



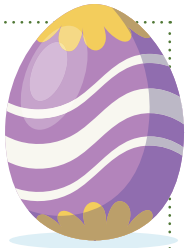
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Tension Rises as Questa Debates \$231M Green Energy Project

By LORA ARCINIEGA

The proposed green hydrogen plant in Questa has moved from a conceptual clean-energy project to a focal point of intense local debate regarding water security and local government transparency.

During a packed Village Council meeting on March 10, and a subsequent gathering of the Questa Watershed Protectors on March 15 at the Questa VFW, residents and elected officials alike raised pointed questions about the project's evolving technical specs and its reliance

on a tailings-well owned by Chevron.

The \$231 million Green Hydrogen project, a collaboration between the Village and Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC), aims to provide long-duration energy storage. However, a shift in federal regulations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has expedited the process and completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) in January of 2026, leading some community members



Photo by Jason Gonzalez

Proposed location of the Solar Array project from the Vistas trail, looking east into Questa, taken March 13

GREEN ENERGY cont'd on page 3

THE ISSUE	WATERSHED PROTECTORS PERSPECTIVE	KIT CARSON ELECTRIC (KCEC) PERSPECTIVE	VILLAGE OF QUESTA (VOQ) PERSPECTIVE
WATER USAGE	Fear that pumping 47 acre-feet/year from the tailings well will deplete the aquifer and dry up domestic wells and acequias.	Plans to use existing Chevron water rights. The well is adjudicated for 250 acre-feet/year as approved by Office of State Engineer in 2016; 2025 usage was 5.36 acre-feet used for dust abatement. Planned usage not to exceed 47 acre-feet/year. Would use wastewater if it became available.	Focused on ensuring no water is taken from the existing municipal supply. Notes additional water impairment study is forthcoming.
SAFETY & RISK	Concerns over high-pressure storage of flammable hydrogen near Alta Vista elementary school and community.	Asserts all federal safety standards will be met with 24/7 monitoring and modern secondary containment systems. A third-party safety evaluation was conducted by Baker Risk Feb. 2026.	Relies on state and federal environmental impact studies and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) from EA (signed Jan. 2026)
ECONOMY & JOBS	Questions if the "boom" of 150-250 temporary construction jobs and 9-10 long term jobs will lead to meaningful, local employment.	Views the \$>200 million total investment as a way to stabilize the grid by providing up to 50 hours or more of backup power through energy storage. This would involve a Power Purchase Agreement with the VOQ valued at a minimum of \$1 million per year for 20 years.	Sees the project as a vital new tax base to replace lost revenue from the 2014 Chevron mine closure.
TRANSPARENCY	Critical of "backroom" research into private LLCs (Questa Solar 1) and a perceived lack of formal public Q&A sessions.	States the public-private partnership is a legal necessity for the Village to eventually own the solar infrastructure.	The Mayor maintains that research into legal partnerships does not require prior council approval but will be voted on publicly.
FEDERAL OVERSIGHT	Concerned that "fast-tracked" NEPA rules under the USDA eliminate the study of long-term cumulative environmental risks and halted public comment during the planning phase.	Emphasizes strict compliance with the current federal regulations and FONSI. Public comments were taken during the scoping process and subsequent meetings.	Trusts the federal process to vet the site while prioritizing the June 2026 groundbreaking to secure project funding.

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Questa del Rio News

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OPINION EDITORIAL

Op-Ed: Honoring Our Heritage While Building a Responsible Energy Future

By LUIS REYES, CEO

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

I grew up here.

Like many of you, Northern New Mexico is home. I have walked these roads, spent time along our rivers, and raised my family under the same skies generations before us knew. This land is not just where we live. It is who we are.

Because of that, every decision we make about the future carries real responsibility.

At Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, we believe energy is about more than power. It is about people. It is about stewardship. It is about honoring the land, protecting our water, and caring for one another.

Today, we are looking at a new opportunity. One that is bonded by the heritage of this land and shaped by the values of the people who call it home.

The Questa Hydrogen Project is not about changing who we are. It is about building on who we have always been. A community that looks out for each other. A community grounded in common sense. A community that understands that progress only matters if it improves the quality of life.

We know what matters here.

We know that land is not just property. It is history and culture.

We know that water is not just a resource. It is life.

And we know that any path forward must respect both.

That is why any energy project we explore must be approached with care, transparency, and a commitment to doing things the right way.

It also means being honest about the economic reality our communities face.

Rural Northern New Mexico has been searching for a sustainable, long-term economic opportunity that allows families to stay, work, and build a future here. Too often, our young people feel they have to leave to find good-paying work. Too often, our communities are left without the resources needed to invest in infrastructure, public safety, and local services.

This project represents a chance to change that.

Independent analysis shows the potential to create more than 200 construction jobs and dozens of long-term, good-paying careers tied to operations

and energy production. Over the first five years alone, the project could generate nearly \$300 million in regional economic impact, with more than \$200 million directly benefiting the Questa area. It also has the potential to generate approximately \$44 million in tax revenue, including around \$26 million that would stay local to support schools, roads, emergency services, and community needs.

These are not abstract numbers. They represent real paychecks, real opportunities, and real investments in the future of our communities.

At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the realities we face today.

Wildfire risk is increasing across our region. Strengthening our local energy system is one practical way to respond. By investing in local energy generation and storage, we can reduce dependence on long transmission lines and improve reliability during extreme weather and emergency situations. That is common sense. That is about safety.

But economic opportunity and infrastructure are only part of the picture.

True progress is about people.

It is about whether families can stay in the communities they love.

It is about whether we create opportunities for the next generation.

It is about whether we improve the quality of life in ways that are felt every day.

And just as important, it is about how we treat each other along the way.

We can have different opinions. We can ask hard questions. We can disagree. But we must do it with respect, with patience, and with human kindness. That is who we are.

This should not happen to our communities. It should be shaped by them.

We are listening. We are engaging. And we are committed to making sure that any decision reflects the values we all share.

If we move forward, it will be because it makes sense for our land, for our water, and for our people. It will be because it strengthens our quality of life, improves safety, and creates real economic opportunity.

This is about stewardship. It is about responsibility. And it is about honoring both our heritage and our future.

Because this is our home.

And we will take care of it together.

GREEN ENERGY cont'd from page 1

to feel sidelined.

At the heart of the opposition is the source of the water. Initially presented as using treated mine water, the plan now involves a tailings well west of town. At the March 15 meeting of the Watershed Protectors, Cabresto Lake Irrigation Community Ditch Association Chairman Danny Garcia noted the well was originally intended for dust abatement.

While Kit Carson Electric and its consultants emphasize that the facility will use a deep well protected by thick clay layers, many residents remain skeptical. Locals point to a 2018 study showing a small but steady decline of 0.14 feet per year of the aquifer, raising concerns that any new industrial draw—regardless of its depth—could further strain a resource already impacted by decades of drought.

The Cabresto Ditch Association is concerned about water availability based on evidence of reduced surface water runoff over the past few decades. However, proponents state that water pulled from the proposed well will not effect surface water flow. A 2016 impairment study conducted by the Office of the State Engineer (OSE), approved Chevron's use of this well for up to 250 acre-feet per year. A new impairment study will need to be completed as part of the water lease agreement for KCEC's use of 47 acre-feet per year out of the allocated 250 acre-feet.

There are two technically and financially distinct components of the proposed projects; solar and green hydrogen. The solar array acts as the primary power generator. This 50-megawatt field of panels is designed to capture sunlight for electricity. Under the current proposal, the Village would eventually own this entity, potentially generating approximately \$1.5 million in annual revenue.

In contrast, the green hydrogen facility functions strictly as a long-duration storage system, essentially acting as a high-capacity battery. This facility



Photo by Lora Arciniega

March 10 Village Council meeting

uses solar power to run electrolyzers that split water into hydrogen gas for storage in tanks. That gas is then converted back into electricity via fuel cells during outages or at night, providing up to 50-hours of back-up power. While the solar panels rely on land and sunlight, the hydrogen facility is the component requiring the controversial 47 acre-feet of water annually.

Critics of the project have pointed to efficiency concerns, noting that the conversion process results in roughly a 40% return of the original energy. Proponents argue, however, that 40% efficiency is superior to losing 100% of the "excess" solar power generated during peak daylight hours when the grid cannot currently absorb it. By capturing this otherwise wasted energy, the plant functions as a strategic reservoir, ensuring that 40% of that power remains available for later use rather than being lost entirely.

While a formal federal comment period is not required under new reg-

ulations, a state-level legal window will open once the water transfer (Chevron to KCEC) application is filed. This will allow residents a 30-day period to file

formal protests. Public meetings have been held by all stakeholders in recent months regarding information about the project.

The March 10 Village council meeting saw Councilmen Jason Gonzalez and Daryl Ortega question the Mayor regarding a January telephone conference involving research into a public-private partnership with KCEC. Councilman Ortega questioned why the council was not informed of the research into "Questa Solar 1 LLC." In response to these concerns, the Watershed Protectors confirmed they have filed an informal complaint with the State Ethics Commission, alleging a conflict of interest for the Mayor.

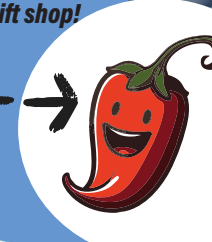
The project is racing against a July 4, 2026 deadline to qualify for a 50% tax credit under the Inflation Reduction Act. To meet this, a June groundbreaking of the Solar Array project is planned. For the Village of Questa, the Solar project represents a a \$50 million (\$25 million in grant funds awarded mid-March and approximately \$25 million in tax credits) investment intended to stabilize energy costs and restore a dwindling tax base.

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Good luck, and happy hunting!



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Chief Deputy Christina Ramirez Runs for Taos County Assessor

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Christina Ramirez, chief deputy assessor for Taos County, has announced her candidacy for Taos County assessor, emphasizing experience in the office and a commitment to public service and community outreach.

Ramirez said the campaign marks her first run for public office. She currently serves as chief deputy assessor, a role she was appointed to by current Assessor Maria Dimas. Ramirez previously served as chief deputy under former Assessor Darlene J. Vigil has worked in the assessor's office for nearly 16 years. She also

worked with the Chief Deputy Assessor for Abel Montoya for the last five months of his term.

"I believe our community deserves a leader who is committed to fairness and equity," Ramirez said. "Customer service is truly one of my top priorities. I want everyone who walks into our office to feel welcomed, respected and genuinely cared for."

Ramirez said part of her goal as assessor would be improving public understanding of the role of the office. She noted many residents associate the assessor's office with increasing property taxes, when the office's primary responsibility is determining property values used for taxation by multiple local entities.

Property taxes help fund schools, hospitals, colleges, water districts and municipalities, she said, adding that greater transparency could help residents better understand how tax dollars support community services.

If elected, Ramirez said she would continue maintaining working relationships with the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Property Tax Division, the Taos County Board of County Commissioners and other fellow elected officials. She also said she hopes to host outreach events to educate residents about

property tax exemptions, how to read annual notices of value and how to appeal property assessments.

Ramirez said her experience in the assessor's office has given her familiarity with key administrative responsibilities, including budgeting, reporting for certification and coordinating annual property valuation processes required by state law.

She is a state-certified appraiser through the New Mexico Property Tax Division and helps oversee three office budgets, including the main assessor's budget, the geographic information systems budget and the Property Valuation Fund.

Ramirez also assists in preparing the county's annual valuation maintenance plan, which is presented to the Taos County Board of County Commissioners and ensures property values are accurate and updated. The assessor's office also works with the county finance department and treasurer's office to provide revenue projections used in budgeting for local services.

Another part of the office's work includes coordinating the mailing of annual notices of value to property owners. Residents who disagree with the assessed value of their property have a 30-day period to file an appeal.

Ramirez said one of the biggest oper-

ational challenges facing the office is its outdated appraisal software system.

"It limits how efficiently we can work," she said. "We've already begun working with management to explore more modern software options."

If elected, Ramirez said she would continue pursuing an updated system to improve efficiency and public service.

A lifelong Taos resident, Ramirez said her commitment to the community also comes from raising a family in the area. She and her husband, Jesus, are raising their five children who are active in local sports.

"Those moments on the sidelines, surrounded by other families and friends from our community, are some of the ones we cherish the most," she said.

Ramirez said the values she sees in youth sports — teamwork, dedication and supporting others — guides how she approaches public service.

"I truly care about the work I do and would be grateful for the chance to continue serving our community," she said.

On the Record is a feature that invites local candidates to speak with our publication about their platform and why they are seeking your vote. If you're interested in being featured on the record, email editor@questanews.com.

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By LORA ARCINIEGA

The Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe is a historic and vital irrigation association based in Cerro. It is one of several community ditch systems in the area that sustain local agriculture and preserve the traditional way of life.

The Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe isn't just a ditch; it's a 170-year-old lifeline. While many neighboring villages were built alongside natural streams, the early settlers of Cerro took a different path in the 1850s. They used their hands, their tools, and vision to essentially "bend" the water to their will, diverting the Rito Latir and joining it with three other mountain

Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe Association

creeks to create a man-made river that brought water to the Cerro community.

Today, the association operates much like it did in the 19th century—as a community-run government where every voice matters. Governed by president Rick León, vice president Ruby Ortiz, secretary Mason Hiatt, treasurer Rachel León, and mayordoma Marianna (Marti) Segura, the association ensures that water is shared fairly among the parcientes (water rights owners). Like many, parciante Irma Cisneros has been a member for many years along with her husband Milton who was a vital part of the board of commission representing the Cerro community.

"El agua es la Vida," president Rick León shares. "On an average year with snowfall we normally see a runoff starting at the end of March. The last few years we haven't seen a runoff. We are surviving off of what God gives us."

Every March, the community prepares for la Limpia—the annual spring

cleaning. It's a scene that has played out for generations: neighbors gathering with shovels in hand to clear the winter's debris. "We are looking for more young people to become involved with the cleaning and overall interest of how the acequias work," Rick says. "In recent years we've had about 20 people who show up to clean the ditches."

"Our ditch used to always have water," Cisneros says. "We even had frogs in the water."

"The water used to run all the way down to the gravel pit, the area leading into the Wild Rivers Recreation area," Rachel says. For the past few years, users can expect to have one to two irrigations.

Currently the Acequia Madre has 200 members with only about half utilizing the water. Owners who are not currently using their water rights can bank their water which allows them to protect their water rights so they don't lose them.

Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe Association is looking to continue to spread information by newly established newsletter as well as through their spring and fall meetings. "We hope to soon have a website and maybe even offer online bill payment," says Rachel.

"We are planning on having our annual acequia meeting on Apr. 11 at the Cerro Community Center at 4 p.m.," Rachel mentions. "At this time we're not sure when the official irrigation will begin."

The Acequia Madre has sustained Cerro families for generations. By continuing this tradition and passing this knowledge down, the association helps ensure the water remains in local hands while teaching the next generation that what mattered in 1850 is even more vital today. ¡Que viva la acequia!

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SAVE THE DATE/JOIN US
Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site
Community Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), invites you to attend the community meeting for the Chevron Questa Superfund site. The meeting will be held:

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.
VFW Post 7688
2597 North Highway 522
Questa, New Mexico 87556

During the meeting, an update will be provided on current site activities and future cleanup work at the Questa Mine. Following the updates, a question-and-answer session will be open to the public. We look forward to seeing you!

Additional site information is available at the site's local document repository located at **Village of Questa, 2500 Old State Road 3, P.O. Box 260, Questa, New Mexico 87556.**

A site profile can be found at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine

Questions can be directed to Nichole Foster, EPA Remedial Project Manager, at (214)665-7248 or foster.nichole@epa.gov; Janetta Coats, EPA Sr. Community Involvement Coordinator, at (214) 665-7308, 1-800-533-3508 (toll-free), or coats.janetta@epa.gov; or Joseph Fox, NMED Project Manager, at (505) 660-9060 or joseph.fox@env.nm.gov.

This meeting is being held in a fully accessible facility. Should you have specific needs or questions about the facility, please contact Janetta Coats, EPA Sr. Community Involvement Coordinator, at (214) 665-7308, 1-800-533-3508 (toll-free), or coats.janetta@epa.gov.

Para información en español, comuníquese con la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos (la EPA) a 1-800-533-3508 (llamada gratis).



ESTÁ INVITADO A ASISTIR
a la reunión comunitaria del Sitio Superfund
Chevron Questa Mine
Martes, 21 de abril del 2026
de 5:30 p.m. a 7:30 p.m.



La Agencia de Protección Ambiental de EE. UU. (EPA, por sus siglas en inglés) en cooperación con el Departamento de Medioambiente de Nuevo México (NMED, por sus siglas en inglés) y el Departamento de Energía, Minerales y Recursos Naturales de Nuevo México (EMNRD, por sus siglas en inglés) lo invita a asistir a una reunión de la comunidad para el Sitio Superfund Chevron Questa. La reunión se llevará a cabo el:

Martes, 21 de abril del 2026
de 5:30 p.m. a 7:30 p.m.
VFW Post 7688
2597 North Highway 522
Questa, Nuevo México 87556

Durante la reunión, se ofrecerá una actualización sobre las actividades actuales del sitio y el futuro trabajo de limpieza en Questa Mine. Después de las actualizaciones, habrá una sesión de preguntas y respuestas para el público.

