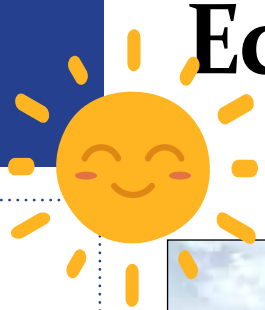




Questa del Rio News

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Photo courtesy of Audriannah León

A trailer loaded up items from the Questa VFW on May 13 as locals packed out all of the items inside the building.

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The closure of the Questa VFW Post 7688 feels like the loss of something far greater than a building.

Officially shut down by the State VFW on May 1 due to compliance issues after years of declining membership and difficulty maintaining a quorum, the post represented generations of service, sacrifice, and community in Questa. For many, it was a gathering place. For others, a second home. For me, it holds some of the most meaningful memories of my childhood.

Growing up, every single Sunday at 3 p.m. was like clockwork.

My grandfather Richard Rael would pack his dinner, throw extra snacks into his lunchbox, and head to the VFW Hall at 2597 North Highway 522 to prepare bingo packets. He didn't speak much about his service in Korea, but his unwavering commitment to Bingo told me everything I needed to know about what the VFW meant to him.

The bingo wasn't just bingo.

The money raised helped fund scholarships for graduating seniors. Veterans

hosted pancake breakfasts, sold poppies, and spent countless hours serving the community. I remember helping make poppies every Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They did this faithfully for 15, maybe even 20 years.

On Bingo nights, Michael Gaillour and my tío Clyde Cisneros would take turns calling numbers. And when someone yelled "Bingo!" the veterans would rush to the microphone to verify the card:

"52 — valid."

"3 — valid."

"17 — valid."

"27 — valid."

As everyone held their breath—

"68 — valid."

"That's a valid bingo. Are there any others? This game is closed!"

Often, Tiffany Cisneros and I would sneak behind the concession counter with our grandpas, coloring with bingo markers, drawing with chalk, and sharing snacks while the veterans worked.

When the night ended around 8:30 p.m., they would walk the hall collecting marked cards, cleaning up, and heading

home around 10 p.m.

Back then, it all felt ordinary but now, I realize it was sacred.

I have no photographs of those nights. No recordings. No real proof of how deeply important they were to me or to so many others. But after sharing my memories on Facebook, something unexpected happened.

Questa remembered with me. Story after story poured in, carrying the unmistakable echoes of Sunday nights at the VFW Hall.

Maria Gonzalez remembered attending with her Tía Elvira. "You just brought back some of those memories for me too," she wrote. "She would smoke cigarros y siempre tenía una botellita de whiskey in her purse."

Diane León remembered the rhythm of Sunday nights vividly. "As I looked around the office on Monday when we went to help move things out, I envisioned much of what you described," she shared. "I too spent every Sunday growing up watching,

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Published Monthly by the
QUESTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Publicación mensual por
EL FONDO PARA EL DESARROLLO ECONOMICO DE QUESTA

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

LYNN SKALL Business Manager/Gerente de negocios

LORA ARCINIEGA Assistant Editor/Editor asistente

General Inquires email info@questanews.com

or call (575) 613-6510

LORA ARCINIEGA Sales & Development Director/ *Director de Desarrollo*

salesmanager@questanews.com

(575) 240-4344

ALYSSAH DURAN Copy Editor/Editor de copia

AUDRIANAH LEÓN - Photographer/Fotógrafa

EMILY WILDE Graphic Design & Pagination/*Diseño gráfico y paginación*

LORA ARCINIEGA Reporter/Reportero

Columnists/*Columnistas:*

Monthly Features/*Presentaciones Mensuales:*

TONER MITCHELL

LIZ VAUTOUR

PAUL PASSINO

BRENDALEE REIPLINGER

DUANE ABEL

SHARON NICHOLSON

JEREMY ORTEGA

BARBARA TRACY

ELLEN WOOD

Distribution/*Distribución*

distribution@questanews.com (575) 613-6510

LORA ARCINIEGA Calendar Coordinator/Coordinadora de calendario

events@questanews.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

OPINION EDITORIAL: Dancing With Greed

By OM JAYA

Materialism is an insatiable and self-serving energy; it has no boundaries. Dancing with greed, materialists are a dangerous breed. Their egos and ethics reflect a “better-than-you” attitude. They hide in corporate circles to nourish their selfish agendas. They will hear you speak, but unless you serve their interests, they do not listen. They’ll tell you what you need and then give you the opportunity to do their dirty work. They’ve got money, and they think you can be bought. Like hungry ghosts, the more they have, the more they want.

Let me give you an example. At the Kit Carson Electric Co-op board meetings, I have witnessed censorship of all opposition to the hydrogen project.

They do not put the project on the agenda for public comment. If you express opposition, you are ghosted. I was there when they gave a cheerful man all the time in the world to stand before the public and tell the KCEC board members how great they are. Like an infomercial boosting their egos, he was allowed to go on and on until the faces on the council grew bored. But talk about hydrogen risks? Not allowed for public comment.

Today, KCEC is seeking employees, offering jobs in our community to build phase one of the hydrogen project in Questa. Remember, after Questa, KCEC has said they plan to build plants in Taos and Picuris, and this is a fact. Hundreds of acres of solar panels would need to be installed to power the hydrogen plant. The jobs offered are for the construction of the solar array. The solar array is only yards away from a Superfund site (research and learn what a Superfund site is). The installation site is downwind from a constant and unpredictable wind force that disrupts and mobilizes toxic heavy metals into the air.

I have seen many windy days where sand from the contamination site is lifted and carried north, straight into the proposed construction site and residential areas. A Superfund site is so toxic

that it must be monitored for decades. Unfortunately, the Environmental Protection Agency has claimed the land is safe if it is not disturbed. Not disturbed.

We know environmental protection is at risk of being exploited and unfairly abused by corporate agendas, toxic or not — in this case, Chevron and KCEC — regardless of the risk to humans.

In these days of economic crisis, many are eager to find work. KCEC will have no problem attracting young and innocent workers. Naïve and desperate, they will take a job to make ends meet, even if it’s a dirty one. Employees who take these jobs will be working in constant exposure to airborne toxic heavy metals and will be at risk of disease and cancer.

Why do I mention this? Because nowhere on the job application is there a disclosure stating that accepting a job on this project puts you at serious health risk. It’s stated on a pack of cigarettes, and that is required by law. Maybe KCEC doesn’t think it’s necessary, or perhaps they think the opportunity will outshine the hazards. Or maybe they think no one will say or do anything about it. Are they relying on the weakness of public apathy?

The most alarming statement from KCEC is the recent impact assessment report in case the hydrogen plant explodes. But don’t worry — according to their report, you’ll be safe if you are not near it when it blows. How can they predict the unpredictable power of nature?

Last note: Why did KCEC and the Questa board members choose a contractor to install the solar array with only a 1.6-star rating? Konisto’s reviews are not good. Check for yourself.

All this makes us wonder: Do our council members listen to the public? Is KCEC no longer a co-op? Do we no longer have a voice in our investment with them?

Just asking.

Om Jaya

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QUESTA VFW cont'd from page 1

helping, and eventually playing Bingo.”

She laughed remembering the unofficial seating chart everyone somehow respected.

“I could still tell you where most people sat—and the looks they gave if, God forbid, someone else sat in their spot!”

Lora Arciniega quickly chimed in:

“I went to Bingo with you and your mom at least once or twice”

James Ortega remembered attending with Jerome when they were barely old enough to understand the magic of it all.

“I remember the heavy smoke and the great burgers,” he wrote. “Every time we yelled BINGO, we always heard, ‘Cabron-citos, where are their parents?’”

The boys laughed, won money, and felt rich whenever they walked out with \$50 or \$100 in winnings.

Most importantly, he remembered seeing his grandfather, Bernabe Ortega, surrounded by friends. “War heroes,” he called them.

The cigarette smoke became part of the memory.

Dean Archuleta remembered the pull tabs, better known as “pickles,” along with Frito pies and a parking lot packed every

Sunday for years.

Vikki Sandoval painted one of the clearest pictures of what Bingo meant. She and her mother were regulars every Sunday in Questa and Thursdays in Cerro. She remembered sipping Pepsi while her mom drank Coke, sharing flower seeds, opening packets of Bingo cards, and choosing from a collection of colorful Bingo dabbers.

“What color do you want tonight?” her mother would ask. Then the game began.

“I need one more. I need one more.”

And suddenly—

“BINGO!”

Everyone would turn, offering what she jokingly described as an “unwanted smile” before smashing up their losing papers.

“Stay home next week!” players would tease. Those nights became ritual for Vicki and her mother who has passed on. “I miss my mom.”

Bernadette Gallegos Weldon remembered her father helping build Bingo packets while the crew gathered with lunch meat sandwiches, bread, and chips. The regulars had traditions of their own.

Players even carried on side games like caballito—their own quiet rituals happening alongside the official Bingo cards.

“There were great friendships among



Courtesy Photo

Inside the Questa VFW Post 7688. This space has been in steady use by the community with events and meetings of all kinds.

the vets and players,” she said. “It is sad to see it close.”

Adria Cordova remembered going alongside her grandparents and aunt, hoping her grandmother would let her help play the Bingo cards before helping clean afterward.

“The men drank their whiskey and the ladies chatted away,” she remembered. “Great times.”

Arlene Sanchez remembered staying until the very end every Sunday night.

She recalled waiting for my grandfather Richard to close out the night and take the deposit home. She says she often followed behind to make sure he got there safely.

“We watched from Cabresto Road until

he crossed the bridge at his house so he wouldn’t get robbed.”

Sometimes, she said, he would call asking for help feeding the volunteers.

“We don’t have cooks tonight. Will you feed us?”

“He always had a menu,” she said.

“They loved cooked meals instead of sandwiches.”

These weren’t just Bingo nights. They were rituals.

Friendships. Fundraisers. Scholarship drives. Smoke-filled rooms. Pull tabs, Frito pies, whiskey bottles tucked into purses, favorite seats no one dared take, and veterans who kept serving long after war had ended.

The closure of Questa VFW Post 7688 is not just the loss of a building.

It is the closing of a chapter in the living memory of Questa.

And yet, in the stories shared by so many, one thing feels certain:

The building may be gone, but the echoes in our memories remain.

Today, the Questa Friendship Circle is placing supplies into storage while determining how to continue comidas for grieving families following deaths in the community. Questions also remain about what will happen to Pueblito Cemetery, long managed by the Questa VFW.

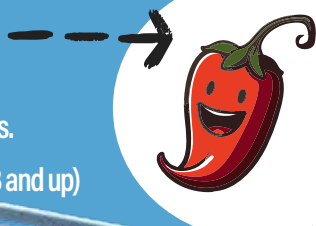
As developments of the future of the former VFW hall come available, we will provide updates to the community.

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Revive the Ride Roars Back into Red River, Honoring Veterans Over Memorial Weekend

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The sound of motorcycles once again echoed through the streets of Red River this Memorial Day weekend as hundreds of riders gathered for the return of the Revive the Ride Motorcycle Rally, signaling renewed momentum for an event that faced uncertainty following violence in 2023.

The annual Memorial Day gathering, long considered an unofficial kickoff to summer tourism in the mountain community, had seen reduced participation after a 2023 shooting involving rival motorcycle gangs cast doubt over the rally's future. In the aftermath, the Town of Red River stepped back from involvement in the longtime tradition, leaving questions about whether the event would continue.

This year, however, crowds returned in force, with motorcycles lining

downtown streets and visitors filling local businesses as organizers worked to restore the rally's place in the holiday weekend.

Planning efforts for the event were led jointly by the Motherlode Saloon and Texas Reds Steakhouse, which helped bring Revive the Ride back to Red River.

While the rally centered on motorcycles and community gathering, organizers and attendees also emphasized reverence for military service members during the Memorial Day weekend. Riders participated in efforts to raise money for the Cerro Veterans of Foreign Wars post, while veterans were honored through several community tributes.

The Red River Convention Center hosted the Wall of Honor Display from May 22 through May 24, which travels the country honoring more than 6,500 U.S. service members who lost their lives in combat from Desert Storm through

Operation Enduring Freedom.

Rally festivities included various contests including tattoo contests, oldest rally shirt contests, and the annual Ms. Motherlode Contest, where Questa resident Samantha Griffin was crowned this year's Ms. Motherlode. Several participants competed for the title as part of the weekend's entertainment, and organizers congratulated all contestants who took part.

In Questa, local business owner Frank Rael of Frank's Eats & Sweets established a Wall of Honor at the convention center to recognize area veterans. The display served as a focal point for remembrance during the holiday weekend.

Questa held its 22nd annual Healing Field on Sunday, May 25. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Deb Haaland attended the ceremony, where she spoke with photojournalist Audrianah León about the significance of Memorial

Day and honoring veterans where she thanked veterans and their families for the service and sacrifice.

For many in northern New Mexico, the turnout represented more than a successful holiday event; it marked a hopeful return after years of uncertainty, as businesses, residents and visitors welcomed both the crowds and a renewed sense of community to kick off what is expected to be a busy tourist season. But amid the rumble of motorcycles and holiday festivities, the weekend also served as a reminder of Memorial Day's deeper meaning of honoring the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation. With veterans recognized through ceremonies, memorial displays and fundraising efforts, organizers said Revive the Ride reflected both community pride and a shared commitment to remembering those who served.



Photo courtesy Audrianah León

The Healing Field brought together veterans, locals and visitors to join to remember and honor veterans.



Photo Courtesy Visit Red River

The Wall of Honor Display featured more than 6,500 U.S. service members who lost their lives in combat from Desert Storm through Operation Enduring Freedom



Photo courtesy Lita Mead

Cerro VFW cooked breakfast for bikers who rode to the Rio Grande. Motorcyclists gave donations to the VFW for their breakfasts



Photo Courtesy Motherlode Saloon

Samantha Griffin stands proudly after being named Ms. Motherlode 2026

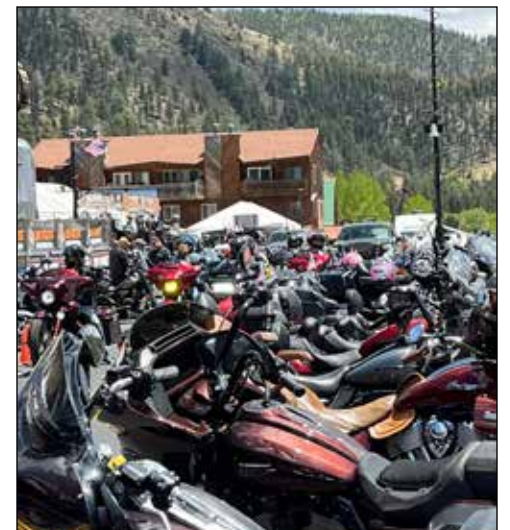


Photo courtesy Revive the Ride Rally

Bikes filled the streets of Red River for the Revive the Ride Rally

Groundwater Study Results Expected by June 12 for Proposed Questa Hydrogen Project Amid Ongoing Opposition

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

An independent groundwater study commissioned by Kit Carson Electric Cooperative as part of its proposed green hydrogen project in northern New Mexico remains underway, with results expected by June 12 as community debate over the project continues to intensify.

The study, being conducted by Glorieta Geoscience, is designed to assess how pumping groundwater from a former Chevron mining well could affect aquifers and water supplies in the Questa area. The findings are expected to address one of the primary concerns raised by opponents who argue the region lacks sufficient water resources to support hydrogen production.

For more than a year, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative officials have held public meetings in Questa, Costilla, Cerro and Taos, as well as numerous one-on-one conversations with residents, to hear concerns and answer questions about the proposed project. Opposition has remained organized and vocal.



Photo courtesy of Lita Mead

Luis Reyes and Kit Carson Electrical Cooperative meet with community members at the Cerro VFW in March 2026

Many residents opposed to the project have formed a group known as the Watershed Protectors, which focused on sharing research and information they say raises questions about the effectiveness and economic viability of green hydrogen projects. Members of the group have regularly attended village council meetings and other public forums throughout the

region, expressing concerns about water use and urging local officials to oppose the proposal.

Much of that opposition has centered on a shift in the project's proposed water source. Several residents who initially supported the concept when officials discussed using treated water from Chevron's reclamation operations say they changed

their position after learning the project would instead rely on groundwater from a production well.

In response to those concerns, Kit Carson commissioned the hydrogeologic study to provide an independent evaluation of groundwater conditions and available water supplies.

Kit Carson Chief Executive Officer Luis Reyes said in a statement, "I talked to New Mexico Tech and USGS because they had worked for the Village of Questa and northern New Mexico issues on information about aquifers in the area and water quantities."

Reyes said those organizations referred him to GZA GeoEnvironmental's Glorieta Geoscience division because of its previous work in the Questa area.

"We've been relying on data maintained by the state, and this study will help determine whether those records are accurate in showing there's enough water available to support this project," Reyes said.

