west. Maybe it’s the adobe-style buildings and homes used by generations of families

that have proven to be a timestamp in history.

In northern New Mexico, we have another reason for people to come and visit: the Earthship community just outside of Taos, New Mexico. In the last article we touched on the history of New Mexico-style homes and how they have come about. In this month’s article I am going to talk about Earthship-style homes.

Architect Michael Reynolds has been creating off-grid homes for over 50 years. These Earthships are built by using worn-out tires, bottles, and aluminum cans to build structures unlike what most people had ever seen before. This style of home has been taking off in the last decade. It started as just a few homes being built and then something happened—more and more people became intrigued with this style of home.

Earthships use the land features and adobe style in a new form. They start by building the back walls of the

home, stacking tires in a brick pattern, then the tires are filled with compacted dirt. The walls are mainly built from cans and bottles being held in place by adobe; windows are added on the south side of the homes. The windows help capture the sun’s natural heat in winter, and the back wall built with tires and soil helps keep the heat inside. This off-grid living uses solar and wind power exclusively. Throughout the home there are ventilation systems to help regulate temperature, allowing airflow in or out of the home. Building an Earthship-style home is a great way to embrace recycling and can help keep things out of the landfill. It costs \$225 per square foot to have an Earthship built. It also may take you up to two years to build your own Earthship.

Keep in mind that if you are looking to sell an Earthship-style home, they tend to take longer to sell.

What else makes Earthship homes unique is that many feature exotic plants

like bananas and avocado trees and grapevines (not always found in northern New Mexico!). The idea is to grow the foods you love inside to provide fully sustainable living. Some have calming fountains that embody the solitude that northern New Mexico has to offer and other Earthship water features include coy ponds throughout. One of these Earthships even landed a spot on Netflix. Many are on Airbnb and have been rented out for their unique qualities.

Be sure to take a drive around and view the many styles of homes that northern New Mexico has to offer. From the German-style homes in the Taos Ski Valley, the adobe/pueblo style homes scattered throughout Taos County, and the Earthships—just 15 miles west of Taos.

Be sure to look for me to help give friendly suggestions and prices on the current market. I am happy to help you find your unique home.

Event Planning 101: Tips for Planning a Successful Event

By contributing writer
DANESSA GONZALES

Questa del Rio News is always looking for new ways to help readers gain helpful and insightful information, which will ultimately improve their lives. In that vein, we are working with Danessa Gonzales, a successful event planning business owner and Questa native, to provide quarterly columns, giving her expertise to help you when it comes to event planning. This is her first column.

As someone who was unsure of her future, and being surrounded by seemingly perfect older sisters, I was constantly worried about falling short. Fast forward to today, I have evolved into a celebrated event planner with a thriving business. I invite you to join me on a journey through the world of event planning. From the lessons learned in the hospitality industry to the challenges of starting a business, my column will offer insights, stories, and tips to inspire and guide you in creating unforgettable

events. Welcome to a behind-the-scenes look at the life of an event planner who turned uncertainty into a celebrated career!

In college, I bounced around from Business classes to art classes, both at Central New Mexico Community College and the University of New Mexico. It was in one of my elective classes—Event Planning—where I became intrigued with the subject. In 2010, I had my son Devin. It was around this time when I realized how much I missed home, while living in Washington, and how important it was to raise Devin around our families, rooted deep in traditions, beliefs, and culture.

In 2012, we moved back home to Questa with my parents. That same year, I started working at El Monte Sagrado in Taos. I worked in the front office, which taught me the most about customer service. I also had the opportunity to work with banquets, and weddings were always, always my favorite.

In 2015, Devin and I moved to

Albuquerque, where I worked at Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town, then the Hyatt Regency Tamaya in Santa Ana Pueblo. It was at the Tamaya where I was introduced to even more internal jobs in a resort. I'm reluctant to admit, I applied for an event assistant job and did not get it! Which I suppose is what catapulted me to where I am today. I see it as a blessing now.

While working at Calvert Menicucci P. C. as an office assistant, I learned that the contrast between the structured environment of a law firm and the vibrant world of a hotel was striking. When I expressed this to my bosses, Mike Menucucci and Sean Calvert, they suggested I start my own company, while still maintaining my position at the firm. Inspired by my dad, who owned a construction company, Black Bow Events, LLC, was born in March 2017, with significant support from my workplace. My friend Kayla helped me come up with the name. In the same year I started, I won "Best New Business" and "Best Styled

Shoot Decor" from ABQ Bride magazine. In the following years, I received consecutive awards for "Best Wedding Coordinators" from Wedding Collective New Mexico and, in 2021, "Best of the City" by Albuquerque's The Magazine.

These awards mean a lot to me, because my work is about more than planning weddings; it's about showcasing cultures, traditions, and curating detailed experiences. That's what my job is to me.

During this time, I learned firsthand what clients wanted in rentals and what was lacking locally. I realized that expanding into rentals was a natural step. I founded White Tie Decor, LLC, in 2019, and moved into a charming 400-sq.-ft. office in downtown Albuquerque's Edo neighborhood, which I treated like a Macy's display window. I was even given the opportunity to film a movie at my office, in which I decorated and oversaw the polishing touches on set. I was listed

EVENT PLANNING cont'd on page 11

Taos County Lodger's Tax Grant Program Approves over \$288K in Funding

By STAFF WRITERS

This summer, the Taos County Board of Commissioners approved 21 funding recommendations made by the Taos County Lodger's Tax Advisory Board (LTAB) in the amount of \$288,319.

The mission of the Taos County Lodger's Tax Grant program is to support tourist-related facilities, attractions, and events within Taos County by investing in funding proposals that use advertising, publicizing, and promotion to enhance the lives and journeys of locals and visitors alike; and that highlight the uniqueness of Taos County's culture, heritage, innovation, and diversity.

By state statute, funds are only available for advertising, publicizing and promotion of tourist-related events, facilities and attractions, and are made on a reimbursement basis.

The LTAB scores applications based on five major goal areas including: encouraging reciprocity between local residents and tourists, preserving the culture and heritage of Taos County, using innovation and creativity in promo-

tional strategies, and striking a balance of in- and out-of-county promotions.

"These investments of Lodger's Tax funds reflect support for a broad range of activities and facilities across Taos County that support both our residents and provide positive experiences for visitors. We are grateful to the Lodger's Tax Advisory Board for their due diligence and to the grantees for making Taos County a great place to live, work, and visit," said County Manager Brent Jaramillo.

Groups seeking reimbursement for funds they spend may apply during one of two application cycles per year. The next open application cycle is August 19 through September 15, 2024, via the TCLTGP online portal.

For the upcoming application cycle, eligible entities are invited to apply online only. They should first review the complete guidelines and FAQs. Complete details regarding the Taos County Lodgers' Tax Grant Program can be found at <https://www.taoscounty.org/478/Lodgers-Tax-Grant-Program>.

Taos County awarded the following fiscal year 2025 grants to the following entities:

- American Contract Bridge League District 17** - \$2,610 for their Taos Regional Bridge Tournament
- Taos Chamber Music Group** - \$5,978 for their 32nd season, starting August 11, 2024
- Awakening Productions** - \$2,772 for promotion of Fiestas, 3rd Annual Senior Citizen Night, Car Shows, and Denim and Diamonds Father-Daughter Dance
- Taos County Chamber of Commerce** - \$13,350 for Taos Plaza Live
- High Desert Entertainment LLC** - \$39,000 for She Rises Music Festival 2024 & 2025
- Taos County Fair Association Inc.** - \$4,000 for the Taos County Fair
- High Road Artisans** - \$15,500 for The High Road Art Tour
- Taos Fiesta Council** - \$20,000 for 2024-25 Fiesta de Taos
- Millicent Rogers Museum Inc.** - \$18,447 for comprehensive promotional materials
- Taos Jazz Bebop Society** - \$9,614 for 2024 Frank Morgan Taos Jazz Festival
- Musich Entertainment, LLC** - \$20,000 for Taos Mesa Brewing for "Enchanted Evenings: Free Summer Sounds"
- Taos Mountain Balloon Rally Association** - \$15,000 for 41st Annual Taos Mountain Balloon Rally
- Red River Chamber of Commerce** - \$18,356 for Red River Oktoberfest
- The Earth Oven LLC** - \$5,049 for Enchanted Feasts
- Society of the Muse of the Southwest** - \$3,000 for the Taos Storytelling Festival
- The Paseo Project** - \$20,000 for The PASEO 2024
- Taos Artist Organization** - \$8,951 for the Taos Studio Tour
- Mogul Medical** - \$3,924 for Medical Clinic serving tourist/visitor and locals visiting TSV
- Taos Arts Council, Inc** - \$38,525 for "Taos Is Art" Coop Marketing & Ad Campaign
- Twirl, A Play and Discovery Space, LLC** - \$8,000 for comprehensive promotional materials
- Taos Center for the Arts** - \$16,243 for the Taos Film Festival



Village Hosts North Kiowa Road Meeting

By LORA ARCINIEGA

On August 8, the Village of Questa hosted a meeting for residents to discuss the road and land issue that began in the mid-1990s, after North Kiowa Road was paved. The actual footprint of the newly paved road differed from its estimated size, which left land remnants between the paved road and adjacent ownership. When this paving project was planned and executed, it fell under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT). Landowners at the time were compensated by NMDOT, and part of the agreement was that any land not used by the newly paved road would become the property of the Village of Questa.

There are currently nine landowners who are affected by this issue, where the size of land remnants range from dozens of feet to as miniscule as a few inches. A survey of the land remnants is needed to determine fair market value, after which the property would be sold back to adjacent landowners. According to Village Administrator, Karen Shannon, the Village would then pay fees for the warranty deed drafted by the Village attorney. Given the size and consideration of utility of these slivers of land, the biggest cost will likely be surveying and paperwork, rather than property value.

When this issue initially occurred, some residents were able to get these land remnants conveyed and took steps to rectify the issue. The landowners who immediately rectified the issue received a warranty deed decades ago.

At the August 8 meeting, Mayor John Ortega expressed that the Village of Questa has no interest in these slivers and only wishes to get these land remnants back into the hands of the landowner in a lawful manner. He continued to express his preference to avoid re-purchasing of land by the original owners, but this is unavoidable due to legalities.

Land surveyor Lawrence Montoya,

who was present at the meeting, has offered the landowners a reduced rate for his surveying services. The existing survey completed by NMDOT only serves as a template for Mr. Montoya to work from, thus reducing his efforts, resulting in a smaller fee for his surveying services. Mr. Montoya mentioned that he too is dealing with this issue, and that he wants to take steps to get it resolved on his own family's property. Mr. Mon-

toya went on to say that this is a generational issue and if it's not addressed now, the future landowner will have to deal with it. The Mayor echoed Mr. Montoya, mentioning that this issue will persist if not remedied under his administration, and because of the anti-donation clause, the Village can't donate the land back to the owner.

Mayor Ortega wishes to get this project completed in a timely man-

ner. He gave a two-week deadline for landowners to respond with their intent to pursue a survey. Some landowners in the meeting were frustrated at this process, declaring that they shouldn't have to buy back their land. Mayor Ortega shared their concern, but recalled that the previous owners were originally compensated and that there are legal reasons preventing donation or a similar transfer of ownership.



Courtesy of Jacob Lafore

North Kiowa Road Map



Photo by Wendy Vigil

August 8 meeting at the Village Chambers



Larry Salazar

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Being raised in a community where your history connects to every part of your present, it is difficult to find the courage to leave. It is similarly difficult to forge a path and stay. Questa del Rio News is committed to highlighting different members of our community, both those who have created their paths and planted their own roots in the community that raised them, and those who have pursued lives outside of the community – through our Representando series. This series is dedicated to those who are Representando communities in northern Taos County, in various facets of life.

For our September issue, we interviewed Amalia native Larry Salazar. Salazar graduated from Questa High School in 2008. Upon graduation, he immediately moved to Albuquerque, where he began his college career at the University of New Mexico. “I was in the bridge program, which is aimed at helping students from small rural communities adapt to college life and city life,” he says.

While in college, Salazar honed in on his natural-born leadership skills, serving as a resident advisor, where he helped students adapt to college life, classes, and dorm life. While working on his undergraduate degree, he was also a tutor for ENLACE, a statewide collaborative organization of “gente” who represent the voices of underrepresented children and families.

“When I moved to Albuquerque and left Amalia, I really had to question if it was the right move for me. It didn’t feel right, everything was foreign. The bridge program and other support systems on campus really helped me find my way, so it was natural to turn around and give back so other students had the same experience,” he says.



Courtesy Photo

Salazar says a big part of his college experience was being a part of the Omega Delta Phi fraternity, where he held important roles in recruitment, community service, and social engagement. He also served as vice president and president for the organization.

Salazar graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Planning and Design. He entered the workforce in 2013 with the Convention Services of the Southwest as a designer.

In 2015, he moved to Pueblo, Colorado to work for Clerk Land Surveying. He held this position until 2019. “I worked on national security projects, but unfortunately due to [their] sensitive nature, I can’t disclose the projects.”

In 2019, Salazar moved on to work for Kilan Horne and Associates in Pueblo, a position he still holds to this day. “I work primarily in the El Paso County and Pueblo County regions. My job ranges from working on developments from half an acre to 680 acres.”

In 2022, Salazar worked to gain his graduate certification for principles and practice of new urbanism at the University of Miami School of Architecture. He also became an accredited member of the Congress for New Urbanism that same year.

