



Questa del Rio News

QUESTA • RED RIVER • CERRO • COSTILLA • AMALIA • LAMA • SAN CRISTOBAL

IN THIS ISSUE



COMMUNITY NEWS

As Cerro Endures Two Months Without Water, Local Business Owner Leads Community Relief..... Page 3

TiraLera Advances: Four Housing Models And Local Priority Slatd for Former Chevron Site..... Page 4

Questa, Cerro and Costilla Gas Stations Experience Fuel Shortages Amid High Demand..... Page 14

Community Business Steps Up: J&L And LOR Foundation Host Successful Trail Cleanups..... Page 15

EDUCATION

Questa Independent School District Prepares For 2026-27 School Year..... Page 8

New Questa Superintendent Hopes To Strengthen Schools While Preserving Community Traditions..... Page 9

ARTS & CULTURE

Taos Plaza Live Returns With Free Five-Week Summer Concert Series..... Page 16

Questa Art Tour..... Page 18

The History Of Red River's Little Red School House..... Page 21

OBITUARIES

Naomi May Cardenas
Cora Victoria Barela-Cardenas
Jon Carlton Gauna..... Pages 28

Cerro Residents Endure Weeks Of Uncertainty As Water Crisis Continues



Photo by Lora Arciniega

Cerro Local Carol Quintana can be seen refilling her water containers at the Cerro Community Center on July 17, 2026

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

For two months, the people of Cerro have lived without one of life's most basic necessities — reliable running water. Every day has become a routine of hauling bottled water, making difficult choices about cooking, bathing and cleaning, and wondering when normal life will return.

On Friday evening (July 17), a community meeting at the Cerro Community Center offered residents a measure of hope, it also underscored the reality that their wait is not yet over.

Representatives from the New Mexico Environment Department, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New Mexico Rural Water Association, and the Cerro Water Association gathered to provide residents with the latest updates on efforts to restore the community's water system.

Among those in attendance were Joe Martinez, chief of the New Mexico Environment Department's Drinking Water Bureau;

Avery Young, major domestic waste team lead with the department's Ground Water Quality Bureau; Brittany Coriz, an EPA technical assistance specialist with the New Mexico Rural Water Association; and Cerro Water Association President Vilma Bailon, along with Vice President Tomas Tharnish and board member Michael Montoya.

Officials shared encouraging news that recent water quality samples met safe drinking water standards. Although elevated iron and manganese levels may cause the water to appear brown or discolored when service resumes, they emphasized that the water remains safe. Even so, residents left the meeting without the answer they most wanted to hear, a definitive date when they will once again have water flowing from their taps.

The largest hurdle remaining is final state approval of the replacement well permit.

Officials explained that the engineering firm submitted the required application on July 13. While the normal review process can take 30 to 60 days, Martinez and Young

expedited the review, returning comments to the engineering firm within just three days. Once the requested revisions are completed and the permit receives final approval, the New Mexico Rural Water Association can begin pumping water into the system.

From that point, restoring service will take approximately four days. Officials said about two days will be needed to pressurize the water lines, followed by another two days to chlorinate and disinfect the system before water can safely reach customers. The Cerro Water Association will notify residents before that work begins.

Although the meeting provided a clearer picture of the process, it also highlighted the challenges facing Cerro beyond the current outage.

Officials acknowledged there is no guarantee the replacement well will provide a permanent solution. With the local water table continually dropping, it is impossible to predict how long the new well can

CERRO WATER CRISIS cont'd on page 7

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Questa del Rio News

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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:*

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TONER MITCHELL

LIZ VAUTOUR

PAUL PASSINO

BRENDALEE REIPLINGER

DUANE ABEL

SHARON NICHOLSON

JEREMY ORTEGA

BARBARA TRACY

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Distribution/*Distribución*

distribution@questanews.com (575) 613-6510

LORA ARCINIEGA Calendar Coordinator/Coordinadora de calendario

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PO Box 1072

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

OP ED: For The Love Of Questa

By OM JAYA

Kit Carson Electric's (KCEC) massive hydrogen plant in Questa is being pushed forward against public dissent, and at the risk of environmental impact and the health and safety of our community. This hydrogen plant threatens the beauty of Questa forever.