STUDY RESULTS cont'd on page 12

Community, Agencies Rally Amid Ongoing Cerro Water Crisis

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Residents of Cerro continue grappling with intermittent water outages as local officials, neighboring communities and state agencies work to stabilize a water system strained by aging infrastructure.

Taos County has coordinated a multi-agency response to work with the Cerro Regional Mutual Domestic Water Association to provide emergency water access while crews search for leaks and assess long-term repairs.

An 8,000-gallon tanker of drinking water, delivered through the New Mexico Water Response Network and the state, remains stationed at the Cerro Community Center, where residents may fill large containers daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Taos County also has supplied pallets of bottled water to the community. Residents needing supplies are being directed to House 147 in Cerro, next to the home of association representative Vilma Bailon. A separate "water buffalo" containing non-potable water is available at Vilma Bailon's home for residents needing water for uses other than drinking.

"It was a true community effort and we're so grateful for our neighbors for their support as we work to address this issue," Bailon said.

The response effort has brought together agencies and volunteers from across northern New Mexico. Leroy Romero of Romero's Excavation, John "Sancho" Rael and Nick Trujillo of the Village of Questa Water Department and John Gopoian of the Angel Fire Water Department assisted in response efforts to locate and address water line leaks. Angel Fire crews brought a vacuum tank to help remove water and dirt as crews worked to identify problem areas in the system.

The ongoing outages highlight longstanding infrastructure challenges in Cerro's water system. According to Bailon, the community's existing 116-foot well was built in 1941, before water meters were installed. Over time, water lines developed beneath homes, corrals and fields, creating a network that has proven difficult to map and repair when leaks occur.

While addressing immediate disrup-



Photo courtesy Vilma Bailon

An image of an eroded service pipe shows how water is leaking

tions, Brittany Coriz with the association is also pursuing longer-term improvements. Applications for funding through the New Mexico Environment Department are underway to secure

leak-detection technology, and additional funding is being sought to improve aging wells and water line infrastructure.

CERRO WELL cont'd on page 28

\$150,000 State Food Grant Awarded to Sangre de Cristo Valley Market in Questa

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Questa Sangre de Cristo Valley Market will receive a major investment as part of a statewide effort to strengthen local food systems and improve access to fresh foods in rural areas.

The store was awarded \$150,000 through New Mexico's Healthy Food Financing Fund, one of 25 projects sharing \$1.6 million in grants announced by the state Economic Development Department this month.

The funding is intended to help strengthen local agricultural supply chains, expand access to healthy foods and support rural and tribal communities involved in food production and distribution.

State officials said the grants support projects ranging from rural grocery improvements and mobile food delivery programs to climate-smart agriculture and expanded meat processing capacity.

"Food is central to our culture in New Mexico and essential to everyday life; investing in our food system is an investment in our future," Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Rob Black said in a statement. "These projects support the people who are feeding our communities and strengthening our economy."

The Sangre de Cristo Valley Market award is among the largest grants announced this cycle. The money will be used to replace the store's existing floor.



Courtesy photo

"The floor replacement project is more than a building upgrade, it is an investment in the long-term sustainability of the Sangre de Cristo Valley Market," said Lynn Skall, Director of the Questa Economic Development Fund who wrote the grant that's funding this project. "This is the only full-service grocery store in the Questa area, it's reliably open seven days a week, providing fresh, high-quality food from local producers, and keeping local dollars in Questa."

Officials said the Healthy Food Financing Fund is designed to help

food retailers, processors and distributors expand access to fresh food while building stronger local economies.

In Questa, where residents often travel long distances for groceries and services, the funding is expected to support the market's role in connecting local families with fresh food and regional producers.

The Healthy Food Financing Fund is intended to improve food security while supporting New Mexico's agricultural economy through investments in food hubs, retailers, processors and climate-smart farming practices.

Public Invited to Review Proposed Largo Canyon Trails

By LYNN SKALL

The Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) invites area residents and interested parties to a public meeting on Wednesday, June 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the Village of Questa Council Chambers. The meeting will feature presentations on proposed trail development in Largo Canyon and new rock-climbing routes in Red River Canyon. Dinner will be provided.

After a year of on-site hiking, climbing, research, and mapping, the Enchanted Circle Trails Association (ECTA) is ready to present its proposal for expanding recreation opportunities in the area. Plans include a network of non-motorized, multi-use trails designed for hikers, runners, equestrians, mountain bikers, and casual walkers of all ability levels. A separate trail system would accommodate ATVs and other motorized recreation.

As part of the long-term vision for revitalizing Questa's economy, the QEDF's Recreation Opportunity Report recommended developing new recreation options in this area. Increased outdoor recreation will bring more patrons to our area, more traffic to our businesses, and will also encourage new recreation-oriented entrepreneurial

LARGO CANYON con't on page 8

Questa Fiestas to Take Hiatus in 2026; Focus Shifts to 2027 Church Reconnection

By LORA ARCINIEGA

The Molycorp field in Questa will remain quiet this June as organizers of the annual Fiestas de San Antonio announced the event will take a hiatus for the 2026 season. The decision marks a strategic "breather" for the village tradition, with a focus on restructuring for a comeback in 2027.

The Fiestas, which celebrate the village's patron saint, St. Anthony of Padua, were successfully revived in 2023 after a 15-year absence. However, the logistical

demands of coordinating the two-day event—which traditionally features live music and the crowning of royalty—have prompted the planning committee to prioritize long-term sustainability over an annual schedule.

"It's about doing it right, rather than just doing it," said Katrina Gonzales, past Village Councilwoman and a key organizer.

The primary objective for the 2027 return is to bridge the gap between the civic celebration and its religious origins.

Organizers are currently in talks to bring St. Anthony's Parish back into the heart of the planning process.

Historically, the Fiestas were a fusion of faith and tradition. The weekend would begin with a solemn mass and a procession from the historic adobe church to the Molycorp field. By reintegrating the church, organizers hope to restore these elements, including the blessing of the fields, which once served as the backbone of the event.

The hiatus also provides a window

for the committee to recruit a new wave of volunteers. Since the 2023 revival, the planning has been managed by a small group of dedicated residents.

"We want the Fiestas to belong to the whole community again," Gonzales added.

While the 2026 cancellation is bitter-sweet for local vendors and families who use the weekend for reunions, the committee remains optimistic. They view the 2027 return as an opportunity to cement the Fiestas as a permanent, well-supported fixture of Northern New Mexico culture.

Community Mourns Taos County Sergeant Killed in the Line of Duty Over Memorial Weekend

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Taos County Sergeant Joseph Apodaca died after being involved in a crash that resulted in his death in the line of duty Friday night (May 22).

“It is with profound sadness that I am writing to inform you that Sheriff’s Office Sergeant Joseph Apodaca was killed in the line of duty,” Sheriff Miera said in the statement.

The New Mexico State Police (NMSP) investigated the incident and released details about the crash on Saturday (May 23) morning.

According to NMSP investigators, at approximately 10:25 p.m. on Friday night (May 22), deputies were searching for a reckless driver believed to have turned onto a dirt driveway near the 7200 block of State Road 518.

During the response, a Taos County Sheriff’s Office deputy driving a marked police pickup truck initiated a left turn into the driveway. At that time, Apodaca,

who was operating his department-issued police motorcycle, collided with the driver’s side of the deputy’s pickup truck, authorities said.

Apodaca sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at 11:44 p.m. by the Office of the Medical Investigator.

On behalf of the Taos County Commission, Commission Chair Miguel Romero also shared condolences following Apodaca’s death.

“On behalf of the Taos County Commission, we extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and fellow deputies of Sergeant Joseph Apodaca,” Romero said. “Sergeant Apodaca made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our community, and his dedication to protecting the people of Taos County will never be forgotten. We stand in support of his loved ones and the entire Sheriff’s Office during this incredibly difficult time, and we ask our community to keep them all in their prayers.”

Miera asked the community to



Photo courtesy Taos County

Sergeant Joseph Apodaca

keep Apodaca’s family in their thoughts and prayers.

“Please pray for his family,” he said.

Department of Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Jason R. Bowie issued a statement mourning the loss.

“The New Mexico Department of Public Safety joins the Taos County Sheriff’s Office and communities across our state in mourning the tragic loss of Sergeant Joseph Apodaca,” Bowie said. “Sergeant Apodaca joined the Taos County Sheriff’s Office in 2018 and served his community with courage, dedication, and a deep commitment to protecting others. His death is a painful reminder of the risks law enforcement officers face each day in service to their communities.”

He added, “On behalf of the Department of Public Safety, I extend my deepest condolences to Sergeant Apodaca’s family, his fellow deputies, the Taos County Sheriff’s Office, and all who knew and served alongside him. We stand with the Taos County law enforcement community during this difficult time and ask New Mexicans to keep Sergeant Apodaca’s loved ones in their thoughts and prayers.”

Our publication extends its sincerest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Sergeant Apodaca.

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<p>FRIDAY JUNE 19TH NO PROGRAM CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY </p>	<p>TUESDAY JUNE 23RD BUSY BEES AND SWEET SECRETS! WITH QUESTA BEES </p>	<p>FRIDAY JUNE 17TH EAGLE ROCK LAKE ADVENTURE DAY WITH CLAIRE COTE </p>	
<p>FRIDAY JUNE 26TH SURPRISE! SKY HIGH SURPRISE DAY! </p>	<p>TUESDAY JUNE 30TH SUMMER READING FIESTA </p>	<p>PROGRAM TIMES START: 9:30AM END: 11:30AM</p>	

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An Update on the Questa Achievers Year of Service

By EMMA ARGUELLO

My name is Emma Arguello, and I am the historian and reporter for the Questa Achievers 4-H Club.

Our club has lots of community service projects planned for this year. On Apr. 18, we worked with our local library to distribute stuffed animals for first responders. These stuffed animals will be given to children to help comfort them during difficult times.

We also set up fishing line trash bins at Eagle Rock Lake to help keep birds and other wildlife from getting tangled or hurt.

In the future, we plan to help our local food pantry and do something special for our veterans.

The Questa Achievers would like to thank all of our supporters and 4-H leaders, the Cerro VFW, Questa Lumber, the Questa Library, and our dads for helping with our projects.

We are excited to do these activities and serve our community. A special thank you to our First Responders, the Forest Service, and our Veterans!

Emma Arguello is 10 years old and serves as the Questa Achievers 4-H historian.



Photo by Sonya Arguello

The Questa 4-H Achievers stand proudly with their stuffed animals collected for local first responders

New Red River Business Blends Wellness Services, Café Offerings

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

A new wellness business in Red River is aiming to help visitors and residents recover from altitude sickness, recharge with nutritional drinks and, eventually, access hydration therapy and aesthetic services.

Red River Renewal, located at 321 E. Main St., opened Memorial Day weekend with a mix of oxygen therapy, massage chairs, nutritional teas and a brunch café, owner Teria Solomon said. Solomon, a travel nurse who recently relocated to Red River from Fairhope, Alabama, said the idea for the business grew out of personal experience after a winter family vacation in the mountain town.

“Half of my family got sick with altitude sickness,” Solomon said. “It took about four days off of our vacation because of my family being sick.” After learning the nearest hospital was nearly an hour away and smaller clinics in the area were often overwhelmed, Solomon said she saw an opportunity to provide wellness services geared toward helping people feel better during their stay.

“We wanted to create an area where, if someone wasn’t feeling well, they



Courtesy Red River Renewal

could come in and relax,” she said. “Sit in a massage chair, get oxygen therapy, IV therapy.” While the business is still working toward offering IV hydra-

tion services, Solomon said Red River Renewal has pivoted to include a small café and brunch menu while awaiting approvals. The business currently offers

an oxygen bar with aromatherapy, where customers can relax in massage chairs during sessions. Solomon said hydration IV therapy is planned for the future.

Red River Renewal also sells nutritional teas made with stevia and plant-based caffeine. Solomon said the drinks contain 17 grams of protein, less than one gram of sugar and about 120 calories per 32-ounce serving. In addition to wellness services, the business carries a proprietary skincare line developed for Red River Renewal. Products include moisturizers, vitamin C treatments, retinol products and facial cleansers.

Looking ahead, Solomon said she hopes to expand into aesthetic services, including microneedling and other cosmetic offerings. “We’re trying to figure out ways that we can offer things that the town does not have,” Solomon said. The café serves brunch daily from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Solomon said the wellness and retail side of the business is expected to operate beyond café hours until 7 p.m. Red River Renewal is located at 321 E. Main St. in Red River. More information is available at RedRiverRenewal.com.

LARGO CANYON con’t from page 6

enterprises. Plus, industries looking to start businesses in new communities often cite outdoor recreation as a key factor in their decision.

QEDF received a Trails Plus Grant from the New Mexico Economic De-

velopment Department to explore the feasibility of these recreation projects. Earlier in the process, QEDF and ECTA hosted several public meetings and gathered input from residents and outdoor enthusiasts before beginning field work and planning.

Organizers are now seeking additional community feedback to help

refine the proposal and guide future planning for the trails and climbing systems. This is a long-term process and a beneficial one that explores our outdoor economy’s untapped potential.

For more information about the projects or the public meeting, contact QEDF Director Lynn Skall at lynn@questaedf.com or call (575) 586-2149.

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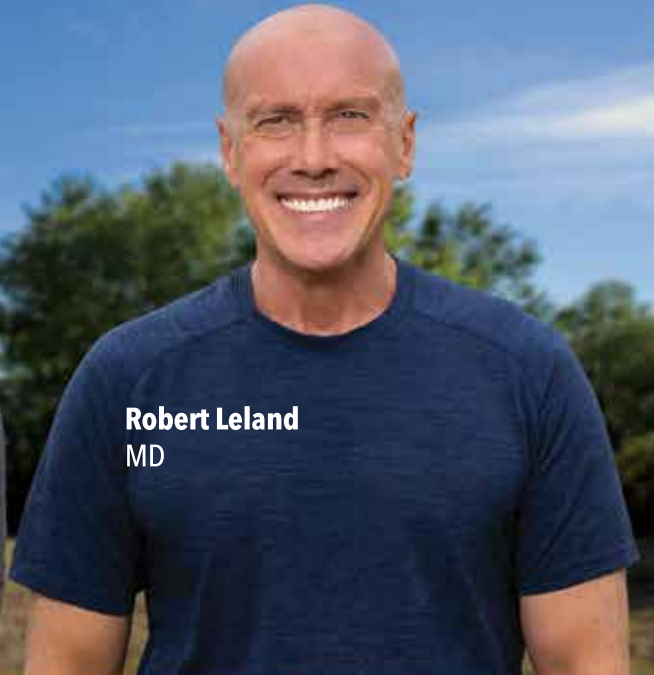
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'Questa Bees' Brings Honey, Education and Pollinators Back to Northern New Mexico

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

What started as a fascination with bees has grown into a budding local business focused on honey production, education and restoring pollinator populations in northern New Mexico.

Questa Bees, founded by Mark Brozio in 2024, is steadily expanding its reach across the village with plans for new apiaries, educational programs and increased honey production. Kami Ortega joined the operation in 2025 after enrolling in a beekeeper certification program and seeking hands-on mentorship.

"I've always been interested in bees," Ortega said. "Knowing they're good for the environment and just so many positives with having bees, I wanted to do something meaningful."

Her path to beekeeping began after discovering a certification class in Albuquerque she had followed online for several years. Though hesitant about the commitment, Ortega signed up with encouragement from her husband, Mark Ortega. Participants in the course were encouraged to find mentors with established hives, which eventually connected her with Brozio, whose wife Ginger also encouraged his passion to pursue bee keeping.

Mark and Kami began attending monthly certification classes together while learning hive management firsthand. Now in their second and final year of certification, both say beekeeping remains an ongoing learning process.

"There's so much to learn," Ortega said. "You will never know everything about bees."

Questa Bees produced about 300 pints of honey during its first season, selling out through the Questa Farmers Market. Honey sold for \$20 per pint, though Brozio said supply remains limited as the company prioritizes expanding hive populations.

"With a hive, you can kind of go two directions," Brozio said. "If you leave it, they produce a lot of honey. If you split it, you've got two hives, but you're not getting nearly as much honey."

The business currently manages dozens of hives split between properties on the north and south ends of Questa, with plans to establish three additional apiaries this year. Brozio said the long-term goal is to eventually produce about



Photo courtesy of the LOR Foundation

Local kids got to see Questa Bees in action during a presentation by Kami and Mark in early May.

3,000 pints annually.

Still, growth comes with challenges.

Commercial beekeepers nationwide have struggled with significant hive losses due to disease, parasites and environmental stressors. Brozio said intensive management is necessary to maintain healthy colonies.

"Once upon a time, you could catch a hive of bees and leave them out in the back and get honey at the end of the year," he said. "These have to be intensely managed. They're really livestock."

Unlike many honey producers who harvest once or twice annually, Questa Bees harvests weekly during production season, allowing customers to purchase honey made from recently blooming plants.

"If it was blooming the week before, it's likely in our honey that week," Brozio said. "People can basically know the bees were sitting on that honey just days before."