Currently, he says he is working on a 10-year project, expected to develop nearly 700 acres of land in the El Paso County region. “The development will bring over 2,000 residences and will be a mixed-use community, with both industrial and walkable lifestyles. There will

REPRESENTANDO cont'd on page 11

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

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



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Library Card Sign-Up Month

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK...
By SHARON NICHOLSON,
Library Director

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month this September with Questa Public Library and the American Li-

brary Association! We invite everyone to discover our library's incredible resources and opportunities by signing up for a library card.

Whether you're looking to enhance your skills, find valuable information, or connect with fellow avid readers, a library card unlocks a world of possibilities.

Today's libraries are vibrant community centers offering much more than just books. At Questa Public Library, you'll find diverse programs, job search assistance, homework help, book clubs, author talks, storytime, kids' summer



Courtesy Photo

hobby or learning a new language? We have the resources you need. Interested in starting or growing a small business? Our Business Bridge has programs and resources to help you do that.

There's truly something for everyone at the Questa Public Library. Getting a library card is easy and is an essential step toward academic success and lifelong learning for students. And library cards are free! Everyone should have one!

Don't miss out! Visit the Questa Public Library this September to sign up for a library card and discover all that your library has to offer.

reading programs, and more. We have a great printer here (no need to make the trip to Taos!), computers, and more.

Curious about exploring a new

Questa History on Display at Questa Library in September

By Contributing Writer
PEGGY TRIGG

The Questa Public Library is proud to present our September show, entitled Our Historical Images. Twenty-five locally photographed historical images by WPA artists John Collier, Jr. and Russell Lee will be hung on permanent display at our library. The opening for this display will take place September 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The event will be introduced by former New Mexico state historian and native son of Questa, Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez, along with Robin Collier, John Collier Jr.'s son and president of Cultural Energy radio, KCEI, in Taos.

During the opening we will have a multitude of activities that focus on the rich cultural significance of the Questa area. Displayed images will be showcased and identified, and the entire Questa WPA collection will continuously play, as a photo loop slideshow.

Community historians will be sharing many archival items, including documents, photos, and objects. The Questa story boxes will be on hand, as well as the Community Memory Lab story collection center. Our youth will be involved by showing their "Who Am I Now?" cyanotype student quilts. Finally, traditional food bites will be shared by local historian and previous history teacher in Questa schools, Flavio Cisneros.

Calling all community historians—the library needs your help! People and places depicted in these historic photographs need community input to help us further identify them. Come share your stories

and memories associated with the photographs. What could be better to illuminate history than sharing a poignant memory or a hilarious story?

Join us to help bring the photos to life and deepen our collective understanding of the history and community of the Questa area. We hope to see you at the library on September 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. Enjoy some traditional snacks and share in our collection of images, voices, and memories from the past.



Photo by Russel Lee

Threshing wheat near Questa, 1939



Photo By John Collier

Mass, St Anthony's Catholic Church, Questa 1943



Photo By John Collier

Questa grade school children, 1943



Photo By John Collier

St Anthony's Catholic Church, Questa 1943

WHAT WAS THE WPA PROGRAM?

In 1929, the stock market crashed and the United States entered the Great Depression. The tourism market in New Mexico crashed as well, and a period of prosperity for artists ended. In the wake of this, educational and vocational programs were developed to promote artistic and economic development in the state.

The Spanish Colonial Arts Society and the Colonial Hispanic Crafts School in Galisteo were both formed in 1929, with the goal of encouraging and promoting traditional Hispanic arts. Traditional arts such as weaving, furniture-making, tinwork, colcha embroidery, and wood carving were taught and promoted. Taos and the smaller villages of northern New Mexico were the centers for these activities, and both traditional and modern artists, philanthropists, intellectuals, and writers were involved in promoting interest in Hispanic arts. Romero de Romero became the best known Hispanic painter from New Mexico during this time.

The Farm Security Administration hired photographers to document rural American lives during the Depression. John Collier, Jr. and Russell Lee took photographs in farming and ranching communities, small villages, and along the highways crossing the state. Their documentary work has inspired many photographers who focus on the vernacular—the everyday life of distinct American cultures and communities.

—from the New Mexico Museum of Art



Photo courtesy of Russel Lee

Old sheepherder's wagon near Questa

What: Our Historical Images display
Where: Questa Public Library 6-1/2 Municipal Park Rd., Questa, NM 87556
Contact: (575) 586-2023
When: Opening on September 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.
Show Open- September 7 through November 30th

“Shots ’n’ Chips” Event for Stray Hearts in Taos, September 7

By STAFF WRITERS

Stray Hearts Animal Shelter will be hosting a “Shots ’n’ Chips” event on Saturday, September 7 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the shelter, which is located at 1200 St. Francis Lane in Taos.

The event will offer discounted and free vaccination services including rabies, distemper parvo, bordetella, and feline distemper vaccines. All animals will also receive a free microchip as

part of this event. All other vaccines will be an additional \$10.

All animals must be at least 6 weeks old to participate in this event. Owners must keep their dogs leashed and cats must be crated when brought to the event.

If you have questions, contact the shelter directly at (575) 758-2981 or visit the website at www.strayhearts.org.



STRAY HEARTS 
PRESENTS
SHOTS 'N CHIPS!

EVENT PLANNING cont'd from page 7

as art director on the credits, even!

Today, my inventory consists of 375 chairs in various styles, different options for dinner and cocktail tables, 14 settees and sofas in all colors, 400 colored vintage glass goblets, various tabletop accessories, five different arch/backdrop options, eight chandeliers, and many many more specialty items. Looking back, I can hardly believe all I've accomplished as a small business owner. Starting a business has been the scariest yet most rewarding journey of my life. Every event is a testament to my growth and the rich heritage of our land and traditions.

Regarding starting a business, organizing an event, or embarking on any new venture, my initial advice would encompass three key considerations:

1. When starting a business, something I did not consider when I started was the market. What market are you selling to? Who is your target audience/clients? Does that audience have money? Is what you're selling a necessity or a luxury? Is it priced fair-

ly with the market? Are you offering the same if not better value and or service than the market offers, to be able to justify your pricing? Is that enough to live on?

2. Upon organizing an event, it's important to not get caught up in all the little stressful details, and instead focus on what you're having the event for. If you're planning a wedding, don't fight with your partner over small things; remember that your marriage is more important than your wedding day. If you're planning a baby shower, the purpose is to shower the baby with its needs and gifts, not supply the town with a party. If you're planning your 1- or 16-year-old's birthday party, it's only that child that needs to have a great time.
3. If you're embarking on any new adventure, it doesn't hurt to ask questions. Find someone who has already done what you're trying to do. What I found helped me significantly was having veteran acquaintances/friends in my same industry that I could always ask for guidance.

REPRESENTANDO cont'd from page 9

be apartments, duplexes, and single family properties. I can't disclose the location of this community but you'll know in about seven years," he says with a laugh.

Salazar says he enjoys his job and loves to see things which start as an idea, then turn into a full-blown project. "I love seeing long-range plans come to fruition. Not many people can say they see that happen in their work.

I am grateful I can."

Currently, Salazar lives two-and-a-half hours from Amalia and visits at least once a month. "I love coming home because it's my chance to step away from the city, take a deep breath and ground myself. I still buck bails and help my dad with ranching duties," he says. "It's also so comforting to see all the love and support I get from people in my home community. They're always ready to cheer me on and tell me they're proud of me—that's a real gift."

HOUSING cont'd from page 6

Albuquerque increased by more than a quarter over last year, according to a recently released point-in-time count.

The authority will accept applications for the latest round starting September 4. Loans are limited at \$15 million, though Russel suggested the board would try to avoid awarding the maximum amount: "Our board would like to see smaller portions of that \$15 million cap," she said.

The next application window will open January 8, and a third will begin April 30, according to Russel's

presentation.

When New Mexico's governor signed the bill approving the loan program in February, she challenged Russel and the authority to get the first project approved by this fall, citing the pressing need for new housing across the state.

State Senator Michael Padilla (D-Albuquerque), who chairs the NMFA Oversight Committee, praised the quick release of rules. "This thing's moving quickly," he said. "I was really hoping this thing wouldn't last two or three years, trying to get the dang rules together. So, I'm really glad."

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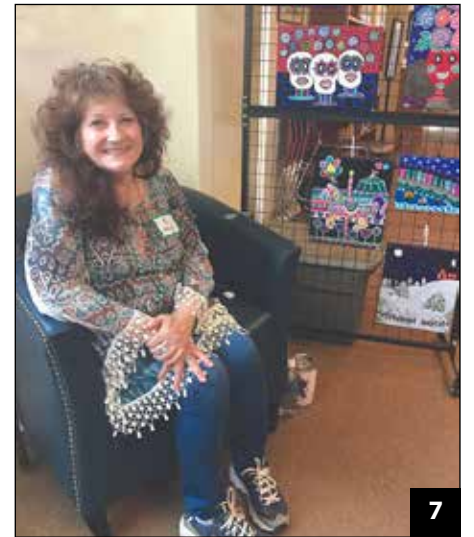


Many Visitors; Beautiful Art

The 9th annual Questa Art Tour on August 10 and 11 was a rousing success! Initial reports show over 800 guests coming through our village. Thanks to grant writing that paid for increased advertising, our local artists welcomed more customers than ever before: from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, parts of Taos County such as Arroyo Seco, and as far afield as Chicago! We also loved seeing you come out to see the art, our local neighbors!

1. Signage committee at work installing signage
2. Evelyn Coggins at Hub #1
3. QCC Director Sierra Hedberg installs signage
4. Hub 2, very busy! At Art Questa gallery
5. Art Tour feather flag on the rainy Friday afternoon before the art tour, with Mark Wagner
6. Connie Long and artist daughter Claire Cote
7. BJ Konior at library hub
8. At Ute Air Hub, Omjaya (left) and building owner & artist Jill Kamas
9. Ute Air artists Omjaya and Cami confer at Ute Air

Courtesy Photos



Cerro and Other Artists Featured at Taos Artist Collective

By STAFF WRITERS

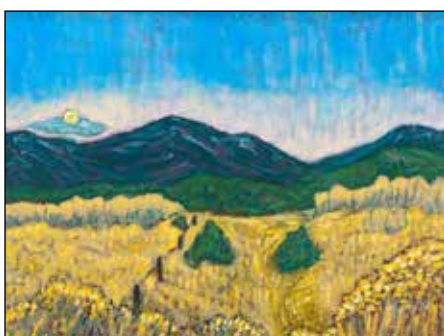
The Taos Artist Collective, located adjacent to Taos Plaza, represents an eclectic mix of southwestern, traditional, and contemporary artists who specialize in painting, printmaking, oils, glass, photography, mixed media, jewelry, watercolors, acrylics, antiques, and sculpture. Each month, a few artists from the



Art by Mary Jo Kelly entitled Cerro Backyard

greater Taos County area are selected to be featured.

The mission of the gallery is to “promote the local arts while fostering creativity in the community while providing accessible cultural experiences



Art by Mary Miller entitled Goodnight Moon

which enrich and inspire.”

For September, Mary Jo Kelly from Cerro, Mary Miller from Red River, and Karen Trythall from Alcalde will be featured. All three artists are known for creating contemporary, uniquely stylized



Art by Karen Trythall entitled P’Oshu’Owingeh Winter View

paintings of landscapes, animals, buildings, and people.

An opening reception will be held on Friday, September 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the gallery. Their work will be on display throughout the month of September. The address for the gallery is 106A Paseo Del Pueblo Norte, Taos, NM 87571.

What: Opening Reception

When: Friday, Sept 6
5 - 7 pm

Where: The Taos Artist Collective
106a Paseo Del Pueblo Norte
Taos, NM 87571

Art In The Neighborhood—2024 Questa Art Tour

By LORA ARCINIEGA

The Questa Art Tour was in full swing August 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Town was bustling and the sun was shining while locals and travelers went from stop to stop looking for something to catch their eye—and there was no shortage of beautiful art to admire.

This is the ninth year of the Questa Art Tour and one of the busiest yet. With 18 stops in total, art enthusiasts and collectors traveled from the most southern stop in Questa at Cosas Hermosas to the most northern stop in Garcia, Colorado, to see Karen Ahlgren's studio.

With its inception in 2015, the Questa Creative Council wanted to give Questa the opportunity for people to enjoy the beauty that is Questa and the fine work that artists have to offer. The tour has expanded over the years and reaches collectors from all over the country. From the meticulously crafted pottery at ArtQuesta to the unique architecture of the Star House, featuring artist Maruska, there was something for everybody to enjoy.

ArtQuesta hosted several artists, including woodwork and jewelry by Laura

Holk. Laura started her woodworking a few years back but you'd think she's been doing this all her life—the beautiful, intricate detail of her woodworking skills honors the natural material. Some of her work featured various types of local wood with a resin inlay pour, some of it speckled with turquoise. Laura's work is not only beautiful but functional, with several charcuterie boards on display. The pottery created by Sandra Harrington, co-owner of ArtQuesta, was perfectly crafted—each stunning vessel would surely become a family heirloom.

Stop 3 featured the patient hand of artist Nick Ortega (deceased). His stained glass and the woodworking skills of Larry Cisneros were on display as well as some crafts from family members who were there in support. The family of artists featured handmade dishcloths, scrunchies, and even the young Gabriela had her work for sale, featuring handmade bracelets and unique magnets.

A quick stop at the information booth at the Questa Visitor Center offered some water and a bathroom break. The ladies were welcoming and were able to answer all questions from

visitors. Small talk and a Taos Bakes bar gave me time to review the tour map and become intrigued by the title of "Star House." This led me and my 5-year-old daughter to El Rito.