Se puede encontrar más información sobre el sitio en el repositorio local de documentos del sitio, ubicado en **la Villa de Questa, 2500 Old State Road 3, P.O. Box 260, Questa, Nuevo México 87556.**

El perfil de este sitio puede hallarse en:

www.epa.gov/superfund/chevron-questa-mine

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Nichole Foster, gerente de Proyectos de Remediación de la EPA, Teléfono: (214) 665-7248, Correo electrónico: foster.nichole@epa.gov, Janetta Coats, Coordinadora de Participación Comunitaria Principal de la EPA, Teléfono (214) 665-7308 o 1-800-533-3508, Correo electrónico: coats.janetta@epa.gov, Joseph Fox, gerente de Proyectos de NMED, Teléfono: (505) 222-9560 Correo electrónico: joseph.fox@env.nm.gov.

Esta reunión se realiza en una instalación totalmente accesible. Si tiene preguntas o necesidades específicas acerca de la instalación, comuníquese con Janetta Coats, coordinadora sénior de Participación Comunitaria de la EPA, en el (214) 665-7308 o el 1-800-533-3508 (línea gratuita), o en coats.janetta@epa.gov.

Para obtener información en español, comuníquese con la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Estados Unidos (EPA) al 1-800-533-3508 (llamada gratis).

Questa's Maria Gonzalez Honored at 8th Annual Taos Women of Impact

By LORA ARCINIEGA

The Taos Women of Impact event on March 4, hosted by The Taos News in partnership with the Taos Community Foundation, celebrates women from Taos and surrounding areas for their outstanding volunteerism, professional achievements, and community leadership. Following a tradition where previous recipients select the new year's honorees, the evening served as a bridge between local leadership.

The ceremony opened with a prayer in Tiwa by the Taos Pueblo, offering a meaningful start to the evening. During the proceedings, the Taos Community Foundation presented a \$20,000 grant to a program in Peñasco benefiting women, children, and families in Taos County. Among the eight women of impact being honored, present were the 5 "young women to be watched" also honored in the Taos Woman magazine.

The eight honorees represented the communities of Peñasco, Taos, San Cristobal, and Questa. As the fifth honoree of the night, Questa's own Maria Gonzalez was introduced with a tribute to her background, her family, and service to the community.

Gonzalez, a proud daughter of Questa, grew up gardening, hunting, and fishing stating "these were not merely hobbies, but a way of life." She credited her parents, Kathy and Casey, for shaping her resilience.



Photo by Lora Arciniega

Maria Gonzalez soon after her speech at the 8th annual Women of Impact, held at El Monte Sagrado in Taos on March 4, 2026

Following her graduation in 1999, Gonzalez left Questa to pursue the higher education and professional experiences that would eventually bring her back home. Upon her return, her immediate mission was to help her community thrive while remaining grounded in traditional values.

Her diverse background—spanning roles as an education assistant, art

teacher, and work in behavioral health and social services—prepared her for the leadership role she provides today. In addition to her work as the director of the Vida Del Norte Coalition, Gonzalez currently serves as the Questa community officer for the LOR Foundation, where she focuses on empowering Questa residents to turn grassroots ideas into tangible community actions.

During her moving speech on March 4, Gonzalez held the audience's attention as she traced her journey through the years, speaking of her family and the path of fully realizing one's potential.

"Strong men are not intimidated by strong women, and strong women are not threatened by strong men," Gonzalez said during her address that moved many in the audience. "We stand together."

Addressing her four daughters in attendance, Gonzalez spoke about the weight of leadership and the responsibility of using one's talents for the greater good.

"Nothing is scarier than avoiding your full potential—not failure, not criticism, not falling down," she said. "The scariest thing is knowing you were called to rise and choosing comfort instead. For a long time, I played small in the room I was meant to lead. Potential is not ego; it is stewardship."

Gonzalez concluded her remarks with a direct challenge to the attendees, urging them to take the energy of the room back to their own neighborhoods.

"Don't leave this room inspired; leave this room activated," Gonzalez said. "Never be afraid to shine, and stop shrinking to fit places you have outgrown."

Congratulations to Gonzalez and the other recipients of the 2026 Women of Impact.

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

DUANE ABEL, MARIA GONZALEZ, CLAIRE COTÉ, BO ORTEGA, TONER MITCHELL, SHARON NICHOLSON, JESSICA CISNEROS, LUKAS CISNEROS, BETTYLINA TRUJILLO, BETTYMARIA GALLEGOS, JESSE HARDY, RACHEL AND RICK LEÓN, PAUL PASSINO, QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL, BRENDALEE REIPLINGER, MELLIE RODRIGUEZ, RICARDO LEÓN, BARBARA TRACY, LIZ VAUTOUR, ELLEN WOOD, PEGGY TRIGG, MAX KHUDIAKOV, ERIN TAYLOR, KIMBER MACDONALD, CHRISTINA RAMIREZ, MIGUEL "PONCHO" ROMERO JR., JOELLA ANN MONTOYA, DONNY SANTISTEVAN, JASON GONZALEZ

Sustainable Housing and "Plant Factory" Moves Toward Community Review

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Following reporting by the Questa del Rio News and the Taos News in December of 2025 regarding the Village of Questa's exploration of workforce housing, a large-scale development project is moving through the initial stages of planning this April. The "flagship" initiative, led by ESTEE (Earth Space Technical Ecosystem Enterprises), aims to bring both attainable housing and a year-round indoor farm to the village.

The project is headed by environmental entrepreneur Omar Fayed and

CTO Baptiste Cunin, who selected a site adjacent to the Questa industrial park for their first Earth-based sustainable community. Designed in collaboration with Taos architect Mark Goldman, the development would feature "air-concrete" homes—a fire-resistant, highly insulated material intended to lower utility costs for residents. This comes as the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) continues to highlight a critical shortage of attainable housing in the region.

'HOUSING' cont'd on page 14

LOR FOUNDATION
UPDATE
 BY LIZ VAUTOUR

Borrowing the Land: Earth Day in Questa

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." Wendell Berry, Poet, novelist, and environmentalist.

Each April, Earth Day reminds us that protecting the land is a shared duty, not only for today but also for future generations.

In Questa, that idea manifests in practical, local actions. Neighbors volunteer for community cleanups, local groups organize beautification projects, and students work alongside adults to care for the landscape that has shaped life in this valley for generations.

At LOR, we're proud to support projects rooted in that connection to the land; ideas that help people protect, learn from,

and keep it accessible now and into the future. The projects we fund come from local champions—folks of all ages who recognize an opportunity and take steps to improve the lives of their friends, family, and neighbors.

One recent example is the effort to restore the La Junta Trail, a historic route to the confluence point where the Red River and the Rio Grande meet. Severe erosion and unsafe stairs have kept the trail closed for over ten years, limiting access to public lands that generations of local hikers and hunters have used.

Earlier this year, the Friends of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument reached out to LOR with a plan to complete the final phase of the trail's restoration. With \$10,000 in funding, the group will hire an engineer to design and a builder to install new stairs that address erosion and drainage issues. The project will help reopen the trail while safeguarding the surrounding canyon terrain.

Other projects have focused on caring for the landscape closer to home. In 2025, the Village of Questa partnered with LOR to organize community clean-up days that allowed residents to dispose of bulky items, like tires and appliances, at no cost. Without a local option for disposing of these materials, residents often



Courtesy image

Child planting a perennial herb

face high fees to offload them. Providing roll-off dumpsters and covering landfill costs make it easier for people to keep their community clean and reduce illegal dumping. Dumpsters will be available in Questa on April 24 and 25 as well as May 8 and 9.

These kinds of projects reflect the Questa community's strong commitment to caring for the land and working together to protect it.

At LOR, we know the best ideas for

strengthening rural communities come from the people who live there—people like you! So, if you have an idea that could support, protect, or celebrate the natural environment surrounding Questa, we'd love to hear it.

To get started or learn more about how LOR can help bring your idea to life, contact Maria Gonzalez at maria@lorfoundation.org or (575) 665-2001. Because if we are truly borrowing this land from our children, this is work worth doing together.

Share what you treasure:



CulturalTreasuresProject.org



CULTURAL TREASURES
 PROJECT
 A TAOS COUNTY INITIATIVE

What do you treasure?

Help us steward local decision making.

The **Cultural Treasures Project** is a community-led effort to identify and honor the places, practices, and people that matter—before they're erased, paved over, or forgotten.



Romero Runs for Reelection

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Taos County Commissioner Miguel “Poncho” Romero Jr. says his decades of public service, from law enforcement to local government and youth coaching, have been guided by a simple philosophy: work for the people.

Romero, who represents District 2 on the Taos County Commission, said his focus is on improving efficiency in county government, supporting economic growth and helping residents meet basic needs.

“When you run for office, you’re not there to make yourself look good or elevate yourself,” Romero said. “I like to work for the people.”

Romero first entered elected office in

the mid-2000s. He put his name forward to run for Taos County sheriff in 2006, winning his first term. He was reelected four years later.

In 2013, he submitted his name for an opening as a Taos County magistrate judge. A year later, he was appointed to serve on a village council, where he completed a one-year term.

Three years ago, Romero returned to the ballot and was elected to the Taos County Commission, representing District 2.

Outside government, Romero has worked for decades as a meat cutter at Der Markt in Red River, where he first began working in 1990. After completing his time as sheriff, he returned to the job.

He has also spent years coaching high school basketball, an experience he said helped shape his approach to leadership.

“Especially when coaching, the kids look at the future,” Romero said. “Life isn’t easy and in coaching, you show them that you have to work through everything.”

As a commissioner, Romero said one of his goals if reelected is to make the county government more responsive to residents.

“Governments at every level don’t

run fast enough,” he said. Romero said supporting county employees is also key to good public service.

“The people are happy if our employees make them happy,” he said. “It’s our employees that make us look good.”

He said county leaders have also been working more closely with state and federal officials on infrastructure and economic development.

Two years ago, Romero began discussing with lawmakers the possibility of extending a natural gas line to the northern Taos County communities of Cerro and Costilla. The proposal aims to provide an alternative heating source for residents, particularly elderly people who rely on firewood.

“It’s getting harder for elderly people to get wood,” Romero said. “We need a natural gas line.”

Romero said maintaining strong relationships with state legislators has helped local officials navigate government processes and secure support for regional priorities.

Romero describes himself as supportive of economic growth and new development opportunities in the county.

“I’m definitely pro-growth, pro-job

creation, pro-advancements,” he said.

He pointed to the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative solar array built in Costilla as an example of regional progress. While he supported the project, Romero said when he was invited to speak, he declined as he prefers to credit the cooperative rather than seek recognition himself.

“I’m not a glory hog,” he said.

“It’s KCEC’s accomplishment. I congratulate them.”

Originally from Peñasco, Romero moved to Questa when he married his wife, Rachael and raised his four sons. He says his experiences in small northern New Mexico communities continue to shape his perspective as a county leader.

Even though he represents District 2, Romero said his responsibility extends to the entire county.

“When something needs to be done in Peñasco, even though that’s not my district, it does take a majority of commissioners to vote on things. You don’t solely work on behalf of your district, you work on what’s best for the entire county.”

On the Record is a feature that invites local candidates to speak with our publication about their platform and why they are seeking your vote. If you’re interested in being featured on the record, email editor@questanews.com.

Brought to you by



By LORA ARCINIEGA

For Pastor Jesse Hardy and his wife, Rachel, the path to establishing River Community Church was less of a relocation and more of a homecoming. Although the church is celebrating its fourth year at the corner of Old Red River Road and South Kiowa, the couple’s connection to the Enchanted Circle dates back to the mid-1990s when Rachel’s grandparents retired in Cimarron.

Before returning to New Mexico, Jesse spent over two decades in ministry in Magnolia, Texas. “I worked as a kids pastor and taught Sunday school and eventually pastored adults in Texas for many years.” Soon, the calling to be in Questa and establish a church became something the Hardys couldn’t ignore. In 2022, the family finally answered that call, opening the church in a familiar

River Community Church Marks Four Years of Ministry and Service in Questa

space. “We had actually stayed in the building that’s now our church in 2011 when it was an Airbnb,” Jesse stated.

Starting a ministry from the ground up brought its own set of challenges, but the family remained focused on their mission. “The path to start a church in Questa wasn’t necessarily an easy path, but we were obeying God’s plan,” Jesse explained. “It has been such a blessing being in Questa. We love this village so much.”

The church operates on a Sunday evening schedule from 5 to 7:30 p.m. to encourage fellowship. “We began with a meal at 5 and our service starts at 6 p.m.,” Jesse said. This focus on togetherness extends to the Hardys’ personal life as well; they homeschool their children, with three still at home and six in total.

Beyond the Sunday service, River Community Church has become a staple at the Questa Farmers Market, which returns this May. The Hardys operate the market’s coffee and pizza

bar to support their youth initiatives. “We run the coffee and pizza bar at the farmers market and everything we earn goes toward student ministry,” Jesse mentioned.

The church also sponsors several youth programs provided at no cost to the community, including Vacation Bible School for preschool through eighth grade, scheduled for July 13–16 this year. Other upcoming events include student camps at Glorieta for grades 6–12 and kids’ camps at Inlow Baptist Camp for grades 2–5. Their largest annual event, Riverfest, occurs the Saturday before Halloween. The festival focuses on providing food and games for local children and saw an attendance of 200 people in 2025. Additionally, the church hosts a student night and Bible study every second Wednesday of the month.

For Easter, River Community Church will join other local congregations for a community sunrise service.

“All of the community is invited to come to Eagle Rock Lake at sunrise,” Jesse said. Following the sunrise gathering, the church will hold an evening Easter service beginning at 4 p.m. that begins with a large meal, then children’s activities, culminating with their Sunday service.

Jesse Hardy emphasized that the church is dedicated to a life of service and biblical teaching. “We live our lives according to what the scriptures say, nothing more nothing less,” he stated. “We want the public to know that we are here for them. We want to be a part of the community’s lives. River Community Church is a community of people who live out our faith everyday in a way that shares Jesus with everyone. This is not just a thing we do, it’s who we are.”

Sponsored by  LOR FOUNDATION



More Speed, Less Cost: Kit Carson Internet Sets a New Standard for Northern New Mexico

Fifteen years ago, Kit Carson Internet (KCI) made a promise to the residents of our most remote mountain communities: that living in places like Amalia or villages north of Questa shouldn't mean being left behind. Today, KCI is taking our community-first commitment to the next level. Starting April 1, 2026, we are launching a massive network-wide upgrade that pushes our fiber-optic speeds further than ever before—while simultaneously lowering monthly rates for our members. It is the next chapter in our history of connecting our region, not just to the internet, but to the future.

The "New Normal": Faster and More Affordable

This isn't just an update; it's a fundamental shift for our neighbors. Residential "Standard" service is now a powerhouse 100/100 Mbps for just \$50—doubling previous entry-level speeds. Power users can now access "The Streamer" (250/250 Mbps) or the blistering "Gamer" (500/500 Mbps), speeds once reserved for major cities. These changes are automatic; existing customers will see faster speeds and lower rates on their April bill.

Empowering Local Business and Home Life

What do these increases mean for our neighbors? For families, it ends "bandwidth battles." A 100/100 Mbps connection simultaneously supports student video lessons, remote work meetings, and massive gaming updates—without buffering.

For local businesses and home entrepreneurs, the impact is a game-changer. Starting at \$70, KCI's commercial rates provide the digital backbone for today's market. Whether you're a shop managing cloud inventory, a consultant sharing 3D files, or a professional hosting e-commerce sites, "The Pro" 1G/1G speeds ensure geography never limits your success. These speeds turn our mountain communities into digital hubs, allowing you to work locally and compete globally.

Crystal Clear Savings with VoIP

Beyond the internet, KCI is revolutionizing its voice services. Residential VoIP rates have dropped to \$25.00, and for those who combine it with internet service, the price falls to just \$20.00 a month. For businesses, adding second, third, and fourth lines has become more affordable than ever—at just \$10.00 to \$15.00 per extra line—allowing local companies to scale their communications without the heavy overhead of traditional phone companies.

A Message from Leadership

Jose Lovato, Manager at Kit Carson Internet, sees this as a fulfillment of the cooperative's mission. "Our commitment is to our neighbors," says Lovato. "High-speed internet is a necessity for education and economic growth. By doubling speeds and lowering rates, we are ensuring North Taos County remains competitive. We're proud to provide the state's best value, right here at home."

Join the Connection

As the region's top choice for fiber, KCI proves that being member-owned means putting people over profits. Visit KitCarsonInternet.com or call our local team to explore new packages and "Total Connection" bundle savings. The future of our region is fast and more affordable than ever.

Sponsored Content from Kit Carson Internet

IN SPRING, WE AREN'T AS CROWDED.

UNLESS YOU COUNT OUR EIGHTEEN BEERS AND TEN SPIRITS.



We love spring and the peace and quiet it brings. It's a good time to stop by our brewery. Enjoy less people and more of Mother Nature, and more time to contemplate which delicious hand-crafted beer you want. Come in for lunch or dinner. Or come in for lunch and stay through dinner. Days are open, and we're open, too. We hope to see you soon!

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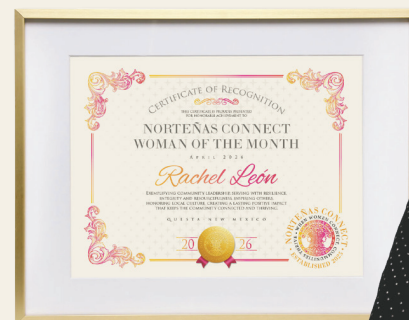
NORTEÑAS CONNECT

WHEN WOMEN CONNECT, COMMUNITIES THRIVE.