Many customers seek local honey for seasonal allergy

relief as consuming it helps people increase their immunity to the local allergens. "We're not doctors," Ortega said with a laugh. "But people say it helps."

The company's honey is typically sold Sundays at the Questa Farmers Market, though demand often exceeds supply. Honey generally becomes available beginning in late spring or early summer after the first harvests. Ginger, Mark's wife, is a big part of the business often decorating beautiful handmade labels for the honey jars.

Beyond honey sales, education has become a major focus of the business.

Questa Bees volunteers its time teaching children, veterans and community groups about pollinators through partnerships with local organizations, including 4-H programs, the local library and youth agricultural initiatives.

The business has brought an observation hive which consists of a plexiglass display allowing visitors to watch bees at work, to farmers markets and community presentations.

"We want people to not be afraid," Ortega said. "Take them seriously, definitely, but bees are just so important and such amazing little creatures."

For Brozio, the mission extends beyond honey production.

"We said when we started, we were going to bring bees back to Questa," he said.

In a high-altitude environment where wild pollinators are less common, the pair hope their growing network of managed hives will support agriculture and spark curiosity among residents about the insects' role in food production and ecosystem health.

"We just love talking about them," Ortega said. "And we want people to feel free to reach out and ask questions."



Courtesy photo

Kids from Vida del Norte after school program learn about bees

ROOTED IN PLACE: MARK GOLDMAN ON GREEN BUILDING, RECEIVING THE RÉ PEACE PRIZE

TAOS, NM — For architect, UNM-Taos instructor and Construction Technology Coordinator Mark Goldman, receiving the Paul Bartlett Ré Peace Lifetime Achievement Award from UNM is more than a professional milestone—it is deeply personal.

“I was and am still kind of in shock to receive such an honor,” he said, reflecting on his long-standing mission and his connection to Taos and its vibrant, competitive green building community. “Becoming an architect and a builder has been my goal since my teens. I never even dreamed I’d get such an award.”

The award recognizes Goldman’s contributions to community well-being through the sustainable construction methods that are near and dear to his heart—and soul. Traditional building methods, used with a critical understanding of building science and codes, be it adobe, timber-frame, rammed earth, etc., simply create healthier, energy-efficient homes with less of an adverse impact on the planet.

“What’s better than making a home with the unfired soil from beneath your feet, and logs from the local forests? Also, stemming from my first degree in Studio Art at UCSB (University of California, Santa Barbara), I just love the opportunities for detailed craftsmanship that arise from using humble, natural building materials and methods,” Goldman expressed. “I am a person who can’t get my mind still enough to meditate, but when I am building or designing, I often find a calming meditative state of mind where time disappears.”

His work has been shaped by a belief that UNM-Taos could carve out a unique niche in eco-friendly design. Early in his career, he saw the region’s living traditions as an opportunity: “I thought green building and architecture was something UNM-Taos could really excel at ... due to the rich local history of natural building traditions that were still alive.”

Everyone was cordially invited to a virtual reception honoring the awardees on Thursday, May 21, from 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

That philosophy has carried through decades of work, including the DreamTree Project—an initiative he began in 1999 as “a humble dream ... of providing a shelter for young people in need.” Today, the project has grown significantly, employing more than 45 people and serving as a tangible example of mission-driven design.

At the heart of Goldman’s practice is a commitment to accessibility and place-based solutions. “My concerns are with grass roots activism and simple, natural, healthy housing,” he explained, emphasizing that Taos itself offers a model. “Taos is ground zero for natural, healthy, accessible housing ... just look at the Taos Pueblo ... [and] Spanish colonial adobe housing.”

He remains critical of contemporary building trends that rely heavily on imported materials and overlook the needs of working-class residents. “So much of the modern material [being used] is not helping the working class of the area,” Goldman noted. Instead, he advocates for a return to Northern New Mexico thinking: “Green building should come from an analysis of what the region has to offer.”

The biennial Paul Bartlett Ré Peace Prize honors UNM students, faculty, staff, alumni, and volunteers whose work advances peace, harmony, and understanding through meaningful community impact. Goldman was nominated by UNM-Taos Construction Technology Education Dept. Chair Graig Delany.

For specific event questions, contact Event@unmfund.org.



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Leading with Purpose: Norteñas Connect Celebrates a Year of Impact

By LORA ARCINIEGA

What started as a simple idea—that communities thrive when women connect—has turned into a vibrant network over the last 12 months. Since its inception, Norteñas Connect has grown from a small gathering into a network of over 70 women dedicated to its core mission: “Leading with purpose, Connecting communities.”

The group was founded to fill a specific gap in our area. In Questa and its surrounding rural communities, women in diverse roles—from professionals and entrepreneurs to dedicated stay-at-home parents and newcomers—often face a common challenge: the lack of inclusive spaces for meaningful connection and mutual support. While local community engagement is strong, formal platforms for women to network, share resources and collectively address challenges have at times been limited or lack consistency.

This gap can lead to isolation for working women and a missed opportunity for collaborative growth. Norteñas Connect addresses this need by creating a safe, welcoming and proactive space for all women. By facilitating regular gatherings and informal connections, the group empowers women to access vital information, support locally-owned businesses and contribute to the economic vitality as well as engage socially. Gatherings provide a dedicated platform for women to spotlight upcoming events, promote local business ventures, and exchange professional resources.

The impact of the group has expanded well beyond the village limits. The network includes women attending from not only Questa, but also Cerro, Costilla, Amalia, Taos, and Red River, proving that the need for connection is present across northern Taos county.



Courtesy Photo

Paint and Sip event in June 2025

As the group prepares for its one-year anniversary celebration on June 26 at the Questa Public Library, participants are looking back at a whirlwind year of events that defined this mission. The journey began in June 2025 with a vibrant paint-and-sip event that drew 40 women. From there, the group embraced the beautiful local landscape, spending time at the Questa Farmers Market to enjoy fresh pizza and the outdoors. The momentum continued into the fall with a Halloween carnival hosted at the Cerro VFW and a heartfelt Christmas celebration at Rosie's Smokehouse in December.

The new year brought even larger crowds. More than 40 women gathered at the HUB at Living Word Ministries for a Galentine's Day social, and in April, the group held the "boots and diamonds" event for a night of line dancing at El Monte Carlo.

While these activities bring women to the larger group, organizers say



Courtesy Photo

December Glam event at Rosie's Smokehouse in December 2025

the gatherings serve a deeper purpose. In a rural landscape where homes and workplaces are often miles apart, these events act as the perfect opportunity to engage with your neighbor and have some fun. In a sense, these gatherings provide a "third space" outside of home and work for women to connect and find common ground. By meeting in person, Norteñas transition from names on an email list to a friend and someone they can lean on or learn from.

This foundation of trust is what makes the group's advocacy work possible. Norteñas Connect is currently focusing its energy on three major community initiatives: a youth hangout, town lighting advocacy and support for single women and women in general. To celebrate local leadership, the group recently initiated a "Woman of the Month" feature to honor individuals who consistently go above and beyond for the community.

This growth has been supported by key partnerships with the LOR Founda-

tion, 100% Taos County Initiative and the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF). Organizers also credit the local business owners who have hosted the group and the individual women whose consistent participation makes the organization work.

With a mailing list that has surpassed 70 women, Norteñas Connect continues to grow. Women who are interested in getting involved are invited to join the upcoming anniversary celebration at the library on June 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. to help kick off the group's second year and continue unlocking the collective potential of women in the community. Whether seeking professional collaboration or a chance to share a business plan, Norteñas Connect provides a dedicated space to launch new ideas and foster lasting friendships.

Norteñas Connect remains entirely free and open to women of all ages, generations, and backgrounds, ensuring that every voice has a place at the table.

STUDY RESULTS cont'd from page 5

Reyes stated the study was commissioned after repeated questions from residents regarding groundwater supplies.

"Based on all the information that members are asking about water and all the misinformation that was disseminated by the opposition, I felt the best way to approach the water issue was to get experts involved that knew the water issues in northern New Mexico as well as the State of New Mexico," Reyes said.

"New Mexico Tech is the leader in water study and knowledge for New Mexico water issues."

According to project documents, the proposed hydrogen facility would require up to 100 acre-feet of groundwater annually over a 30-year period. The production well identified for the project holds an adjudicated water right of 250 acre-feet per year. The current phase of the study includes compiling geological and hydrological data, evaluating aquifer characteristics and developing a three-dimensional visualization model of

groundwater conditions throughout the Questa area.

Some opponents have also questioned whether the study can be considered fully independent because it was commissioned and funded by Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, which is pursuing the hydrogen project.

Reyes acknowledged those concerns but said the cooperative sought outside experts specifically to provide an objective assessment of the region's groundwater resources and help determine whether the project should move forward.

"I live in this community and have worked in this community for decades," Reyes said. "Every decision I've ever made on behalf of the cooperative has been in the best interest of the community and that dedication doesn't stop now. We are using the data to determine the best path forward."

The report is expected by June 12 and is anticipated to become a focal point in the ongoing debate over the project, with supporters and opponents alike awaiting data that could shape the future of hydrogen development in the region.

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Community Arts Program Offers Summer Events for Families in Questa

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

A northern New Mexico community arts and movement program is offering summer activities for children and families, including a storytelling event in June and a youth dance camp in July.

Sala Reach, a community-based program under the nonprofit Localogy, announced two seasonal opportunities designed to engage young people through creative movement, storytelling and hands-on arts experiences.

On June 19, Sala Reach will partner with Twirl for a family storytelling event at Yoga Sala from 2 to 4 p.m. The free program invites children to explore adobe, the traditional building material used throughout northern New Mexico, through storytelling, music and interactive activities.

Amber Vasquez of Twirl will lead adobe-themed storytelling, accompanied by live music from local musician Robert Quijano.



Photo courtesy of Yoga Sala

Kids participate in past event at Yoga Sala in Questa

Later in the summer, Sala Reach will host its annual Kids Dance Camp on four Wednesdays in July: July 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 2:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Dance instructor Monica McClelland will introduce participants to ballet, jazz and contemporary dance in what organizers describe as a supportive en-

vironment aimed at fostering creativity, confidence and connection.

This year's camp also will include contributions from professional costume designer Tatyana De Pavloff and her local business, Sew Artful, which will provide artistic support and hands-on design opportunities for participants.

The programs are supported through the Taos Community Foundation's Chevron Grants for Good program and funding from the LOR Foundation.

Sala Reach also offers weekly programming at Yoga Sala, including chair yoga on Mondays at 10 a.m., free yoga on Mondays at 5 p.m. and tai chi on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Families interested in attending the June storytelling event or registering for the July dance camp can find more information at Yoga Sala's website, on Instagram and Facebook at @yogasalaq, or by calling (575) 224-2102.

Brought to you by



By LISA ANN PHAM

As Questa Farmers Market opens its tenth season, we highlight our foundational mission: connect local food growers and producers to community neighbors. With rising fuel costs, unstable supply chains and an actively changing environment, regional access to fresh food will become increasingly important. The more we keep our intentional dollars in our local economy, the stronger we build and grow as a whole.

Questa Farmers Market, Cultivo's Farm Stand and the Sangre de Cristo Market are tremendous resources bringing fresh and healthy food to the Questa corridor. Healthy food accessibility and affordability are driving forces for a resilient community. QFM works to maintain eligibility

to participate in New Mexico food benefit programs, expanding access to local produce and fresh food sources to our community.

SNAP Benefits:

SNAP benefits may be used at the market as you would at the grocery store. Eligible items include produce, eggs, cheeses, breads, jams and other foods.

Double Up Food Bucks (DUFBS):

DUFBS double your SNAP dollars at the market. When SNAP Dollars are redeemed at the Farmers Market, each SNAP \$2 receives a double up token valued at \$2 to use on fresh fruits and veggies.

BONUS BUCKS (BB, ends 8/31):

Through Aug. 31st, SNAP benefits TRIPLE with Bonus Bucks, to use with fresh fruit & veggies. Each SNAP \$2 receives \$2 BONUS dollars (plus the DUFBS \$2).

Connect with Local Produce and Neighbors This Market Season

WIC & Senior Farmers' Market Program:

WIC & Senior eligible participants may use farmers market benefits on fresh fruits, vegetables, & herbs (honey applicable to seniors only). Programs run July 1 – Nov 29. <https://www.nmwic.org/fmnp/>

All programs are available with participating vendors displaying signage, letting you know if they can accept SNAP, DUFBS, WIC and more.

How does it work?

Bring your SNAP Card to the QFM information table for redemption. For every \$2 SNAP redeemed, you will receive the dollar equivalent wooden SNAP token, silver DUFBS tokens, and bonus bucks. For example, \$10 in SNAP benefits gives \$30 to spend in the market: \$10 for SNAP products and \$20 for fresh produce. No cash is redeemed or returned.

WIC & Senior cards are redeemed directly with participating vendors

with signs displayed.

These programs not only expand access to healthy food close to source, they directly benefit our local economy and help sustain our area farmers and producers, keeping dollars circulating within and building a stronger community foundation.

Questa Farmers Market is built by and for the community. We host a place of connection to good food, lively music and each other. In this heightened time of unknown change, let our market be a space to breathe in the beauty and soul our beloved home offers.

See you at The Market!

Questa Farmers Market is a program of Localogy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Questa, NM.

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE SELECTING YOUR FAVORITE CRAFT BEER.



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June is an active month at our brewery and restaurant. There are games to be played, Live music to be heard. Good conversation to be had. Of course, the food and craft beer menu – with beers made right here on site – cause a stir of decision-making activity, too. We are located on Main Street. Just look for people hanging out having a great time.

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LOR FOUNDATION
UPDATE
BY LIZ VAUTOUR

A Summer of Connection in Questa

There's something special about summertime in Questa.

As the weather warms up and the school year winds down, more people start spending time outdoors again: gathering at community events, reconnecting with neighbors, and enjoying the outdoors. Summer is a reminder that some of the best parts of living in a small town are the opportunities we have to come together.

And this season, there are plenty of chances to do exactly that.

On Sat, Jun 6, the Annual Questa Fishing Derby, one of the community's most anticipated traditions of the year,

returns to Eagle Rock Lake. Registration opens at 7 a.m. with fishing from 8 a.m. to noon. Whether you're casting a line yourself or simply coming out to enjoy the morning air and cheer on local anglers, it's a great excuse to gather with neighbors and spend time in nature.

Later in the month, on June 19, young local musicians will take the stage for the culminating performance of Chris Arellano's Summer School of Rock, a program that gives students ages 10-18 the opportunity to learn, collaborate, and perform live together like real musicians. School of Rock performances are always a fun and powerful reminder of just how much talent, creativity, and heart exist in our community.

Then, on Jun 26, the community is invited to gather again for a special catered reception hosted by Norteñas Connect at the Questa Library to honor some of the incredible women who help shape life in Questa—small business owners, educators, civic leaders, mothers, grandmothers, and others whose contributions make this community stronger every day.

The LOR Foundation is proud to support all of these events because we believe strong communities are built on



Photo by Audrianah León

Young girl fishing

connection, creativity, and local leadership. We'll continue to share updates on times, activities, and additional details on our Facebook page, @LORFoundationQuesta, as they become available.

If you need support for a project or event that could make life better in Questa, we'd love to hear from you. LOR funds projects designed and led by Questa locals. No formal application

or nonprofit experience is required, and most eligible projects receive funding within 30 days.

To learn more or share your idea, contact Community Officer Maria Gonzalez at maria@lorfoundation.org (or find her at one of the community events listed above). This summer, let's show up for Questa!

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT *of the* MONTH

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For more information, to make a donation, or get involved please contact Alyssah Duran at (575) 779-9426 or Jose Duran at (505) 350-5797. Follow us on Facebook.



ATHLETE Spotlight



DRAKE ORTEGA: 8TH GRADE, 13 YEARS OLD, BASKETBALL (GUARD), BASEBALL (3RD BASE, SHORTSTOP AND PITCHER)



ACHIEVEMENTS: Starting on the baseball team and ending the season with a .400 batting average

HERO/ROLE MODEL: Elly De La Cruz

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "After playing over the years I truly learned to love the game, the competition, and constantly improving my skills."

OTHER STUFF YOU LIKE TO DO BESIDES PLAY SPORTS: "I love to tie my own flies and go fly fishing."



AYANA TRUJILLO: 12 YEARS OLD, 6TH GRADE, SOFTBALL (CATCHER/PITCHER)



ACHIEVEMENTS: Making 2025 Allstars and being better than last year

HERO/ROLE MODEL: My step dad Josh

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "To have fun, make memories, and make new friends."

OTHER STUFF: "Fishing, skiing, and spending time with family."

COACHING Spotlight

ALLEN SANDOVAL

4 YEARS TEE BALL/COACH PITCH/SOFTBALL
2 YEARS BASKETBALL



ONE WORDS DESCRIPTION: Passionate

COACHING PHILOSOPHY: "My main focus is for kids to develop discipline and to work hard not only in sports but in life. Teaching kids that it's important to be a better team mate first before being a star on the field or court, having respect for themselves, team mates, coaches, opposing team, refs, and for the game. Lastly, build fundamentals in their sport so they can build confidence in themselves, so they can compete at a high level!"