I wasn't quite sure when to turn into her driveway but then the windy, piñon-lined road led us straight to the Star House and neither of us could wait to get out. Artist and Star House homeowner Maruska (aka Ellen Wood, the author) and her family were more than welcoming, offering pizza and fresh root beer from the brewery. Sitting at her long dining table was the artist's family, there to support her over the two-day tour. Art was scattered throughout the house. The house itself was art! From the beautiful garden outside to the cow paintings rich in originality, Maruska had something for everyone. One collector left with a painting by Maruska called "Happy Jesus." The gentleman who bought the art said he would now go find a place for Happy Jesus to smile down at him in his house.

At stop 7, the historic St. Anthony's Church had non-stop traffic, according to tour guide, Flavio Cisneros. Between

the historic vigas and intricate stained glass, visitors were able to see the fruits of labor of many who helped rebuild the church, which was completed in 2016. Over 30,000 adobes were laid throughout the church between 2008 and 2016, with over 45,000 volunteered hours. Mr. Cisneros pointed out little details that only someone who helped with the rebuilding project would know.

Our last stop of the day took us to the Questa Public Library where we encountered locals embroidering, while their tea towels, quilts, crocheted blankets, and other hand work were on display. Also present at the library were the unique paintings of Mary Miller who was happy to engage in conversation about her work, and artists BJ Konior and Boneta Curry-Brown.

The 2024 Art Tour beheld many treasures and had me readjust my thinking, as I now recognize that Taos and Santa Fe aren't the only art meccas of New Mexico. Questa holds something very special when it comes to art: an unspoiled appeal. I can say that I can't wait to see what the 2025 Questa Art Tour has to offer.



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1. HUB 2: ArtQuesta pottery by Sandra Harrington

2. HUB 15: Maruska with her paintings

3. HUB 7: View of Vigas at St. Anthony's Church

4. HUB 3: Stained glass by Nick Ortega

5. HUB 14: Steve Racicot, bronze sculpture

6. HUB 2: Laura Holk with her woodwork

7. HUB 13: NT Brown Studio

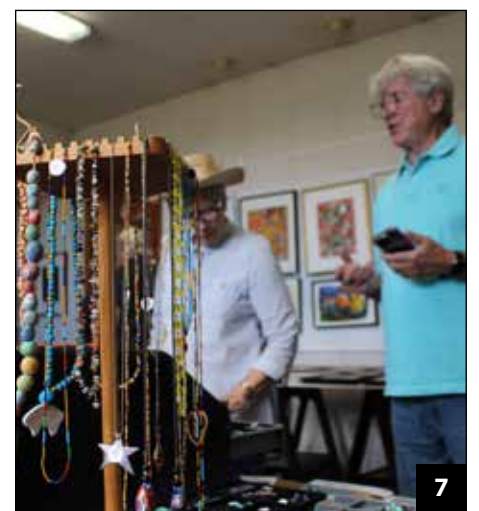
Photos by Lora Arciniega



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What you Need to Know: Questa Varsity Volleyball Season Preview

By STAFF WRITERS

The varsity Questa Ladycat Volleyball team is coached by head coach Michelle Spears and assistant coaches Diane Leon, and Jennifer Vialpando. The roster for the 2024-25 season includes senior Alyana Leon, junior Joshlyn Media, junior Janae Dominguez, senior Delilah Rael, senior Alianna Gonzalez, senior Ashlynn Rael, senior Aliyah Santistevan, junior Aaliyah Piper, senior Kiara Arellano, junior Ariana Medina, senior Alexis Brown, and junior Jocelyne Ortega.

The Questa Ladycats have started their season off strong, beating Cuba at home on August 20 and beating Menaul High School during an away game on August 22.

Head coach Michelle Garcia-Spears says the team has a strong core of seven seniors returning. "I am looking forward to seeing them have fun and enjoy their last season together. Our goal this season is to leave everything on the court every game, regardless of the outcome, knowing they did their best." Garcia says she knows this team has potential. "I truly feel we can be one of the top teams in the state if we stay focused and work together."

Below is their non-district schedule:

- 8/30: Away Game vs. Monte del Sol Charter at 2 p.m.
- 8/30: Away Game vs. Penaso at 4 p.m.
- 9/10: Away Game vs. Dulce at 6 p.m.
- 9/14: Away Game vs. Taos at 1 p.m.
- 9/24: Away Game vs. Monte del Sol Charter at 6 p.m.
- 9/28: Away Game vs. Cimarron at 6 p.m.
- 9/30: Home Game vs. Coronado at 5 p.m.
- 10/3: Away Game vs. Raton at 5 p.m.

Below is their district schedule:

- 10/5: Home Game vs. Escalante at 6 p.m.
- 10/10: Home Game vs. Mora at 6 p.m.
- 10/15: Away Game vs. Mesa Vista at 6 p.m.
- 10/17: Home Game vs. McCurdy at 6 p.m.
- 10/22: Home Game vs. Penasco at 6 p.m.
- 10/26: Away Game vs. Escalante at 1 p.m.
- 10/29: Away Game vs. Mora at 6 p.m.
- 10/31: Away Game vs. Mesa Vista at 6 p.m.
- 11/5: Away Game vs. McCurdy at 4 p.m.
- 11/7: Away Game vs. Penasco at 6 p.m.

What you Need to Know: Questa Varsity Football Preview

By STAFF WRITERS

The Questa varsity Wildcat Football team is coached by head coaches Dwayne Ortega and Larry Roybal and assistant coaches Damean Craven, Mark Ortega and Ernie Griego.

The Questa Wildcats beat Navajo Pine on Saturday, August 24. The final score was 54 to 0. Head coach Dwayne Ortega says, "I am extremely proud of these kids. I am hopeful this is a new era and chapter for Questa football."

The varsity roster is as follows:

James Garcia Sr
 Carlos Ortega Sr
 Adam Gordon Jr
 Jacovo Cardenas So
 Jose Cisneros So
 Izziah Gonzales So
 Noah Mandonado So
 Diego Ortega So
 Matthew Vigil So
 Juan Cisneros So
 Uriah Griego Fr
 Larry Roybal Fr
 Lukas Cisneros Fr
 Micah Gonzales Fr
 Ezekiel Henderson Fr
 Hector Hernandez Fr
 Remington Smith Fr
 Wesley Tannahill Fr

Koda Segura Fr
 Tristen Halterman Manager
 Isaac Segura Manager

The Junior High Football team roster is as follows:

Izyk Gallegos 8th
 Bo Ortega 8th
 Emilio Pacheco 8th
 Joel Santistevan 8th
 Jeremiah Tannahill 8th
 Patrick Cardenas 7th
 Marcello Arguello 7th
 Jesus Juarez 7th
 Carlos Medina 7th
 Xzavion Segura 7th
 Andres Vigil-Rael 7th
 Matthias Mandonado 7th
 Nelson Hernandez 7th

Below is their non-district schedule:

- 8/31: Home game vs. Dulce at 2 p.m.
- 9/7: Away game vs. Pine Hill at 3 p.m.
- 9/13: Home game vs. Walsenburg at 7 p.m.
- 9/21: Home game vs. Ramah at 4 p.m.

Below is their district schedule.

- 9/27: Away game vs. Escalante at 7 p.m.
- 10/4: Home game vs. Fort Sumner at 7 p.m.
- 10/12: Home game vs. Cloud Croft at 7 p.m.
- 10/19: Away game vs. Menaul at 1 p.m.
- 10/25: Home game vs. Clayton at 7 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

Questa High School Football team



Courtesy Photo

Questa High School Volleyball team

Local Rodeo Teen Qualifies For Tuffest Jr. World Championship

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Rodeoing his whole life, 14-year-old Eastin Rosales and his horse Dollar qualified for the Tuffest Jr. World Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada for tie-down roping. The competition will take place in December 2024. In addition to his recent accomplishment, Eastin also won all-around for his age group for the New Mexico Junior Rodeo Association.

Eastin, who lives in Questa part-time, is a freshman and attends Taos High School. He is the son of BJ Rosales and SueAnn Vigil. His sister, Alexis Rosales, also rodeos alongside her brother, as do his step-siblings Martin and Analiese Rivera.

Eastin is a team roper (heeler) and also does ribbon roping and breakaway roping. In addition to rodeo, he is also an active member of his 4-H group and participates in series across the state. Eastin also plays basketball and baseball. His stepmother Krystle Cisneros says, "we are so proud and very excited of his accomplishments."



Courtesy Photo

US Education Department to Gradually Roll Out New FAFSA Form by Dec. 1

By SHAUEEN MIRANDA,
THE SOURCE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Education announced a phased rollout to launch the 2025-26 form to apply for federal financial student aid. This will make the application fully available two months later than usual.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid—better known as FAFSA—will be available in a staggered distribution approach to some students on October 1, and will gradually ramp up to be fully available by December 1. The phased rollout is intended to allow for fixing any issues that might arise, based on when the previous form makeover (following Congress passing the FAFSA Simplification Act in late 2020) witnessed its share of hiccups and glitches during its soft launch in December and past the official debut in January.

Though advocates expressed concerns regarding the form's failure to adjust for inflation, its formula miscalculation and its tax data errors, which prompted processing delays, the department has worked to fix these issues.

"As we rolled out the 2024-25 FAFSA cycle, we met various challenges in its first year," US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said during a call with reporters Wednesday.

Cardona said "these challenges—rooted in a federal student aid department that was also in desperate need of modernization—resulted in frustration for many students, families, education leaders and policy makers from the Hill."

The education secretary added that over the last 10 months, the department has "spent lots of time with these

stakeholders to ensure their experience and their input influences our work moving forward," noting that the new rollout process reflects the extensive feedback the department has received.

Jeremy Singer, who leads FAFSA strategy within the department's Office of Federal Student Aid, said hundreds of students will participate in the testing period beginning Oct. 1.

Singer said that availability will expand to thousands of students in mid-October and then to tens of thousands of students in early November, all prior to the form opening up to all students and families by Dec. 1.

Hearing from many students, families, schools and organizations, Singer said some of the most common demands included a concrete launch timeline and ability to track progress on that timeline, the launch of a form that's fully functioning, and assurance that there will be no major defects once the form is launched.

Senior department officials said states and schools have told them that no determination of financial aid will be made before the system opens for all students in December.

US Under-Secretary of Education James Kvaal, who oversees higher education and financial aid, including the Office of Federal Student Aid, said that in March, the department received nearly 40 percent fewer FAFSA applications from the same date a year prior.

But now that gap is under 4 percent, and they "continue to close it every week," Kvaal said.

The department is inviting volunteers to take part in the testing period and said it will release more information in the coming weeks on how students and other partners can get involved in this initial process.



Jocelyne Ortega

By STAFF WRITERS

The Outstanding Youth Report is aimed at highlighting young people in our community who are identified and nominated as being outstanding contributions to the community. For our September Outstanding Youth Report, we are highlighting Jocelyne Ortega.

Ortega is 16 years old and a junior at Questa High School. To say she is busy is an understatement. She is a member of the Questa Honor Society and participates in volleyball, basketball, and cheer. She also works at the Questa Farmer's Market and at Rosie's

Smokehouse.

She is proud to say that she completed her first ever 100-mile pilgrimage.

When asked how she juggles so much at just 16 years of age, she says "I do it one day at a time and one event at a time."

When asked what she loves about living in Questa, she says she loves the strong sense of community. She has grown up with close bonds to her family and friends and Questa has been a central part of that journey.

Ortega says her greatest role model in her life is her mom, Jacqui Ortega. She also says Jennifer Vialpando, local art teacher and volleyball coach has made a huge impact in her life.

When asked what advice she would give to younger generations, she says "I would say don't rush growing up. Enjoy your childhood while you can and just be a kid." She says her best memories of growing up in Questa are having the freedom to be a kid and roam free, and she hopes other kids will enjoy those precious moments as well.



Courtesy Photo

Left to Right: Lynnae Rael, Issac Ortega, Jocelyne Ortega. Lynnae Rael stands proudly with her nephew Issac and niece Jocelyne after completing the 100-mile pilgrimage in June 2024



Courtesy Photo

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INSPIRE Early Learning Center Moves from Questa to Red River

By STAFF WRITERS

Just eight months after announcing its grand opening in the village of Questa, Inspire Early Learning Center which was located at Freedom Church has announced that after a “mutual decision” with INSPIRE and Freedom Center Church, it will be moving its services to Red River.

The vision for INSPIRE Early Learning Center first spurred years ago with initial talks starting with then Mayor Mark Gallegos. The vision and continued work to establish a childcare facility in Questa was halted with the COVID-19 pandemic, INSPIRE owner Taylor Etchemendy says leaders remained committed to providing the community with childcare options.

“For the first time, existing silos crumbled, and honest conversations led to strength-based cooperation and collaboration across all sectors. Local leaders collaborated with local educational institutions and nonprofit organizations to ensure the safety and well-being of our youngest citizens and their families,” Etchemendy said in a correspondence sent to the *Questa del Rio News*.

Once the pandemic dust settled, Etchemendy continued talks with the newly elected Mayor John Ortega. “Mayor Ortega was eager and supportive to engage in conversations and think about possible spaces to provide access to infant and toddler care,” Etchemendy continued.

After continued talks in early 2023, it was determined that the site could be housed at Freedom Center Church in Questa with support from Pastor Kristi Gonzales. Plans to repair and restore existing buildings at Freedom Center Church ensued as INSPIRE worked to meet licensing requirements and regulations for childcare services.

The site at Freedom Center Church opened on December 11, 2023, and served 12 toddlers and 4 infants, providing jobs for six Questa residents and an opportunity to pursue their degrees in Early Childhood Education.