WOMAN OF THE MONTH: MARCH 2026

RACHEL LEÓN

For exemplifying community leadership, serving with resilience, integrity and resourcefulness, inspiring others, honoring local culture, creating a lasting positive impact that keeps the community connected and thriving.





A NEW FRONTIER IN THE HIGH DESERT: THE CIELO CENTRO OBSERVATORY

At UNM-Taos, we believe the sky isn't the limit—it's our newest classroom. A recent **UNM-Taos impact study** has confirmed what we have long suspected: while the **Cielo Centro Observatory is not yet built**, it is poised to become a transformative engine for education, workforce development, and the local economy in Northern New Mexico.

WHY TAOS?

Our Klauer Campus sits at an elevation of nearly 7,000 feet, nestled in a high-desert landscape that offers some of the clearest, darkest skies in the nation. Shielded by mountain barriers and far from the reach of significant light pollution, Taos provides a pristine window into the cosmos. According to the study, conducted by UNM's Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BBER), our region enjoys "good" air quality and clear skies over 80% of the year, making it a premier location for astronomical research and **astrotourism**.

TURNING THE NIGHT SKY INTO A CLASSROOM

The heart of this proposed project is a powerful 36-inch Dobsonian telescope—a generous gift from the King and Oglesbee families. Once constructed, this facility will provide our students and the 3,400 PreK-12 students across Taos and Colfax counties with something often missing in rural education: hands-on access to world-class scientific equipment.

By integrating the observatory into our curriculum, we are:

- **Expanding STEM Access:** Providing immersive science experiences for underserved communities.
- **Building Career Pathways:** Creating internships and mentored research opportunities in data analysis and instrumentation.
- **Cultivating a Future Workforce:** Preparing New Mexicans for high-tech roles within the growing global space economy.

AN ECONOMIC NORTH STAR

The benefits of Cielo Centro extend far beyond the telescope lens. The BBER study estimates that the construction phase alone will generate **\$8.5 million in total economic output** and create dozens of temporary jobs. Once operational, we anticipate welcoming 4,000 visitors annually. This influx of visitors is expected to inject over **\$550,000 into the local economy** each year, supporting small businesses and generating tax revenue for vital public services like infrastructure and safety.

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

In Northern New Mexico, our connection to the stars is a matter of cultural heritage as much as scientific inquiry. The Cielo Centro Observatory reinforces UNM-Taos's commitment to environmental stewardship. By championing dark-sky preservation, we aren't just looking at stars; we are protecting the natural character of our home for generations to come.

INVESTING IN POSSIBILITY

The Cielo Centro Observatory represents more than just a building; it is an investment in the people and possibilities of Taos. It aligns perfectly with our mission of inclusive excellence and sustainable development. We are proud to lead the way in making Northern New Mexico a regional hub for discovery, inspiration, and economic resilience.

As we move forward with this vision, we invite the community to look upward with us. The future of Taos is bright—and it starts in the dark.

Sponsored Content from The University of New Mexico-Taos

Town of Red River Launches Free Online Disaster Planning Tool for Businesses

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Town of Red River has launched a free online tool designed to help local businesses create disaster preparedness and continuity plans, officials announced this week.

The Red River Business Disaster Planning Tool, a confidential web-based resource, is available at redriver.org/disaster-planning-for-businesses and allows business owners to build customized emergency plans through a guided process.

Town officials say the tool was created to address a growing need for preparedness in the small mountain community, where the economy depends heavily on tourism and locally owned businesses.

Red River's economy includes more than 95 tourism-facing businesses that collectively welcome more than 450,000 visitors each year and generate more than \$90 million annually, according to the town's Office of Economic Development and Tourism Director Max Khudiakov. About 99% of those businesses are locally owned, and many do not have written continuity plans or access to affordable preparedness resources.

"Our local businesses are the heartbeat of this community," said Khudiakov. "We built this tool to take the guesswork out of emergency preparedness."

Khudiakov said the platform allows shop owners, restaurant operators and lodging managers to complete a step-by-step process to produce a disaster readiness plan tailored to their operations.

The nine-step interactive webform

guides users through identifying critical business functions, cataloging equipment, creating employee call trees, drafting crisis communications and designating a succession authority if the primary owner is unavailable.

After completing the form, users can download a fully customized continuity plan as an editable document. The town does not collect or store information entered into the tool, officials said.

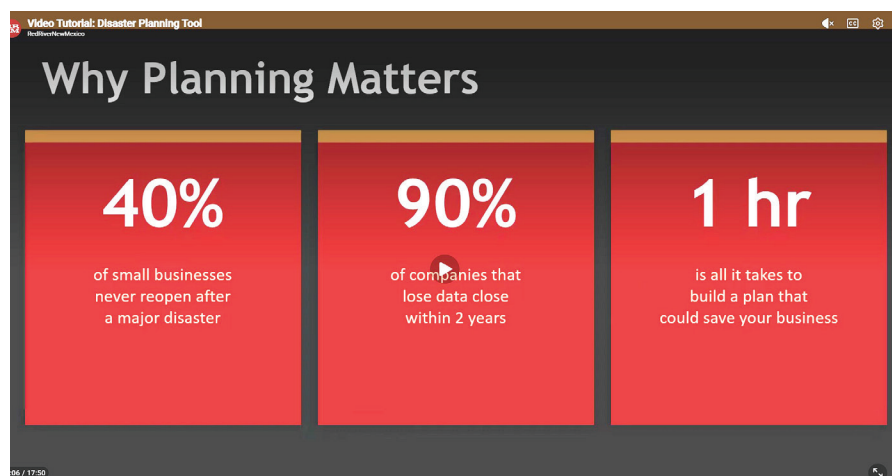
A companion PDF guide and a curated list of federal, state and local preparedness resources are also available on the website.

The tool was developed as part of the town's Resilient Business Initiative and funded through a \$25,000 grant from the New Mexico Economic Development Department's Local Economic Assistance, Development and Support (LEADS) program.

"The LEADS program exists to help New Mexico communities build the kind of economic resilience that keeps businesses open and workers employed when adversity strikes," Khudiakov said.

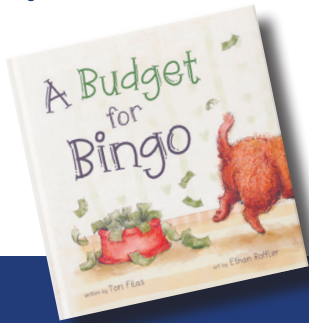
Officials said the grant also supported business continuity assessments, preparedness workshops and an outreach campaign called "Be Prepared to Stay Open," which reached more than 100 Red River businesses.

The planning tool was developed in partnership with HatchForm, a Santa Fe-based consulting firm focused on economic development and community resilience. Consultants Sean O'Shea and Dr. Julia Wise led the project in collaboration with the town's economic development office. <https://redriver.org/disaster-planning-for-businesses/>



A screen grab of the website disaster planning tool tutorial

Questa Credit Union Loves to Read!



This April, we're out in the community sharing the joy of reading and the basics of smart money! Our team is visiting Questa Elementary, Red River Charter, and Roots and Wings to read the hit financial literacy story, *A Budget for Bingo*.

Helping our local students learn the power of saving, spending, and budgeting—one page at a time.



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2026



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questacreditunion.org



Acequia Ditch Cleaning Days

QUESTA CITIZENS DITCH ASSOCIATION

NORTH DITCH

Sat-Sun • April 11-12 • 8:00 am @ Ranger Station

Please bring your own tools. For more info or to make arrangements to work another day contact: John Rael - text (575) 779-2627

SOUTH DITCH

Sat • Mar 28 • 8:00 am @ Ranger Station

MOLINO DITCH

Sat • April 18 • 8:00 am @ The Diversion

Please bring your own tools. For more info or to make arrangements to work another day, contact: Pancho Ortiz 575-586-1722 or 575-779-5169

MIDDLE DITCH

Sat • Mar 28 • @ Questa Laundromat parking lot

Please bring your own tools. For more info or to make arrangements to work another day, contact: Mark Brozio (817) 929-1088

CABRESTO LAKE IRRIGATION COMMUNITY DITCH ASSOCIATION

APRIL 15 - OCTOBER 15

Sat • March 28 • 8:00 am • @ Parish Center Parking Lot

Sat • April 11 • 8:00 am • @ Parish Center Parking Lot

Bring ditch cleaning tools or you will not be allowed to work and you will not receive work credit. Be prepared to get in ditches with water and mud.

Contact Mayordomo Norman Garcia (575) 779-0497 if you are unable to attend the annual ditch cleaning days and he will work with you on alternate days. For billing issues contact a commissioner. Chairman Danny Garcia (575) 779-6214
Secretary Margaret Gonzales (575) 770-2764
Treasurer Vince Ortega (720) 231-1768

LLANO DITCH ASSOCIATION

Saturday • April 11 • 8:00 am • @North Gas Station

Please bring your tools to clean the ditch, i.e. rake, hoe, cutters for twigs and plenty of water. Contact Louis Herrera for more information: LHerrera87556@gmail.com

ACEQUIA

MADRE DEL CERRO DE GUADALUPE

Saturday • April 11 • 4:00 pm • @Cerro Community Center

We will assign areas, have sign ups and select dates for ditch cleaning Contact Mayordoma Marti Segura (575) 741-0365 for more information.



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



COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH PROVIDED



YOUR VOICE, OUR COVERAGE: COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

In Person and on Questa del Rio News Facebook Live

Wednesday, April 22
Community Listening Session 3

Time: Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Location: El Monte Carlo

RSVP

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBQBPD1>
or scan the QR code.



RSVP's will be taken to ensure we have enough food.

Sponsored by





Bo Ortega

By LORA ARCINIEGA

One's first impression of Bo Ortega is that he is a respectful, traditional, and hardworking young man with a bright future ahead of him. His heart is firmly planted in Questa, with ranching in his background and in his future. Though he plans to attend trade school after graduation, his goal is to eventually make it back home and have a ranch of his own.

The 15-year-old freshman at Questa High School is the son of Kami and Mark Ortega. He is heavily involved in FFA and sports, including track and football, where he has played for six



Courtesy Photo

Bo Ortega with this wildcat jersey

years and currently serves as a center and defensive tackle. "Football is definitely my favorite sport," Ortega says. He also lends his time as the manager for the baseball team.

In FFA, Ortega serves as a livestock judge and evaluates dairy products like cheese and milk. With ranching in his genes, he spends his days tending to

animals, watering horses, and feeding livestock. He spoke of "Sheep's Crossing," an area on the Rio Grande where his family has historically crossed their livestock for generations.

Among all his extra-curricular activities, Ortega makes time to help clean the ditches during La Limpia. He says one of his favorite things to do is go riding with his grampo in his '03 Ford Ranger throughout Questa.

"I really like cruising through town with my grampo," Ortega says. "He tells me stories of when he worked at the mine as well as stories from his fire department days." His grandparents, Max and Monica Ortega, have had a profound impact on his upbringing, and he visits them at least once a week. Ortega is currently a junior member of the Questa Fire Department, serving along with his dad.

Family remains his compass. Growing up as an only child, Ortega shares a sibling-like bond with his cousins, Mariana and Diego Ortega. Connected to Oklahoma through his mother's side, he maintains strong family ties in the state. As often as he can, Ortega visits a

large extended family that includes his grandparents, nine cousins, and eleven aunts and uncles.

When he's not tending to animals or playing sports, Ortega enjoys riding in the side-by-side with his family and having cookouts. "I also enjoy hanging out with my friends and riding 4-wheelers," he says.

Upon graduation in 2029, Ortega plans to attend trade school, possibly for welding or heavy equipment operation. "I want to eventually come back to Questa and have my own ranch," Ortega says.

When asked who inspires him, Ortega says his whole family, but mainly his mom and dad. "My mom is smart, open to new ideas, and is a really down-to-earth person. My dad is respectful, kind, hardworking, and shows me what it takes to be a good man. He's a good friend and he's honest."

To the younger generation, Ortega offers this advice: "Don't mess around too much. If you have a dream, chase it, or if you have something you really love, spend as much time as you can doing it."

Donny Santistevan Earns NMAA Foundation Scholarship

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Questa High School senior Donny Santistevan has been awarded the NMAA Foundation's "We Go Above, So You Can Go Beyond" Scholarship, recognizing student-athletes who demonstrate dedication in athletics, academics and their communities.

Santistevan was selected alongside Ava Drew Gonzales of Las Cruces High School and Henry Newcomb of Atrisco Heritage Academy as this year's scholarship recipients.

"It was an honor to be selected for this scholarship and be able to represent my school and my community," Santistevan said. "This scholarship will help me reach my educational goals debt free."

Santistevan plans to attend the University of New Mexico, where he intends to earn a business degree and pursue a career in finance after graduation.

During his time at Questa High School, Santistevan participated in multiple sports, playing basketball for several seasons and competing in soccer throughout all four years of high school.

He said the experiences he gained through athletics extended far beyond competition.



Photo courtesy of NMAA

Donny Santistevan, second from right, poses with NMAA officials and fellow scholarship recipient Henry Newcomb, third from right, after receiving the NMAA Foundation "We Go Above, So You Can Go Beyond" Scholarship on March 13.

"I enjoyed the memories, friendships, and fun that came along with these sports," Santistevan said.

Santistevan credits his parents as his biggest inspiration and says their support helped guide him throughout his academic and athletic journey.

He also shared advice for younger athletes in his hometown and across the state.

"Enjoy what you're working on and always have fun," he said.

The NMAA Foundation's scholarship program recognizes student-athletes across New Mexico who exemplify leadership, commitment and achievement both on and off the field.

Town of Red River Unveils Three New Public Transit Buses

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Town of Red River unveiled three newly purchased public transit buses last week during a ceremony attended by town officials, community members and local stakeholders.

The vehicles will replace the town's existing fleet of three buses and are expected to help maintain and improve on-demand transit service for residents and visitors.

Red River's transit service operates on an on-demand model, allowing riders to request transportation rather than following fixed routes or schedules. **The no-cost service is available seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Riders can request a pickup by calling transit dispatch at (575) 770-5959.

Mayor Linda Calhoun said the new buses represent an investment in the community's transportation system.

"This is a proud day for Red River," Calhoun said. "These new buses are more than vehicles — they represent our commitment to building a more connected, accessible and sustainable community for everyone who lives,



Photo courtesy of Town of Red River

A newly minted Miners Transit freight sit in a parking lot in Red River ready to hit the streets

works and visits here. We're excited to bring this upgraded service to our residents and guests."

Town officials said the purchase followed a review of the community's transit needs and determined replacing the aging fleet was the best way to maintain a safe and dependable service.

Each of the new buses includes climate control, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant accessibility features and improved fuel efficiency. The vehicles also feature a new exterior design.

For more information, visit the Town of Red River's website or contact the town's transit office at (575) 754-2277.



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Introduction to Workshops & Pitch Contest: What to Expect

Thur, April 30, 5:30pm

So, You Want to Start A Business: How to Test Your Idea

Thur, May 7, 5:30 pm

From Pitch to Profit: Real Stories from Questa Entrepreneurs

Tues, May 19, time TBD

Business Plans & Strategies: Putting it Together

Wed, May 20, (between 11am-5pm)

1:1 Optional SBDC consultations RE: Business Plans

Thur, May 21, (between 11am-5pm)

1:1 Optional SBDC consultations RE: Business Plans

Thur, June 11, 5:30pm

Budgeting, Funding & Business Structure: The Money & Legal Stuff

Thur, June 25, 5:30pm

Marketing, Advertising, Branding: Getting The Word Out

Thur, July 9, 5:30pm

Public Speaking & Presenting: Making a Good Impression

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Thur, July 23, 5:30pm

How to write a Pitch/Elevator Speech

Thur, Aug 6, 5:30pm

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MONICA MCCLELLAND QBB Coordinator: qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com



Questa Cheer captures Class A-2A Title, Secures Sixth State Championship in Decade

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Questa Wildcat Cheer captured the Class A-2A cheer championship at the Nusenda Credit Union State Spirit Championship on Saturday, March 21, earning the top spot among small-school programs across New Mexico.

Questa finished ahead of Texico, which placed second, and Raton, which took third.

The Wildcats cheer team, coached by Maria Medina and Angel Medina, delivered a strong performance in crowd-leading, stunts and overall execution to secure the state title.

Senior Ariana Medina said the victory was especially meaningful.

“This win feels the best,” Medina said. “I think this win also represents our commitment and strength. This season we were able to stay disciplined, push each other and meet high expectations. As a senior, this is the best way to finish.”

Medina said the season emphasized perseverance and teamwork.

“This season taught us a lot about resilience and accountability,” she said. “There are so many moments that don’t go perfectly, but we learned how to push through, stay focused and not let mistakes define the outcome. Success comes from teamwork, hard work and believing in each other when things get tough.”

She added that balancing multiple

sports was a challenge for the team.

“Having dual-sport athletes is always hard,” Medina said. “Communication and flexibility is key. We focused on making the most out of the time we had together. I give a lot of credit to our basketball girls. They pushed through the tiredness and injuries. It’s not easy to split your time, and we appreciate what they did for us.”

Medina also credited the community for its support throughout the season.

“We thank our community who showed up for us, because they did show up,” she said. “Thank you for supporting us throughout the season. It really does take a village and we would be nothing without the support.”