ENJOYS MOST: "Seeing kids grow in their sport and grow into young adults. I also enjoy building strong relationships with players, and creating memories they will remember!"

HOBBIES: "Watching sports, coaching sports, playing sports, hunting, fishing, firearms, and spending time with my wife and kids."





VIDA DEL NORTE: PARENT SECTOR

THIS IS A PAID AVERTORIAL BY VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION

THE SILENT ARCHITECT: EMPOWERING THE PARENT SECTOR IN OUR COMMUNITY

By LORA ARCINIEGA

When we think about the “village” it takes to raise a child, the most vital pillar is often the most overlooked: the parents. As Vida Del Norte continues its year-long look at the sectors that shape our youth, we are turning our focus this June to the Parent Sector. In the landscape of prevention, parents are the first line of defense. They aren’t just providers; they are the “silent architects” of a young person’s environment, building the emotional and social foundations that determine how a child navigates the world.

The Power of the “Small Talk”

We often assume that big, sit-down “talks” are the only way to influence our children’s choices regarding substance use and mental health. However, research suggests that the Parent Sector’s greatest tool is actually the consistent, small connection. Whether it’s a conversation during a drive to practice or a shared meal, these moments of engagement create “protective factors.” When a child feels heard and connected at home, they are significantly less likely to engage in risky behaviors.

Why This Sector Matters Now

The modern parent faces challenges that previous generations didn’t: the digital landscape, the isolation of the post-pandemic world, and the increasing potency of substances in our communities. At Vida Del Norte, the goal for the Parent Sector isn’t to add another “to-do” to an already overflowing plate. Instead, they aim to provide:

- **Education:** Understanding the latest trends in youth culture.
- **Resources:** Providing the vocabulary to start difficult conversations.
- **Community:** Reminding parents that they are not alone in their struggles or their successes.

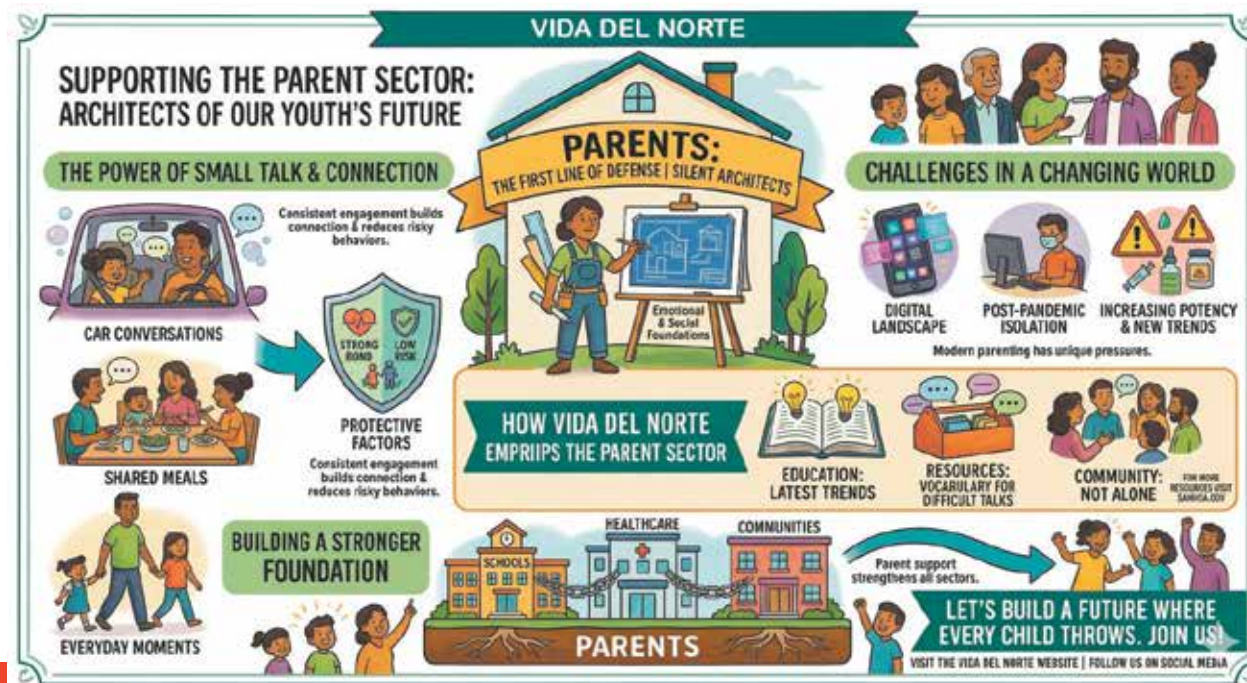
Building a Stronger Foundation

A healthy community is only as strong as its families. By supporting our Parent Sector, we are indirectly supporting every other sector—from schools to healthcare. When parents have the tools to set clear boundaries and foster open communication, the entire youth population thrives.

This June, Vida celebrates the tireless work of parents in our community. You are the experts on your children, and you are our most valued partners in prevention. Let’s continue to build a future where every child feels supported, from the living room out into the world.

As you navigate these conversations, keep an eye out for upcoming parenting classes designed to give you practical, real-world tools. For additional support and excellent evidence-based prevention resources, organizers highly recommends visiting the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration website at samhsa.gov.

Ready to make a difference? Whether you have one hour a month or want to join the steering committee, the Parent Sector needs your voice. Visit the Vida Del Norte website or follow on social media to sign up for the next meeting. Together, we are the difference.



Contact Maria Gonzalez @maria.gonzalez@vidadelnorte.com or (575) 779-2260 for more information or to enroll.

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Janae Dominguez



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Alyse Lovato



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Ariana Medina



Joshlyn Medina



Yesenia Medina



Jocelyne Ortega



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Dedrick Rael



Luke Rael



Noah Rael



Anthony Roberts



Donny Santistevan



Jake Schave



Sophia Smith



Dominic Vallejos





Questa Artists Run For The Hills!

After last year's big success for Questa artists and the Vino in the Valley event, Red River is again inviting our local artists to this popular event. Father's Day weekend will be a chance to not only enjoy Made in New Mexico foods, and all New Mexican music performances, but also to see an exciting exhibit of northern New Mexican crafts and art.

A centrally-located large white tent will be reserved for our artists. A full dozen Questa area painters, printmakers, leatherworkers, and jewelry makers will share the space, alongside a special display of our much-missed Art Questa co-owners, Sandra and Roger Harrington. Sandra's pottery dinnerware and decor pieces are uniquely beautiful. Roger's expressionistic and abstract paintings are some of the best of Questa, and his jewelry designs combine metals, and

unique stones at times, for one-of-a-kind yet still classic appeal.

Torre Strong, our Questa leatherworker and former manager of the Saturday Art Market, will host the group show and sale. Many of the artists will be on hand to present their work directly to shoppers, at direct-to-artist prices. Most of the local artists here will also be part of the 11th-annual Questa Art Tour coming this Aug. So, their Vino in the Valley appearance will serve as an art tour preview.

Look for monoprints by Betsy Pierce, and hopefully some of her popular tin work, paintings by Mary Jo Kelly, Angela Marinari, Boneta Curry-Brown, Mary Miller, Joan Norris, Vanette Harris and Ellen Wood. Ellen will also have her unique cards for sale, Vanette has become known for her painted canvas pillows.

This event will be open Fri-Sun, Jun. 19 to 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and 5 p.m. on Sun. Vino in the Valley is hosted by the Red River Chamber of Commerce. It has run every Father's Day weekend for over twenty years. The admission fee includes a commemorative wine-tasting glass, access to multiple wine tastings of favorite and undiscovered New Mexico vineyards, access to the food court, live music, workshops, and best of all - local art and artists!

So, bring dad up to the mountain



Photo by Sierra Hedburg

2025 Vino Event

coolness just over the hill from Questa. Enjoy this high-country salon of local art, New Mexico foods and wine, and a culture that is very different from the northern Rio Grande Valley we live in here in Questa. They have Brandenburg Park, they have the vintners, and we bring artistic talent. From our annual art tour, to our Alumbra Holiday Market, and

events such as this, art is what Questa is becoming known for!

Find more information about this event at: <https://redriverchamber.org/vino-in-the-valley-2/> and <https://questacreative.org/vino-in-the-valley/>

Find more information about all the Questa Creative Council projects and events at: info@questacreative.org



from the Librarian's Desk...

Sharon Nicholson

Unearth a Story: Summer Reading Program Digs into Imagination and Discovery

This summer, readers ages 4-10 are invited to "Unearth a Story" through a unique seasonal reading program that blends literacy with exploration, creativity, and a love of discovery. Hosted by the Questa Public Library and community partners, the program aims to inspire participants to dig deeper—both into books and their own imaginations.

The "Unearth a Story" summer reading program, which launches Jun 5, is

designed to encourage consistent reading habits during the school break while fostering curiosity about history, science, and storytelling. With a theme centered on discovery—whether it's uncovering hidden treasures, exploring ancient civilizations, or digging into personal narratives—the program offers a wide range of activities to engage readers.

This year's Summer Reading Program will be held on Tues and Fri from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Participants sign up when they first attend. While we encourage everyone to attend every session, coming once is better than not at all. Kids will receive a reading log and information about themed challenges. Prizes will be awarded for reaching milestones, such as completing a certain number of books or participating in weekly activities. Incentives range from small tokens like bookmarks and brag tags to larger rewards such as raffle entries for grand prizes at the end of the program.

In addition to independent reading, "Unearth a Story" features a schedule of interactive events, including storytelling sessions, craft workshops, and guest speakers. Many of these activities focus



on archaeology, local history, and environmental exploration—encouraging a hands-on approach to learning that extends beyond the page.

Educators and parents alike have praised the program for addressing the so-called "summer slide," a term used to describe the learning loss students can experience during extended breaks from school. By offering structured yet flexible reading opportunities, the program helps maintain—and even improve—literacy skills. Plus, the thematic approach makes it fun and relevant.

Community involvement has also been a key component of the program. Local businesses and museums have partnered

with us to provide resources and host collaborative events. These partnerships enrich the program by connecting literature with real-world learning experiences.

Organizers emphasize that the program is inclusive and accessible to all. We want everyone to feel welcome. Please feel free to contact us if your child needs special accommodation. As always, parents or caregivers are expected to stay with their child during each program session.

As summer unfolds, "Unearth a Story" invites participants to dig into new worlds, uncover forgotten tales, and discover the joy of reading. For more information, visit the Questa Library or phone us at (575) 586-2023.






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Voces de Nuestro País Feat

By CLAIRE COTÉ
Director of Voices of
the Northern Rio Grande

13 Motherhood Stories

HISTORIAS DE LA FAMILIA, AMOR, AVENTURAS, Y DESVENTURAS DICHAS POR LA GENTE DE NUESTRO PAÍS

In May the Voces de Nuestro País hosted its tenth event and podcast with a gathering honoring Mothers, their deep impact, invisible labor, and personal journeys. We heard motherhood stories and reflections from thirteen strong, courageous, beautiful, deep-feeling mothers from our communities: Christine Martinez, Irene Martinez, Valerie Vigil, Cynthia Vigil, Kristie Ritchlin, and Sharon Nicholson of Questa, Evie Trujillo and Kyra Trujillo of Ranchos de Taos, Connie Long and Janie Corrinne of El Rito, Henrietta Arellano of Costilla, Cat Gilliam of Lama, and Claire Coté of Sunshine Valley.

They shared experiences of birthing and raising children and grandchildren, balancing work, and navigating chal-

lenges and grief. They reflected on the unconditional love of parenting, the importance of community support, and the strength required to overcome loss and adversity. Their stories were heartfelt, honest, insightful, vulnerable, brave, humorous, tender and wise. We are grateful to these women for how they show up for their families and in the world, and we thank them for sharing a part of their motherhood story.

On Sat. Jun. 20th the Voces de Nuestro País event features “Redemios de Nuestra Tierra” - remedies from our land, traditional knowledge of the Earth, plants, and their power to heal. Our guest is Erica Vigil-Flores, a Chimayó native. She is a Registered Nurse and a practitioner of Traditional Medicine of Northern New Mexico. She currently serves rural New Mexico as a home health and hospice nurse. She also has an impact initiative called Chimayó Seed, in which she teaches classes on traditional medicine, sees clients, sells remedios, and offers community outreach. She is a University of New Mexico graduate and returns to the University every year to share her traditional medicine knowledge at UNM’s Curanderismo program. Erica recently published a book on spiritual and traditional healing, called, *Healing With Dirt*. We are looking forward to learning from Erica; join us on Sat, Jun. 20, 2 - 4 p.m. at Questa Library.

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



Courtesy Photo

Erica Vigil-Flores, Voces featured guest June 20, 2026

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!

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 added 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://questastories.org).

questalibrary.org and [QuestaStories.org](https://questastories.org).

Don’t miss our eleventh Voces de Nuestro País event, “Remedios de Nuestra Tierra” at Questa Library on Jun. 20, 2-4p.m. We hope you can join us!

If you have stories you’d like to share, please let Michael Rael or Claire Coté know. Email Michael at rael870@gmail.com or Claire at QuestaStories@gmail.com.

Voces de Nuestro País Remedios de Nuestra Tierra

Sat, June 20, 2026

2 - 4 p.m.

Location: Questa Public Library

Join us at the Questa Public Library for “Redemios de Nuestra Tierra”. Voces de Nuestro País is a monthly gathering that celebrates local voices, stories, and culture and this month explores remedies from our land, traditional knowledge of the Earth, plants, and their power to heal. Our guest is Erica Vigil-Flores, a Chimayó native and practitioner of Traditional Medicine of Northern New Mexico. Please join us! Hosted by MC Michael Rael, these events bring people together through stories of family, history, love, land and adventure. These events are hosted in collaboration with Questa Library and Voices of the Northern Rio Grande, a program of local nonprofit, Localogy.

Can’t attend in person? Episodes are also available as a podcast on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music. More information at <https://questalibrary.org/> and <https://questastories.org/>



Photo by Claire Coté

Sharing Motherhood Stories, May 9, Questa Public library



LMNOC Broadcasting Secures "Peace of Mind" with Kit Carson Internet

For Chris Muñoz, President of LMNOC Broadcasting, running six radio stations in the Taos area is a crucial community lifeline. Yet, this essential service was threatened by a failing internet and phone infrastructure that constantly risked silencing his stations. Chris describes his previous provider, the corporate giant Comcast, as "the bane of my existence." Reliability issues crippled his staff. Sales team members were often forced to sit in their cars, sometimes in the snow, just to get a cell signal. Commercial files would sit "spinning" in outboxes, unable to send due to poor bandwidth. The final straw was the lack of corporate support. Chris recalls being disconnected after endless hold times. "The service felt more like 'Infinity' because of the endless hold times," he says. "If I treated my customers like that, I wouldn't have a business."

A Partnership Built on Local Reliability

The switch to Kit Carson Internet was a natural choice; LMNOC's mobile apps already ran flawlessly on their network. Moving their entire business—phones, Wi-Fi, and computers—to Kit Carson Fiber and VOIP secures a high-capacity connection critical for live interviews with major bands like Midland and Los Lonely Boys during their summer concert series.

The result, according to Chris, is "night and day." Beyond cost savings, Kit Carson Internet delivers something invaluable: "Aside from cost savings, it's peace of mind," says Chris. "If

you're a business owner, you can't pay for peace of mind. That's what this is."

The immediate improvements transformed their professionalism:

- **Crystal Clear Audio:** Breakups are gone, guaranteeing professional client calls and interviews.
- **Seamless Productivity:** The "spinning wheel" has vanished, replaced by a reliable network.
- **Localized, Impeccable Support:** Instead of distant call centers, Chris has a direct line to Taos-based professionals. He praises the customer service: "The people at Kit Carson Internet that answer the phone and do the installs: They just get it done."

Empower Your Business: Switch and Save Today

Chris Muñoz's LMNOC Broadcasting is now "Powered by Kit Carson," a true testimonial to choosing a local, reliable partner. Like LMNOC, your business can experience superior value, high-speed fiber, and dedicated local support. For a limited time, new commercial customers can get a \$0 installation* grant to eliminate the upfront cost of switching. Stop worrying about dropped calls and spinning files. Switch to Fast Fiber. Lower Cost. No Install Fee.* Call us today at (575) 758-4838 or visit KitCarsonInternet.com to claim your offer and gain the peace of mind your business deserves.