The childcare center at Freedom Center Church was thriving with full enrollment from December 2023 until mid-July 2024 when the “mutual decision” to cease operations.

Etchemendy says many improvements have been made at Freedom

Church in order to meet state licensing standards and regulations. “It is our sincere hope that one day the church may revisit opening their own program in the beautiful space. We are grateful for the opportunity we had to get started there and for the relationships we have made with children and families.”

Since closing its doors in July of this year, finding an alternative location in Questa was deemed unsuccessful.

“My staff and I worked diligently to find a space for the daycare facility to continue operations in Questa but unfortunately, we were unsuccessful. We are hopeful that Taylor will continue to work with us as we identify a location for a site in the future,” Questa Mayor John Ortega says. Etchemendy says Red River Mayor Linda Calhoun expressed interest in helping the childcare center move its services to Red River.

“We are excited for this opportunity and to be a part of such a vibrant and supportive community working collectively to meet the need to provide childcare not only to Red River families but to Questa and surrounding areas. The support has been astonishing. Questa teachers and Red River community members have been working around the clock to prepare the buildings to provide high-quality childcare for our current families, but also provide increased access and availability. We are eternally grateful,” Etchemendy continues. Licensing requirements and regulations for the new site are still pending, therefore we cannot yet release the location address until the center has official clearance to open its operations.

Etchemendy says, “it is important to note the good intentions that went into this project and the continued commitment from the Village of Questa and INSPIRE to continue to think creatively about options for childcare and ‘out of school time’ care for the Questa community. While we are thrilled that we have found a new home in Red River, our conversations continue about how best to collaborate and serve Questa families. It is with great respect and an ongoing deep commitment to child and family well-being in Taos County that we extend our deepest gratitude and well wishes to all.”

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By Toner Mitchell

Hidden Gem: Fly Fishing The Conejos River

Sometimes in the middle of summer, especially when the water heats up and the fish get sluggish, deciding on a place to fish in New Mexico can be difficult. The same is true in a wet year like this one, but for a different reason. Streams can get pretty muddy during a strong monsoon season, and though the bait and spinner fishing can be quite good at such times, fly fishing in dirty water isn't always a walk in the park.

Since they gather dirty water from a bigger area, large water bodies like the Rio Grande, Chama, Pecos, and Red can get pretty dirty and stay that way for some time. But when you think you've run out of options, remember the Conejos River just north of the border. Amazingly, this river west of Antonito, Colorado is largely unknown, even among New Mexicans, and my bet is that it will stay that way due to the river's remote location. It's far from Denver and the closest major airport is in Albuquerque. The two closest populations to the Conejos are Taos and Santa Fe, relatively short drives away.

When asked to name my favorite home state fisheries I usually include the Conejos, because, like many fly anglers from this region, I consider it ours no matter what state it's in. Along with the Chama



Photo by Joe Lamb

Conejos Cliff



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Conejos Bow

and Pecos rivers, the Conejos is one of the Rio Grande's most significant tributaries, and the country it flows through—vaulting peaks, aspen forests, and sage-covered mesas—is every bit as beautiful as the landscape along the big Rio.

The Conejos harbors lots of big rainbow and brown trout that can be easy to catch at the right place and time. And there are plenty of days when you can't buy a fish. I know this from experience. Fortunately, I'm one of those fishermen who believes that a stream's fickleness is a sign of its greatness.

Aside from its sheer variety of fishing opportunities, what I love about the Conejos are its hatches. You name the bug and it's likely on a Conejos trout's dinner menu: giant, golden, and little yellow stoneflies; green and gray drakes; pale morning duns and blue-winged olives. Caddisflies are omnipresent. There's a lot of meadow habitat on the Conejos, which points to the importance of worms in the trout diet, as well as ants and grasshoppers. This river is absolutely loaded with trout food.

If you don't want to work too hard, fishing a brown Pat's rubberlegs rigged with a red San Juan worm will work for at least some portion of the day, week, or month. Worms definitely work well during heavy rainstorms. Another hot fly is the Frenchy, which in various sizes will imitate a range of important mayfly nymphs. Dry fly fishing can be a non-stop thrill on the Conejos. Fish imitations of the prevailing hatching insect, or just cover the water in search of willing risers with an elk hair caddis, parachute adams, or stimulator patterns.

No matter what you decide to tie on your line, you'll never suffer for gorgeous views to stare at. Like much of our little corner of the world, the terrain surrounding the Conejos can literally make you weep at any time of year. Take it from me, the autumn aspen leaf show is a tearjerker you won't soon forget.

The Inconspicuous Harvest

By LORA ARCINIEGA

The onset of early fall signals harvest season for many of us. Be it a harvest of backyard veggies, big game, piñon nuts, or firewood—harvest is in the air. For others still, this season of harvest includes a long-term outlook on the order of decades to consider the future of our forests. Reforestation, or planting of trees to replenish what has been lost, is regularly planned and executed by

foresters across the nation. This noble yet daunting task restores forest cover after significant loss through events like high-severity wildfire or insect outbreaks—just two examples among reasons as diverse as the trees themselves.

One might now be asking how planting of trees could have an even remote connection to harvest. Cone collection is the connection. What many call “pine cones” are actually the

fruit of a conifer. Cones contain seeds and seeds make seedlings. Just like the piñon harvest, other conifers undergo seed ripening in fall and foresters are beholden to this timing. Not all fruit can be harvested in its immature state, to be utilized after later ripening, such as bananas. When the intention is to sow seedlings, the seed within the fruit must be mature at harvest. So, every September, foresters and their friends

find themselves climbing into the tops of trees to capture nature's bounty with the ultimate intent of planting trees in years to come. Sometimes this appears akin to a child in their backyard fruit tree. More commonly, though, it requires ropes, spurs, and other specialized gear to safely hoist oneself 60 to 100 feet off the ground. Think you're not afraid of

HARVEST cont'd on page 20

Predatory Fish Found In Eagle Nest Lake

By STAFF WRITERS

On August 19, New Mexico Game and Fish (NMDGF) posted to social media about a smallmouth bass that was caught at Eagle Nest Lake. According to officials, smallmouth bass are not native to the local water reservoirs. This fish is considered a predatory fish, which could damage existing fish populations, most especially rainbow trout and kokanee fish.

“It’s suspected that the smallmouth bass was introduced into the lake illegally by someone. This could threaten one of northern New Mexico’s premier angling destinations!” the post continued.

Officials are asking for help. If you are fishing at Eagle Nest Lake and capture a smallmouth bass, please take the following steps:

1. Snap a photo
2. Contact Coldwater Fisheries Supervisor Jane Trujillo (jane.trujillo@dof.nm.gov; 505-500-5057) to report your catch

3. Keep the fish and please freeze it whole. Your catch could help NMDGF understand where the bass came from and how they might impact the lake

NMDGF will be conducting fisheries surveys on Eagle Nest Lake in the coming weeks to better understand the problem and gather data to guide future management. Officials say they are considering a range of potential management strategies and plan to continue to communicate with local anglers, the community, and the public as they learn more.

Officials want to ensure it’s known that it is illegal to transport or stock live sportfish in New Mexico without a permit. They say that introducing any fish into the wild can be incredibly damaging to local fishery resources.

If you know of fish being moved illegally, you’re encouraged to contact the Operation Game Thief at (800) 432-4263 or <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us/public/ogt>



Courtesy Photo

Photo of a small mouth bass. Small mouth bass is not native to Eagle Nest Lake

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BIRD IS THE WORD

By Bryce Flannagan

The Flashy Northern Flicker

Seeing a northern flicker in flight is like watching a painted canvas in motion—the underside of its wings are a bright pastel orange at the quill that fade to a darker hue at the tips, and the black scallop at the top of its breast crowns dozens of black polka dots leading to fire orange tail feathers tipped in black like smoldering flames. From Alaska to Nicaragua, as the most widespread woodpecker in North America, people can see this bright and beautiful bird.

Calling the northern flicker a woodpecker is a bit of a misnomer, however. They do very little pecking of wood, instead foraging for their food in the dirt. The staple of a flicker’s diet is ants, and this is where their tongue (the longest among North American birds) comes in handy. Capable of extending two inches past the tip of the flicker’s beak and coated in a sticky saliva, its tongue is the perfect tool for probing ant nests. Ants are more than just food, they also help northern flickers keep their feathers clean and free of parasites. In a behavior seen in other birds like the

grackle called “anting,” the bird will lie down near an ant nest and allow itself to become covered in ants. The ants in turn secrete formic acid, a simple acid with just enough sting to repel lice and other pests from the bird’s feathers.

How the northern flicker got its name is a mystery. Some speculate it references the “wicka wicka” sound of its call, others say the flicking motion of its tongue earned the name. What is known is that there were once a total of 124 regional names for the northern flicker. A 1900 monograph about the northern flicker by ornithologist Frank L. Burns was scanned and digitized, thanks to our own University of New Mexico, and recounts such monikers as “yellowhammer,” “cotton-rump” and “harry-wicket.”

When mating season approaches, two males will vie for a female’s attention in a mating display with beaks pointed upwards. The males begin to move their heads as though they are fencing with their beaks, all the while showing off their plumage by flapping their wings, spreading their tail-feathers, and making their “wicka wicka” call. This goes on for a number of hours in brief intervals until one male simply gives up and flies away. The resulting male-female pair will mate for the breeding season and share responsibility for incubating the egg clutch for about two weeks.

Nests are made by the male in decaying wood or an abandoned (and then refurbished) nest, either from another flicker or birds like the belted kingfisher or sand martins. Once their territory is claimed, a flicker will make as much noise as possible to alert surrounding



Courtesy Photo

birds of its claim. While this usually amounts to drumming on tree bark with their beak, flickers have been observed banging on pieces of metal to create even more noise.

Unfortunately this beautiful bird has been in decline, losing about one percent of its population each year for the last 50 years. The primary causes are thought to be territory competition from invasive European starlings, the

removal of dead and dying trees, and the widespread use of pesticides that reduce their available food. The good news is there are still 12 million flickers out there and they can be found all around the Enchanted Circle. Your best bet for attracting them to your yard is to put up a large suet feeder during the winter and dried berries during the summer. Here’s hoping you get to see one soon, as they truly are a sight to behold.

HARVEST cont’d from page 18

heights? Ask yourself again when you’re 80 feet up, facing a treetop no wider than your wrist and then the wind starts to gust! This task makes a person face the fact that they are a mere mortal being who will one day leave this fine earth.

So, next time you see a burly, bearded man in plaid (just kidding—harvesters are far more diverse than this stereotype), know that they may be more complex (and nimble) than they appear.

This year, our local Carson National Forest is anticipating a collection of more than 300 bushels of cones from bristlecone pine, limber pine, Engelmann spruce, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and Colorado blue spruce. Cones will be shipped to a nursery where seed is extracted and stored in freezers for

up to several decades. As needs arise, foresters will order seedlings from specific species and elevations to then plant in locations similar in habitat. By year’s end, Carson National Forest will have planted tens of thousands of seedlings on approximately 600 acres. State, university, and other interested groups will have similar pursuits of cone collection and reforestation. Across the state, thousands of bushels will be collected this year, so rest assured that our friendly foresters are considering the long game, responding to disturbance, and preparing for future needs.

Photos by James Arciniega

Left: Douglas fir seedlings at nursery
Right: Piñon seedlings emerging



Let's Not Get In The Weeds

By LORA ARCINIEGA

What is a weed? The answer may be different from one person to the next but an easy definition that most people can relate to is a plant that is growing out of place; somewhere you don't want it to grow. Weeds can out-compete native vegetation and be very difficult to manage once they've become established.

An invasive plant is a non-native plant introduced with help from humans, weather, or animals on purpose or by accident. One point to take away is that all noxious weeds are invasive but not all invasive weeds are noxious. Those termed "noxious" are listed on the federal, state, or local level as being particularly invasive. Are noxious or invasive weeds a problem on your landscape?

Noxious and invasive weeds are around us and we may or may not know it. They can have negative impacts on the plant community by replacing native vegetation, impacting wildlife and livestock by changing their grazing habitats, and negatively impacting the watershed as a whole by increasing runoff and erosion.

There are some noxious weeds, such as cheatgrass, bromus tectorum, that is highly flammable and can even foster wildfires. Cheatgrass is now the most dominant plant on the continent, spreading across 50 million acres of rangeland.

Currently, noxious plants are in bloom, so it's easier to identify them. One of them to look out for is the

Russian knapweed, acroptilon repans, a creeping perennial that reproduces from seed and vegetative root buds. It emerges in early spring and flowers in the summer into the fall and is toxic to horses.

Thistles (Musk, Scotch, and Bull) are a problem in our area as well. Once their seeds fall they are viable in the soil for up to 40 years. The best form of management for these species is to keep the plant from seeding. If the plant has flowered, pull the flowers off and throw them into a trash bag.

Canada thistle, cirsium arvense, is also problematic. Identified by its purple flower and thorny leaves, the growth of this perennial occurs mostly underground. To manage this species you need to target its root system.

What do you do if you find noxious or invasive weeds on your property? The best form of management, according to professionals, is to stop establishment in the first place but if noxious weeds are already present on your landscape, rapid response is your best action. After that, limiting its progress is your next best step.

The Taos Soil and Water Conservation District provides lots of great information on noxious weeds and informs the public of management techniques as well as providing a current list of noxious weeds in New Mexico. See: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/media/pdf/noxious-weed-memo-and-list-june-2020.pdf> for the full list of New Mexico's noxious weeds.