KCEC has used clever advertising to sway public opinion. They publish articles on why it is good for you to support them, their tone is of concern for public interest, but when asked for environmental, health and safety assessments, they often reply unrealistically. As our community wakes up to this undeveloped proposal, push back is rapidly increasing and the community's questions of concern are not being fully answered. Luis Reyes of KCEC tells us everything's in order and shows no legal proof and the mayor of Questa, John Ortega remains silent. The latest statement from KCEC is the most alarming, that they have done an impact study in the event that the hydrogen plant explodes. An explosion impact report looks good on paper, but how can we predict the unpredictable power of nature? KCEC is not respecting the voice of their cooperation but instead acting like a capitalist group.

Why is KCEC so desperate to begin this project?

The best laid plans of mice and men is an expression to signify, despite careful planning, projects can still fail and cause grief. Big promises often lead to big problems. Nationally the list of industrial disasters (all approved by the EPA and USDA) is rapidly growing and let's not forget the Chevron/Molycorp mine in Questa, years after its closure, tragic truths continue to surface. Guilty companies back out of harmful projects after they've taken enough resources and their stockholders are satisfied. These capital groups make promises to restore and balance the land they've destroyed and always fall short of their commitments. While capital groups make millions, a few locals earn well, but the environmental destruction is done, and serious health issues emerge. The shadow of dishonest corporations and soft-handed representatives linger forever.

And now we are faced again with a

potential Mice and Men story.

The construction of hundreds of acres of solar panels in our backyard has already begun. Large trucks contracted by the company Konesto discreetly deliver building materials during the odd hours of the night. Waking local residents at 3 a.m.

This pilot (pilot meaning experimental) has rightfully been upsetting local and national citizens who have taken the time to research and uncover the fact that this solar array and hydrogen facility will be negatively influenced by the extremely toxic tailings dumped years ago from the Chevron/Molycorp mine. These toxic tailings are hidden from view by rolling hills that the elk once but no longer roam. This proposed hydrogen plant and solar array will scar the Village of Questa forever. (yes I intentionally repeated the word forever).

We are the ones we have been waiting for, so let's step up and protect our rights to have influence on the land we live and love. Worldwide, alternative clean methods of creating and storing energy are rapidly being developed and hydrogen continues to propose challenges. KCEC needs to imagine a back-to-the-land picture of Taos and not support one of corporate industrial takeover. Getting back to the land is not a fantasy, it's a necessity. We don't need an eye sore dinosaur (hydrogen plant) that will become obsolete while it is breaking down. A construction mistake like this will not weaken but will challenge the spirit of our people and discolor Questa's already tarnished past.

But, there is hope. A new wave of conscious and vibrant awareness is rising in Taos County. One of regeneration and revival. A vision of returning to community, local culture, foods and arts, one of giving rights back to the land and taking responsibility for its uses. Lets nourish the nature we are famous for, not stress it with thousands of solar panels and hydrogen plants.

What if our children and their children and the elk and eagle could speak.

Will they have to fight for the health and safety of their lives and the protection of the environment, and will their cries fall on deaf ears?

No, we as concerned citizens won't let that happen.

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As Cerro Endures Two Months Without Water, Local Business Owner Leads Community Relief

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

As the Cerro community enters its second month without running water, one local business owner has turned compassion into action, organizing meals, supplies and other assistance for residents facing daily hardships.

Frank Rael, owner of Frank's Eats and Sweets, has spent the past several weeks coordinating donations and volunteers to help families in the village, where many residents are elderly and continue to struggle without reliable water service.

Rael said helping Cerro was a natural decision. He grew up around the community, where his two sisters still live, and he continues to spend much of his time there. His mother also had deep family ties throughout the village.

"I know everyone there," Rael said. "It's home."

His efforts began with preparing and serving dinner for the community's elders. From there, the project grew as Rael reached out to local grocery stores and businesses for donations.

Working alongside volunteers Gloria Vigil, Frances Martinez and Lita Mead, Rael helped collect fresh fruit to assemble baskets for families throughout Cerro. Volunteers also assisted with delivering the baskets to residents.

The support has expanded beyond food. Rael organized donations to help residents with laundry expenses, collecting about \$700 in quarters along with detergent and other laundry supplies so families could wash their clothes while coping with the ongoing water shortage.

In July, Rael and volunteers served a turkey dinner to local families, providing a hot meal while eliminating the need for residents to cook or wash dishes at home.

The efforts continued through July as Capo's donated 10 large pizzas along

with 10 additional large pizzas and wings, to provide another meal for families affected by the outage.

Rael said the response from local businesses has been overwhelming, with many eager to contribute once they learned about the community's needs.

"Everyone has been willing to help out," he said. "People have been very appreciative."

He said the prolonged outage has been especially difficult because many Cerro residents are senior citizens, making everyday tasks significantly more challenging.