**Some restrictions may apply.*

LMNOC from left to right: Chris Muñoz, Marti Segura, Gary Avinger, Rudy Baca, and Dick Stillson



Paid Advertorial by Kit Carson Internet

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CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY TO BUSINESS RESOURCES, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

June WORKSHOPS

Bridging the Digital Gap: Tech Support with Monica McClelland	Thursday, June 4th 12-1pm Questa Library
Career Readiness Pizza Party Workshop! For Teens and Job Seekers America's Job Center	Thursday, June 4th 5:30-7pm Questa Library
Budgeting & Funding: The Money Stuff with Katherine Flory, CEO of QCU Business Quest Workshop Series	Thursday, June 11th 5:30-7pm Questa Library
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting with Anwar Kaelin	Thursday, June 18th By Appointment Only Questa Library
Marketing, Advertising & Branding with Tatiana Salcedo, UNM- Taos HIVE Business Quest Workshop Series	Thursday, June 18th 5:30-7pm Questa Library

Visit our Questa Business Bridge Hub online for full class descriptions and to register for a class.

Jeremy Jojola to Speak at Upcoming Conference on New Mexican Roots, Identity and History in Taos

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

For Jeremy Jojola, understanding New Mexico's history has never been just about genealogy, it's about connecting with the roots that shaped who he is today.

This summer, the award-winning journalist behind *Cuentos y Corazón*, a social media storytelling project inspired by his New Mexico roots, will speak at the 2026 Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Conference in Taos, where heritage, history and identity take center stage.

Jojola, a 23-time Emmy Award winner, two-time Edward R. Murrow Award recipient and 2026 Journalist of the Year as named by the Society of Professional Journalists, will appear at the conference from June 26-28. His presentation will focus on identity, ancestry and the importance of preserving family stories before they disappear.

For Jojola, those stories begin with his own family.

Born in Las Cruces, and raised in Reno, Nevada, Jojola had a unique childhood experience with New Mexico, where every summer he returned to San Jose, a small village near Las Vegas, New Mexico, where his grandparents lived. Those summers were surrounded by family, traditions, food and the distinct Spanish dialect of northern New Mexico which shaped his sense of home.

"I've always felt New Mexico has been my stable home, the place where I feel the most centered," Jojola said in an interview with the *Questa del Rio News*.

His family history reflects the layered and often untold history of New Mexico itself.

Jojola's father was born in Santa Fe and adopted at just 3 days old by Manuel Jojola, a Native American medicine man from Isleta Pueblo. Raised in Pueblo culture, his father later learned he had been adopted, a revelation that reshaped his understanding of identity while still remaining deeply rooted in indio-hispano traditions that make up the unique, yet complex identity of northern New Mexico.

When Jojola was 5, his father located his biological family in the Santa Rosa, Anton Chico and Puerto de Luna areas. Through those connections, Jojola discovered generations of ranching families whose roots stretched back centuries and reflected the blending of Indigenous, Spanish and European ancestry that de-



Courtesy Photo

Jeremy Jojola stands at the Santuario de Chimayo with his grandma Louisa Lopez de Blea. She passed away in 2024 but Jojola carries her stories and memories as he continues to share New Mexico's heritage and stories.

finer much of New Mexico.

"That's when I started understanding how complex our history really is," Jojola said.

Growing up in predominantly Anglo schools and neighborhoods outside the state, Jojola often struggled to understand where he fit.

In fourth grade, he remembers being taught that Hispanic New Mexicans were simply descendants of Spanish conquistadors. But the more he researched his own family, the more he realized the reality was far more complex.

"I found out that wasn't the simple truth," he said. "There were Indigenous roots, mixing of cultures, complicated histories and stories people sometimes kept hidden because of shame or social pressures."

That search for identity eventually became "*Cuentos y Corazon*," a storytelling project he launched last year to explore New Mexican culture, language and ancestry through a deeply personal lens.

The response, he said, was overwhelming.

Within months, people across New Mexico began sharing their own stories of identity, family history and cultural loss.

"A lot of us grew up feeling like outsiders in our own story when we didn't fully relate to Mexican Americans or Native Americans," Jojola said.

Through his work, he hopes New

Mexicans embrace the fullness of who they are instead of reducing themselves to simplified labels.

He believes generations of New Mexicans have hidden parts of their histories, Indigenous ancestry, cultural mixing and difficult family stories with Spaniard descendants, because of shame, assimilation or outside definitions imposed on them.

"Our history isn't compartmentalized," Jojola said. "We are all these different backgrounds, traditions and belief systems coming together. That's what makes New Mexico special."

One of Jojola's deepest passions is preserving oral history.

He encourages families to interview grandparents and elders, record conversations and document the traditions and language that have been passed down for generations.

"I wish with all my heart I had recorded my grandmother more," he said. "Record them. Listen to them. Hold them. Document your family histories now before it's gone when they pass away."

Jojola also hopes to preserve New Mexican Spanish, a centuries-old regional dialect shaped by Spanish, Indigenous and local traditions. He often carries a dictionary of New Mexico and southern Colorado Spanish and worries the language could fade if younger generations do not continue speaking and documenting it.

"I don't know if it can fully come back,"

he said, "but I want people to understand it and appreciate it."

Although Jojola has spoken to genealogy and cultural groups before, the Taos conference will mark his first major genealogy conference appearance.

"I'm honored they asked me to speak," he said. "I want to share the importance of storytelling and why understanding our roots matters."

Additional speakers include son of *Questa* Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez, former New Mexico State Historian and director of *Native Bound Unbound*, who will present on Indigenous histories of captivity and enslavement; historian Richard Melzer, who will discuss New Mexico history through significant museum artifacts; and Jonathan Pringle and Dena Hunt of the New Mexico State Archives, who will lead presentations focused on archival treasures and genealogical research.

The conference will also feature Taosña educator and multimedia artist Juanita Jaramillo Lavadie, who will speak on the history of *ciboleros*, or buffalo hunters of northern New Mexico, and longtime genealogist Antonette Gonzales, whose presentation will explore family origins and identity.

Other featured speakers include Professor Emeritus and Deacon Larry Torres, an educator, historian and author known for his work on New Mexican culture and religion; poet Karen S. Córdova, whose writing reflects the Hispano experience of the Southwest; and Taos poet and storyteller Olivia Romo, whose work centers on land, water, culture and community in northern New Mexico.

Organizers say the conference aims to bring together conversations on genealogy, cultural identity, oral history and the preservation of New Mexico's rich and layered heritage

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Conference

June 26-28, 2026

Sagebrush Inn and Suites

Prices vary from \$75- \$195

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<https://www.gshaa.org/event-details/gsha-2026-conference-taos-nm>

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Taos High School Gymnasium
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WHY ATTEND?
 Get the latest scoop on our Hydrogen & Solar projects and the new Microgrid Battery Storage coming to Peñasco, Taos Ski Valley, and El Rito West.

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By Toner Mitchell

Honoring Ted Turner

Ted Turner, the famous businessman and owner of Vermejo Park Ranch, passed away on May 6, 2026, leaving behind many loved ones and a lofty legacy of land and wildlife conservation.

Although he might be better known in some circles as the former owner of the Atlanta Braves baseball team and the founder of the CNN media platform, Turner will be remembered by many for his achievements in natural resources stewardship. Through his ownership of properties all around the western U.S., he protected millions of acres of wildlands while restoring native habitat at a staggering scale. He had a particular interest in recovering endangered and imperiled species. Through personal commitment and generous philanthropy, he stood between the American bison, black-footed ferret, Chiracahua leopard frog, the Mexican gray wolf, and many other species and the abyss of extinction.

Some of Turner's most ardent admirers are among the trout fishing community. His properties were strategically lo-

cated, at the heart of Westslope cutthroat trout in Montana and the headwaters of the Rio Costilla in New Mexico, the best remaining portion of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout's native range.

Turner's support for Rio Grande cutthroat began in the early 2000s, when donations from his Vermejo Park Ranch helped Trout Unlimited's nascent chapters raise funds, get on their feet, and grow to their current strength. The Turner Foundation has provided years of vital funding for TU's work in rural outreach and stream restoration. Along with supporting Trout Unlimited, Turner's team of cutting-edge scientists and restoration professionals has been a critical factor in ensuring the persistence of New Mexico's state fish far into the future.

Turner's generosity wasn't limited to conservation. He gave to organizations promoting peace, women's and youth empowerment, and youth development. Significantly, the Turner Foundation provided important support for the annual summer youth camp led by Localogy and Vida del Norte in Questa.

Northern New Mexicans should be profoundly grateful for Ted Turner's life. We should also be inspired by the fact that every person touched by his largesse, not to mention every Rio Grande cutthroat that ever swims, will bear the signature of his vision. It's not difficult to imagine the impoverished state of the North American landscape had Mr. Turner not walked upon it; indeed, he leaves the earth a more beautiful and living place.



Photo by Gus Holm

Ted Turner on horseback



Photo by Daniel Hutchinson

Young Questeños at Localogy summer camp

New Mexico Launches Dashboard to Track Water Security Progress

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

New Mexico has launched a public dashboard to track the state's progress toward securing its long-term water future, highlighting advances in forest and watershed restoration efforts aimed at protecting the state's water supply.

The new 50-Year Water Action Plan Implementation Dashboard offers a real-time look at efforts to address projected water shortages fueled by drought and climate change. The plan is built around three priorities: conserving existing freshwater supplies, developing new water sources and protecting water quality.

"This dashboard is a promise to every New Mexican that we will manage this challenge with the best science available now and well into the future,"

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said in a statement.

State officials say scientists project New Mexico could lose 25% of its water supply within the next 50 years, amounting to a shortage of as much as 750,000 acre-feet — roughly enough water to supply 1.5 million households annually.

Much of the state's strategy centers on restoring forested watersheds, which provide most of New Mexico's surface water. The New Mexico Forestry Division has expanded restoration efforts to reduce wildfire damage and preserve water resources.

Post-fire stabilization projects are underway in areas burned by the Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon fire and the South Fork and Salt fires under the division's new post-fire restoration authority. Officials said those projects are among



Photo by Laura McCarthy

An acequia flows through forest regrowth in the Hermit's Peak- Calf Canyon burned area

several recent accomplishments tied to the state's 2020 Forest Action Plan.

The state also recently broke ground on the New Mexico Reforestation Center, a facility intended to reduce the risk

of permanent forest loss and strengthen long-term watershed health.

The restoration work supports the governor's 50-Year Water Action Plan, which calls for accelerated thinning, prescribed burning and reforestation on 140,000 acres of state and private land each year. Officials say the goal is to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, flooding and erosion that can threaten water supplies.

"Our forested watersheds matter to all New Mexicans," State Forester Laura McCarthy said in a statement. "It's our responsibility not only to protect them from catastrophic wildfire, but to restore them to healthy functioning to ensure a secure, stable water source for future generations."

To view the dashboard, visit <https://water-dashboard.nm.gov/>

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY: GROWING SUCCESS AT 7,500 FEET

By LORA ARCINIEGA

In the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, June isn't just another month—it's the starting gun. While the rest of the country has been planting since April, Questa locals know that patience is a survival skill. Here, the June jumpstart begins the moment the frost threats retreat. For decades, our community has turned to one local store to make the most of our short season: Questa Lumber & Hardware.

Local Advice from Friendly Faces

Gardening at 7,500 feet is a different beast. You need a neighbor who knows the tricks of the trade. Whether you're chatting with the front-desk crew about drought-resistant shrubs or getting help loading bags of soil, you're talking to people who live and plant right here in Questa. Why drive to Taos when the best expertise is right down the road?

Your June "High-Altitude" Game Plan

To help your garden thrive in our intense sun and thin air, the team at Questa Lumber suggests these local strategies:

- **Smart Watering:** Water deeply and less frequently (aim for an inch a week). This forces roots to go deep. Pick up a soaker hose or drip irrigation kit in-store to keep your acequia water or well usage efficient.
- **Mulch is Magic:** Apply 1-2 inches of organic mulch, like straw or pine needles, to keep roots cool and lock in moisture.
- **Beat the Heat:** Our sun can be brutal. Grab some 30-50% shade cloth to protect your tomatoes and greens from sunburn.
- **Feed Your Flowers:** It's time to fertilize your roses and annuals. Pinch back the new growth on annuals now—it feels wrong, but it makes them way bushier and full of blooms later! Think of it like giving the plant a haircut that forces it to grow wider instead of taller.

What's in Stock?

Everything you need is just a few minutes away. We've got the yard ready for you:

- **Warm-Season Starts:** It's finally safe! We have tomatoes, peppers, squash, and cucumbers ready to hit the dirt.
- **Soil & Compost:** Use compost to help sandy soil hold water or to break up that heavy Questa clay.

Stop by this June, swap a story, and let's grow something great together.

Established in 1953, Questa Lumber & Hardware was built on a mission to provide the tools and support necessary for our remote mountain community to thrive.

For over 70 years, that mission hasn't changed: we are here to help our neighbors build, grow, and sustain the land we love.



This 6-month series is proudly sponsored by Questa Lumber & Hardware and the LOR Foundation, working together to support the local projects and people that make our village thrive.



The Future of the Trail: Why Stewardship Matters This Summer

Partially Sponsored by J&L Powersports

By LORA ARCINIEGA

As June settles into Northern New Mexico, more people are heading out into the Carson National Forest to enjoy the mountains. But with more riders on the trails comes a bigger responsibility to take care of the land we live and recreate in. For James and Lauren at J&L Powersports, this month is all about "Leave No Trace" and making sure we can all keep riding for years to come. As Lauren puts it: *"The future of trail access depends on how we treat the land today."*

Stick to the Path

It's tempting to explore, but staying on designated trails is the only way to keep the forest healthy. When riders cut switchbacks or create their own routes, it can cause erosion and could leave a lasting impact on the landscape. If it's wet enough to leave deep ruts, it's too wet to ride. It's also important to remember that these trails are shared. You're likely to run into ranchers, cattle, and hikers. A good rule of thumb is to yield to others and always respect gates and fences. If you find a gate closed, leave it that way so livestock don't end up where they shouldn't be.

The "Real Talk" About Waste

We all know to pack out our trash, but there is one topic people usually avoid: bathroom waste. It's a major issue in our camping and riding areas right now. Finding toilet paper or waste left behind on a trail isn't just gross—it's bad for the environment and disrespectful to the community. "Leave No Trace" includes everything. If you're heading out for a long ride, plan ahead. Bring a small shovel and if you have to go, make sure to bury

it properly (at least 6 inches deep) far away from any water, and always pack out your toilet paper. It's a simple step that keeps our woods clean for everyone.

Protecting Wildlife and Preventing Fires

June is also a sensitive time for local wildlife. The Carson National Forest has seasonal closures in place for elk calving, and it's vital to stay out of those areas so the calves stay safe. As the weather gets drier, fire safety becomes a top priority. Before you head out, double-check your spark arrestor. In these conditions, it only takes one spark to start a forest fire.

Why We Care

For the team at J&L Powersports, this isn't just about selling or fixing machines. James and Lauren are locals who are raising their family right here in Northern New Mexico. They ride these same trails and want to make sure they stay open. "We aren't just a business; we're your neighbors," they say. "We want our kids—and yours—to enjoy these ridges and valleys for decades to come." By riding responsibly and leaving the land better than we found it, we can help make sure those trails stay open now and in the future. Let's keep it local, keep it clean, and enjoy the ride.

J&L Powersports LLC is located at 2627 NM-522, Questa. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call or text (575) 586-2417.

Partially sponsored by  LOR FOUNDATION

Department Urges Public to Leave Young Wildlife Alone as Spring Births Increase

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The New Mexico Department of Wildlife is urging residents and visitors to avoid disturbing young wildlife as spring gives way to summer and animal births increase across the state.

The department said New Mexico's warmer months bring opportunities to observe wildlife, but officials cautioned the public to keep a safe distance from newborn animals, including fawns, elk calves and bear cubs.

Although young animals may appear abandoned, wildlife officials said that is rarely the case. Mothers often leave offspring hidden while they forage nearby and typically return within a few hours.

"Human interference, even with good intentions, can unintentionally cause harm," the department said in a statement.

Officials also warned that some encounters can put people at risk. Bear cubs, for example, may seem to be alone, but their mothers are often close by and can become highly protective.

"It is ideal to leave bear cubs alone and let their mother raise them in the wild," said Nick Forman, the department's carnivore and small mammal program manager. "Female bears can become defensive and aggressive quickly when they feel like their cubs are in danger. A lot of attacks are a result of females defending their cubs from humans. The safest option is to stay away from the cubs and to not get between a female and her cubs."

Department elk biologist Travis Zaffarano said human encounters can cause stress for young animals, particularly elk calves that rely on camouflage during early development.

"During the early stages of develop-



Photo courtesy NM Dept. of Wildlife

ment, elk calves are limited in mobility and rely solely on camouflage to avoid predation," Zaffarano said. "When elk calves are hidden in downed woody debris or low-lying vegetation, they are only temporarily alone while the mother is foraging nearby. These animals are not abandoned and will very shortly be reunited with their mothers."

Zaffarano advised people to remain at least 60 feet away from hidden calves and to leave the area quickly so mothers can return without feeling threatened.