Photo by Ben Legler

Russian Knapweed



Photo by Ben Legler

Bull Thistle



Photo by Gerlad D. Carr

Canada Thistle

New Moose Sightings Reported Near Red River

By STAFF WRITERS

It sounds like "Marty the Moose" may not be the lone moose in New Mexico anymore. We covered Marty last year as he traveled across northern New Mexico, garnering tons of attention, as moose are not a native to New Mexico's landscape. Marty has a facebook fan page dubbed "Marty Moose Fan Club" with just over 22,000 members.

On August 5, Tracy Park posted on social media, "we have a new resident! I passed this beauty as she was trotting happily down Highway 38 between the Enchanted Forest and Red River. We have named her Betty Moose." On Au-

gust 8, Lindsey Dickens Roessler shared a post from the Roadrunner RV Park in Red River: "Moose on the Loose! But seriously at our campground we saw this little guy (which isn't so little) and it was a first for everyone!"

Both posts were shared to the Marty the Moose facebook fan page and many commenters went on to theorize the recent moose were likely Marty's younger sister Martina or Maryanne.

Darren Vaughn with the New Mexico Game and Fish was working to get additional information about the new moose sightings in Red River but we didn't hear back from him at press time.

Here are some safety tips, should you encounter a moose:

1. Always give the moose a lot of space and watch its behavior
2. Never try to approach or feed a moose
3. Stay calm and do not run away. Talk, make your presence known and slowly back away in the direction you came
4. If a moose charges you or chases you, hide behind something solid (like a tree) or try to get inside a vehicle or building
5. If a moose knocks you down, curl into a ball, protect your head and lie still until the moose retreats



Photo by Lindsey Dickens Roessler

Female moose sited in Red River

**BODY
MIND
SPIRIT**



By **BARBARA TRACY**

September Nostalgia

As a young girl living on the farm in Missouri, September was a very busy time. My grandmother, Clementine, would refer to this time as “buttoning up” for winter. Of course there was canning to do, especially applesauce, of which we had an abundance. We had to prepare foods for the root cellar that would see us through the winter and

the variety of foods reminded us that the time for fresh summer produce had passed.

In the evenings, we were usually gathered around the radio, sitting on cushions and absorbed in our favorite programs, like Fibber McGee and Molly, Sky King, Jack Benny, The Bickersons—I could go on and on with a long list of programs that were the reward for a long day, but I’ll save that for another time.

“Happy September! The world shall now transform into pumpkin everything.”

—Keith Wynn

In those days, school began the day after Labor Day. This was always a time of anticipation, as we considered ourselves to be more sophisticated for moving the next year forward. There were always the new pens, pencils, notebooks, and course books for each class. And it was the beginning of sports season, which often meant nighttime

events under stadium lights and meeting up with friends. I must say it was a very sweet time.

As we move through life, it's easy to lose sight of how simplistic it can be. And yes, the work was more time consuming without all the modern technology and machinery of today, and the ease of getting the job done does give us more free time. But I will always be so grateful in my heart for the nostalgic feelings when I remember days before computers, cell phones, and television. There was a very different ambiance to life that was quieter and more peaceful. This does not mean we didn't have worries, of course we did. But we also had this amazing natural feeling—life was very organic. We walked most places, didn't talk on the phone unless needed, did our homework with paper and pen, wrote letters instead of texting, and in general were not often bored. I guess I could say that we were with each other

as a family and didn't need distractions. Creativity was also very abundant in our family, as it was a form of entertainment. That creativity could be inventing a game, creating a new recipe, sewing a new skirt, or writing a poem or short story.

September has always made me nostalgic, as my memories seem to arise with the changing of the seasons. I would say that these memories awaken in me the gratitude I have for having been blessed with living in the time and ages past and present... watching the parade of life go by and experiencing the changes that are inevitable. Life is a very precious journey, and I wish you all a wonderful September.

“Nostalgia—that's the autumn, dreaming through September. Just a million lovely things I will remember.”

—Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
CLOSED LABOR DAY	Polish Sausage Wild Rice Vegetable medley Banana	Cheeseburger w/ lettuce, tomato slices, onion French Fries Cucumber and tomato Salad Watermelon	Grilled Cheese sandwich tomato soup HB Egg Fruit Salad Vanilla Greek yogurt	Chicken Bow Tie Alfredo Marinara sauce Italian Veggies garlic wheat roll Tropical Fruit Salad
9	10	11	12	13
Chicken Tenders Gravy Mediterranean Vegetables Herb Roasted Potatoes WW Roll Mandarin Oranges	Nacho Supreme Black eyed Peas Orange	Entomatadas Cilantro Brown Rice LS Pinto Beans Garden Salad Light Ranch dressing Spiced Peaches light nonfat vanilla yogurt	Ham Scalloped Potatoes Brussel Sprouts WW Roll Light Vanilla Nonfat yogurt Fruit Salad	Mushroom Burger Sweet Potato Fries Cucumber, tomato, onion salad Blueberries & Whipped Topping
16	17	18	19	20
Chicken Alfredo Peas & Carrots Garlic Bread Pears	Tossed Salad Light Italian Dressing Tamale, Red Chile Lettuce & Tomato Pinto Beans Diced mango	Tossed Salad Light Italian Dressing Beef Macaroni Stewed Tomatoes Grapes	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Brown Gravy Brussel Sprouts Wheat Roll Oatmeal Cookie	Fish Sticks, Tartar Sauce Potato Wedges Three bean salad Wheat Roll Chocolate pudding Strawberries
23	24	25	26	27
Beef Stew Roasted Brussels Sprouts Cornbread Grapes	Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad Italian Dressing beets Cauliflower Tropical Fruit salad Vanilla nonfat yogurt	Herbed Baked Cod Tartar Sauce Brown Rice Coleslaw Chateau Blend vegetables Wheat roll Orange	Beef Taco Salsa Black Beans Capri Vegetables Sherbet	Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes w/ gravy Green Beans Tossed Salad Italian Dressing Wheat Roll Fruit Cocktail
30				
Spinach Lasagna Cheese Peas & Pearl Onions Tossed Salad Garlic Bread Assorted Fruit			Taos County Senior Program (575) 737-8927 PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE	All Meals Served With 8oz. 2% Milk as available



SENIOR MENU: SEPTEMBER 2024

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

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

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

Currently, exercise classes are not available.

Donations for transportation is encouraged.



LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

What is the best healthy diet or exercise routine?

It's the one you stick to. Instead of aiming for perfection, aim for improvement. Any improvement in your wellness and longevity is better than none. Plan on exercising twice a week and stick to it—that is infinitely better than planning to exercise six times a week and giving up. As an aside, I recently started

Gentle Yoga at Sala in Questa. It meets twice a week and I love it. Make yourself a little chart with date and exercise and healthy eating. Promise yourself you'll exercise twice a week and eat healthy twice a week. Then put a checkmark in the column when you do it and pat yourself on the back if you have two check marks for each day. Then once you make that a habit, aim for three or four checkmarks each day for a week. Expect positive outcomes and you'll automatically continue to improve.

What is the best moisturizer for your face?

I've often been asked about what I use on my complexion. There are plenty of creams on the market proclaiming to rid you of wrinkles and smooth out your

skin. I've found that most of them don't work, but maybe you've found one that does. If you have, tell me. After I take off my makeup, I put on the best moisturizer in the world for my face: water. After I wash my face, it's slightly damp so I put water in my hand, shake off the excess and spread the water around my face. Then I put on my cream/ointment to seal in the water.

What do you mean by "You are what you think about aging"?

It means become aware of the programming that's present in your conscious mind. The first step in taking control of the aging process is to bring your thoughts and actions into alignment with the results you want. If you worry about having vitality, stamina, flexibility and strength

as you age, you could be praying for what you don't want. If you say, "Another senior moment," when something slips your mind, you might be reinforcing memory decline, and if you hate the wrinkles you see in the mirror, that could make you age faster. Abraham, in "Ask and It Is Given: Learning to Manifest Your Desires," by Esther and Jerry Hicks, says it best: "Worrying is using your imagination to get what you don't want." Use your imagination to get what you do want.

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

Vive Amaríe

¿Cuál es la mejor dieta saludable y la mejor rutina de ejercicios?

Es aquella que puedes mantener. En lugar de aspirar a la perfección, aspira a mejorar. Cualquier mejora en tu bienestar y longevidad es mejor que ninguna. Planea hacer ejercicio dos veces a la semana y cúmplelo —esto es infinitamente mejor que planear hacer ejercicios seis veces a la semana y dejarlo porque no puedes seguir ese ritmo. Como comentario al margen, te cuento que hace poco comencé Yoga Suave (Soft Yoga) en Sala aquí en Questa —es dos veces a la semana y me encanta. Hazte un pequeño organigrama con la fecha, el ejercicio y la alimentación saludable. Prométete que harás ejercicios dos veces a la semana y comerás alimentos saludables dos veces a la semana. Luego, haz una marca en la columna cuando lo cumplas y felicítate si tienes dos marcas cada día. Una vez que lo conviertas en un hábito, aspira a tres o cuatro marcas

por día durante una semana. Espera resultados positivos y automáticamente continuarás mejorando.

¿Cuál es la mejor crema hidratante para el rostro?

A menudo me han preguntado qué me pongo en el cutis. Hay muchas cremas en el mercado que prometen eliminar arrugas y suavizar la piel. He llegado a la conclusión de que la mayoría de ellas no funcionan, pero tal vez tú hayas encontrado una que sí haga lo que promete. Si es así, dímelo. Después de quitarme el maquillaje, aplico la mejor crema hidratante del mundo para el rostro: agua. Después de lavarme la cara, está ligeramente húmeda, así que me pongo un poco de agua en la mano, sacudo el exceso y me la unto por el rostro. Luego aplico una crema o un ungüento para sellar el agua.

¿Qué quieres decir con "Eres lo que tú piensas sobre el envejecimiento"?

Esto significa que te des cuenta de la programación que existe en tu mente consciente. El primer paso para tomar control del proceso de envejecimiento es

alinearte tus pensamientos y acciones con los resultados que deseas. Si te preocupas por tener vitalidad, resistencia, flexibilidad y fuerza a medida que envejeces, podrías estar pidiendo lo que no deseas. Si dices: "Otro momento de vejez," cuando se te olvida algo, podrías estar reforzando el deterioro de la memoria, y si odias las arrugas que ves en el espejo, esto podría hacerte envejecer más rápido. Abraham en "Ask and It Is Given: Learning to

Manifest Your Desires" de Esther y Jerry Hicks lo dice mejor: "Preocuparse es usar la imaginación para obtener lo que no deseas." Usa tu imaginación para obtener lo que sí deseas.

Ellen Wood de Questa es una autora galardonada, así como una artista que usa el nombre de Maruška. El sitio web para sus libros y pinturas es <https://questacreative.org/ellen-wood/>. Para contactar con Ellen, escríbele a ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

JR (Malaquias) says:

"Make sure your car is ready to drive into fall."



We can help."

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- Check Fluid Levels
- Check Wiper Blades
- Check Heater
- Check Lights
- Check Brakes



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Courtesy Photo



I DARE YOU

By MARTA GLOVER

Lightening up the Sky

I was going to write on a different subject for the September column but the weather was too intense to ignore or talk about. The thunderstorms here in Taos County have been dramatic, energetic and gusty. "In the summer thunderstorms develop in the afternoon when the sun heats the air near the ground; if the atmosphere is unstable, bubbles of warm air will rise and produce clouds, precipitation, and eventually lightning. Thunderstorm dangers include strong winds, hail, and flash flooding."

In San Cristobal valley, the monsoon rains have drenched the fields and dirt roads. Moderate flash flooding happened down my driveway on one of the stormy days, not causing any damage. Thankfully, we have been blessed with this moisture for our gardens and fields. I am awed by the intensity of the lightning, the thunder, the wind and the pounding rain. One day we had huge hail balls come slamming down to the ground. It was wild, totally chaotic and loud. It lasted 20 minutes. In the middle of the afternoon. I have also seen incred-

ible lightning storms at night. Huge bolts that light up the whole night sky with continuous booming and rumbling for hours. Tell me a story about thunderstorms. Where it happened or happens. How does it make you feel?

Susan

Never been afraid of thunderstorms. There is God bowling. He may be angry making all that noise. In Ohio when we were kids we stood in the yard, never thinking twice about the danger of the lightning. The thunder would be rolling down the hill. My brothers, sisters and cousins would dance around in the yard. Back then, nobody said, "Come in, you will be struck by lightning!"

Avery

We lived in Nebraska at the lake. This storm was a dry lightning storm with no rain. The lightning would strike going from cloud to cloud. There was not a single second when lightning was not striking. Balls of lightning flying across the sky. We never forgot it. The whole sky lit up, never hit the ground.

Jenny

I love weather, it's interesting and exciting. It brings the rain. I love how it sounds, how it goes through your body. It's a breathing, living dynamic thing. We were at the Temple, playing in the playground area. The lightning struck so close so bright so loud. I looked at my three-year-old grandson and we both screamed at the same time and ran to the car. He looks at me and says, "thunder go boom!"

John

Last Sunday, my partner's friend came to visit on his motorcycle from Albuquerque. He came up to get apricots. We went to gather apricots and saw the clouds rolling in. We get back to Seco, he insists he is fine. He leaves on his bike and we hear a gigantic crack of thunder. Oh no, the skies open up and a huge dump of water comes down. Now we are worried about him and go to look for him. We never found him, guessing he was fine. 1-1/4 miles down the road, no rain at all. Later a text from Michael, he got totally drenched but by the time he got to Ojo Caliente, he was completely dry.