"It's exhausting because right now I'm going the extra mile," Rael said. "But it's worth it for me. We'll continue to do what we're doing to help the community."

Rael credits his late mother for inspiring his commitment to serving others.

"My mom used to tell us, 'Never get tired of doing good,'" he said. "She was a cheerful giver, and I've carried that with me."

He hopes the community effort encourages others to lend a hand when they can.

"You never know when you'll be the next one who needs help," Rael said. "Hopefully it inspires more people to give."

While Rael has become a familiar face in the relief effort, he said recognition has never been his goal.

"I'm not doing it for publicity or a tax write-off," he said. "I'm just doing it out of the kindness of my heart."

As Cerro residents continue waiting for a permanent solution to the water crisis, Rael said he plans to keep helping in whatever way he can.

If your interested in supporting Frank's efforts, stop by Frank's Eats & Sweets in Questa to learn how you can get involved.



Photo by E. Wilde

Frank Rael at his reopening of Frank's Eats & Sweets in Questa on Jan 12, 2026



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SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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TiraTera Advances: Four Housing Models And Local Priority Slated for Former Chevron Site

By LORA ARCINIEGA

The TiraTera sustainable development project is entering its next phase, moving from broad planning concepts toward tangible housing models designed specifically for the needs of the Questa community.

Led by environmental entrepreneur Omar Fayed and CTO Baptiste Cunin of ESTEE (Earth Space Technical Ecosystem Enterprises), the initiative aims to help address the region's housing shortage by combining a year-round indoor agricultural facility with an affordable workforce housing community on land adjacent to the Questa industrial park.

After initially exploring other locations in New Mexico, the project team determined that the Questa area offered a particularly strong opportunity to address the growing need for workforce housing while supporting the region's long-term economic development.

Rather than following a traditional real estate model focused primarily on maximizing returns, the developers say their goal is to create housing that reflects the needs and purchasing power of local residents.

Following discussions with the Village of Questa, the Taos Housing Partnership, and members of the local community, one message emerged consistently: there is significant demand for affordable three-bedroom, two-bathroom homes for local families.

Instead of immediately launching full-scale construction, TiraTera plans to begin by building four demonstration housing models that residents will be able to visit, experience firsthand, and

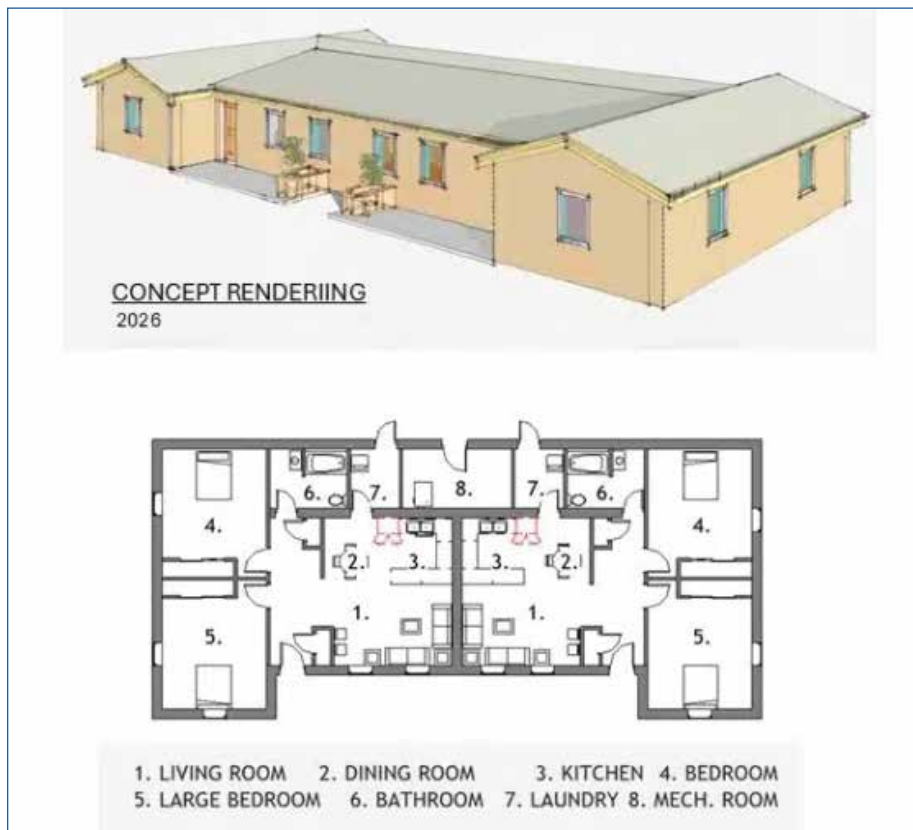


Image courtesy of TiraTera website

Proposed concept housing

provide feedback on before the neighborhood is fully developed.