"Please only view hidden calves from no less than 60 feet to minimize stress on the calf," he said. "Also, please vacate the vicinity quickly so that the mother may return to her calf without any perceived threat."

The department reminded the public that viewing wildlife in its natural habitat is a privilege and encouraged people to observe responsibly by avoiding contact, maintaining distance and leaving quietly.

Anyone who believes an animal is injured, sick or truly abandoned is en-

couraged to contact a local conservation officer and provide a precise location, preferably using GPS coordinates.

Officials also noted that it is illegal to remove game animals from the wild, whether alive or dead. Suspected violations can be reported to local conservation officers or the department's Operation Game Thief hotline at (800) 432-GAME (4263).

For more information, the department's Information Center can be reached at (888) 248-6866.

CERRO WELL cont'd from page 5

Bailon said she has remained in contact with state and county officials, including Taos County Manager Brent Jaramillo, Taos County Commissioner Miguel Romero and Taos County Emergency Management Director Bobby Lucero as efforts continue to restore reliable service.

No timeline has been announced for full restoration of the water system.

The Taos County Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution No. 2026-25 during an emergency meeting May 27, declaring a local emergency related to the Cerro water system outage. The declaration is set to remain in effect through June 27 unless ended earlier or extended by county officials.

County officials said intermittent disruptions to potable water service have affected residents, businesses and public facilities in Cerro, posing concerns for sanitation, firefighting capabilities and public health.

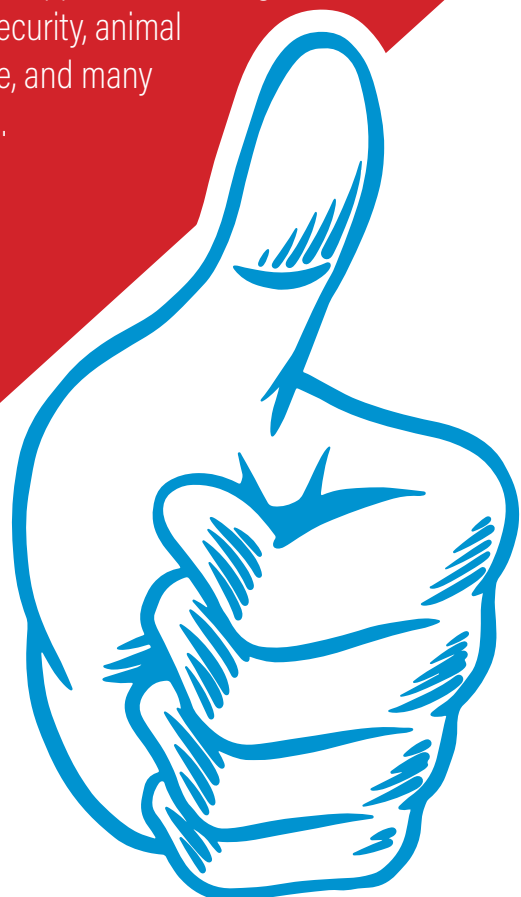
The emergency declaration authorizes the county to expend resources, seek state and federal assistance and coordinate response efforts under the New Mexico

Civil Emergency Preparedness Act. Potential emergency actions include water distribution, temporary supply systems, infrastructure repairs, public information updates and support for sanitation and fire suppression.

Bailon is hopeful that the multi-agency coordinated response will help get the community one step closer to having a reliable water system soon.

Congratulations 2026 Chevron Grants for Good Recipients

Chevron, in partnership with the Taos Community Foundation, is pleased to announce the grant recipients for the 2026 Chevron "Grants for Good" grant cycle. Chevron and the local employees working at the Questa Mine remediation project have a vested interest in enriching the community in which we live and work, and we are proud to say that thirty non-profit organizations that serve the wider Questa community are awarded a grand total of \$96,962 in this year's grant cycle. The grants will provide funding for many great causes within the community, including providing learning and recreational opportunities for youth, cancer support services, agriculture, food security, animal welfare, and many others.



The following organizations will receive grant funding:

- Bridges Project for Education
- Cancer Foundation for NM
- Cerro Neighborhood Association
- Community Against Violence
- Cultivo Agricultural Renewal
- DreamTree Project
- Enchanted Circle Trails Association
- Friends of Rio Grande del Norte
- Friends of the Questa Public Library
- Golden Willow Retreat
- Healing Heart Collective
- Holy Cross Medical Center - Taos
Cancer Support Services
- LEAP
- Localogy - Farmers Market
- Localogy - Sala Reach
- Localogy - Vida Day Camp
- Music from Angel Fire
- NM Eviction Prevention and Diversion
- PASEO Project
- Paso a Paso Network
- Questa Creative Council
- Red River Chamber
- Safe Pet Partners
- Santas Helpers Del Norte
- Stray Hearts Animal Shelter
- Sunshine Festival LLC
- Taos Common Grounds
- Taos County Economic Development
Corporation
- Taos Feeds Taos
- Twirl

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

Earth Day Beautification Success

By CLAIRE COTÉ
Director of LEAP

On Wed, April 20, 2026 over fifty Junior-Senior High School Students, volunteers, a Village of Questa Councilor, and leaders from LEAP, Forest service, Taos County Solid Waste and Roads all gathered for a community-wide clean-up and beautification effort. The group fanned out across the Questa area, along all major roadways, Eagle Rock Lake and at Questa Park.

Students and volunteers removed invasive plants, picked up trash, filled holes, reburied irrigation lines and

pruned trees at Questa Park, guided by Claire Coté of LEAP. At Eagle Rock Lake, mentored by Forest Service and LEAP personnel, they dug holes, installed new posts and fishing line receptacles, refinished picnic tables and other maintenance tasks. Teams of students walked along road ways throughout Questa collecting trash, supported by the Taos County Solid Waste and Roads Department. Special thanks to all the students and teachers who spent their morning beautifying our community. We appreciate you! Students and volunteers enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Questa Youth Center catered by

Rosie's Smokehouse, sponsored by LOR Foundation, and organized by teacher and Questa Junior-senior Honor Society leader, Santana Santistevan.

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

The Earth Day clean-up was organized in solidarity with the Village of Questa Beautification Committee, spearheaded by Village Councilor Jason Gonzalez. Let's keep the momentum going; if you go fishing at Eagle Rock Lake, put your used or tangled fishing line in the new green receptacles around the lake; if you see trash in our community, pick it up; if you have trash to throw, find a trash can or dumpster. Together, we can prevent litter, protect wildlife and keep our community clean and beautiful.

Find more photos from Earth Day 2026 in Questa and other events at LEAPsite.org.



Photo by Santana Santistevan.

2026 Earth Day clean-up group photo: Questa Junior Senior High School Students and teachers, LEAP leaders, Community Members, Taos County Solid Waste and Road Department personnel, April 20, 2026.



Photo by Claire Coté

Seniors group photo at Earth Day clean-up at Questa Park, removing thistle plants and picking up trash, April 20, 2026.



Photo by Santana Santistevan

Students install signage for a newly installed post and used fishing line receptacle at Eagle Rock Lake, April 20, 2026.



Photo by Santana Santistevan

Students stop for a photo while picking up litter along roadways in Questa, Earth Day Clean-up, April 20, 2026.

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**BODY
MIND
SPIRIT**



By **BARBARA TRACY**

The Book of Life

When we are born, we are somewhat like a blank page in a book yet to be written. This book has an infinite number of pages, and each page is filled with experiences and perceptions of our life journey. Ideally as time passes, we expand into who and what we are choosing to express as our identities, our presence in the world. One may want to be a fireman, a scientist or a teacher and so on. At some point we may find we have not reached the desired goals we have chosen to pursue and lose faith in ourselves because of unfulfilled expectations. Sometimes this includes a tainted

and false identity defined as winner or loser. This is when it is important to remember that there is always a blank page we can turn to and begin to fill with new focus, new pursuits because we are a fountain of unlimited potential.

There is an old song from 1962 by Nat King Cole that has a verse in it that speaks to this. "Pick yourself up, take a deep breath, dust yourself off, and start all over again."

Our human potential allows us to become anything we truly desire through the use of patience and tenacity that are needed to achieve our goal. That is, if that is truly what we want. The key here is how strong is the desire for the pursuit we choose? Is it really what we want? Because if it is not sincerely what we want and more of a fulfillment of what we think we are supposed to be or do, then achieving it can be difficult or perhaps not at all. The greatest asset we have here is being true to what we sincerely want. If our present perception is less than we desire, we can re-choose our next self



Gemini generated image

from moment to moment. We have the ability to make a firm choice about what we prefer. This is not done by shallow repetition of words but by a deep and sincere desire to make the changes we are seeking.

"To thine own self be true,"
Shakespeare.

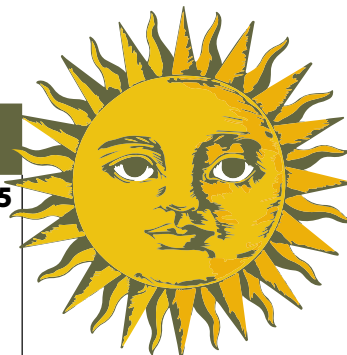
My experience is that over the years, there are parts of myself and desires that simply drop away. My tastes, my inter-

ests and even my talents have changed. I am far from what I thought my life would be like as an adult or even the elder that I am now. Being open to the reality that our wants and desires change over the years can help us let go of any self-judgment we may have about ourselves and our expected achievements. We are always turning the pages of the book of life and the infinite potential to know a new part of ourselves to explore. What was written on yesterday's pages is not what is written today.

Each night when we go to sleep, we have the opportunity to let go and make way for the next morning when we wake up to a new day and a new us. Even though the events may be similar as the day before or even the same routine, we are different. We have turned the page in our book of life with the potential for new thoughts, new ideas, maybe even a new direction to pursue. The key is to let go of past expectations that may not have manifested and focus on being open to a new part of ourselves.

SENIOR MENU: JUNE 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Hamburger Steak w/Gravy Brown Rice Green Beans & Carrots Wheat Roll Fruit Salad	2 Pork Chop Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Spinach Wheat Roll Banana	3 Chicken Fajitas (w/Peppers & Onions) Tortilla, Salsa , Pinot Beans Capri Veggies Fresh Pear	4 Meatloaf w/Gravy Parsley Potatoes Broccoli Wheat Roll Orange	5 Spinach Lasagna Tossed Salad Wheat Roll Plums Vanilla Yogurt
8 4 Cheese Baked Pasta Italian Blend Veggies Tossed Salad w/Boiled Egg Fruit Cocktail Vanilla Yogurt	9 Pineapple Chicken Brown Rice Tossed Salad Wheat Roll Grapes	10 Hamburger Beef Stew Tossed Salad Wheat Roll Tropical Fruit Salad	11 Chicken Stir-Fry ,Stir-Fry Veggies Brown Rice Garden Salad Pineapple Chunks & Mandarin Oranges	12 Classic Hamburger (Lettuce, Tomato, & Onion), Potato Wedges Broccoli Watermelon Sugar Cookie
15 Chicken Tetrazzini Tossed Salad Capri Vegetable Wheat Roll Cinnamon Apples	16 Tilapia Wild/Brown Rice Sliced Carrots Tossed Salad Diced Peaches	17 Chicken Caesar Salad Caesar Dressing Wheat Roll Pineapple	18 Soft Beef Taco Salsa Pinto Beans Spinach Strawberry Short Cake	19 CLOSED
22 Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo Broccoli & Cauliflower Tossed Salad Fresh Pear	23 Hot Dog Pinto Beans Carrots & Green Beans Vanilla Yogurt Mango Chunks	24 Pork Posole Flour Tortilla Tossed Salad Strawberries & Bananas w/Angel Food Cake	25 Green Chile Chicken Enchilada Pinto Beans Zucchini & Diced Tomatoes Plums	26 Boneless Country Style Ribs Black Eyed Peas Collard Greens Cornbread Fruit Cocktail
29 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes w/Country Gravy Broccoli Wheat Roll Apricots	30 Orange Chicken Brown Rice Emperor Blend Veggies Pork Egg Roll Mandarin oranges & Pineapple chunks			



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

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

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

Currently, exercise classes are not available.

Donations for transportation are encouraged.

Contact Numbers
Taos: (575) 737-8927
Chamisal: (575) 587-2778
Questa/Amalia: (575) 586-0508
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE



**LIVE
LOVE
LAUGH**

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

My Dad and Muhammad Ali

It's June! On the 21st, we honor our fathers. (Hopefully, we do that other days as well.) Jun 3 this year marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Muhammad Ali, a man my father revered, so I'd like to talk about Ali as well as my dad.

Muhammad Ali was an American professional boxer, activist, entertainer, and philanthropist, who has been ranked as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time. One of Ali's famous quotes is: "I am the greatest. I said that even before I knew I was. I figured that if I said it enough, I would convince the world that I really was the greatest."

After being diagnosed with Par-

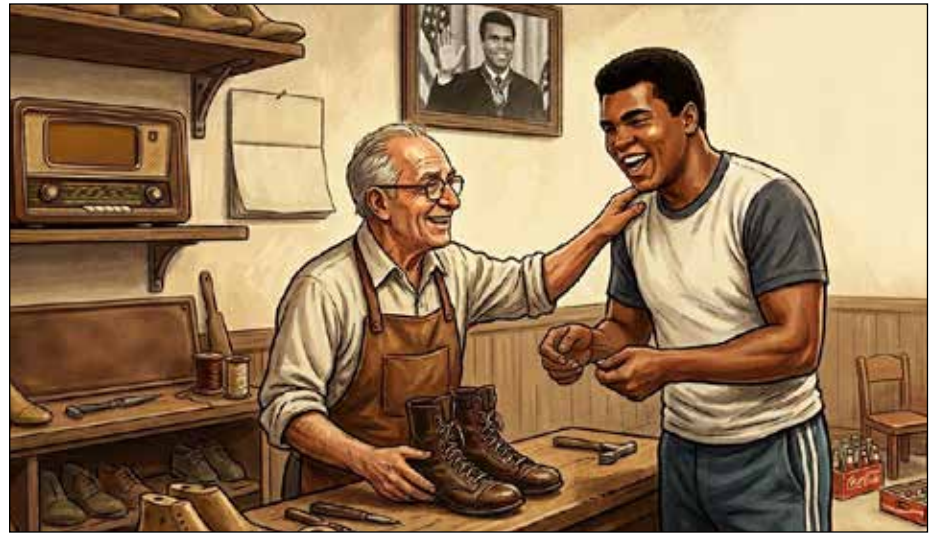
kinson's Disease, Ali retired in 1981 as the only three-time heavyweight world champion. In 2005 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush.

Daddy loved boxing matches and greatly admired the champions. I remember as a child going to the local beer garden with my parents and sister and brother to listen to each championship fight on the radio. We kids had fun in the back room sipping soda and playing games. Daddy was glued to the radio—he didn't want to miss a word.

Even after I grew up and left home, Daddy was in awe of heavyweight champions, so imagine his excitement when Muhammad Ali walked into his shoemaker shop one day in 1972! Ali had just set up his training camp in Deer Lake, Pennsylvania, a small hamlet near where we lived in Pottsville.

"I hear you're the best shoemaker around and that you could put weights in my boots so I can strengthen my legs, and that you could do that for about fifty dollars," Ali said to my father—in just those words. I know the exact words because the story has been told hundreds of times in our family.

"I no can do," my father told him



Gemini generated image

in his broken English while shaking his head from side to side. Yet he was so thrilled he could hardly contain his excitement.

"What?!" Ali exclaimed. "I was told you're the best shoemaker in Pottsville. And you tell me you can't put weights in my boots for about fifty dollars!"

"I no can do," my father told him again. "I do for twenty-five dollars!"

And he did. Ali gave him fifty dollars anyway.

Muhammad Ali's life was rewarding, yet often very difficult. My family is grateful that he gave Daddy a story he told proudly for the rest of his 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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Exercise & Nutrition

I've listed many articles on exercise routines and other physical programs that anyone can perform for leisure and reap the benefits. Since many are trying to live a healthy lifestyle and develop long term beneficial habits, we often forget to think about nutrition. Many factors affect a person's health, but I feel

that diet and nutrition play a major role for anyone trying to feel and look good. When we eat the proper foods on a daily basis, we get the results we are seeking, because our body utilizes these nutrients for energy, muscle building, and recovery. A proper diet consists of three food categories. Carbohydrates are the major source of energy and separated into sugars, starches, and fibers. The sugars are (simple carbohydrates) and starches & fibers are (complex carbohydrates). Proteins are long chain amino acids which are the essentials blocks for building muscle, bone, skin, nail, hair. Good fats can provide a concentrated source of energy and are more calorie dense than carbs and protein. They are

also essential for nutrient absorption, cell structure and function, and hormone production. Incorporate exercise with proper nutrition and you develop a plan for success.