Sandra

Out there at Heron Lake in the late 1980s the reservoir was high. Two friends and I rented a canoe one afternoon and went paddling around. Big clouds started coming in, lightning and thunder and the rain came pouring down while we were still in the canoe. We crawled in our tents, it rained all night. The wind, the waves, the whitecaps, pouring rain. Our adrenaline was high.

Andy

Every year when the last school bell rang for summer vacation, I'd pack up my camping gear and my Great Pyrenees and head to Heron Lake. The thunderstorms and lightning up in Champ valley was spectacular, until they became so booming close that they became terrifying. I remember one summer the storm was raging so wildly that my

dog, who was almost as big as me, and I lay in the tent, sure that we would be struck by lightning. As the rain pelted down and the thunder shook the entire campground, I held onto my trembling dog, as we both shook throughout the night, while the tent was brightly lit like a strobe light... And then the surreal beauty of the quiet aftermath of the storm in the morning when we stepped out of the tent and the whole world was saturated with blues and greens, pungent fragrance, sunshine, and silence.

Mike

Whenever we were listening to thunder, we had a lot of room to move. Long rumble = a thunder bumper. On the gulf coast of southern Texas, the windows would rattle right over your head = explosive. It was exciting to experience. Rain came down flooding the streets in no time at all. The storms felt really close, we never had hail storms. I remember a lightning strike on some old pine trees. You could see the line of lightning on the trunk, it had grooved out a place.

Jennybird

I was doing a concert in Kentucky. Big thunderstorm clouds start coming in. The trees were falling in the road, the electricity went out, I could not use the microphone. Limbs all over the road, for sure I thought the concert would be canceled. The restaurant put out candles and the whole town came and we all sang together. Just like in the olden days. People want to gather in thunderstorms.



Featured Photo September 2024

Photos by E. Wilde
Sunflower season in Questa!

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



**MENTAL
HEALTH
MATTERS**



By **DAWN PROVENCHER**

**The Importance
of Nurturing our
Whole Selves**

Just as the name of this column tells us: MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS! In truth, what in our own lives and the lives of the people we love matters more than our mental health? Of course, our physical health is important too, but what if we started thinking of ourselves, and ALL humans, in the following way:

Just as an egg is made up of the yolk, the white, and the shell, let's think of ourselves as a mixture of our physical well-being, our spiritual well-being,

and our mental well-being. Each is an important part of the totality of our whole self.

We are told from the time we are very young how we must pay attention to our body and our physical health. Brush your teeth. Eat fresh fruits and veggies. Stay away from too much sugar. Watch your blood pressure. Wear sunscreen... The list goes on and on AND it gets longer as we get older! In other words, we are taught how we are to take care of our bodies.

How about tending to our spiritual health? It is more than our religion. It is the fundamental of how we believe we fit into the "bigger picture." There are as many ways to approach this facet of ourselves as there are stars in the sky! Whether or not we were brought up in a church setting, we all learned something about the treatment of others, right and wrong, and other guides to our relationship with the world. Hopefully, we continue to develop our spiritual health throughout our lives, just as we do our physical health.

I have noticed, at recent routine doctor visits, that I am asked if I feel safe

at home, if I feel depressed, and other questions that focus in on my emotional and mental health. My health-care provider explained this was now common practice within the medical community. I think this is a great step in the right direction to show us our MENTAL HEALTH is just as important as our physical health. As much as we are taught to tend to the health of our bodies, to have a sense of how we develop our relationships with those around us, talking about our mental health does not come as easy for us. These questions being asked by our doctors is a good place to start, but it must go deeper and further.

In order to have a community of children who are resilient and able to handle the ups and downs of life, who are able to mature and develop appropriately, who can go to school and learn and grow, we must ensure they know they have responsible adults they can go to for help. We ask our children if they have brushed their teeth, but have we asked them about the feelings they are having about themselves? Have we asked them what makes them happy, what makes

them sad? Our children must know that taking care of their feelings is just as important as taking care of their bodies. Mental health needs to be discussed and talked about freely. And when problems arise, just as we would take care of a broken leg, elevated blood sugar, or a burst appendix, we need to address them openly and directly. We need to seek help for ourselves and our children when there are concerns.

Talk about this at the dinner table. How are you feeling? Do you feel safe? Do you feel happy? What are some things you can do when you are feeling sad, anxious, lonely? What are some things you think about before you go to sleep? When we cultivate a culture in which our feelings are talked about freely and our mental health is considered as important as our physical health, we will see happier children.

If you have concerns about yourself or someone you love, talk with your family healthcare professional. In New Mexico, this 24-hour, 7-days-a-week phone line is available: call 1-(855) 662-7474 or text "NAMI" to 741741 for confidential and free counseling.



Beta
motorcycles



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



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IT'S HARVEST SEASON

As fall arrives in northern New Mexico, it's time to embrace the tradition of preserving your fall harvest. In this issue, we celebrate the rich flavors of our region with two canned recipes: a sweet apple pie filling, perfect for cozy desserts; and pickled cucumbers infused with the vibrant taste of Hatch green chiles. These recipes are a delicious way to keep the warmth of the harvest season alive all year long. Happy canning!

CANNED APPLE PIE FILLING

Ingredients

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

Instructions

1. Prepare the apples

Peel, core, and slice apples into even pieces. To prevent browning, place apple slices in a solution of 1 cup lemon juice and 1 gallon of water, while you prepare the rest.

2. Make the syrup

Pour water into a Dutch oven over medium heat. Combine sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, salt, and nutmeg in a bowl; add to water, stir well, and bring to a boil. Boil for 2 minutes, stirring consistently.

3. Combine apples and syrup

Drain the apples and immediately fold them into the syrup mixture. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer until apples are tender, about 6 to 8 minutes. Cool for 30 minutes.

4. Canning

Ladle the hot apple pie filling into hot, sterilized quart jars, leaving 1 inch of headspace. Remove any air bubbles, wipe the rims, and secure the lids.

Place jars in a hot water bath canner and fill the canner with just enough water to cover the lids of the jars. Bring the water to a boil and start your timer. Process the jars in the boiling water for 25 minutes or more based on your altitude (See table below).

5. Storage

Once jars are processed and cooled, check the seals*. Store in a cool, dark place. The apple pie filling can last up to a year.

CANNED PICKLED NEW MEXICO CUCUMBERS

Ingredients

4 lb small cucumbers
(pickling cucumbers are ideal)
4 c white vinegar (5% acidity)
4 c water
2 T kosher salt
8 cloves garlic, peeled
8 sprigs fresh dill
4-8 raw Hatch green chiles, split lengthwise
(adjust according to desired spice level)
2 t mustard seeds
2 t black peppercorns

Instructions

1. Prepare the cucumbers

Wash the cucumbers thoroughly. If they are large, slice them into spears or rounds. Leave smaller cucumbers whole, but trim off the blossom end.

2. Prepare the brine

In a large pot, combine vinegar, water, and salt. Bring to a boil, stirring until the salt is dissolved.

3. Pack the jars

Into each sterilized pint jar, place 1 clove of garlic, 1 sprig of dill, 1-2 raw Hatch green chiles, 1/2 teaspoon mustard seeds, and 1/2 teaspoon black peppercorns. Pack the cucumbers tightly into the jars, either whole, sliced, or speared.

4. Add the brine

Pour the hot brine over the cucumbers, leaving 1/2 inch of headspace. Remove any air bubbles and wipe the rims before securing the lids.

5. Canning

Process pints 10 minutes and quarts 15 minutes.

6. Storage

After processing, let the jars cool and check seals. Store in a cool, dark place for at least two weeks before enjoying, allowing the flavors to develop. These pickled cucumbers can be stored for up to a year.

HOW TO SANITIZE JARS FOR CANNING

1. Wash the jars

First, wash the jars in hot, soapy water. Use a clean sponge or brush to remove any residue or labels. Rinse thoroughly.

2. Sterilize the jars

Boiling water method

Place the clean jars in a large pot of boiling water. Ensure the water covers the jars by at least 1 inch. Boil the jars for 10 minutes to sterilize. Keep the jars hot until you're ready to use them.

Dishwasher method

If your dishwasher has a sanitize cycle, you can use it to clean the jars. Arrange the jars in the dishwasher and run the sanitize cycle. The jars will remain hot in the dishwasher until you're ready to use them.

Oven method

Preheat your oven to 225°F (107°C). Place the clean, dry jars on a baking sheet and heat them in the oven for 10-15 minutes. Let the jars cool slightly before filling. Avoid using this method for jars with plastic lids or gaskets.

3. Keep jars hot

It's important to keep the jars hot until they are filled with your hot canning contents. This prevents the jars from breaking due to thermal shock when filled with hot food.

4. Lid preparation

For metal lids, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Typically, they are not boiled but are usually heated in hot water to soften the sealing compound. Do not overheat or boil them.

* HOW TO TEST FOR JAR SEALS

1. Remove the screw bands when jars have cooled

2. Press the lid center with your finger. If the lid springs up when released, it is not sealed.

3. Tap the lid with a teaspoon. A sealed jar lid will make a ringing sound.

4. Hold the jar at eye level and look across the lid. A sealed jar lid curves down slightly in the center.

Source: NM State University Extension Service



Courtesy Photo

I heard that someone in the neighborhood had a large crop of daikon radishes ready to harvest. Here is a Japanese pickling recipe in honor of that information.

PICKLED DAIKON

This is an easy "umami" (savory flavor) packed Japanese style pickled daikon recipe that pairs beautifully with a bowl of rice or that can be enjoyed as a snack or a flavor booster for sandwiches.

Ingredients

2 c daikon, peeled and chopped
bite size

Pickling liquid

3 T Japanese soy sauce
1 T Japanese light soy sauce
1 c water
2 T rice vinegar
1 T mirin
1 clove garlic, crushed

Instructions

1. In a bowl, mix all the ingredients for the pickling liquid and stir.

2. Put the daikon in a large tupperware container and pour the pickling liquid over.

3. Mix well, cover and refrigerate for at least 2 days and for up to 1 week for a more intense flavor. When you are happy with the taste, dispose of the pickling liquid.

<https://pickledplum.com/pickled-daikon-japanese-recipe/#tasty-recipes-40808>



Photo by E. Wilde

Refrigerator canned jalapeños (easy recipe); <https://thetoastykitchen.com/refrigerator-pickled-jalapeños/>

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

The Aroma of the Southwest

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Spicy foods can be addictive, right? You have one bite, then another, then another, all while your tongue might be on fire. Spicy foods are said to be addictive because they release endorphins and dopamine, kinda like exercising, but right now we're talking about exercising your taste buds!

Fresh chile is good for you, offering antioxidants and micronutrients that support our health. It is rich in vitamin C, and can boost your immunity. Around 7000 BC, chile peppers were used by Mayans to treat asthma, coughs, and sore throats. The Aztec are known to have used chile to treat toothaches and for pain in general.

The tradition of growing, cultivating, roasting, and eating green chile has been occurring in New Mexico for over 400 years. According to Spanish written records, chile peppers were introduced into the Southwest by Juan De Oñate, the founder of Santa Fe, in 1610. Although the Spanish brought seeds for cultivation, chile peppers are indigenous to South America, with origins near Brazil.

New Mexico, particularly in areas like the village of Hatch, has been proven to provide perfect growing conditions for green chile. Our altitude, long hot days and cool nights, and deep well-drained nutrient-rich soils provide crops of green chile that are enjoyed all over the country. In fact, New Mexico is the largest chile pepper producer in the United States. Our state vegetable (chile is actually a fruit) is sown in April, ripe in August, and turns various shades of red when mature.

My experience with green chile started back when I was a kid. We would usually head to a nearby grocery store and get two boxes of green chile—enough to last the year and some to share. Once your box of chiles was picked out, you'd take it outside to be roasted. Just like burning piñon in the winter, the smell of the fresh chiles roasting is one of those aromas that remind you that you're a New Mexican.

You'd then take your freshly roasted bags of chile home and begin to unload on a table lined with plastic. If you could, you'd gather three to five people to help peel and de-stem them and set aside the really good ones for relLENOS. Someone would be making tortillas alongside

this process, and when all the chile was peeled and ready, it was put into small bags and frozen. Some chile never made it into baggies but was just enjoyed fresh, with homemade tortillas.

Back in my college days I would come home before fall semester and once I was ready to head back to Arizona, my sister and I packed a cooler with green chile that had been roasted, peeled, and bagged a few days prior. Once I moved to Oregon, I wondered how I would now get green chile? This was on my list of top priorities along with finding a place to live. To remedy this issue, my parents would come visit periodically and were sure to bring me some frozen green chile in a cooler. It really is something most New Mexicans can't live without, and a staple that contributes to our cultural identity.

Starting the second week of August, the Sangre de Cristo Valley Market began offering 25-pound boxes of fresh green chiles for \$30, roasted. Owner Dominic Apodaca mentioned the store will be offering freshly roasted green chile while supplies last.



Courtesy Photo

Sangre de Cristo Valley Market Fresh Green Chile



By J. ORTEGA

THE BIKERIDERS

Starring: Austin Butler, Jodie Comer, Tom Hardy, and Michael Shannon

Directed by Jeff Nichols

RATED R

Streaming on Peacock

First Impression: "The Bikeriders" is a rip-roaring good time. We get the compelling story of the strong-willed and charming Kathy who is drawn to the elusive and mysterious Benny who belongs to a Chicago-based biker gang in mid-century America. The movie shows the gang's transformation from blue collar social club to a haven for criminality and violence.

If you've gone to the movies in the last two to three years, the name Austin Butler may be a name you've become familiar with. He's starred in big budget and critically acclaimed blockbusters, from a Charles Manson cult member in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" to the king of rock 'n' roll in the biographical film "Elvis," to the villain in the science fiction behemoth "Dune: Part 2."