This year’s roster included, Ariana Medina, Joshlyn Medina, Janae Dominguez, Marissa Ortiz, Aaliyah Piper, Jocelyne Ortega, Yesenia Medina, Karla Trujillo, Olivia Martinez, Kaylei Cordova, Mariana Ortega, Analea Cisneros, Maliyah Dominguez, Sierra Ortiz, Hailey Rael, Ysidro Garcia, Adrienne Rael, Idela Medina, Annalia Martinez, Ava Ortega, Gracie Martinez, Aubrey Cisneros, Sofia Vigil and Sophia Smith.



Courtesy photo

Questa Cheer stands together as State Champions at Spirit State Competition, March 21.

Theater Students Shine at State One-Act Competition



Photo courtesy of Kimber MacDonald

(L to R) Matthew Gallegos, Jeremiah Garcia, Hailey Rael, Michkayla Jadlocki, Alnahiah Rael, Sophia Smith, Ysidro Garcia (purple vest) and Jade Vigil (purple vest)

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Questa High School theater program made its debut at the New Mexico Activities Association One-Act Play Competition in January, earning strong marks for acting and stage management while gaining valuable experience among schools from across the state.

The competition, hosted at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, brought together high school theater programs to perform one-act productions before judges and a large audience. For the Questa group, the event marked the first time the school has participated in the statewide competition.

Students performed in front of hundreds of audience members and received critiques from theater professionals and judges following their performance. In addition to performing, participants attended workshops

focused on acting, stagecraft and other technical theater skills.

Questa High School received outstanding marks for both its acting performances and stage management during the event.

Director Kimber MacDonald said the experience provided students with an opportunity to grow artistically while representing their school on a statewide stage.

Students who participated in the competition included Hayley Cordova, Matthew Gallegos, Ysidro Garcia, Jeremiah Garcia, Michkayla Jadlocki, Marivel Martinez, Analiah Rael, Hailey Rael, Sophia Smith, Jade Vigil and Shane Vigil.

MacDonald says the program's first appearance at the competition is an encouraging sign for the future of theater at Questa High School, with hopes the program will continue to grow and return to the event in the coming years.

'HOUSING' cont'd from page 6

According to Taos News story in December 2025, Paige Ryan of the New Mexico Economic Development Department, stated the project was originally planned for the Santa Fe area but stalled during negotiations with the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM). Following outreach to Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, northern Taos County emerged as a viable alternative for the project's

high-efficiency goals.

A central piece of the proposal is a Plant Production Factory which plans to offer year round produce some items which are not yet being offered. This indoor facility is designed to use solar power and rainwater harvesting to grow produce year-round, creating local jobs and increasing food security.

For a full report on the project see the May edition of the *Questa del Rio News*.

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Lovato Ends High School Basketball Career on High Note in All-Star Victory

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Alyse Lovato closed out her high school basketball career on a high note Friday, March 20 competing in the New Mexico High School Coaches Association All-Star Game at the Rio Rancho Events Center.

Lovato, a senior standout, suited up for the New Mexico Red All-Stars in the annual showcase featuring top players from 1A and 2A schools. The game, formerly known as the North-South All-Star Game, matched the Red team against the Green All-Stars.

The Red All-Stars secured a 12-point victory over the Green team, providing a fitting finale for Lovato's outstanding career.

The appearance capped a season of milestones for Lovato, who reached 1,500 career points on Jan. 29. A fifth-year varsity player, she achieved the mark while continuing to lead her team on and off the court.

A multi-sport athlete who also



Courtesy photo

Alyse Lovato stands proudly in her All Star game jersey

competes in soccer and track, Lovato said her support system played a key role in her success.

Lovato's performance in the all-star game served as a final highlight in a career defined by consistency, leadership and competitive drive.

QUESTA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
4/3	3:00p	Coronado (Gallina, NM)	Questa High School
4/7	3:00p	@ Mesa Vista (Ojo Caliente, NM)	Mesa Vista High School
4/7	5:00p	@ Mesa Vista (Ojo Caliente, NM)	Mesa Vista High School
4/10	3:00p	McCurdy (Española, NM)	Questa High School
4/10	5:00p	McCurdy (Española, NM)	Questa High School
4/14	3:00p	Peñasco (Peñasco, NM)	Questa High School
4/14	5:00p	Peñasco (Peñasco, NM)	Questa High School
4/16	3:00p	@ McCurdy (Española, NM)	McCurdy High School
4/16	5:00p	@ McCurdy (Española, NM)	McCurdy High School
4/21	3:00p	@ Mora (Mora, NM)	Mora High School
4/21	5:00p	@ Mora (Mora, NM)	Mora High School
4/23	3:00p	Mesa Vista (Ojo Caliente, NM)	Questa High School
4/23	5:00p	Mesa Vista (Ojo Caliente, NM)	Questa High School
4/27	3:00p	Mora (Mora, NM)	Questa High School
4/27	5:00p	Mora (Mora, NM)	Questa High School
4/30	3:00p	@ Peñasco (Peñasco, NM)	Peñasco High School
4/30	5:00p	@ Peñasco (Peñasco, NM)	Peñasco High School



QUESTA HIGH SCHOOL TRACK SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
04-01-2026		TBD	Clayton Away
04-11-2026		TBD	Bloomfield Away
04-17-2026		TBD	Questa High Home
04-22-2026		TBD	Taos Away
04-24-2026		TBD	NRG-Dulce Away
04-27-2026		TBD	Cimmarron Away
05-01-2026		TBD	District-Escalante Away
5/8-5/9/2026		TBD	State Track Away



COACHING Spotlight



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COACHING PHILOSOPHY:

"Baseball, like life, is a game of mistakes. The less mistakes a team makes, the higher the likelihood of success. I teach my players that they will make an error at some point, it's what you do after the mistake that defines you both in baseball as well as in life!"

ATHLETE of the MONTH

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LUKAS CISNEROS: 10TH GRADE, 15 YEARS OLD, BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, TRACK AND FIELD



ACHIEVEMENTS: Basketball: West Las Vegas All Tourney, 5.2 ppg, led team in 3 point percentage; Track: 2025 state qualifier for pole vault

HERO/ROLE MODEL: Flightreacts FTC

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "I love to play basketball because I'm pretty good at it and I've always loved the sport."

OTHER STUFF: "Hang out with friends, go camping, hiking, hang out with family."

Photo by Isaac Vialpando

ATHLETE of the MONTH

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BETTY MARIA GALLEGOS: 6TH GRADE, 12 YEARS OLD, BASKETBALL: CENTER; SOCCER: GOALIE



ACHIEVEMENTS: "I like to block and I average 3-5 or more blocks per game. I'm a good team player and in soccer I block an average 5-10 goals per game."

HERO/ROLE MODEL: Nikola Jokic and Dikembe Mutombo

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "I like competitiveness and sportsmanship. I also like showing teamwork that forms bonds."

OTHER STUFF: "I love to fish every chance I get. I'm passionate about caring for animals and helping my uncle Martin. I also like to cook and try new recipes."



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April WORKSHOPS

Bridging the Digital Gap: Tech Support with Monica McClelland	Thursday, April 2nd 12-1pm Questa Library
Business Quest Incubator & Pitch Contest Overview with Lynn Skall & Monica McClelland	Thursday, April 9th 5:30-7pm Questa Library
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting with Anwar Kaelin	Thursday, April 16th By Appointment Only Questa Library
Relationships & Network for your Business Growth LIVE Webinar by WESST	Thursday, April 16th 6-7:30pm Questa Library
So You Want to Start a Business: How to Test Your Idea with Maia Franz	Thursday, April 30th 5:30-7pm Questa Library

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Taos County Invites Community to Identify Cultural Treasures That Shape the Region

By STAFF WRITERS

Taos County is inviting residents to help identify and safeguard the places, traditions and lifeways that define the region through a new initiative called the Cultural Treasures Project (CTP).

The project is part of a broader effort by Taos County to guide inclusive planning for the future. Community members are encouraged to submit local "treasures" they wish to see recognized, documented and considered in upcoming development and land-use decisions.

The Cultural Treasures Project maps the people, places and landscapes—both existing and those no longer present—that matter to local communities. By identifying these assets, the project aims to ensure that lawmakers, planners and political leaders understand what residents value most.

County leaders say the project comes at a pivotal time as the region faces increased attention from visitors and

developers. Many residents have expressed concern that Taos County could be "loved to death" if growth is managed without local input.

"We cannot steward what we have not identified," project organizers said in a statement.

Cultural treasures are broadly defined as people, customs, natural sites or events that hold aesthetic, historic or spiritual value. Examples include physical sites like acequias, trails and community centers, as well as intangible assets like language, land-based practices and ceremonies.

Organizers noted that the project is grounded in consent and respect. While the goal is to inform future policy, the county recognizes that some stories or locations are meant to remain private, and residents are encouraged to use their discretion when participating.

The project aligns with the principles of Destination Stewardship, a strategy



Courtesy photo

Members of the Cultural Treasures Project Advisory Group

supported by Taos County to balance tourism with the needs of local residents.

Residents across Taos County are encouraged to participate by sharing their treasures at culturaltreasuresproject.org. To date, three local meetings have been held in Red River, Questa, and Amalia where people were able to join in the conversation and provide their

recommendations.

For more information and interviews, please reach out to: Jessica Stern, Taos County Economic Development Director, jessica.stern@taoscountynm.gov or Contessa Trujillo, Fellow, Economic Recovery Corps & Project Manager, Cultural Treasures Project, ctrujillo@economicrecoverycorps.org

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By LORA ARCINIEGA

Over the past eight years, a grassroots movement has been quietly documenting the heartbeat of northern New Mexico. What began as a personal mission to link people to their landscape has blossomed into Voices of the Northern Rio Grande, a community memory project that has captured over 250 stories since its inception in 2018.

Program founder Claire Coté launched the initiative, originally known as Questa Stories, to preserve the culture, traditions, language, and lived experiences of people from Questa and communities of Northern Taos County. The archive now contains a diverse range of narratives, from three-minute snapshots to deep-dive interviews lasting over two hours. By capturing

Voices of the Northern Rio Grande (Questa Stories)

interviews with elders at their kitchen tables, youth at Alta Vista Elementary and Vida Del Norte Summer Camp to patrons at Questa Farmers Market, the program seeks to include all community voices.

"I knew I wanted to come back home," said Coté, who grew up in El Rito and was homeschooled before pursuing a master's degree in art and ecology in England. Her time in the UK reinforced the necessity for historical preservation. "When I came back, I felt very strongly to protect and celebrate the place where we live."

Coté's interest in archiving began as early as 2006. Though she initially questioned if she was the right person for the job, she realized the work wasn't being done. "I felt passionate about our local culture and traditions being documented," she said. Alongside co-founder Gaea McGahee and organized by LEAP (Land, Experience and Art of Place), a program under the nonprofit Localogy, the project now serves as a pathway between generations.

The initiative is highly visible through several key programs. Voces de Nuestro

País is a monthly story-sharing event held at the Questa Public Library on the second Saturday of each month. These gatherings, which feature guest speakers and local open mics, are recorded and released as a podcast on Youtube, Spotify and Applepodcasts. During the summer, visitors to the Questa Farmers Market can enjoy listening to "StoryBoxes" featuring short audio segments that offer shoppers a snippet of local voices and history.

The Voices program is also developing a "Community Memory Lab" offering audio, video and scanning equipment to capture longer form interviews and "object stories" in which residents discuss the significance of family heirlooms or photographs. A portable recording setup is used for field recording, at events and people's homes. Through a partnership with the Manitos Community Memory Project, these efforts are being digitized into a permanent community archive at QuestaStories.org and archive.manitos.net.

At its core, Voices of the Northern Rio Grande is about celebrating the voices of

the community. The mission is to build a resource that supports grassroots "archive activations" and learning opportunities for all ages. By encouraging authentic conversations, the program seeks to strengthen cultural bonds and even work toward healing historical trauma through restorative justice principles.

Looking ahead, Coté aims to upgrade the project's website to create a truly accessible online archive where individuals maintain ownership of their files. The partnership with Questa Public Library remains a cornerstone of this vision, providing a logical home for the area's collective memory. The project extends an open invitation to all community members, including those who have left the area but still hold "Tesoros," or treasures, of local knowledge. Residents are encouraged to share their own stories, help record relatives, or contribute family photographs to be scanned and added to the archive.

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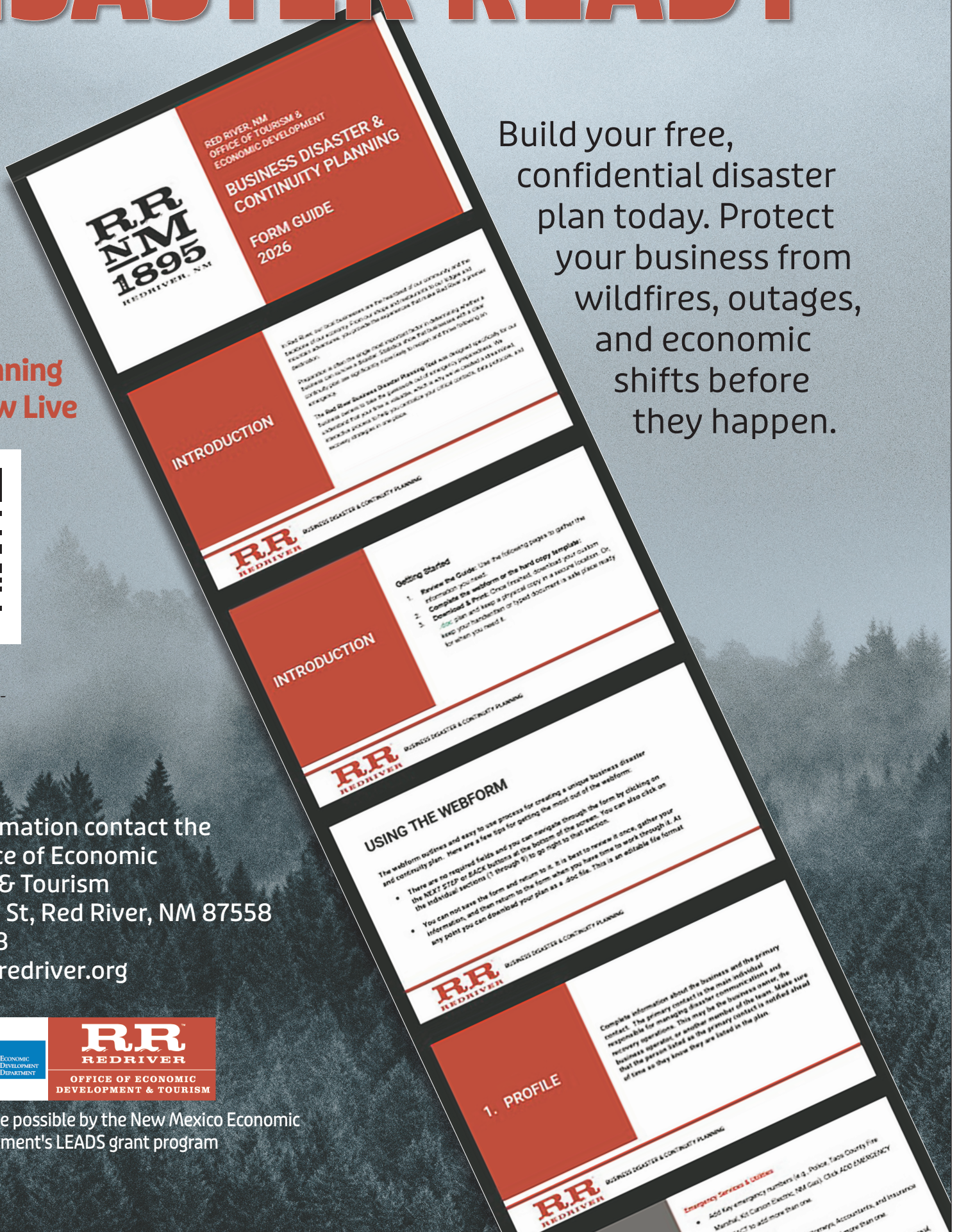


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Voces de Nuestro País

By CLAIRE COTÉ

Features Musicians Billy and John Archuleta April 11

Voces de Nuestro País ~ Voices of Our Area are monthly story gatherings celebrating local voices and culture. Featured local guests share stories of family, history, love, work, adventures, and misadventures. Each event is recorded and released as an audio and video podcast on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music; search "Voces de Nuestro País." By sharing these stories virtually, we hope to extend and multiply the sense of community connection that is felt during the live gatherings. Please tell your friends and family!

In Apr., Voces de Nuestro País continued its exploration of music, family, church, and community with Billy and John Archuleta of Des Montes. The ninth event in the ongoing series will take place at the Questa Public Library on Saturday, Apr. 11, from 2-4 p.m.

Singer, guitarist, and composer Billy Archuleta is widely known for his many years of music ministry in the Catholic Church. He has composed two complete Masses and recorded the liturgical CD *Primero Dios*. Throughout the Taos area, he has led choirs and provided music for countless weddings and funerals.

John Archuleta is celebrated for performing the traditional Spanish

music of Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. A skilled vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, he plays the guitarrón, guitar, and mandolin. He has performed with the Audrey Davis Trio and Aztec Gold, and released the CD *Cuatro Milpas*.

The brothers have performed extensively in and around Taos for many years, together and in other bands, as well as in solo performances at the Taos Inn and other local venues. This month, the community is invited to hear their music and stories at the Questa Public Library.

Our Sixth Voces de Nuestro País session took place on Feb. 21 with Vito Trujillo Sr. and Vito Trujillo Jr. who skillfully played a variety of songs from diverse genres, norteenos to blues to sacred music. In between songs they shared stories and snippets of their lives steeped in music from an early age, playing professionally in LA and NM, founding the St. Francis de Assis Church Choir and Adobe Records and the importance of keeping Northern NM musical traditions alive. The event was infused with their enthusiasm, wisdom and joyful approach to music, church, community and life.