When I mention exercise, it doesn't mean you have to perform intense or long hours of brutal strength training. Walking and doing some form of exercise is better than staying stationary. Of course riding a bike or harder types of exercise is going to make you use more energy and burn more calories. Regardless of the type of exercise you're doing, you will get the benefits from exercise and good nutrition. It also helps you incorporate these two elements into a healthy lifestyle. Always try to balance

your diet with the 3 main food groups: carbs, protein, and fat. Make sure the food has a good nutritional value and if you can't stay away from your favorite unhealthy foods, eat them in moderation and smaller portions. The following list indicates foods that can be eaten to help your overall appearance and fitness level.

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.

Protein Options	Vegan Protein Sources	High Fat Proteins	Carb-Dominant		Fat Dominant
calamari Canadian bacon canned tuna catfish chicken breast clams corned beef crabmeat Egg whites firm tofu flounder/sole ground lamb ground pork ground turkey ham lamb lobster pork protein shakes sardines scallops shrimp spirulina (dry) swordfish tuna steak turkey breast veal	chia seeds chickpeas edamame green Peas hemp protein powder quinoa seitan soy burgers soy sausage tempeh tofu	Bacon beef Catfish Duck ground beef salmon Sausages Whole Eggs	acorn squash alfalfa sprouts apple applesauce apricots artichoke asparagus baked beans banana bean sprouts beet greens beets black beans black eyed peas blackberries blueberries bok choy broccoli brussels sprouts butternut squash cabbage cantaloupe cauliflower celery cherries chick peas collard greens corn cranberries cucumber dates dill pickles eggplant fava beans figs fruit cocktail grapefruit grapes green beans guava	honeydew kale kidney beans kiwi leeks lemon lentils lettuce, iceberg lettuce, romaine lima beans lime mango mushrooms nectarine oatmeal okra onion orange papaya peach pear peppers pineapple pinto beans plum potato radishes raspberries salsa sauerkraut snow peas spaghetti squash spinach strawberries sweet potato swiss chard tangerine tomato tomato sauce tomatoes watermelon yam yellow squash zucchini	almonds avocado bacon bits butter canola oil cashews cottage cheese cream cheese cream, light guacamole half and half lard macadamia nuts mayo, light mayonnaise olive oil olives peanut butter peanut oil peanuts sesame oil sour cream sunflower seeds tahini tartar sauce veg. shortening vegetable oil Cheeses Whole Eggs





ENCHANTED EATS

The first day of Summer is June 21st and we will start to see some beautiful early summer fruit. This is a recipe I use in the restaurant and is one of the dishes I get told that people love the most for breakfast or brunch. It has a great texture from the corn flakes and is a wonderful addition for something special on an early summer weekend.

CORNFLAKE-CRUSTED FRENCH TOAST WITH EARLY SUMMER FRUIT

INGREDIENTS

French Toast
12 slices thick-cut Texas toast
6 large eggs
2 cups whole milk
1/2 cup heavy cream
1/3 cup granulated sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4tsp nutmeg
Pinch kosher salt
5 cups crushed cornflakes (lightly crushed; keep some texture)
Butter and neutral oil as needed for cooking

EARLY SUMMER FRUIT TOPPING

CHOOSE FRESH FRUIT BASED ON AVAILABILITY:

2 cups strawberries, sliced
1 cup blueberries
1 cup cherries, pitted and halved
1–2 peaches or apricots, sliced
For Macerating Fruit (optional but recommended)
3–4 Tbsp sugar
1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 tsp lemon zest
Small handful mint, thinly sliced (optional)
Finish with
Whipped cream
Warm maple syrup
Powdered sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

1. PREPARE THE FRUIT

For a fresh presentation:

- Toss fruit together and refrigerate until ready to use.

FOR MACERATED FRUIT:

- Combine strawberries, cherries, and/ or peaches, sugar, lemon juice, and zest.
- Rest 15–30 minutes.
- Fold in blueberries just before serving.

THE FRUIT WILL CREATE A LIGHT SYRUP THAT WORKS WELL WITH MAPLE.

2. PREPARE THE CUSTARD

Whisk together:

Eggs
Milk
Cream
Sugar
Vanilla
Cinnamon
Nutmeg
Salt

3. BREAD THE TEXAS TOAST

- Spread crushed cornflakes in a shallow pan or platter
- Dip each Texas toast slice into custard for about 8–10 seconds per side.
- Allow excess custard to drip off.
- Press both sides into crushed cornflakes.

4. COOK

- Heat a griddle or sauté pan over medium heat.
- Add butter with a small amount of oil.
- Cook 3–4 minutes per side until:
- Golden brown
- Cornflakes become crisp
- Center is cooked through

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.



By J. ORTEGA

APEX

Starring: Charlize Theron, Taron Egerton,
and Eric Bana

Directed by: Baltasar Kormákur

Rated: R

Streaming on: Netflix

Final Verdict: 2.5 out of 5 stars

Apex is a new action adventure/ suspense film that stars in and is produced by Charlize Theron and her production company Secret Menu, and it delivers tense edge of your seat thrills and has you guessing what's going to happen next.

Apex is a nice popcorn movie that's light on story but heavy on action and suspense; you may forget it immediately after you watch it but that's ok it's a nice summer action movie you can enjoy in the moment.

When I first started streaming Apex I didn't know what kind of action movie I was getting because it borrows from a lot of the classics.

The Cliffhanger Homage: The first one we get is an homage to the movie Cliffhanger where we see our heroine Charlize Theron and her husband played by Eric Bana are free climbing up a perilous looking mountain in Norway called "The Troll Wall" and we see a tragic accident with Eric Bana's character which was very similar to

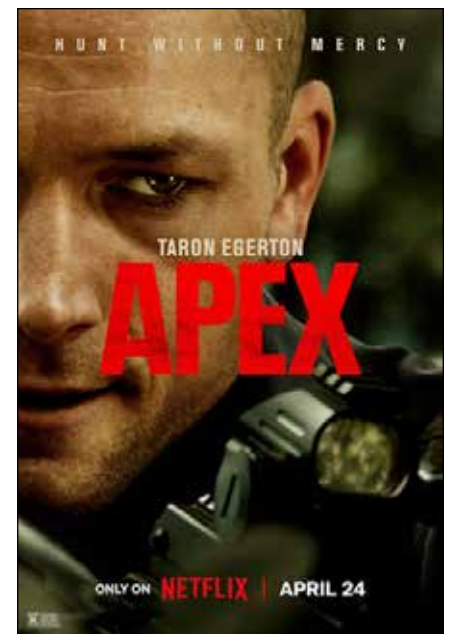
what happened in Cliffhanger.

The Cat-and-Mouse Shift: So after this tragedy Charlize Theron decides to go to Australia to spread her late husband's ashes in his native land. But along the way she encounters a man who turns out to be not what she expects him to be.

Here's where the movie shifts again to a more cat and mouse type of film that is very reminiscent of the movie The Most Dangerous Game mixed with the film Psycho and Silence of the Lambs.

I won't give up much more of the plot other than that but like I said Apex is a classic summer popcorn film that really goes out of its way to showcase the beautiful Australian outback and its diverse climate and ecosystems.

How much you enjoy this film will depend on how you feel about these types of summer action films.



Thanks to a generous grant from the **LOR Foundation** Questa del Rio News has a few dedicated phone lines! Now we can communicate with ease!



MAIN CONTACT

info@questanews.com
Call or Text: (575) 613-6510

SALES & DEVELOPMENT

SalesManager@QuestaNews.com
Call or Text: (575) 240-4344

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Sales-2@QuestaNews.com
Call or Text: (575) 316-9738

NEWS TIPS

Editor@QuestaNews.com
Call or Text: (575) 613-6510

OBITUARIES



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Dora Brito
d. Apr. 5, 2026

Dora Brito, 86, a resident of Questa, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on April 5, 2026. She was born in Questa, NM and at the age of 2 she went to live in Colorado with her mom's sister, Emma Martinez and spouse Frank who raised her. About 11 years later Emma passed away and Dora returned to Questa with her mom, Eliza, stepdad, Aurelio, and her siblings. Dora was a nurse, worked at the Taos County Treasurer's Office, and was a stay-at-home spouse/homemaker. She remained in Questa with her husband, Arsenio "Archie", where they raised their children and taught their grandchildren and great grandchildren about gardening and preserving food, irrigating, and yard work. Dora will be remembered for her hard work on her yard, her wittiness, her love for the Lord, and proof that "dynamite" comes in small packages.

Dora is preceded in death by her husband of 67 years Arsenio "Archie" Brito, paternal father Herman Garcia, maternal mother Eliza Garcia Maestas and step dad Aurelio Maestas, sons Arsenio & Wayne Brito, great-grandson Enrique Salazar, and several siblings.

Dora is survived by her daughter, Connie Romero (Deacon Jerome), adopted children Roberto Brito (Alyssa), and Anjela Martinez (James), daughter-in-law Gloria Brito, sister Lillian (Roger) Ortega, brother Roger Maestas, grandchildren Christine Rivera (Justin), Adrian Brito (Candice), and Erica Trujillo (Gary), great grand children Jerome Salazar-Romero, Aliyah Salazar-Romero, Joseph Salazar-Romero, Damian Rivera, Jenae Rivera, Estrella Brito, James "Santiago" Martinez III, Amayah Brito and Ismael Trujillo, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A special "Thank You" to the Anvoi hospice nurses Kendra, Beverly, Julie, nurse assistant Kevin, Dr. Edmonds, and Chaplain Mark for their guidance, support, and care they provided to Dora's family and Dora during her final weeks.

Honorary Pallbearers are Jerome Salazar-Romero, Aliyah Salazar-Romero, Joseph Salazar-Romero, James "Santiago" Martinez III, Estrella Brito, Leroy Ortega, Gordon and Jan Wesley, Martin "Marty" Martinez, and Teresa Vargas.

Rosary was recited on Thursday Apr. 23, 2026 in the Evergreen Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. Funeral mass was on Fri. Apr. 24,

2026 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa, burial followed at the San Pedro Cemetery.



Jo Gail Tuttle Lowry
d. Mar. 21, 2026

Jo Gail Tuttle Lowry was born in Gilmer, Texas, Sept. 8, 1935. Only child of Nobie Alton Tuttle & Josephine Sewell Tuttle.

She grew up in east Texas, going to school in Kilgore.

The family moved to Fort Worth, when Jo Gail was about age 12-13.

She attended Rosemont Junior High and Paschall High School in Fort Worth. She played the piano from an early age, even playing the Timpani drums in the high school orchestra. After graduation she attended Mary Hardin Baylor College in Belton, TX for a couple of years, studying music. She met her future husband Montecue Judson Lowry at that time, a career army officer. They were married for about 30 years. They had one child, a daughter, Mary Gail Lowry.

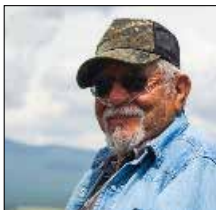
Being an army wife, travel was the norm. Living in a number of states and also in Germany. During these years, Gail played the organ at a number of army chapels and also taught piano lessons. She enjoyed volunteer work.

Eventually settling in Fort Worth, she worked at the Southwestern Theological Baptist Seminary for the music department. Playing for voice lessons and recitals for students. Gail also played organ for a couple of different churches. One being Arlington Heights Christian Church. She spent a number of years as music secretary at University Baptist Church. Gail moved to Red River, NM about 25 years ago to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. She continued to teach piano lessons, and played the organ at United Church of Angel Fire for a few years, Still enjoying volunteer work. Last church membership was Saint James Episcopal Church in Taos, NM.

Gail passed away Mar. 21, 2026 at Taos Retirement Village in the assisted living facility. She is survived by her daughter, Mary Lowry Peterson (Christopher); grandchildren, Erik Alton Peterson and Katherine Gail Peterson (Kevin Savino-Riker).

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to a local choir or music organization.

Written condolences may be sent to the family in Red River, NM : PO Box 404 Red River, NM 87558



Roger Ernest Ortega
d. Apr. 29, 2026

Roger E. Ortega passed away peacefully on April 29, 2026.

Roger was born on Mar. 9, 1941, to Edilia and Alfonso Ortega in Questa, NM. He was a lifelong member of the Questa community. He retired from the Moly Mine after 30 plus years.

Anyone who knew Roger, knew he loved the outdoors. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and all-around outdoorsman. He was a Jack of all Trades. He had a talent for carpentry and auto body work.

He was married to his wife Lillian Ortega of 65 years. He worked hard to provide for his family, and family was very important to him. He raised three children. Lolita Gallegos of Las Vegas, NM, Leroy Ortega of Questa, NM and Jaime Newsome of Ruidoso, NM

He is preceded in death by his parents Edilia and Alfonso Ortega, Sister Claudia LaFore, and Brother Damian Ortega.

He is survived by his wife Lillian Ortega, daughter Lolita (Gilbert), son Leroy Ortega (Brenda), Jaime Newsome (Kim).

Grandchildren, Brianna Ortega, Carlos Amador, Amber Ortega, Kathryn Holder (Shawn Holder), and Gabriel Newsome. Great-grandchildren, Azaleah and Elyanna; siblings Ernest Ortega (Joann), Maryann Sanchez (Steve), Joseph Ortega (Elizabeth); and many other cousins, nieces and nephews.

Roger will be truly missed by many. He always had a joke, an ear to listen to and advise when needed. He was the life of the party everywhere he went.

Rosary was recited on Wed. May 6, 2026 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa. Mass of Christian burial was held on Thurs. May 7, 2026 at Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa. Burial will be held at the Angel Fire Veterans Cemetery Monday, May 11, 2026 at 1:30pm.



Michelle Renee Robinson
d. Apr. 22, 2026

Michelle Renee Robinson, age 38, entered eternal rest on Apr. 22, 2026. Born on Feb. 3, 1988, Michelle lived a life rooted in faith, love, and service. She was a radiant light to all who knew her, reflecting God's grace through her kindness, compassion, and unwavering devotion to others.

Michelle was a devoted and loving mother to her two sons, Brian Gallegos and Jesse Baca III, who were the greatest blessings of her life. Her boys were her heart and purpose, and the deep love, guidance, and strength she instilled in them is beautifully reflected in the remarkable young men they have become. She cherished every moment spent with them and embraced motherhood with joy, pride, and endless dedication.

She is survived by her loving parents, Gordon and Roberta Robinson; sister, Nicole Gonzales (William); nephew, Joshua Gonzales; nieces, Jaelynn and Alex Gonzales; as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members, and dear friends. Michelle was a beloved daughter, sister, aunt, and friend whose selfless heart and generous spirit touched countless lives.

She is preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, William and Irma Robinson; maternal grandparents, Robert and Imelda Rodriguez; brother-in-law, William Gonzales; and uncles, Wayne Robinson, Ronnie Rodriguez, and Mark Rodriguez.

Michelle earned her degree from the University of New Mexico and served as a Speech Therapist for Taos Municipal Schools. She was deeply passionate about her work and was a source of encouragement and compassion to her students, loving and nurturing each one as her own. Her dedication left a lasting imprint on the lives of the children and families she served.

A faithful and devoted member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Michelle lived her faith daily. She found great joy in serving her church community, volunteering with the youth group and serving as a mayordomo. Her faith was the foundation of her life, guiding her actions and inspiring others through her example of humility, service, and love.

Michelle will be remembered as a woman of deep faith, boundless love, and gentle strength. Her life was a blessing, her memory a treasure, and her legacy lives on in all who were

fortunate to know her. She will be dearly missed and forever held in our hearts.

A Rosary was held at St. Anthony's Parish in Questa, New Mexico, on Sun, May 3, 2026. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Mon, May 4, 2026, at Saint Anthony's Parish in Questa, New Mexico.

"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord." – Matthew 25:23



Alvin Guilbeau
D. May 4, 2026

Alvin Guilbeau passed away peacefully May 4, 2026 after a courageous battle with prostate cancer. He was born Nov. 4, 1937 in Opelousas, LA.

Alvin is survived by his wife Darlene Guilbeau; daughter Cynthia Smith (Lake); stepson Anthony Delgadillo; brother Bobby Guilbeau; grandchildren, Joe Smith (Lori), Ashley Colbeck (Logan) and their son Hunter, Caroline Smith, Ben Smith (Jennifer) and their children Quigley and Brook Smith; Alvin was previously married to Verna Guilbeau.

Alvin and Darlene are members of the congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in Questa, NM, where Alvin served as an Elder until his passing, he has served as a servant since the age of 24.

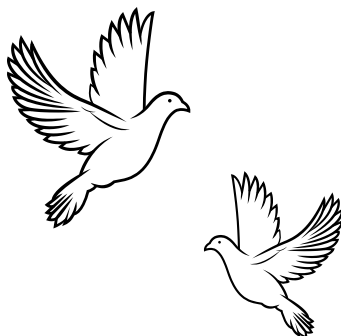
The family wishes to express sincere gratitude to Douglas and Percilla Jett and her sister Evelyn Coggins, John Butcher, Richard and Betty Cardona and their children Eleazar, his wife Sophia and son Asher, Richard Hoyle and his wife Mimi, Alex Arellano and his wife Tori, Amos Pacheco and his wife Erica, and their children Eliana and Enrique, for their invaluable care and companionship.