With Leonardo DiCaprio getting a little long in the tooth it appears that Hollywood has found its next leading man in Austin Butler, so don't be surprised if you see him in many more prestigious and blockbuster films in the future. So, it's a bit of a surprise that he's appearing in this indie film, "The Bikeriders," because it was not heavily promoted and didn't have a big budget nor a famous director at the helm.

"The Bikeriders" is a character-driven drama. The performances are very well delivered by some veteran character actors, like Michael Shannon, who plays a character named Zipco, who's a complete mystery and is supposedly from Latvia.

We also get the talented and beautiful Jodie Comer (who delivers

a great Chicago-land accent), mostly known for the AMC show, "Killing Eve." She immerses herself into the character of Kathy, a young woman who is drawn to Benny (played by Butler) and later marries him after only knowing him for a month and thereby gets herself into the inner circle of the biker gang called The Vandals. The Vandals was started by another big-name star, Tom Hardy of "Venom" and "Mad Max: Fury Road" fame. He plays the character Johnny, who's a regular truck driver and got the idea of starting a motorcycle gang from—of all things—a television show starring Marlon Brando.

I really enjoyed the pacing of the film. We move from each segment of the film seamlessly with no wasted time of dialogue or unnecessary scenes or action. Everything has a point, and everything is related in the film. The film worked so well in keeping me interested because it's told in partly a documentary style by Kathy, as throughout the film she's interviewed by a student journalist who's looking to make a book or a movie about the rise of motorcycle gangs and counterculture in the United States. She's the emotional core of the movie; she really humanizes the bikers and makes them much more likable than what they really are. "The Bikeriders" is the type of movie that will keep you entertained and you'll want to watch again.

Final Verdict: 4 ½ stars



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OBITUARIES



**Ana "Mayo" Archuleta
d. August 8, 2024**

It is with great sadness but rejoicing in our Lord Jesus Christ that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, and friend: Ana "Mayo" Archuleta.

Mayo, to whom she was known by everyone, was born on May 12, 1930 to Amado and Beatriz Quintana in Cerro, NM and departed from this world on July 29, 2024.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Amado & Beatriz Quintana; beloved husband Claudio Archuleta; sons Leroy Archuleta, Gregory Archuleta, Ralph Archuleta and daughter Claudia Archuleta; siblings Duby Quintana, Utila Salazar, Arsenio Gallegos, Adonario Gallegos, Crisiforo Gallegos; and grandson Macario Vigil.

Mayo is survived by her loving children, Pete Archuleta (Sally), Ruth Lewis (Brett), Johnny Archuleta (Rhonda), Mary Archuleta (Jim), Juan Archuleta (Lori) and Teddy Archuleta; siblings Alonzo Quintana, Frank Quintana, Lucio Quintana, Betty Archuleta, Loveida Cisneros (David); grandchildren Claudia Castilleja (Lalo), Jason Archuleta, Megan Archuleta (Jose), Marissa Archuleta (Trent), Matthew Salerno, Madison Salerno; great-grandchildren Elliot Herrera, Ethan Herrera, Damian Castilleja, Julian Castilleja and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Mayo was a beautiful person and enjoyed life to the fullest. Resilient and hardworking through the years, she had been known to split her own wood, irrigate and hike down the Rio Grande to try her luck at some trout. She was instrumental in setting a solid foundation for her family with her husband Claudio. They built a house, raised sheep and hogs and knew the meaning of hard work. She was also in the front lines with muddy hands helping with the restoration of St. Anthony's church in Questa. Mayo had a passion for gardening, canning, and cooking. Fresh beans, chile, tortillas, and apple pies were always in abundance in Mayo's kitchen. And everyone knew what time to stop by her house for a visit. She used to say, "a bowl of beans, not an apple, will keep the doctor away." A devout catholic who loved her faith and our lord Jesus Christ with all her heart, Mayo belonged to Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Church in Cerro and enjoyed praying

the rosary, singing in the choir, reading her bible, and also taught catechism. Mayo had a big family and an extensive family and friends. She loved everyone and everyone loved her back. It's hard to say goodbye to someone who meant the world to everyone, but she lived her life as a steward for Christ and definitely an example to follow. She will forever be in our hearts. Thank you for everything, mom. We love you.

At this time we would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, phone calls and kind words. We would also like to thank the staff at Three Springs Lodge, Chester, Illinois for their love and care. A very special thank you to Joaquin Gonzales and staff at DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos, for their care and compassion.

Rosary was recited on Friday, August 16, 2024 at St. Anthony's Catholic church. Mass of Christian burial was on Saturday, August 17, 2024, and burial followed at the Cerro Cemetery.

The family of Ana "Mayo" Archuleta has entrusted the care of their loved one to the caring staff of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. (866) 657-4019.



**Amarissa "Missa" Cintas
d. August 18, 2024**

Amarissa "Missa" Cintas age 15, a resident of Questa, passed away unexpectedly on August 18, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her father Tony Cintas, Jr; paternal grandfather Tony Cintas; cousin Amber Archuleta and Nino Jerry Sandoval.

Missa was a sophomore at Questa High School and was the manager of the cheerleading squad. When not busy with school events, she enjoyed working at Capo's Italian Restaurant in Red River. She will be dearly missed.

She is survived by her mother Amanda Cordova; siblings Alyssa Cintas, Angelica Cintas and Avianna Cintas; nephew Ayden Cintas Sisco; grandparents Raymond Cordova, Rita Cordova (Danny Pino), and Rose Cintas; aunt Annette Cintas (John), godmother Cassandra Cordova, plus many other loving cousins, relatives and cherished friends.

Public viewing will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 from 4pm to 5pm in the Evergreen Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home in Taos. Funeral Service will be on Thursday, August 29, 2024 at

11:00am at Living Word Ministries in Questa.

The family of Amarissa "Missa" Cintas has entrusted the care of their loved one to the caring staff of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



**Johnny Bautista Gonzales
d. August 10, 2024**

Johnny Bautista González, aka "Bananas," peacefully and lovingly took his journey to meet our Lord God on Saturday, August 10, 2024, following a courageous battle with kidney failure. Johnny was a strong trooper since the beginning of the diagnosis facing many challenges, but, in the end, at the age of 77, he no longer had the strength to continue the fight. Johnny was born February 13, 1947, to Alfrio Gonzales and Lucy Vallejos Gonzales, both deceased. Johnny graduated from Questa High School in 1966, and he joined the army, going to Vietnam, from 1969 to 1971. Johnny married Nancy Gomez in 1974, they had two sons and one daughter; Jason Douglas Gonzalez who married Maria Montoya. They had four daughters; Anastacia (Riley), Araceli (Matthew), Amalia, and Alianna. Son Juan Bautista González (Beverly Rael) has two sons; Juanito and Marcus (Martina), two granddaughters; Aliyah and Jordyn Martinez, their mother and grandmother is Julie Gonzales. Beverly has two daughters and one son; Angelia, Sabrina, and Carlos Sifuentes. Johnny joins his beautiful daughter Ramona, who lost the battle to pneumonia and the Covid-19 virus in 2021. Ramona had five children; Esperanza (Joshua), two grandsons; Nemiyah and Eziyah and son Enrique. Daniel Gallardo is Esperanza's and Enrique's father; with daughter Marivel and her father Vicente Martinez, two sons Elijah and Atreyu, stepdaughter Eve and their father Brian Pino. Johnny leaves three sisters and their families; Kathy Ramos, Margaret Gonzales (Becky Reardon), Anna Reichbach (Ray) and one brother, Anthony (Mark Johnson -deceased). Johnny leaves many friends, family members, special cousins, nieces, nephews and a few special aunts and uncles and their families. Johnny also leaves his in-law brothers and sisters and their families; Steve Gomez-deceased (Linda), Felix Gomez (Linda), Frank Gomez, Della Apodaca, Nina Apodaca, and Charlene Ramos (Jose). Johnny's father-in-law; Arturo Rogerio Gomez and his

mother-in-law; Maria Berlinda Gomez preceded Johnny in death. As a Support Parent, Johnny also leaves two young children. Johnny enjoyed all his family and loved spending time with each one of them, especially holiday and special occasion gatherings and meals. Johnny also leaves Preciosa Bonita, his Shih Tzu.

Johnny was a hardworking man all his life. He enjoyed caring for the family farm; planting crops, tending to them—irrigating and cutting, etc. He especially enjoyed working alongside Gramma Lucy in her huge vegetable gardens. Johnny worked at many places, including Molycorp and the Red River Ski Area. In 1994, he purchased the Shell gas station and expanded to a very successful automotive shop. Johnny expanded and built the Chevron gas station, which included Bananas, which sold the delicious and popular chicharron burrito.

Johnny enjoyed fishing at the Rio Grande and just loved the outdoors. Before he got busy with his businesses, he also hunted. He had the opportunity to travel to many different places in the US and abroad with his wife Nancy. Together, they both enjoyed the many different foods available and breathtaking sites.

The González family appreciates the many prayers, kind words and thoughts expressed, delicious meals including desserts, visits, floral arrangements and overall, an expression of love, respect and support for Johnny. Rivera Family Funerals & Cremations of Taos is entrusted with the care of Johnny.



**Barlo Santistevan
d. August 2, 2024**

Barlo Santistevan, age 68, a resident of Cerro, passed away unexpectedly on August 2, 2024. He is preceded in death by his parents Benerito and Mary Santistevan, brothers Ted and Tony Santistevan, and nephew Steve 'Boomer' Santistevan. He is survived by his partner of 24 years Carolyn Gallegos; son Bryan Lovato; sister Charlene Duran (Anthony); brothers Steve and Ronald Santistevan, and many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, cousins, and many, many friends.

As a young man, Barlo traveled the country as a wildland firefighter. He enjoyed telling stories

OBITUARIES

of the many places he visited while fighting fires. He worked numerous jobs, including at Amalia Lumber, until he found a job that he truly enjoyed at Waste Management, where he worked for many years, until 2017. Family was one of the most important things to Barlo. He built his home in Cerro to be near family. His family always knew he was taking care of "the ranch." He loved spending time with his family, camping, cruising, and going to the casino. He will always be remembered for his kindness and big heart and his sense of humor. You couldn't be around him without smiling. He was also known as a great conversationalist, making friends everywhere he went. Barlo will be greatly missed by everyone.

A rosary was recited Monday, August 12 at the Virgen de Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cerro. Mass of Christian burial was held Tuesday, August 13, with burial following at the Cerro Cemetery. A Friendship Circle meal was served at the Questa VFW following the burial.



Michelle Rascon
d. August 2, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved daughter, granddaughter, sister, and friend, Michelle Rascón. Michelle went home to be with the Lord on Friday, August 2, 2024.

She was a loving, compassionate, thoughtful, and big-hearted person who touched the lives of many with her kindness and warmth. Her unwavering faith, strength, and dignity was inspiring and admirable.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather Dolphie Arellano, uncle (Nino) Ernie Arellano, great-grandmother Bessie Barela, and great uncle Frank Barela.

Michelle is survived by her loving partner of nearly 25 years, Michael Sandoval, mother Bessie Rascon, grandmother Agatha Arellano, sisters and brother Norma Rascon (Nick) Javier Rascon (Kristi), Bonnie Rascon, Amy Vialpando (Veto), and Monique Romero (Monie). She is also survived by her nieces and nephews Nathaniel Herrera, Isaiah Martinez, Tiana Rascon (God daughter) Nevaeh Rascon, Zaedrian Rascon, Jordin Rascon, Martin Delvo (God-

son), D'Angelo Guzman (Godson), Jeremiah Vialpando, Zachary Vialpando, Isaac Vialpando, Maliyah Lopez, Marivel Lopez, Madison Lopez, Layla Lopez, Madeline Lopez, who she deeply loved, along with uncles and auntie Leroy Arellano, Frankie and Dawn Arellano; cousins Robert Arellano (Amber), Jalen Arellano, Devin Arellano; in-laws Jimmy and Jeanette, along with many other friends and family. Michelle will be deeply missed by her family friends and all who knew her.

Rosary was recited on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Costilla. Mass of Christian burial was held on Thursday, August 15, with burial following at the Amalia Cemetery. We invite all who knew and loved Michelle to join us in celebrating her remarkable life and the joy she brought into our hearts.

In this time of deep and great loss we are profoundly grateful for your thoughts, prayers, and support. Michelle's spirit will continue to live on in the many lives she touched, and we find comfort and gratitude in the love and memories we shared with her. Forever in our hearts. Forever loved.



Stephen William "Rico" Vigil
d. August 6, 2024

Stephen William Vigil "Rico," age 73, passed away on August 6, 2024, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Rico was born on August 27, 1950, in Questa, to Frank (Pancho) Vigil and Presides Vigil. Rico was a father, a brother, an uncle, and a great friend. Rico always had a big smile to all who knew him or came across him. Rico had a love for riding Harleys, classic cars, playing pool, and making people laugh. He is preceded in death by parents Pancho and Precides, son Chris (Bubba) Vigil, brothers Frankie Vigil, Johnny Vigil, and sisters Angie Martinez, Marie Ritter McCaine, and Barbara Torres. Rico is survived by his son Carlos Vigil, sister Dorothy Martinez, brother Danny Boy Vigil and numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. The funeral service was held in Rico's honor on August 26, 2024 at Living Word Ministries in Questa, NM. Biker friends met at the bridge at 10:30 for one last ride home.

ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson
SEPTEMBER 2024

THE GALACTIC AMBASSADORS

"The doctrine that the world was made up of objects whose existence is independent of human consciousness turns out to be in conflict with Quantum Mechanics and with facts established by experiment."