On March 14 Kate Cisneros and Corinne Montoya were featured for the Seventh Voces de Nuestro País event. Their stories reflected their shared experience being raised in Cerro by a strong, intelligent single mother and grandmother and woman before her time. Our mouths watered as they described her cooking and we were surprised to hear that hers was a pilot home for the Peace Corps in the early 1960's when the program was founded. They transported listeners with humor as they described her ingenuity, work ethic and skill in raising 19 kids (10 of her own and 9 grandchildren and nephews).

Both of these Voces de Nuestro País gems are available to listen to and watch online. We invite you to check them out and enjoy!

Michael Rael is MC and curator for these monthly gatherings and podcast episodes, hosted in collaboration with Questa Library and Voices of the Northern Rio Grande, a program of local nonprofit, Localogy. Audio recordings, videos, and images from "Voces de Nuestro País" events are also being add-



Courtesy image

John and Billy Archuleta sing "Buenos Dias Señor" in a 2011 Youtube Video



Photo by Claire Coté

Vito Trujillo Jr. and Vito Trujillo Sr. playing together at Questa Library on February 21, 2026



Photo by Dan Kuehn

Michael Rael, Corinne Montoya and Kate Cisneros in conversation on March 14, 2026

ed to the digital community archive, a local repository and resource established by Voices of the Northern Rio Grande and Questa Public Library with support from the Manitos Community Memory Project. Learn more about the community archive and listen to stories from community members at [QuestaStories.org](https://www.quesstastories.org)

and [QuestaLibrary.org](https://www.quesstalibrary.org).

Don't miss our ninth "Voces de Nuestro País" event at Questa Library on Saturday, Apr. 11, 2-4 p.m. We hope you can join us!

If you have stories you'd like to share, please let Michael Rael know. You can often find him at Rael's Market or email him at rael870@gmail.com.

Voces de Nuestro País : Featuring Billy and John Archuleta

Date: Saturday, Apr. 11

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

Location: Questa Public Library

Contact: rael870@gmail.com

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An Art Show for our Kids!

A first-ever, five-day art exhibit featuring young local artists will be held at the Questa Youth Center, Apr. 16–20. The event is hosted by a collaborative team from Questa Creative Council (QCC), Village of Questa, Vida del Norte Afterschool Program, Harwood Museum of Art, LEAP, and local schools (Alta Vista Elementary & Intermediate School, Roots & Wings Community School, and Red River Valley Charter School). A reception for the artists, their families, and the community will take place Thurs., Apr. 16, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The show offers open hours on Fri., Apr. 17 and Sat., Apr. 18, from 12 to 6 p.m.

“Supporting youth artistic expression and bringing together students and teachers across programs is what



Photo by Maya McDonald

Alta Vista Student Shares an abstract painting

this show is all about,” says coordinator Claire Coté, who is also a QCC board member and LEAP director. As a Harwood Teaching Artist she leads a weekly art project at Vida del Norte’s After School Program at Questa’s Youth Center.

“We empower kids with tools for healthy minds and drug-free lives, and art is part of that,” says Kristie Ritchie, youth coordinator for the Vida del Norte Program.

Art teacher Maya McDonald adds, “Alta Vista is excited to be part of an



Photo by Claire Coté

Johnny Baca models his lion mask created during a Harwood-sponsored art session at the Vida del Norte Afterschool Program at the Youth Center

event that showcases the excellence and expression of our students!”

“We at the Harwood Museum of Art believe in the transformative power of arts experiences. We’re grateful to Claire Coté for leading this and honored to support the creativity of Questa youth,” says Gwendolyn Fernandez, Curator of Education and Public Programs.



Photo by Claire Coté

Mya Maes age 11 sharing her “Golden Frog” she created during a Harwood-sponsored art session at the Vida del Norte Afterschool Program at the Youth Center

Art Exhibition featuring Young Local Artists

Apr. 16 -20

Reception

Thursday, Apr. 16

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Youth Center Art Room

Ceramic Café

Thursdays

5-9 p.m.

Youth Center Art Room

April is also the month our non-profit gets the ball rolling for Questa Art Tour artists. Applications are open now. Our project team seeks improvement from year to year, and continues to respond to feedback. The increasing numbers of participating artists and of visitors to our village for tour weekend, and of coverage in newspapers and magazines through-

out the Southwest is proof that Questa’s artistic star is rising.

Even as some local galleries have closed, we have established new ways to highlight our downtown this year. We’re hoping for Questa cafes and shops that feature art to join us as “Map Sponsors” and be featured on our tour map for visitors to find as they make their way

from studio to pop-up art tour galleries this summer. Over 800 art lovers stream through Questa on the second week of Aug., now for the 11th year.

The deadline for artist applications is May 10th to guarantee inclusion in our map-brochure. There is a new online sign-up form to streamline the process and guarantee a spot on the tour. Find

much information on our website at QuestaCreative.org. We are also thrilled to welcome a new tour manager this year, Pilar Robledo. Her skills and community-minded focus are certain to bring Questa’s tour to the next level. You may leave a phone message for her at (575) 586-5658, or reach her by email at art-tour@questacreative.org.



**QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

from the Librarian's Desk...

Sharon Nicholson

National Library Week

Find Your Joy at the Questa Public Library During National Library Week, April 19-25.

What brings you joy? Whether it’s getting lost in a great book, learning a new skill, connecting with neighbors, or discovering fresh ideas, the Questa

Public Library invites you to find your joy during National Library Week, April 19-25, 2026.

National Library Week is an annual celebration of the role libraries play in strengthening communities, sparking imagination, and supporting lifelong learning. Across the country, libraries serve as gathering places, technology hubs, creative centers, and gateways to opportunity—and Questa’s library is no exception.

From long-time patrons to families new to the area, everyone is welcome to explore the broad range of services offered at the Questa Library. In addition to books for all ages, the library provides fiber arts support, a vibrant Summer Reading Program, an active Book Club,

small-business resources, free Wi-Fi, digital collections, career workshops, makerspace materials, STEAM activities, meeting spaces, and a rotating lineup of unique programs designed to inspire curiosity and connection.

No matter what your stage of life—starting a career, launching a business, raising children, or enjoying retirement—

the library is here to support your goals. As a cornerstone of the community, the Questa Public Library offers a place to learn, create, gather, and grow.

Stop by the library during the week of April 19-25 for iced tea and cookies and celebrate with us...our treat! Let’s spread the joy!



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April 19–25, 2026





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Earth Day Clean-up & Beautification Workday in Questa



Photo courtesy of Claire Coté

2025 Earth Day clean-up group photo: Questa Junior Senior High School Students, Community Members and Taos County Solid Waste

Calling All Volunteers! Monday April 20

By CLAIRE COTÉ,
Contributing Writer

On Mon., Apr. 20th from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., community members are invited to join Questa Junior-Senior High School Students, Village of Questa, LEAP, US Forest Service and Taos County Solid Waste for a communitywide clean-up and beautification effort. All are invited! Let's come together alongside thousands of other communities around the world taking action for Earth Day.

Volunteers are invited to Questa Municipal Park at 9:30 a.m. for spring cleaning and beautification. There will be trash pick-up, invasive plant species removal, tree pruning and other beautification efforts. Lunch for volunteers and students will be provided midday. Please bring a water bottle, layers for weather, hat and sun protection, and if you have them, work gloves, and yard cleaning tools; additional tools and trash clean-up supplies will be on hand as well.

Students will simultaneously participate in other Earth Day efforts; trash collection along Questa roadways supported by Taos County Solid Waste and the installation of fishing line recycling receptacles at Eagle Rock Lake supported by US Forest Service. Cleaning and beautifying our community is our goal, but equally important is staying safe,



Photo Courtesy of Lorenzo Gutierrez

Students and Jr/Sr. Honors Society Sponsor Santana Santistevan at 2025 Earth Day Clean-up with collection trailer

having fun, strengthening friendships, and coming together to shape the collective future vision we want for our community. The Earth Day clean-up is also in solidarity with the Village of Questa Beautification Committee.

Also in honor of Earth Day and to encourage spring cleaning, the Village of Questa will be providing roll away dumpsters for disposal of large items and deep cleaning. **Join in these clean-up days for two weekends: Fri. 1-3 and Sat. 9-2 Apr. 24th and 25th and May 8th and 9th.** Let's all do our part at home too!

The first Earth Day was celebrated 56 years ago on Apr. 22, 1970. This day of education and action was created by US Senator Gaylord Nelson, to mark the importance of keeping our planet healthy and clean, and for people to renew their

commitment to make positive changes in their communities. According to nelsonearthday.net, Senator Nelson suggested Apr. 22, a week day, as an ideal day to hold the teach-in, as a weekday event would mean students would be involved. On the first Earth Day, Nelson spoke to a large crowd in Denver, Colorado: "Our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty. The objective is an environment of decency, quality and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures."

Today we are continuing to work towards Nelson Gaylord's vision in Questa with students at the core of the Community Care & Connection Day event. Community Care & Connection Days are collaborative, intergenerational days of community give-back and celebration in

and around Questa, initiated by LEAP and collaborators in 2021. Each gathering is an opportunity to connect with friends and make new ones, to care for and improve our public spaces and envision together what we want for our community. LEAP has been hosting collaborative Earth Day events in Questa since 2015.

This year's effort is made possible by collaborators Questa Junior-Senior High School Honor Society, Taos County Solid Waste, LEAP, Village of Questa, US Forest Service, Localogy, and Community Volunteers. LEAP's clean-up and beautification efforts at the Questa Park is funded by Chevron Grants for Good and the IMPACT Grant through Taos Community Foundation as well as individual donors.

We look forward to beautifying Questa with you on Monday, April 20th! Thanks to all involved for making this community effort possible.

Earth Day Clean-up and Beautification

Where: Questa Municipal Park

When: Monday, Apr. 20th
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Who: Everyone is welcome!

Cost: Free

Info: www.LEAPsite.org

Village of Questa: (575) 586-0694

Questa Junior-Senior High School:

Santana Santistevan, (575) 779-5601

LEAP: Claire Coté, (575) 224-9066



By Toner Mitchell

Save the Date: Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Stocking Event

The annual stocking of Rio Grande cutthroat trout fingerlings in the Rio Grande gorge and at Eagle Rock Lake has become a favorite spring event in northern New Mexico, and for good reason. The weather's always great – oh, if only it could be cold and snowy this year – and it fills us all with joy to release thousands of baby cutthroats that will hopefully grow big and strong.

This year's date will be Friday, April 24. The Rio Grande gorge portion will begin at 10:00 at the Rio Grande del Norte Monument Visitor Center, where

BLM and New Mexico Department of Wildlife (DPW, formerly Department of Game and Fish) staff will brief participants on safety and logistics. For mobility impaired or very young participants, the Eagle Rock Lake portion will begin at 11:00.

DPW will bring hatchery trucks full of thousands of cutthroat fingerlings. Each participant will receive a stout plastic bag filled with water and baby fish. Participants will then hike the fish into the gorge to release the fish into the river. Hopefully the weather won't be too hot, as hikers have a limited amount of time to get fish into the water before bags get too warm for fish survival.

As always, make sure your fitness level is up to the task of hiking into the gorge and out again, with the understanding that you don't need to match pace with the die-hards who like to take more than one trip. Just make sure you have enough gas in the tank to make it a fun day, fishing and picnic lunch included. The standard comfort items should also be in your pack, particularly sun protection and water. You can never drink enough water on gorge excursions, so bring an extra bottle or a water filter for fill ups at streamside.

If you plan on fishing, make sure you



Photo Courtesy of New Mexico Game and Fish

Baby cutthroat surveying its new world

have caddis patterns in your box, as the Tax Day caddis hatch may still be in effect. I like elk hair caddis for dry flies in size 14 or 16. For nymphs and wet flies, I like caddis imitations with dark bodies, peacock being my favorite. Also in 14 or 16, sunken renegades are good as well as the caddis wet flies on offer at your local fly shop. Standard dark beadheads should work fine. With so many people likely to be fishing, you may need to hike a bit upstream of Big Arsenic or downstream beyond Little Arsenic.

On a dry year like this, it will be inspiring to see the hikers lining up to get their bags of fish. Usually limited to out of the way headwater streams, cutthroat will be especially vulnerable to these

drought conditions. Knowing that a new generation will have a chance to flourish in the Rio, gives us much needed faith that the state fish of New Mexico will persist for generations.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Stocking Event

Friday, April 24

10:00 a.m.

Rio Grande del Norte Monument Visitors Center, Wild Rivers, Cerro

Friday, April 24

11:00 a.m.

Eagle Rock Lake, Questa

Defensible Spaces Key to Wildfire Survival

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

As New Mexico braces for what officials describe as an exceptionally dangerous wildfire season, state forestry leaders are urging residents to create defensible space around their homes, saying the measure can mean the difference between a house surviving or being destroyed.

An historically low winter snowpack and prolonged dry conditions have set the stage for heightened wildfire risk across the state. Nowhere is the threat more acute than in northern New Mexico, where Taos County is experiencing drought conditions not seen in more than a century.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the region has not faced such dryness in 132 years. Most of Taos County is classified as abnormally dry, with severe drought covering about 8% of the area.

"We're heading into an exceptionally warm and dry wildfire season," Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Acting Secretary Erin Taylor said. "These extreme conditions call for extra precautions."

Fire officials say one of the most



Courtesy Jash Schallberg with Boulder Weekly

This home in Boulder, CO survived a massive wildfire. It wasn't burned down due to defensible space, or lack of brush and trash around it.

effective protections is creating defensible space, otherwise known as a buffer zone around homes that removes or reduces flammable vegetation and materials, helping slow or stop the spread of fire.

"Wildfire doesn't care if it burns in an urban or rural community," State Forester Laura McCarthy said. "Home hardening and defensible space are some of the most impactful and easiest steps people can take

to stop the spread of catastrophic wildfire."

Defensible space is designed to protect homes from embers, which are small pieces of burning debris that can travel more than a mile ahead of a wildfire. These embers often ignite homes by landing in dry leaves, pine needles or other combustible materials near structures.

State officials recommend clearing all dead vegetation within at least 5 feet of a

home, removing flammable items such as wood piles and outdoor furniture, and replacing combustible mulch with gravel or other nonflammable materials. Pruning shrubs and trimming overhanging branches also can reduce the likelihood that fire will reach a home.

The state is also encouraging homeowners to take part in the Wildfire Prepared Homes program, which offers certification for properties that meet wildfire safety standards. The designation can help homeowners maintain insurance coverage as insurers increasingly limit policies in high-risk areas.

For those who struggle to obtain fire insurance, the New Mexico Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan offers coverage, and some homeowners may qualify for grants to offset the cost of wildfire mitigation upgrades.

With peak fire season approaching this summer, officials say preparation now is critical — especially in drought-stricken areas like Taos County, where conditions are primed for fast-moving and destructive wildfires.

Justice for a Neighbor: Questa Resident Wins Historic \$59M Verdict Against Bill Cosby

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Despite the distance between a busy California courtroom and her quiet Northern New Mexico home, the March 23 ruling has given a local woman a long-awaited sense of relief. Donna Motsinger, 84, stood her ground against one of the most famous men in the world—and won.

On March 23, a California jury found comedian Bill Cosby liable for the sexual battery and assault of Motsinger dating back to 1972. The jury awarded Motsinger a total of \$59.25 million, a historic judgment that serves as a powerful validation of a truth she carried for 54 years.

The journey to the verdict was not an easy one. Motsinger had to leave her husband, Ted, for nearly a month while the trial took place in California. Her departure was weighed down by worry, as Ted has been battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"I was worried about leaving Ted by himself, but amazingly he was feeling good at the time I left," Motsinger said. "I had a couple friends and family stop by to help Ted while I was gone but I'm so happy to be back home in Questa."

For decades, Motsinger believed she had no chance of bringing her case to trial due to the statute of limitations. That changed with California's "Look-back" law (AB-2777), which took effect in January 2023. The legislation created a temporary window for survivors to seek civil justice for historical assaults.

Encouraged by her lawyers and the stories of other survivors, Motsinger made the trip to California last month.

The trial revisited a night in 1972 when Motsinger, then a young server in Sausalito, was drugged and assaulted. After only two days of deliberation, the jury sided with her, awarding nearly \$20 million for emotional distress and "loss of enjoyment of life."



Photo by Lora Arciniega

Donna Motsinger stands outside near her home in Questa, NM just a few days after the verdict of her trial

The second phase of the trial added an additional \$40 million in punitive damages.

"After the initial verdict of the \$19 million, I stepped out of the courtroom to get something to eat," Motsinger recalled. "When I came back, I found out about the \$40 million. My lawyers made it a point to send a message to the rich and famous that they cannot continue to prey on vulnerable people."

Despite the massive sum, Motsinger maintains the case was never about the money. "All I ever wanted was for him to be liable. I didn't care if I won \$1.50," she said.

Motsinger is one of at least 60 women who have publicly accused Cosby of sexual misconduct. Her victory comes at a time of a broader national reckoning. On March 18, civil rights icon Dolores Huerta, 95, broke a 60-year silence re-

garding her own experiences with abuse in the farmworker movement, citing a "movement above self" mentality that kept many women of that era quiet.