Thank you to all the members of the Questa congregation for the emotional and physical support during this difficult time of need. Thank you to all those who have reached out and shown Christian love through calls and prayers.

Darlene looks forward to serving in the Questa, NM congregation with all these wonderful friends.

1 Corinthians 15:26

The family of Alvin Guilbeau has entrusted the care of their loved one to the caring staff of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. www.devargastaos.com 1-866-657-4019





George Padilla Sr.
D. May 13, 2026

George Padilla Sr. was born on Aug. 22, 1931, in San Cristobal, NM, and passed away peacefully on May 13, 2026 in Raton, NM. George lived a life rooted in hard work, faith, family and tradition.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Terry Padilla; grandson, David Martinez Jr.; parents Basilio and Natividad Padilla; siblings Epumoseno Padilla, Dilio Padilla, Baldemar Padilla, Ben Padilla, Emma Barela, Della Martinez, Frutosa Trujillo; numerous brother and sister in laws, nieces and nephews.

George is lovingly survived by his children, Reena Garcia (Abe), Pam Anderson, George Padilla Jr., James Padilla; granddaughters, Sarah Garcia, Alysia Valencia (Daniel), Celeste Arellano. Great grandchildren Jed Valencia, Ezra Valencia, Jada Basinger, Amaya Basinger and Andrew Arellano; siblings Louie Padilla (Elaine), Emily Padilla (†Orlando), Elisa Casados (Hank) and Erminio Padilla.

He dedicated many years of service working at the Molycorp mine in Questa, where he earned the respect of coworkers and friends through his strong work ethic and quiet strength. He also proudly served as mayordomo for the acequias, caring deeply for the land, water, and traditions that meant so much to his community and heritage.

George found great joy in the simple blessings of life. He loved fishing in the Rio Grande, tending to his gardens, and spending time with family and friends. He was happiest surrounded by family, sharing stories, laughter, and the values he carried throughout his life. His kindness, wisdom, and steady presence will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is now flying with angels and resting in the arms of Jesus. He is complete, whole, and full of heavenly life. A piece of our hearts is now in heaven with the promise that we will see him again. We will remember George, who is no longer with us, but who will live forever in our hearts and memory.

Serving as pallbearers are George Padilla Jr., Abe Garcia, Daryl Padilla, George Rael Jr., John Martinez Jr., Jimmy Gonzales.

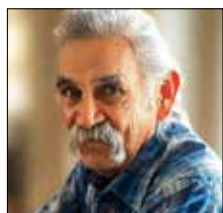
Honorary pallbearers are Jed Valencia, Ezra Valencia, Daniel Valencia, Andrew Arellano, Gary Padilla, Nathan Padilla, Kenneth Padilla, George Rael Sr.

The family extends their gratitude to the

Miners Long Term Care staff for their support and care.

Funeral Service was held on Thurs, May 21, 2026 at Living Word Ministries in Questa, a burial followed at the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Costilla, NM.

The family of George Padilla, Sr. has entrusted the care of their loved one to the caring staff of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. www.devargastaos.com 1-866-657-4019



Gilberto Sanchez
d. May 23, 2026

Gilberto Sanchez, known to many as "Panther," passed away peacefully at home in Questa, New Mexico, on May 23, 2026, at the age of 78, surrounded by family.

Born on November 12, 1947, in the small village of Llano Largo near Peñasco, New Mexico, Gilberto was the son of Levi and Augustina (Muñiz) Sanchez. He spent his early childhood in northern New Mexico before his family later relocated to Leadville, Colorado, where he attended school and developed a strong work ethic.

As a young boy, Gilberto survived a devastating accident after being struck by a car. Doctors told his family that he likely would not survive and, if he did, he may never walk again. Against all odds, he recovered and went on to live a long, active, and hardworking life. In many ways, Gilberto was a walking miracle long before he realized it himself.

Gilberto later served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War era and spent much of his service stationed in Germany, where he worked as a communication lineman. Though he rarely spoke at length about his military service, he carried discipline and resilience from those years throughout the rest of his life.

Following his return home, Gilberto dedicated himself to hard work. He spent many years working throughout the mining industry in both Colorado and New Mexico. In Colorado, he worked at the Eagle Mine near Gilman and at the Climax molybdenum mine north of Leadville during the early 1970s. He returned to New Mexico to work on the construction of the Santa Rosa Dam and Reservoir alongside his father-in-law before later working at the Kerr-McGee uranium mine near Grants, New Mexico.

Much of Gilberto's working life became tied to the molybdenum mine in Questa, New Mexico, where he worked on and off through

multiple operational changes from the 1980s through the 2000s, ultimately accumulating more than twenty years of service before retiring as a Miner First Class. During fluctuations within the mining industry, Gilberto also worked for Taos Gravel and operated his own automotive paint business, P & F Paint Shop. Many vehicles painted by Gilberto remain on the road today, reflecting both his craftsmanship and pride in his work.

Gilberto ultimately chose to forego retirement, returning to work for another dozen years as a security guard through Securitas during the mine's remediation phase, continuing to work until just months before his passing.

Gilberto was a man full of personality, humor, and conversation. Strong-willed, stubborn, opinionated, optimistic, and endlessly talkative, he could strike up a conversation with nearly anyone, especially in Spanish, which he loved to speak. Known for his signature handlebar mustache as much as his stories and opinions, Gilberto never hesitated to lend a hand to someone in need and had a natural ability as both a mechanic and tinkerer, talents that often seemed to come as naturally to him as breathing.

Cars were one of Gilberto's greatest passions throughout his life. He especially loved Chevrolets and Chevilles, a passion that never faded with age. He enjoyed collecting cars, model cars, and automotive memorabilia, and he always seemed to have another project planned for the shop. He passed away wearing a Chevelle shirt, something fitting for a man whose love for cars became part of his identity.

Even into his 60s, Gilberto also enjoyed participating in Mud Bog races with his lifted Volkswagen Beetle known as the "Mud Bug," leaving lasting impressions both on the track and among spectators who remembered his adventurous spirit and love for excitement.

Though many knew him simply as Gilbert, throughout Questa and beyond he became widely known by another name: "Panther." The nickname originated years ago after he painted a Chevelle pink for his wife Debbie. When people saw him driving the car around town, they jokingly began calling him "Pink Panther." Though the car did not remain pink for long, the nickname stayed with him for the rest of his life, and many people knew him only as Panther.

Gilberto's faith was demonstrated more through his actions than words. During a major restoration project at St. Anthony's Parish in Questa during the 1990s, Gilberto and his family helped sand and refinish the church pews through his Paint Shop.

He also deeply loved his family. Gilberto shared a brief first marriage with Rose (Mederos) Yslas beginning in 1967 and was

bleamed with two children, Gilbert Lee and Gina.

In 1975, he married Debbie Cisneros after meeting her while driving his beloved 1956 Chevy in Leadville. Together they built a family and life in New Mexico, raising Hope, Manuel "Bo," and Alejandro "Aj." Though their marriage later ended, they remained lifelong friends. His daughter Hope lovingly gave him the nickname "Honey," a name that remained close to him throughout the rest of his life.

Gilberto endured tremendous loss in recent years, including the passing of his oldest son, Gilbert Lee, in 2023, followed by the deaths of his brother John and sister Dorothy within the past year. Yet even through grief and declining health, he continued to make plans, visit with friends, talk about cars, and hold tightly to his sense of humor and optimism.

During his final months, Gilberto was surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones who helped care for him with dignity, comfort, and love. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the staff of Anvoi Hospice as well as to all relatives and friends who visited, prayed, and supported Gilberto during his final journey home.

Gilberto is survived by his daughter Hope Gonzales (Rick) of Albuquerque, NM; son Manuel "Bo" Sanchez (Jennifer Lucero) of Questa, NM; son Alejandro "Aj" Sanchez of Albuquerque, NM; daughter Gina Graybeal (Steve) of Grand Junction, CO; grandchildren Destiny Gonzales (Jeffrey Chavez Jr.), Faith Gonzales (Dino Mulay), Elliana Terry, Katelyn Manzanares (Josh), Marissa Sanchez, Danté Sanchez (Nina), Maurice Armstrong, Monique Armstrong, and Halle Graybeal; and great-grandchildren Jeffrey Chavez III, Serenity Chavez, Noelle Mulay, Nova Lee Manzanares, Ezra Manzanares, London Manzanares, Sicily Sanchez, and Meshia Armstrong.

He is also survived by his daughter-in-law Sandy Sanchez of Grand Junction, CO; his lifelong friend and former wife Debbie Sanchez of Albuquerque, NM; sister Alice Sanchez of Brighton, CO; brother Floyd Sanchez (Margie) of Thornton, CO; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and friends.

Gilberto was preceded in death by his parents, Levi and Augustina Sanchez; son Gilbert Lee Sanchez; grandson Michael Armstrong Jr.; brothers Leo Sanchez, John Sanchez (Evangeline), Baby Paul Sanchez, Paul Sanchez, and Levi Sanchez Jr.; sisters Dorothy Mascarenas (Robert) and Shirley Sanchez; along with many other relatives and friends who welcomed him home.

As family and friends remember Gilberto, they remember a man who lived with grit, humor, stubborn determination, and heart — a man who could spend hours talking about

cars and oldies, listening to New Mexico music, and enjoying New Mexican cuisine and rooting for the Denver Broncos; a man who worked hard through life's hardships, prayed quietly through his actions, and left behind stories, laughter, and memories that will continue riding down the roads of northern New Mexico and Colorado for years to come.

The family of Gilberto Sanchez has entrusted the care of their beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend to the compassionate staff of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos. www.devargastaos.com



David Satrun
d. Apr 17, 2026

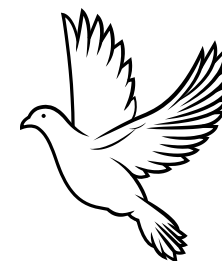
There are people who move through the world quietly, and then there are those who leave it marked-by the things they built, the landscape they loved and the way they made others feel cared for. David Satrun was one of those.

David Satrun, age 69, quietly passed away on Apr. 17 in his home in Costilla, NM. He was at heart, a mountain man- someone who understood the rhythm of the seasons and the land. He would pick apricots for the homemade jelly to share with friends. In the fall he would begin making his kimchi with the same care he gave to everything he created.

Under his hands ancient bristlecone pine would become expertly crafted heirloom pieces. He was a master carpenter and furniture maker, recognized not just for his skill, but for the spirit in each piece of salvaged wood. In his hands the work became something lasting. Like the relationships in much of his life, his work was built to endure.

He is survived by his siblings Eugene Satrun, Micheal Twidwell, Peter Satrun and Krista Cibis and by his circle of friends. Above all, he is remembered for his wildflower bouquets, music playing from his red Beetle, and most of all for his warmth and his love.

He will be dearly missed and there will always be a place for him around a late night bonfire.



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN JUNE!

JUNE 4: THUR 12 - 1 PM
FREE Bridging the Digital Gap: Tech Support with Monica McClelland. More info email qbb-coordinator@QuestaEDF.com @ Questa Public Library See ad on page 23

5:30 - 7 PM
FREE PIZZA PARTY WORKSHOP for teens and job seekers. More info email qbb-coordinator@QuestaEDF.com @ Questa Public Library See ad on page 23

5:30 PM
Two Step Classes for Beginners with Mile Hinton (dance barefoot, socks or slippers). FREE/BY DONATION 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

JUNE 11: THUR 5:30 - 7 PM
FREE Budgeting & Funding: Money Stuff with Katherine Flory, CEO of Questa Credit Union (Business Quest Workshop Series). More info email qbb-coordinator@QuestaEDF.com @ Questa Public Library See ad on page 23

JUNE 13: SAT 8 AM
2026 KCEC Annual Meeting Join your neighbors and the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative team as we celebrate a decade of partnership with Guzman Energy and discuss the future of local power. @Taos High School Gymnasium FREE lunch provided for all attendees! See ad on page 25

JUNE 18: THUR BY APPT
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting with Anwar Kaelin. More info email qbb-coordinator@QuestaEDF.com @ Questa Public Library See ad on page 23

5:30 - 7 PM
Marketing, Advertising & Branding with Tatiana Salcedo, UNM-Taos HIVE. (Business Quest Workshop Series) More info email qbb-coordinator@QuestaEDF.com @ Questa Public Library See ad on page 23

JUNE 19 - 21: FRI - SUN
Vino in the Valley: This event will be open Friday-Sunday, Jun. 19 to 21 from 10 a.m. to 6p.m, and 5 p.m. on Sun. Vino in the Valley is hosted by the Red River Chamber of Commerce. @ Brandenburg Park in Red River

JUNE 19: FRI 2 - 4 PM
Family storytelling event with Twirl at Yoga Sala w/ Amber Vasquez. Musician Robert Quijano brings the music! We'll experiment with fun, hands-on activities using adobe and our imaginations FREE/BY DONATION 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org See article on page 14

JUNE 20: SAT 2 - 4 PM
Voces de Nuestro País Remedios de Nuestra Tierra Exploring remedies from our land, traditional knowledge of the Earth, plants, and their power to heal. Our guest is Erica Vigil-Flores, a Chimayo native and practitioner of Traditional Medicine. @ Questa Public Library See article on page 22

5:30 PM
Two Step Classes for Beginners with Mile Hinton (dance barefoot, socks or slippers). FREE/BY DONATION 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

JUNE 26 - 28: FRI - SUN
Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Conference @ Sagebrush Inn and Suites. Prices vary from \$75- \$195 Register online. <https://www.gshaa.org/event-details/gsha-2026-conference-taos-nm> See article on page 24

Weekly Events

SUNDAY

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

9:00 AM
Qigong, with Julian, in person, in person, \$10-\$15

MONDAY

10 AM
Free/By Donation Community Seated Yoga Practice with Harmony, 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, 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

TUESDAY

Nothing scheduled at time of publishing

WEDNESDAY

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

11 AM
Power yoga - with Gaea, in person only, \$10-\$15 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

5:30 - 7 PM
Chess Club, Practice Puzzles, Occasional lectures & casual play. All ages and levels. Questa Public Library. 1/2 Municipal Park Road (575) 586-2023

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, 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

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

SATURDAY

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

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.

www.rccquesta.org

65 S. Kiowa Rd, Questa, NM
 (corner of S. Kiowa + Old Red River Rd)

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QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH

Rev. Jason Pettigrew (575) 586-0470
 Sunday 8 a.m.
 Sunday noon mass

MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:

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.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

2478 NM-522, Questa (575) 586-1947

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.herbertson@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



zed by duane m. abel

www.corkeycomics.com

questanews.com

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR CALENDAR?

List your event online for free on the online calendar at questanews.com/questa-events, email events@questanews.com

DINING GUIDE

QUESTA



- Thursday Night Jam Session - 6pm
- Espresso - Chai - Tea (Punch Cards Available)
- NM Made Products
- Local Art
- Shower Facilities

2430 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556

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NOTICES

Wanted

Want to buy a placer gold claim. Please email me at johnge9753@gmail.com if you or someone you know wants to sell. Thanks.

Jobs

Mountain Home Health Care is hiring part-time compassionate caregivers. \$15/hr. to start. Please stop by to fill out an application at 630 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur Suite 180 Taos, NM 87571 or download off our website at mtnhomehealth.com.

Be an Intern, learn skills, have fun. for Internship at the Questa Farmers Market email growersmakers@gmail.com.

Learn the buisness of local agriculture in Cerro. For positions and more info visit Cultivocultivoproject.org/jobs.

Red River Brewery & Distillery: Now hiring all positions for summer! Part time or full time. Year-round or seasonal. Fun work environment! Employee discounts on food, drinks, and merch. Health, dental and vision insurance available. Opportunities for advancement. Apply at <https://www.redriverbrewing.com/about-us/#hiring-info>

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)

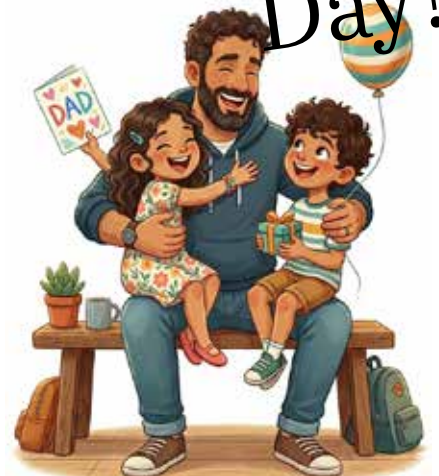
Questa Senior Center Lunches- served from noon to 1 p.m. and the recommended donation is upward of \$1.50 each. Lunch is no longer served to-go. Questa Senior Center, 148 Embargo Rd, Questa. Call (575) 586-0508 for more information.


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 ncfpquesta.com or mail to: North Central Food Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM 87556. For more information, please email wrmesquire2@gmail.com. If you would like to volunteer, please call Jeannie (numbers above).


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.

Happy Father's Day!





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