—Bernard d'Espagnat (Scientific American, 1979)

The three outer planets not clearly visible to the naked eye and therefore generally beyond our conscious awareness are Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. This is one reason why they affect whole generations rather than affecting us personally and are called generational planets by all astrologers. Esoterically speaking, they are the ambassadors that liaise between our solar system and the galaxy. Ever since the discovery of these three galactic ambassadors collective humanity has been presented with an opportunity to raise its vibrational frequencies. The galactic role of these outer planets is especially evident during their retrograde phases, which is their most spiritual expression. This month, all three are retrograde.

The retrograde phases of these three planets deal with the task of spiritual transformation. The opportunity exists to "see" the true nature of the objective world as the veil of illusion entrapping society. Now the veil is lifted, revealing the reality of the underlying dynamics of its nature and at the same time, remaining true to the essence of our real identity as a radiation of the Source itself. Humanity eventually reaches a more universal awareness of the Spirit through the conscious use of powers and functions which are not ours due to human effort by default, but rather because they have become available to humanity for its use ever since the discovery of these ambassadors. Esoterically, we can call their powers "divine gifts" of the Spirit entrusted to mankind to use wisely for the sake of the greater good. Although the effects of these three planetary entities is generational, the individual's personal reaction to the needs of the moment will always be clearly indicated in terms of the circumstances and experiences of the House environment in which the transiting retrograde planet is located. As we head into this pivotal fall season, it's a time for pondering.

Everyone: A partial lunar eclipse; Neptune closer to Earth than ever and the Autumnal Equinox = a month in which to pay attention.

ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19

Dynamic: This is a great month to apply that great brain to research.

Direction: Questions need to be answered.

Soul Thought: Do you know how to phrase a good question?

TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20

Dynamic: Something this month is too precious to be guessed at.

Direction: Look inside; you already know the answer.

Soul Thought: What is the question?

GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – JULY 20

Dynamic: Time to segue from thoughtful consideration to action.

Direction: Be sure discernment is part of the process.

Soul Thought: Do you know how?

CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ JULY 20 – JULY 22

Dynamic: Deeply intuitive insight is yours if you can understand.

Direction: We need your understanding.

Soul Thought: "To understand yourself is the beginning of wisdom." —Krishnamurti

LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22

Dynamic: Giving birth to a new way of being can happen now.

Direction: It's already within you.

Soul Thought: The nucleus of everything.

VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22

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

Direction: Use the color, Indigo Blue.

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

LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22

Dynamic: Some banking irregularity may occur.

Direction: Determine your own security.

Soul Thought: In a world of illusion, what is security?

SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21

Dynamic: You may experience a finale of sorts.

Direction: It's up to you whether "grand" or disappointing.

Soul Thought: Always.

SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ⊕ NOV 21 – DEC 20

Dynamic: It's time for an ending; it's time for a beginning.

Direction: Experience both fully.

Soul Thought: All good things... come around again.

CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19

Dynamic: It may feel like one step forward for two steps backward.

Direction: Go outside and view your Saturn; so close this month!

Soul Thought: It'll be inspiration.

AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18

Dynamic: An abundance of information is out there.

Direction: How to discern?

Soul Thought: Truth, Beauty, Goodness.

PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20

Dynamic: This time too, shall pass.

Direction: You've had a taste of the new; change is still coming.

Soul Thought: It's the last hurrah for old ways!

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 • SEPTEMBER 2024

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN SEPTEMBER!

AUGUST 29: THU 10 AM - 11:30 PM Thursday Painting! at **Questa Senior Center**, Highway 522. No materials will be provided; please bring your own paint materials! Info: email Mellie Rodriguez of Questa Senior Center at mrodriguez@taosnet.com

6 - 9 PM Live music featuring Lady's Mantle at Mountain Monk, 4153 NM 68, Ranchos de Taos. Please join us for an enjoyable evening filled with Live music featuring the talented Lady's Mantle. This remarkable local all-women band brings a delightful blend of inspiration and melodic tunes that are sure to create a memorable atmosphere for all attendees. Door fee: \$10 Info: call (347) 860-2111

AUGUST 31: SAT 10 AM - 5 PM Seco Potter Fest at Arroyo Seco Live Stage 481 Highway 150. The Third Annual Seco Potter Fest is Labor Day weekend, representing 20 artists from Northern NM. Each day there will be live music, pottery demos, a kids clay table and a silent auction supporting Taos youth in the arts. Info: visit taoschamber.com/events/details/seco-potter-fest-08-31-2024-28516, or call (575) 770-5027

SEPTEMBER 1: SUN 10 AM - 5 PM Seco Potter Fest at Arroyo Seco Live Stage 481 Highway 150. The Third Annual Seco Potter Fest. See details above

SEPTEMBER 2: MON 10 AM - 5 PM Seco Potter Fest at Arroyo Seco Live Stage 481 Highway 150. The Third Annual Seco Potter Fest. See details above

SEPTEMBER 4: WED 6 PM Questa Independent School Board Meeting at QISD Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. # A. School Board Meeting. Info: call (575) 586-0421

SEPTEMBER 7: SAT 9 AM 'How Money Works' Brunch for Women, A focus on women's financial success, at UNM-Bataan Hall, 121 Civic Plaza Drive, Taos, \$25. Info and to register: Kim Scouller (575) 779-7886

2 - 4 PM Our Historical Images at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd., The Questa Public Library is proud to present: Our Historical Images. Twenty-five locally photographed historical images by WPA artists John Collier Jr. and Russel Lee will be hung in a permanent display. We will have activities that focus on the rich cultural significance of the Questa area. Info: visit questalibrary.org/category/library-events, or call (575) 586-2023

SEPTEMBER 9: MON 5 - 7 PM You Can Do It M'ija Potluck at UNM Taos, 1157 County Road 110, Ranchos de Taos. All those who support the growth and development of young women are invited to this event—a part of a mentoring program called You Can Do It M'ija at UNM-Taos. Women from our community serve as mentors to college and high school young women. Info: call (575) 737-3696

6 PM Questa Economic Development Fund monthly Board Meeting in person at the Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. and via Zoom. Contact Director Lynn Skall for link, agenda, and more info: lynn@questaedf.com

SEPTEMBER 10: TUE 6 PM Village of Questa Town Council Meeting at Questa Village Town Hall, 2500 Old State Rd 3. For agenda and Info: visit questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda, or call (575) 586-0694

SEPTEMBER 11: WED 5:30 - 7:30 PM How to get into a Gallery! at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. Info: email Jessica Trujillo of Questa Business Bridge at QBB-Coordinator@questaedf.com or visit sites.google.com/questaedf.com/questabusinessbridge/class-schedule

SEPTEMBER 13: FRI 10 AM - NOON Food for All at North Central NM Food Pantry, 140 Embargo Rd. Info: visit questafoodpantry.org, or call (575) 586-0486

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

1 - 3 PM Twirl Steam Play at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. Join Twirl for SPECTACOLOR, an exploration of color through science and art. Make your own lens and be a part of Twirl's installation for the Paseo 2024! Red, orange, fuchsia, blue... how do colors affect you? Parents and kids learn together as they play, create & explore! Info: email library@villageofquesta.org, or call (575) 586-2023

2 - 5:30 PM Taos County Job Fair and Hiring Event. Free to host a table; free to attend. UNM-Bataan Hall, 121 Civic Plaza Drive, Taos. Info: Kara Dominguez, Department of Workforce Solutions, Kara.Dominguez@dws.nm.gov

SEPTEMBER 18: WED 6 PM Questa Independent School Board Meeting at QISD Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. # A. School Board Meeting. Info: call (575) 586-0421

SEPTEMBER 19: THU 10 AM - NOON 1:1 Confidential Business Consulting at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. 1:1 Free business consulting with Anwar Kaelin. 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

SEPTEMBER 21: SAT 11 AM A Pinon Fest! at Wild Rivers Visitors Center, 1120 Cerritos Road (NM-378). The Wild Rivers Recreation Area will host guests from the QCC's Questa History Trail team, who will join our national monument staffers for an audio-visual-storytelling event to celebrate our autumn harvest. Everything you never knew you needed to know about picking pinon in NNM will be covered; a culturally-enlightening event, with pinon cookies! Info: visit QuestaCreative.org, or call local staff at (505) 901-8436, or the BLM Taos Field Office at (575) 758-8851

SEPTEMBER 24: TUE 6 PM Village of Questa Town Council Meeting at Questa Village Town Hall, 2500 Old State Rd 3. For agenda: questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda. Info: visit questa-nm.com/village-council-meeting-agenda

SEPTEMBER 25: WED 5:30 - 7:30 PM Social Media Marketing: Strategy Workshop at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal park road. Take your social media presence to the next level with this hands-on workshop tailored for local businesses. Learn how to create a compelling social media strategy that aligns with your business goals, engages your audience, and drives results. Info: email QBB-Coordinator@questaEDF.com, or visit sites.google.com/questaedf.com/questabusinessbridge/class-schedule

SEPTEMBER 27: 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

SEPTEMBER 28: SAT 9 - 10 AM Free Homebuyer Education Class, buy your home with confidence, sponsored by the Taos Housing Partnership. Kit Carson Electric Coop Board Room at 118 Cruz Alta Road. Register and Info: info@taoshousingpartnership.org or call (575) 770-3562.

OCTOBER 02: WED 6 PM Questa Independent School Board Meeting at QISD Board Room, 2256 Wildcat Rd. # A. School Board Meeting. Info: call (575) 586-0421

Weekly Events

SUNDAY

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

1:30 - 2:30 PM Wildcat Kitty Club at Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Road. Storytime for our smallest guests...ages 0-3. We read books, sing, dance, and play. Sometimes we do activities related to the story of the day. We always have snacks. Meet your friends here and have playtime together. Info: email library@villageofquesta.org, visit villageofquesta.org, or call (575) 586-2023

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

7 - 9 PM Weekly Recovery Program at Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Rd, Questa. New Thirst Christ Centered Recovery Program offered weekly on Friday Evenings. Info: visit taoschamber.com/events/details/weekly-recovery-program-09-06-2024-22734

SATURDAY

There are no activities listed for Saturdays at time of publishing. Check the online Calendar for up to date information. questanews.com/questa-events

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>



Happy Harvest

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

The Village of Questa is currently looking to hire basic and intermediate paramedics and police officers. Please contact Valerie Vigil at (575) 741-5334 or email at vvigil@villageofquesta.org. Applications can also be picked up at the Village Administration Department.

Notices

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 slvsna.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

Golden Rule

The kids are back in School,
To learn the Old Golden Rule.

A Basic principle that should Be,
General or in a Particular Activity.

One of the basis of the Golden Rule,
.....(7:12 Matthew)

The Biblical rule of.....Do unto
others as you would have ... Them do
..... Unto you."

A noun is what it is..... No less,
Always to be followed To Success.

Some sit in the corner on a small Stool,
A paper dunce hat for acting like a Fool.

"One in this is..... Punctuality;"
Be good in your lessonsof Reality.

—Senor 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

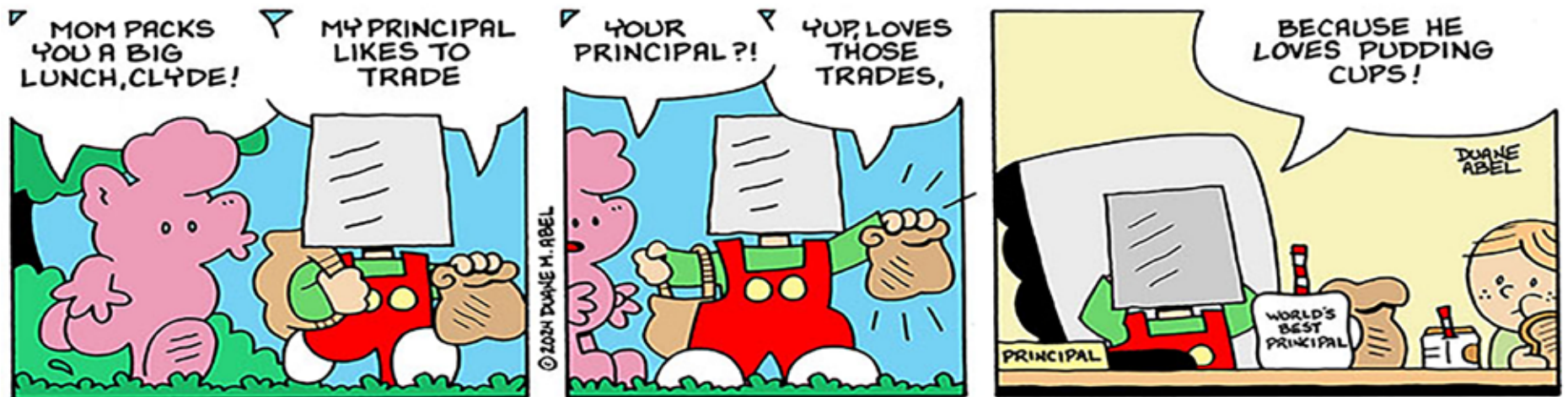


AA MEETINGS
Honesty, Unselfishness,
Purity and Love.

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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QUESTA FARMERS MARKET
 Questa Visitor Center through Oct 6
 Farmers & Gardeners from NM Colorado vendors may join!
 • Local musicians
 • Food entrepreneurs
 • Paid internships for teens
sundays 10 to 2
 (575) 224-2102 • QuestaFarmersMarket.org
 A Nonprofit Program of Localogy 501(c)(3)

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 schedule online
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yogasalaquesta@gmail.com
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or Scan QR Code