Motsinger hopes her outcome encourages others to speak. "I want women to know they can take back their power," she said. "If you have an opportunity to speak about what has happened to you, you do it for yourself. It's healing and it's closure."

The impact is already being felt. Within the first week of the ruling, Motsinger noted that 10 women have already reached out to her—some in person—to share that they, too, have been victims.

As Donna settles back into her life in Questa, she's not just a neighbor anymore—she's living proof that peace and justice is possible for everyone else.

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Qualifying factors for seniors who are interested in applying for the scholarship include:

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- Must be current seniors

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Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4th, 2026.



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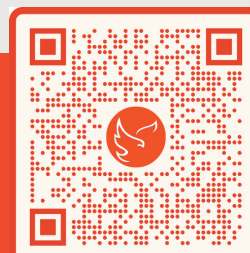
**6:30 a.m.
Sunrise Service
Eagle Rock Lake, Questa**

**10:30 a.m.
Easter Service**

**11 a.m.
Kid's Church
Living Word Ministries
12 Llano Rd, Questa**



**12 Noon
Easter Egg Hunt**



**Living Word Ministries
12 Llano Rd
Questa, NM 87566
(575) 613-8010**

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY

This survey was distributed during our recent *Questa del Rio News* Listening Session at My Tia's Cafe in Cerro on March 28. We want your feedback to ensure that as we strive to improve, we do so with your guidance. Please bring your completed survey to our final session of the year on **Wednesday, April 22, at the El Monte Carlo, or mail it to us at PO Box 1072, Questa, NM 87556**

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

How well does the paper meet its mission statement?

- A) Exceptionally well
- B) Moderately well
- C) Needs significant improvement
- D) I am not familiar with the mission

Comments:

2. How do you primarily read the Questa del Rio News?

- A) Printed monthly edition
- B) On the Website (QuestaNews.com)
- C) Through Social Media (Facebook/Instagram)
- D) Email newsletter/PDF back issues

3. How satisfied are you with the editorial coverage of your specific geographic local area (e.g., Questa, Red River, Cerro, Costilla, Amalia, Lama, San Cristobal)?

- A) My area is covered frequently and accurately
- B) My area is covered occasionally
- C) I rarely see news regarding my specific town
- D) I only read the general county-wide news

Comments:

4. In terms of "Cultural Preservation," what would you like to see more of in the paper?

- A) Interviews with local elders and ancestors' stories
- B) More bilingual content (Spanish/English)
- C) Traditional recipes in "Enchanted Eats"
- D) Coverage of local arts and traditional crafts

Comments:

5. Which area of the website (QuestaNews.com) needs the most improvement for a better user experience?

- A) Mobile phone compatibility and navigation
- B) Search functionality for finding old articles
- C) Faster loading times for PDF/Print editions
- D) More interactive features (e.g., community calendar, comment sections)

Comments:

6. What type of "Constructive Journalism" or "Community Solutions" reporting would you like to see more of? Circle ALL that apply:

- A) Economic development
- B) Local job opportunities
- C) Environmental issues (e.g., water rights, hydrogen energy updates)
- D) Youth and education (School sports/student achievements)
- E) Health, wellness, and mental health resources

Comments:

7. How likely are you to support Questa News through donations, bake sales, or subscriptions to ensure its sustainability?

- A) Very likely; I already support them or plan to
- B) Likely; if there were more specific membership benefits
- C) Unlikely; I prefer to access news for free
- D) I would prefer to support by volunteering or contributing stories instead



Mail it to us at
**PO Box 1072, Questa,
 NM 87556**

Please rate each feature of the paper:

3 = Love it! Read it Monthly 2 = Like it, Read it Occasionally

1= Don't like it, Never Read it

	Featured Columns	3	2	1
1	Front Page Feature Article			
2	Front Page "In This Issue"			
3	Letters to the Editor/Editorials/Op Eds			
4	Business Section			
5	Business Profile (of a specific local business)			
6	Real Estate Update			
7	Questa Economic Development Fund News			
8	LOR Foundation Update			
9	Village Voice			
10	Community News Sections			
11	Representando (featuring a local - where they are now)			
12	Outstanding Youth Report			
13	Coaching Spotlight			
14	Education Section			
15	Sports Section			
16	Athlete of the Month			
17	Questa Creative Council Update			
18	Questa Public Library...from the Librarian's Desk			
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21	Trout Unlimited, by Toner Mitchell			
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25	Live Laugh Love by Ellen Wood aka Muruska			
26	Mental Health Matters by Dawn Provencher			
27	Voces de Nuestro País			
28	Recaps of Community Events			
29	Photos of Community Events			
30	Enchanted Eats Recipes			
31	Fitness For All, by Paul Passino			
32	Streaming Wars Movie Review by J. Ortega			
33	Find Pepito			
34	Sproutings Kids Korner			
35	Senior Lunch Menu			
36	Obituaries			
37	Community Calendar - Daily & Weekly Events			
38	Church & Temple Directory			
39	Astrology			
40	Classifieds & Notices			
41	Zed Comic Strip by Duane M. Abel			
42	Dining Guide Ads page			
43	Business Directory Back Page			

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CAV Corner: When Money Becomes Control: Understanding Financial Abuse

By JOELLA A. MONTOYA,
Executive Director, Community
Against Violence

In a small town like ours, we pride ourselves on taking care of one another. We see familiar faces at the grocery store, at school events, at church, and around the plaza. We believe we know our neighbors. But the truth is, domestic abuse often happens quietly — behind closed doors — and it does not always look the way people expect. When most people think about domestic violence, they think about physical harm. What many don't realize is that one of the most common and powerful forms of abuse involves something we all rely on every day: money. Financial abuse is about control. It happens when one partner uses money, employment, or access to resources to limit the other person's independence and ability to make choices.

It can look like:

- Not allowing a partner to work or interfering with their job
- Taking their paycheck or controlling all financial accounts
- Giving them an allowance and monitoring every purchase
- Keeping financial information hidden
- Putting bills or debt in their name without their knowledge
- Threatening to withhold money if they don't do what is expected

Often, this control starts subtly. It may be framed as “helping with the finances” or “taking care of things.”

Over time, the balance shifts. The goal becomes dependence. The message becomes clear: You can't make it without me.

Financial abuse rarely happens alone. It is usually part of a larger pattern of emotional, psychological, or physical control.

And here is the reality many people don't see:

When someone does not have access to money, transportation, housing, or good credit, leaving an unhealthy or unsafe relationship can feel impossible.

In rural communities like ours, the barriers can be even greater. Job options may be limited. Housing can be hard to find. Childcare may not be available. And in a small town, there is also the fear of being judged, of people talking, or of not being believed. I want our community to understand something clearly: Financial abuse is real. It is serious.

And it is not the survivor's fault. Leaving is not as simple as walking away. Many survivors have to rebuild their financial lives from the beginning — repairing credit, finding employment, securing housing, and learning to manage finances independently, sometimes for the first time. That takes courage. And it takes support. You may notice signs in someone you know:

- They never seem to have access to their own money
- Their partner controls all financial decisions



Courtesy Image by Gemini

- They seem anxious or fearful about spending

Their work is disrupted or their job suddenly ends because of their partner. If you see these signs, the most powerful thing you can offer is not advice or judgment. It is compassion. You might simply say: “I'm here for you.” “You don't deserve to feel controlled.” “You're not alone.” Financial abuse grows in silence. Awareness and understanding help break that silence. At Community Against Violence, we work every day with survivors who are rebuilding their independence and their sense of stability. We help with safety planning, financial advocacy, housing resources, employment connections, and the emotional support that healing requires.

Through this work — and through my own journey — I have learned that abuse is always about power and control. Money is just one of the ways that control shows up. I have also learned that healing begins when survivors are met with understanding instead of judgment. In a small town, that understanding matters. Our willingness to listen, to believe, and to support one another can make all the difference. If you or someone you know may be experiencing financial or domestic abuse, help is available. You do not have to figure it out alone.

Everyone deserves safety. Everyone deserves dignity. And everyone deserves the freedom to make their own choices. That is the kind of community we can continue to build together. CAV HELpline (24/7): (575) 758-9888 CAV TEXTline (24/7): (575) 770-2706 At CAV, hope happens here — and you are never alone. Joella Ann Montoya is the Executive Director of Community Against Violence, Inc. (CAV) which offers FREE confidential support and assistance for adult and child survivors of sexual and domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; community and school violence prevention programs; re-education BIP groups for domestic violence offenders; counseling; shelter; transitional housing; and community thrift store. To talk with someone or get information on services available, call CAV's 24-hour HELpline at (575) 758-9888 or TEXTline at (575) 770-2706, or go to TaosCAV.org.

The Challenges and Rewards of 911 Dispatch

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

After 17 1/2 years behind the headset, Gilbert Romero, a 911 telecommunicator at the Red River Regional Dispatch Center, says the most meaningful part of the job is helping people on what may be the worst day of their lives.

“Serving your community and knowing you are providing help when people need it most” remains the most fulfilling aspect of the work, Romero said.

The job comes with significant challenges, including demanding and irregular schedules, a high-stress environment, low pay and ongoing staffing shortages —

issues common in emergency communication centers nationwide.

As communities observe National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week from April 12-18, Romero said the recognition is vital to raising awareness about the role 911 professionals play.

“They are truly the lifeline for anyone in a life-threatening situation,” he said.

Romero also emphasized the importance of educating the public on how to properly use the 911 system. Callers should be prepared to quickly provide their location, a callback number and clear information about the emergency. It is also critical to answer questions and follow

instructions from dispatchers, which can help first responders act more quickly and effectively.

Officials also remind residents to use 911 appropriately, reserving it for true emergencies so lines remain open for critical situations.

Romero recognized his colleagues at the Red River center — Jacklyn Romero, Christopher Hillsgrrove, Damien Cronin and Alec Baron — for their dedication. He also acknowledged telecommunicators at Taos County Central Dispatch and Colfax County/Raton Dispatch for their collaboration and service across northern New Mexico.

Together, the agencies work to ensure timely, coordinated emergency response across the region, underscoring the critical role dispatchers play in public safety every day.



Photo courtesy Gilbert Romero

Red River Dispatch

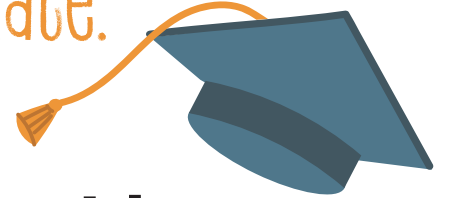
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By **BARBARA TRACY**

Walk for Peace

For those who were not watching Bhikhu Pannakara and The Walk for Peace where he led his monks from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington DC - they carried no protest signs nor did they post accusations on the internet. They walked peacefully through heat, rain and snow and encountered those along the way who called them the devil and other unkind words. The response from the monks was “May you and all beings be well, happy and at peace. Throughout this entire 2300-mile walk, they maintained a peaceful presence and were greeted by the larger community with love, flowers and gratefulness.

We all want peace, not just for the world but for ourselves personally. Yet, as can be seen on internet podcasters and news media, there continues to be a focus on divisiveness, anger and fear. To that, I would like to share something from Caroline Myss PHD, Author and teacher. She speaks of the tribal influence that has an impact on our individual and collective lives. Her focus on this subject is ALL IS ONE. Meaning, we are all connected. I am speaking here as I often do, about the collective consciousness and how our individual input to it is creating positive or negative manifestations in world issues.

Caroline gives an example of the economic crash of 1929 that created the Great Depression. There was a theme that developed from the response of the population, and that theme was that they saw themselves as “crippled” by the economic disaster. As a result of this collective feeling and attitude, speaking of the power of our thoughts and words, was the polio epidemic that began in the 1930’s and was a mirror of the “crippled” spirit of the



<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=122126909535117633&set=a.122096328897117633>

Photo the Official Page of Walk for Peace, the 109-day, 2,300-mile journey by Buddhist monks — with loyal dog, Aloka

people. This response of being crippled led to the election of a president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was crippled from the polio virus.

Although I don’t know of anyone who wants a war, it was World War II that turned the tide so to speak. From a weak nation feeling victimized by loss, we rallied into a collective consciousness that resulted in job increases leading to prosperity, pride in our country, and a greater feeling of power and honor. Through this

great change in the collective focus toward pride and support of the country, there was a sense of being economically “on its feet again.” And as the power of our input to the collective consciousness manifests, Jonas Salk discovered the vaccine for polio in the early 1950’s.

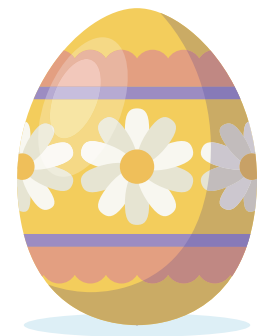
Every time we post negative pointing or victimization, we are supporting that very thing because that focus feeding the collective consciousness creates more of what we are pointing to. The universe will always give us more of what we are focused on. So, if it is peace we really want, consider what the Venerable Pannakara and his monks did, Walk and Talk for Peace. If we must spread our feelings, then let it be about what we really want, not what we don’t want.

We too can walk and talk for peace. We don’t need signs or an entourage to do our walk. Decide to put our hearts and minds toward that peace we want so much and be about life in that vibration.

May you and all beings be well, happy and at peace.

SENIOR MENU: APRIL 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Herbed Roast Pork w/Gravy Collard Greens, Black Eyed Peas Tossed Salad Wheat Roll Orange	2 Chicken Taco, Salsa Tossed Salad, Cilantro Lime Brown Rice Baked Apple Slices	3 CLOSED
7 Egg on Toast Hard Boiled Egg w/Sausage Gravy over Wheat Bread Diced Potatoes w/Onion & Peppers Peaches, Vanilla Yogurt	8 Chicken Fajitas, Flour Tortilla Capri Veggies, Spinach Pico De Gallo Banana	9 Beef Nachos, Salsa, Sour Cream Pinto Beans Broccoli Fruit Salad	10 Chicken Pot Pie Garden Salad Mixed Fruit	11 Tuna Salad Sandwich Carrot & Raisin Salad Cucumber & Tomato Salad Honeydew
13 Sloppy Joes Potato Wedges Broccoli & Cauliflower Apple Slices	14 Pork Chop w/Gravy Brown Rice Pilaf Chateau Blend Veggies Apricots	15 Red Chile Beef Enchiladas Pinto Beans Cilantro Lime Slaw Pineapple Tidbits Tapioca Pudding	16 Chicken Stir Fry Brown Rice Veggie Egg Roll Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	17 Bean & Cheese Burrito Pico De Gallo Roasted Zucchini & Bell Peppers Vanilla Yogurt Strawberries & Bananas
20 Chicken Fried Steak w/Country Gravy Parsley Potatoes, Asparagus Wheat Roll Fruit Salad Angel Food Cake	21 Chicken Strips w/Peppered Gravy Turnip Greens Vegetable Medley Roll Grapes	22 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Tossed Salad Italian Veggies Mixed Fruit	23 Green Chile Pork Stew Flour Tortilla Cucumber & Tomato Salad Broccoli Orange	24 Meatloaf Roasted Brussel Sprouts Garden Salad Baked Potato, Roll Banana
27 Grilled Cheese Yellow Squash w/Diced Tomatos Vanilla Yogurt Tropical Fruit Salad	28 Smoked Sausage w/Peppers & Onion Diced Carrots, Diced Sweet Potatoes Wheat Roll Vanilla Yogurt Mixed Berries	29 Beef Stoganoff w/Mushrooms & Noodles California Blend Veggies Fresh Pear	30 Chicken Salad Sandwich Three Beans Salad Red Beets Fruit Cocktail	



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PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE



**LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

Rethink Your Affirmations

“Affirmations don’t work,” That’s what I sometimes hear from people when there’s a discussion about affirmations. Their whole retort usually goes something like this: “Affirmations don’t work! I could say ‘I am a millionaire’ until I’m blue in the face and I still won’t have that kind of money.” Yep. That’s right. Especially with that feeling behind the words. The reason “I am a millionaire” most often doesn’t work as an affirmation is because frequently throughout the day the person’s mind is contradicting that sentence.

Let me set the record straight. Affirmations absolutely work! All day long we’re saying affirmations only, quite a bit

of the time they’re negative. Anytime we say the same thing over and over or think the same thing over and over, that is an affirmation and it’s programming our subconscious mind. For example, if someone frequently says, “I’ll never get out of credit card debt,” that’s an affirmation and it’s programming their subconscious mind to keep them in debt.

What we want to cultivate is a daily practice of POSITIVE affirmations. A positive affirmation is a simple statement about something you desire. You say it as if it’s already so and then you repeat it and repeat it with emotion so it gets absorbed into your subconscious mind. It’s a combination of observing your thoughts and saying/writing a positive affirmation. So let’s say you hate your job. Whenever that comes into your mind, stop and notice what you’re thinking. Then say, “I choose to like my job.” Saying it out loud is even better than just thinking it. Then say it often even if you don’t believe it at first: “I choose to like my job.” And slowly allow yourself to feel the emotion of actually liking your job.

In addition to saying your affirmation, once a day write your affirmation seven times. Write it four times with your domi-

Rethink Your Affirmations

WHY TYPICAL AFFIRMATIONS FAIL

I am a millionaire. → SUBCONSCIOUS: No, I'm broke, Can't pay, Can't pay rent, You're lying to yourself. BECAUSE YOUR MIND CONTRADICTS THE WORDS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

AFFIRMATIONS DO WORK!
(and you're already doing them)

CULTIVATE A POSITIVE PRACTICE

1. SAY POSITIVE STATEMENTS AS IF THEY'RE TRUE
2. REPEAT WITH EMOTION
3. WRITE YOUR AFFIRMATION 7 TIMES DAILY
 - 4 TIMES DOMINANT HAND
 - 2 TIMES NON-DOMINANT HAND
 - 1 TIME DOMINANT HAND
 Pattern: 4-2-1 to help absorption
4. OBSERVE THOUGHTS & PLANT NEW SEEDS

MAKE YOUR MENTAL PICTURES 'FEEL GOOD' ONES

By Ellen Wood (Maruska), author of *The Secret Method for Growing Younger* and *Five Tibetan Rites - The Right Way*.
www.howtogrowyounger.com | ellen@howtogrowyounger.com

nant hand, twice with your non-dominant hand and then once more with your dominant hand for a total of seven times. This will help it get absorbed into your subconscious mind. Again, the pattern is 4-2-1.

Then be on the lookout for little things at work that make you feel good. When that happens, even if you don’t like all aspects of it, repeat, “I like my job.” And don’t forget to tell your face how you feel: smile.

Want to live happily? Make your mental pictures ‘feel good’ ones. Use

your conscious mind to plant the seeds of a happy you. I’m in the habit of saying, “I love my life.” And guess what? I keep loving my life!

Ellen Wood of Questa, known artistically as Maruska, is an award-winning author celebrated for her transformative book series, The Secret Method for Growing Younger. Her latest release, Five Tibetan Rites - The Right Way, continues her mission to inspire youthfulness. All titles are available at www.howtogrowyounger.com. To contact Ellen, email her at ellen@howtogrowyounger.com.

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ENCHANTED EATS

April is here and although it is still cold, spring has arrived. We can see the glimpses of warmer weather coming and many are celebrating the Easter holiday. This glazed ham recipe will provide the star of the family gathering. Serve with all your favorite sides like parmesan scalloped potatoes, spring peas or asparagus, buttermilk mashed potatoes, and garlic butter soft rolls.

HONEY & MUSTARD GLAZED EASTER HAM

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (8–10 lb) bone-in smoked ham
- 1 cup honey
- 1/2 cup Dijon mustard
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- Zest of 1 orange
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 2 Tbsp whole-grain mustard
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter

INSTRUCTIONS

1. PREP THE HAM

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Remove ham from packaging and pat dry. Using a sharp knife, score (cut) the fat in a diamond pattern about 1/2 inch deep. Use long strides across the ham in one direction about 1" apart, then go across the opposite direction in long strides to create a diamond pattern.

2. START ROASTING

Place ham in a roasting pan fitted with a rack. Add 1 cup water to the pan. Cover loosely with foil and roast 10–12 minutes per pound. About 1 1/2 hours.

3. MAKE THE GLAZE

In a saucepan combine:

- honey
- Dijon mustard
- whole-grain mustard
- brown sugar
- orange zest
- orange juice
- apple cider vinegar
- cloves
- pepper
- butter

Simmer for 5–7 minutes until thick and glossy.

4. GLAZE & CARAMELIZE

When ham reaches 120°F, remove foil. Brush generously with glaze. Return to the oven uncovered. Every 10 minutes, brush more glaze over the ham. Cook until the ham reaches 135–140°F and the outside becomes caramelized.

5. REST AND SERVE

Let the ham rest 15 minutes, then slice and spoon the glaze from the pan over the meat. Serve with:

- roasted carrots
- buttery mashed potatoes
- grilled spring asparagus
- garlic butter soft rolls

***Brendalee (Vialpando) Reiplinger** is a Questa native who has worked her way up the culinary ladder and is currently executive chef at The Lodge at Bodega Bay, located off the Sonoma Coast in CA. Brendalee credits her hospitality and joy of preparing food from her upbringing in Questa.*



Courtesy of Gemini



Lifting for Longterm Health

Many people ask me, what is the proper number of repetitions and sets to perform for strength and size while lifting weights? I inform them that my belief is that 8-12 repetitions is good for building muscle size and anything below those reps are mostly for strength. Many studies have proven this to be true, but nowadays new research informs us that time under tension while lifting weights is more beneficial and safer to the human body.

What does this mean? When you lift lighter weight for higher reps you put more tension on your muscles for a longer period of time. Consider doing a set of bench presses for 12 reps in a controlled and smooth manner. This will take approximately 12-18 seconds to complete one set of bench presses. Now do a set of bench presses for 3-6 reps. The time under tension is approximately 3-10 seconds depending on the amount of weight being lifted.

As you can see in the above example, time under tension doubles with lighter weight and higher reps. Of course when using lighter weight, we want you still to struggle to lift your last couple of reps. If you're getting the last reps with ease, then you should increase the weight. Using light to moderate weight helps in the prevention of injuries to the muscles and joints.

I can attest to this as I have torn my chest muscle, pulled hamstrings,

strained biceps and continue to deal with shoulder and elbow pain because of the years performing heavy weight. I now perform moderate to somewhat heavy weight for higher reps and slower movement. The next question that people ask is how much rest time between sets? I believe it depends on each individual's needs. I've heard many experienced trainers say that a minimum of 2 minutes is required for full recovery between sets and others say 1 minute. I personally tell people to rest as long as needed until you fully catch your breath. It also depends on what kind of training you're doing.

If you're doing a super set program that requires you to move from one exercise to another without rest, then you're probably resting only 5-10 seconds between each exercise set. After you complete the super set, then you can rest as long as needed before performing the next super set. Regardless of any type of training you're doing, always rest enough to breathe normally. That way you have a less chance of getting light headed while training.

I hope this gives you an idea between the difference of muscle growth and strength. Depending on what you're trying to achieve, you can perform a muscle strength and size program that targets both goals. Next month, I will discuss and list a weight training program that targets both of these muscle areas.

AS ALWAYS, STAY ACTIVE AND BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR MIND, BODY & SOUL

Paul Passino has a Bachelors of Science degree in human performance and sport with a health, education, and coaching minor, as well as 45 hours of sports administration and over 23 years of teaching P.E., weight training, and coaching.



Courtesy of Gemini



BY J. ORTEGA

HAMNET

Starring Jesse Buckley, Paul Mescal, and Zac Wishart

Directed by: Chloe Zhao

Streaming on Peacock

First Impression: Director Chloé Zhao brings a devastatingly somber and somehow beautiful telling of William Shakespeare's early life, his relationship with his wife and his children, and how he got the inspiration to write his timeless classics that are still taught in schools today. This was probably one of the most emotional movies I've seen this year. The journey director Chloé Zhao takes us on through the experience of grief and pain is something extraordinary. Actress Jessie Buckley gives a memorable performance that recently won her the Best Actress Award and after watching this film—it was well deserved.

When I think about the collective works of William Shakespeare, I go back to my high school and college classes where the plays—whether they be tragedy or comedy—would be analyzed and performed in the 500-year-old speaking style that would take me out of the story and wonder how much longer we had to go before class was over. It's not that I didn't have an appreciation for Shakespeare or his works, but I just wasn't really a theater person and didn't really have the excitement and vigor to read and perform his plays. What I was more interested in was: how did he write these plays? Where did he get these ideas and what was his inspiration? Who was Shakespeare really? What was he like? Who were those close to him?

Well, luckily for me, we have the film

Hamnet, which at the beginning of the film shows that it is interchangeable with the name of perhaps Shakespeare's most famous play—and perhaps the most famous and important play in the history of the English language—Hamlet (Hamnet and Hamlet are interchangeable names), which was the name of Shakespeare's only son. Zhao shows us how Shakespeare met his future wife, Agnes, who was considered by the townspeople to be a witch who came from a line of witches. I think the people were mistaken. Agnes is shown as a loving, supportive free spirit who told her children to always pay attention to their dreams, and how to work with herbs and what came from the earth and how they can protect you from disease. Seems more like a curandera to me.

Well, we see Shakespeare's family forbid him from marrying that "evil girl," and were telling him, "we would be the laughingstock of the community" and "how could we accept her into our family?" This all happened after she told his family she was pregnant with their first child. This sounded oddly familiar to Romeo and Juliet with the star-crossed lovers theme. We also see how Shakespeare had a very difficult relationship with his father and didn't want his son, Hamnet, to be close to him because he believed that he would treat him just as bad because he was his son—echoing the themes of Hamlet and Macbeth as well.

Hamnet is a film that isn't loud. It doesn't have many special effects, if any. It's a story that focuses on its famous characters and how they influenced and helped each other through such trying times. Hamnet is definitely one of the best films of the year. You should watch it whether you are a Shakespeare fan or not.

FINAL VERDICT 4 ½ OUT OF 5 STARS



Screen Capture

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Keynote reading (only) by Alexandra Fuller: Friday, 7/24/26 at 5:30pm, \$10/SOMOS members; \$15/nonmembers

Go to somostaos.org/taos-writers-conference/#about for a full schedule of workshops, intensives, faculty bios and to register

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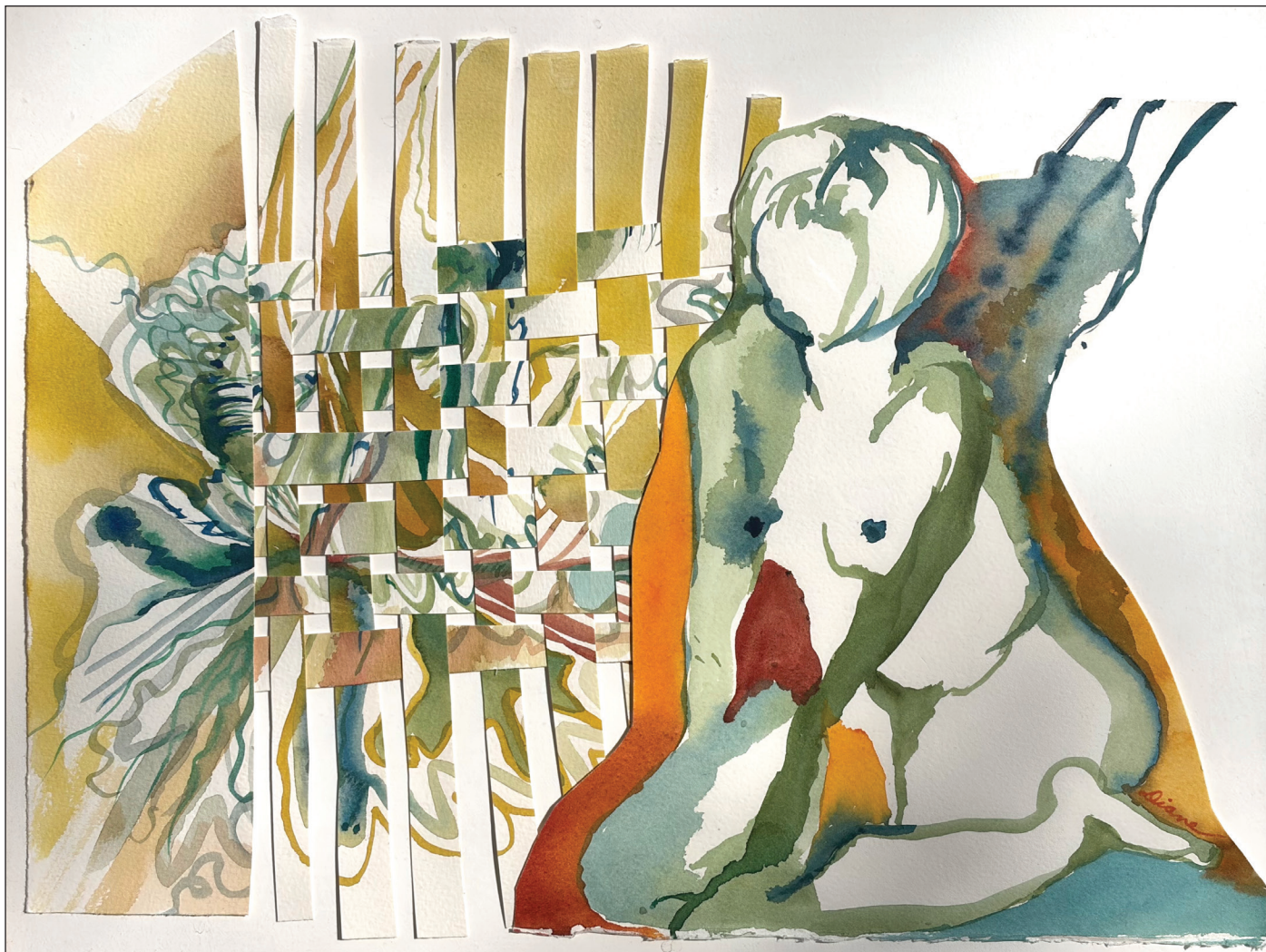
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A Creative Light Leaves a Lasting Glow



Courtesy Photos

(Above) Diane de Fremery



(Right) Nude with Weaving 11 x 14 watercolor

BY LISA JIZRAWI, JULIE PAIVA,
with contributions from MARTHA
SHEPP AND PEGGY TRIGG

The community of Questa is mourning the passing of one of its creative sparks. Diane de Fremery passed away peacefully on Feb. 21, at Scott's House in Santa Fe, a hospice setting. She had been struggling with a recent leg injury, a fall, and then a stroke that led to fatal complications.

The community will be coming together to honor Diane and her creative work on Sat., Apr. 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Questa Library, with a retrospective display of over 50 of her images beginning Apr. 13.

Diane was born in Berkeley, CA, in 1947. She was the eldest of two daughters born to William de Fremery and Clairnelle Lehman. Diane gravitated toward the arts at a young age, painting and dancing ballet. She graduated from San Jose State University in 1981, with a degree in Creative Arts. She took many different art classes, including a movement workshop, a music in world cultures class, weaving, printing on fabric, photo transfer onto cloth, watercolor, ceramics, photography, folk dance,

papermaking, ceremonial clothing, and art history. She was a member of the sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Diane created art and saw the world through an artist's eye. Raised in a family active in nature conservation, she spent a lot of time in Yosemite National Park both as a child and as a mother, bringing her two daughters there yearly, instilling in them the ability to see art in nature. The natural world, light, sound, vibrations—these were among many of Diane's teachers.

Introduced to the Dances of Universal Peace through her community in San Jose, CA, she became a Sufi (a seeker of truth) and practiced for over 20 years. She also participated in the drum circle at the center of the dances.

Diane moved to Taos, NM after a visit to the area. She said, "The [Taos] mountain is calling me," and she spent many years at the foot of that mountain, as a receptionist at the Mabel Dodge Luhan House. She loved talking with visitors, sharing the best spots to paint, where to eat and how best to experience Taos.

Diane created an artist retreat on her land in Questa. She constructed a garden, an outdoor tea house, a ceremo-

nial teepee, and an art studio she named Laughing Waters. She offered "plein air" watercolor workshops: it was a place to reflect, to be still, to create.

The local community remembers Diane as a kind, caring, creative, and colorful individual, always supportive and interested in people. She would listen and discuss concerns, hopes, and dreams.

She was very active in local activities, especially art events, and was always eager to get to her weekly scrabble or her community knitting gatherings.

Diane was a lifelong artist, experimenting with techniques and styles. "She was the most creative person I knew and was a huge advocate for the arts," commented Peggy Trigg. She showed her work at numerous locations, including the Millicent Rogers Museum and in the Questa Art Tour.

Her earliest work showcased realism and with time led to abstraction with strong emotion. Every piece had feeling flowing through it. Diane also fit the part, "Diane dressed like a painting, composing her ensemble from a mixed palette of color and forms, texture and line. "It always suited her," commented Sandra Harrington.

She is survived by two daughters; her younger daughter Julie, son-in-law Jeff, and granddaughter Eloise; and her older daughter Lisa, son-in-law Alex, and grandchildren Victor, Olivia, and Sophia.

Her artwork will be on display at the Questa Library starting Apr. 13, and a memorial will also be held there Apr. 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. Please join us for storytelling and reflection on Diane's impact on our lives.

Her family wants her artwork to be shared with her friends and community, so if you are interested in having a piece of her work to live on in your hearts and memories of her, they will be available when the show comes down or at the memorial. For more information, please contact Martha Shepp or Peggy Trigg, through the Questa Library.

Diane Fremery: Retrospective

Show: Apr. 13 - 25

Reception: Saturday, Apr. 25

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

Location: Questa Public Library

Contact: rael870@gmail.com

OBITUARIES



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George E Cisneros
d. March 1, 2026

George E Cisneros a resident of Questa NM passed away unexpectedly at Presbyterian Medical Center in Albuquerque NM, surrounded by his loving family.

He is preceded in death by his parents Fred and Amelia Cisneros, his daughter Cindy Miera, his first wife Mary Martinez Cisneros, his second wife Judy Cater Cisneros, his brother Jake Cisneros, his sister Nina Rodriguez and his son-in-law Michael Chandler.

George is survived by his children JoAnn(Beck), Georgia(Levi), and Fred(Marilyn), and his son-in-law Leroy Miera, his grandchildren: Maria Cisneros, Becky Griego(Ernie), Lisa Cisneros, Kevin Cisneros(Nicole), Reyes Cisneros(Cinthia), Ernie Miera, JC Miera(Jade), Bryan Chandler(Cheri), Gabriel Chandler, and Eva Cisneros(Xiuy). He also leaves behind 14 great grandchildren: Josiah Griego(Faith), Mariah Griego(Jonathan), Urijah, Eliseo and Kinsley Griego, Andrew and Alivia Romero, Analea, Aubrey and Kevin Jr Cisneros, Jayla and Axel Cisneros, Cynthia Miera, and Teo Soto, 3 great great grandchildren: Sienna Griego, JD and Milani Dominguez. George also leaves behind his sister Mary Trujillo(Bill), Jerry Cisneros(Bernie), brother-in-law Jim Rodriguez, and his Aunt Viola C de Baca(Larry). He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

A rosary was recited on March 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Rivera Funeral Home in Taos NM. The funeral mass was held on March 19, 2026 at 10 a.m. at St Anthony's church in Questa NM, with burial following at El Pueblito Cemetery in Questa NM.

The family of George E Cisneros has granted Rivera Family Funeral Home the honor of serving them.



Jose Abel Garcia
d. March 20, 2026

Jose Abel Garcia is preceded in death by his daughter Olympia Garcia (Lucio Duran) and his infant daughter Francis Garcia, and his parents, Luciano and Lugarda Garcia.

Jose has been known to generations by many names such as "Bo," "Grandpa," and "Tata"; however, most knew him as "Abe," a cherished centenarian, patriarch, and cornerstone of the Arroyo Seco community. He passed into eternal rest after a life that spanned more than a century, just one month shy of his 103rd birthday.

Born in 1923 in Arroyo Seco, New Mexico, Abe was the eldest of 12 children. Even before his birth, his life was set on a unique path, as his parents promised their son to his grandmother, Teresita Martinez. He was raised by his grandmother alongside his aunt and uncle, Aurelia and Rosendo Fernandez, who instilled in him the values of hard work, humility, and devotion to family.

Abe attended primary school in Costilla and secondary school in Taos, where he played basketball on the A squad. Upon graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army; however, he had previously been accepted to attend New Mexico Highlands University, where he obtained a certification in radio communications. When he completed his certification, he then fulfilled his obligation to serve honorably in World War II from 1942 to 1945. He was proud of his service to his country, intercepting Japanese radio codes in the Philippines. During his time in the Army, he was stationed in what is now known as Fort Leonard Wood, Hawaii, Fort Bliss, Korea, and finally, as the war ended, he was in the battle in Okinawa, Japan, and later occupied Korea until he was honorably discharged.

After returning home from the war, Abe settled back into life in Arroyo Seco. He took on a variety of jobs, working at the New Mexico State Capitol, serving as a fire watcher with the United States Forest Service, and laboring in the sawmills of Pot Creek. During this time, he embraced the opportunities of the postwar efforts, enrolling in the "Servicemen's Readjustment," now known as the GI Bill of Rights. Through the vocational program, he learned

carpentry and auto mechanics, earning \$175 a month while laying the foundation for a lifetime of skill.

In 1949, Abe married Grace Córdova of San Cristóbal. Together, they raised three daughters, Teresa, Olympia, and Lina Garcia, building a family rooted in love, hard work, and tradition. Together, they created the foundation of what would grow into the beloved restaurant it is today.

In 1962, Abe began serving as the United States postmaster, a role he would hold with dedication for 26 years, while also building the post office that is now known as Taos Wools. By night, he opened the doors of the Arroyo Seco Tavern, working alongside his aunt, Aurelia Fernandez, after the loss of his uncle. In time, Abe took on the business himself and, together with his wife and daughters, grew it into the well-known Abe's Cantina y Cocina, a place that became the heart of the community, where stories were shared, friendships were formed, and generations gathered.

Throughout his life, he embraced a wide range of hobbies, staying active and social through hunting, fishing, golfing, carpentry, bowling, and gardening. Remarkably, he even took up skiing in his late 50s. Abe had a deep love for travel and new experiences, exploring destinations across the country, including visits to national parks and monuments. He enjoyed deep-sea fishing in Mexico and once ventured to Alaska for the same pursuit, where he broke his leg, a mishap he recalled with humor, saying, "No fish on that trip, but got through it alright."

He was also a devoted football fan, attending NFL games to cheer on the Pittsburgh Steelers, and cherished the opportunity to attend what was once the World's Fair. Some of his most treasured moments were spent with his grandchildren, taking them to amusement parks and sharing in their joy throughout the years, often taking them on trips. These years are known as "Happy Days" with a shot of Frangelico.

Abe never retired from bartending. He remained a daily presence at the cantina until days upon his death. He socialized each day with customers and showed interest in his friends' and family's lives until his death, often responding to each story with a "YEP."

Abe's life was marked by service beyond the bar. He supported his community in many ways and the members of the Arroyo Seco community in times of need. Abe has been described as a pillar in his community. He served as grand marshal and supported the creation of the once-iconic Arroyo Seco

Parade and Traditional Taos Fiesta Parade. He supported the early establishment of the Arroyo Seco Domestic Water Association. He contributed over the years to the Santísima Trinidad Cemetery, honoring veterans within the community. He was the last living original chartered member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles. He became one of the few honorary lifetime members of the Valle Escondido Golf Course. Abe participated in various community projects in Arroyo Seco throughout his lifetime, including one of the first ski clubs to support youth in the area to have the opportunity to ski.

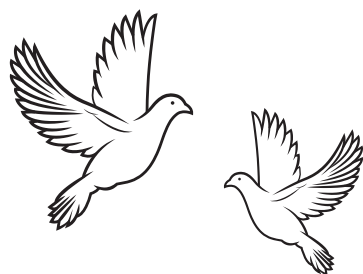
Even in his later years, Abe lived with routine and purpose, tending to the business in any way he could, tending to the grounds, and later creating his own business of selling wood outside his workshop, socializing with visitors and tourists passing through. He would make his own chokecherry wine and share it with whomever came into the bar or visited his home. He enjoyed making furniture in his later years and passing on the skill to friends and anyone who showed interest in learning while enjoying a Bud Light. He stayed up late into the evenings, listening and whistling to traditional northern New Mexico music, often watching classic Westerns like Gunsmoke and Bonanza, all the while planning his next project.

Each year, Abe's life was celebrated with gatherings of family, friends, and community at the cantina. These milestones each year reminded us that he is a man of integrity, a mentor, and a pillar of Arroyo Seco. His legacy lives on in his family, in the stories shared across generations, and in the enduring spirit of the community he helped shape.

He is survived by his wife, Grace Garcia; his daughters, Teresa and Lina Garcia (Gerald); his grandchildren and extended family; and, last but not least, the community of Arroyo Seco and all his customers, friends, and patrons.

With love and remembrance, a Rosary will be held on April 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Arroyo Seco. A Funeral Mass celebrating his life and faith will be held the following day at 10:00 AM. Burial will take place immediately afterward at Arroyo Seco Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest surrounded by the prayers and presence of those who loved him.

The family of Jose Abel Garcia has granted Rivera Family Funeral Home the honor of serving them.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR • APRIL 2026

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN APRIL!

APRIL 2: THUR NOON - 1 PM
QBB Bridging the Digital Gap: Tech Support with Monica McClelland. @ the Questa Library. For more info email: qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See ad on page 15

APRIL 4: SAT 11:30 AM - 1 PM
Easter Egg Hunt, All are invited. Live Animals, Hotdogs & Drinks @ the Questa Youth Center. For more info email: qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See ad on page 15

APRIL 5: SUN
Happy Easter!

6:30 AM
Sunrise Service @ Eagle Rock Lake, Questa with Living Word Ministries. See ad on page 27

10:30 AM
Easter Service @ Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Road, Questa See ad on page 27

11 AM
Kid's Church @ Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Road, Questa See ad on page 27

NOON
Easter Egg Hunt @ Living Word Ministries, 12 Llano Road, Questa See ad on page 27

APRIL 8: WED 5:30 - 7 PM
Taos Housing Partnership invites you to a Questa Community Housing 101: A community learning event with Jenn Lopez of Project Moxie @ the Questa Library. See ad on page 35

APRIL 9: THUR 5:30 - 7 PM
QBB Business Quest Workshop Series: Introduction to Workshops & Pitch Contest: What to Expect. @ the Questa Library. For more info email: qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See ad on page 17

APRIL 11: SAT 8 AM
Acequia Ditch Cleaning: CABRESTO LAKE IRRIGATION COMMUNITY DITCH at the Parish Center Parking Lot. Bring your own tools. For more info contact Louis Herrera via email: LHerrera87556@gmail.com. See ad on page 11

8 AM
Acequia Ditch Cleaning: LLANO DITCH at the @North Gas Station. Bring your own tools. For more info call Mayordomo Norman Garcia (575) 779-0497. See ad on page 11

2 - 4 PM
Voces de Nuestro Pais : Featuring Billy and John Archuleta @ the Questa Library. For more info email: rael870@gmail.com See article on page 20

4 PM
Acequia Ditch Cleaning: ACEQUIA MADRE DEL CERRO DE GUADALUPE at the Cerro Community Center. Bring your own tools. For more info Mayordoma Marti Segura (575) 741-0365. See ad on page 11

APRIL 11 - 12: SAT - SUN 8 AM
Acequia Ditch Cleaning: NORTH DITCH at the Questa Ranger Station. Bring your own tools. For more info call John Rael (575) 779-2627. See ad on page 11

APRIL 16: THUR BY APPT.
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting with Anwar Kaelin. @ the Questa Library. For more info email: qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See ad on page 17

Happy Easter

6 - 7:30 PM
Relationships & Network for your Business Growth LIVE Webinar by WESST @ the Questa Library. For more info email: qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See ad on page 15

APRIL 16: THUR 4:30 - 6:30 PM
Art Exhibition featuring Young Local Artists Reception. Show dates: 16 - 20, Thur - Mon. @ the Questa Library. Special Mariachi performance @5:30. See article on page 22

APRIL 18: SAT - SUN 8 AM
Acequia Ditch Cleaning: MOLINO DITCH at the Diversion. Bring your own tools. For more info call Pancho Ortiz (575) 586-1722. See ad on page 11

APRIL 19: SUN 3 PM
Springtime ~ Concert Cello & Piano with Mark Dudrow, Martha Shepp @ the Sala, 2331 Hwy 522. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

APRIL 19 - 25: SUN - SAT
Celebrate National Library Week. Questa Public Library, ice tea and cookies throughout the week. Join Us @ the Questa Library. See article on page 22

APRIL 20: MON 9:30 - 2:30 PM
Earth Day Clean-up and Beautification: Everyone Welcome! @ Questa Municipal Park. Info: www.LEAPsite.org. Village of Questa: (575) 586-0694 Questa Junior-Senior High School: Santana Santestevan, (575) 779-5601 LEAP: Claire Coté, (575) 224-9066 See article on page 24

APRIL 21: TUES 5:30-7:30 PM
Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site Community Meeting @ Questa VFW. Get Questa Mine site and cleanup updates, followed by a public Q&A. We look forward to seeing you there! See ad on page 5

APRIL 22: WED NOON - 1:30 PM
Questa del Rio News (last) Listening Session. In Person at the Monte Carlo. RSVP for the Complimentary Lunch Provided. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CBOBPDT> See ad on page 11

APRIL 24 - 25: FRI - SAT 9 AM - 2 PM
Questa Village Dumpster Days allow residents to dispose of large trash items for free, usually held behind the Village Administrative Building. The next days will be on May 8 - 9.

APRIL 24: FRI 10 AM
Annual Fish Stocking Event @Rio Grande del Norte Monument Visitor Center. See article on page 25

11 AM
Annual Fish Stocking Event @Eagle Rock Lake. See article on page 25

5:30 - 8 PM
Nortenas Connect: Denim, Diamonds & Dancing: @ the Monte Carlo, Questa. For more info email: Nortenasconnect@gmail.com See ad on page 26

APRIL 25: SAT 2 - 4 PM
Diane Femery: Retrospective Show @ the Questa Public Library. Coming together to honor Diane and her creative work. See article on page 36

APRIL 30: THUR 5:30 PM
QBB Business Quest Workshop Series: So, You Want to Start A Business: How to Test Your Idea. @ the Questa Library. For more info email: qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See ad on page 17

5:30 - 7 PM
So you want to start a business: How to test your idea with Maia Franz @ the Questa Library. For more info email: qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See ad on page 17

MAY 1: FRI 5:30 PM
Meet & Greet Vendor Event at QFM, pot luck! QFM meet and greet vendor event @ the Questa Farmers Market site. Meet the New Director and get this seasons updates and info.

Weekly Events

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

10 AM
Free/By Donation Community Seated Yoga Practice with Gaea, in person only. 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

5 PM
Free/By Donation Community Yoga, gentle practice with Rae, in person only. 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, NM. For more info visit yogasalaquesta.org

6 - 7 PM
FREE Mariachi Lessons, with Rachel León. Beginners: In person only. Located @ Cerro VFW. Contact (575) 779-0565 or email vozdeoro2017@gmail.com for more info.

7-8 PM
FREE Mariachi Lessons, with Rachel León. Advanced: In person only. Located @ Cerro VFW. Contact (575) 779-0565 or email vozdeoro2017@gmail.com for more info.

7 PM
Kickboxing Returns April 13, with Reto in person only, sliding scale \$5-15 **All classes free for teens.** 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

TUESDAY

8:30 AM
Introductory Contemporary Dance with Monica, in person only, \$10-\$15. 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

WEDNESDAY

9 AM
Gentle morning yoga with Gaea, in person and online, \$10-\$15. 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, NM. For more info visit yogasalaquesta.org

11 AM
Power Yoga with Gaea, in person only and online, \$10-\$15 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, NM. For more info visit yogasalaquesta.org

3:15 - 4 PM
Tiny Groovers w/ Monica. Ages 0-5 in person only, FREE/BY DONATION 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

4:30 PM
Kids' Dance Adventure - ages 6-12 with Monica, in person only, FREE/BY DONATION 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

6 - 7 PM
FREE Mariachi Lessons, with Rachel León. Beginners: In person only. Located @ Cerro VFW. Contact (575) 779-0565 or email vozdeoro2017@gmail.com for more info.

7-8 PM
FREE Mariachi Lessons, with Rachel León. Advanced: In person only. Located @ Cerro VFW. Contact (575) 779-0565 or email vozdeoro2017@gmail.com for more info.

7 PM
Kickboxing returns April 15, with Reto in person only, sliding scale \$5-15 All classes FREE for teens. 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

THURSDAY

5-9 PM
Ceramic Cafe, @ Questa Youth Center.

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

5:30 PM
Yoga, Stretch & Balance (no class on May 1) with Jiwanshakt, in person only, \$10-15. 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, NM. For more info visit yogasalaquesta.org

SATURDAY

10 AM
Free Community Tai Chi Returns April 11, with Reto, in person only, 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, NM. For more info visit yogasalaquesta.org

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR?
 List your event online for free on the online calendar at questanews.com/questa-events

CHURCH & TEMPLE DIRECTORY



River Community Church exists to glorify God and make disciples by sacrificially serving families in the Village of Questa, NM in a way that produces a culture of community.

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 Sunday noon mass

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 Costilla - Sagrado Corazon - Sunday 10 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
 2558 Hwy 522, Questa
 Sunday Service 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 (575) 770-1714
 Visit us online: freedomquesta.com

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

RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Pastor Jesse Hardy, 65 S Kiowa Rd, Questa, NM
 87556 List of events and services at rccquesta.org/community

THEOSOPHY
 Northern New Mexico Alice Bailey Study Group.
 Sunday and Wednesday 10 a.m.- noon on Zoom.
 For more info, contact Francis at oeahoo17@gmail.com

QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST
 2 miles north of Questa on State Road 522
 Sunday Bible Class Sunday 9:30 a.m.
 followed by worship at 10:15 a.m.

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KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA
 Tibetan Buddhism
 Monday 11 a.m. Green Tara. Friday 1 p.m. Chenrezig both in-person and on Zoom.
 For more info www.earthjourney.org or contact Gabrielle at info@earthjourney.org or (575) 770-1682

PATH OF LOVE
 Sunday 7:30 a.m. class and meditation in-person north of Questa or on Zoom. For more info: gabrielle.herberson@gmail.com

AMALIA

SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH
 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 p.m. April - September
 12 Santo Nino Rd, El Prado, NM 87529

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
 100 Copper King Trail, Corner of River St & 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 Pettigrew (575) 586-0470

DINING GUIDE

QUESTA



- Thursday Night Jam Session - 6pm
- Espresso - Chai - Tea (Punch Cards Available)
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NOON - 7:30 PM
Thurs - Sun

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CLASSIFIEDS

Notices

AA MEETING: Questa Sundays 10-11 a.m., Questa Youth Center

AA MEETING: Red River Tuesdays 7-8 p.m., 417 E. High St. (Erik's Workshop)

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

Free Transportation- Free transportation for qualified seniors is available Monday through Thursday. Donations are encouraged. Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call (575) 586-0508 for information.

Food Pantry- North Central New Mexico Food Pantry: second and fourth Fridays, 10 a.m. to 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 ncfquesta.com or mail to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com. If you would like to volunteer, please call Jeannie (numbers above).

Spay Taos: FREE Spay & Neuter Service for all cats and dogs. Description of Services: spay or neuter, vaccines included if needed, microchip included if needed, e-collar if appropriate, aftercare for surgery related complications. 36 Highway 522, El Prado, NM. North of the 'Old Blinking Light,'

directly opposite Taos Veterinary Clinic. Call (575) 240-8549 or email spaytaos@gmail.com or visit spaytaos.org. If you want to volunteer, duties include: Check in 7:30-9:00, Check out 12:00-3:30, Recovery monitoring 8:45-2:30, Instrument pack cleaning and sterilization 9:00-3:00, Cleaning 1:30-3:30. Outreach on your own schedule or for events. Training provided. Contact spaytaos@gmail.com for more information.

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