The initial models are expected to include:

- A detached three-bedroom, two-bathroom home.
- A duplex containing two two-bedroom, one-bathroom homes.
- A mixed duplex consisting of one two-bedroom unit and one one-bedroom unit.
- A condominium-style building containing three separate one-bedroom, one-bathroom homes.

Project organizers believe that allow-

ing residents to walk through completed homes provides a much better understanding of the future neighborhood than relying solely on architectural drawings or conceptual renderings. Community feedback gathered during this phase is expected to help refine later stages of the development.

The homes are being designed by New Mexico architect Mark Goldman and will utilize modern construction techniques, including autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC), a highly insulated, fire-resistant building material. The de-

sign also incorporates high-performance building systems intended to improve energy efficiency, reduce maintenance requirements, and lower long-term operating costs for homeowners.

Meanwhile, environmental due diligence is continuing on the former Chevron property. The development team is completing the environmental studies and technical investigations necessary to confirm that the site is suitable for residential use before construction begins.

As additional project milestones are reached, TiraTera expects to continue engaging with the community through public information meetings, giving residents opportunities to ask questions, provide feedback, and stay informed as planning progresses.

Another important objective of the project is preserving long-term affordability for local residents. The development team is currently evaluating ownership and resale mechanisms intended to discourage speculative purchases while giving priority to people who live and work in the area, including teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, firefighters, and other essential members of the community.

By taking a phased approach—building demonstration homes first, gathering community input, completing environmental and engineering work, and refining the final neighborhood design—the developers hope to create a community that reflects both local needs and long-term sustainability.

For residents interested in following the project's progress or learning about future public meetings, updates will be posted at TiraTera.com.

Questa MVD Closed Pending New Hire

By STAFF WRITERS

The Questa MVD is closed pending the hire of a new MVD clerk. The Village of Questa posted to social media on July 8 that the MVD would be closed until further notice. Shortly after, a vacancy for the clerk position was posted.

The position is full-time and offers insurance and retirement benefits. During the closure of the Questa's office, the fol-

lowing offices are open and able to service patrons from the Questa area during their operating hours.

Red River:
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Angel Fire:
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Taos:
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.





VIDA DEL NORTE: RELIGIOUS/FRATERNAL

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FINDING HOPE AND BELONGING: THE FAITH SECTOR'S ROLE IN YOUTH PREVENTION

By LORA ARCINIEGA

If you've lived in northern Taos County for any length of time, you know how much people rely on their local churches. For generations, the religious community has been the backbone of our communities. So when we talk about keeping our kids away from drugs and alcohol, Vida del Norte knows we can't do it without the help of our local faith groups who are right there on the front lines, looking out for our youth.

Leading the charge for this sector is Pastor Gayle Martinez from Living Word Ministries (LWM). As our faith sector lead, Pastor Gayle helps bridge the gap between our coalition's resources and the families who need them most. The great thing about our local churches is that they've known many of these kids since they were babies. To Pastor Gayle and other faith leaders, a teenager isn't just a number on a spreadsheet—they are someone's grandkid, a neighbor, and the future of our town.

"Every community needs places to find hope and belonging," Pastor Gayle says, explaining why this connection



matters so much. "Organizations like Vida del Norte play a vital role in helping families impacted by substance use, and we are grateful to stand alongside them. One truth unites us: we are all broken in some way. Whether our struggles involve addiction or trauma, everyone carries wounds."

By opening up their doors and talking honestly about stuff like mental health and addiction, LWM faith leaders are helping protect kids before they get into trouble. Pastor Gayle believes the church is uniquely built for this, providing what she calls "touch points"—like worship, youth groups, and service—where people are seen and valued. "Our mission is rooted in Jesus Christ, who came 'to heal the brokenhearted' and 'set the oppressed free,'" she says.

Real Support When It Matters Most

The New Thirst Christ-Centered Recovery Program, which meets every week over at Living Word Ministries, is a perfect example. It's a place where people can go for real, judgment-free help. It shows that faith and practical, life-saving support can really work together to change lives.

But it's not just about recovery programs. Just being involved in a church gives a kid a sense of purpose. When a teenager helps out with a church activity, joins a youth group, or helps an elder in the parish, they feel like they belong somewhere. Having those positive friends and older mentors around makes a huge difference in keeping kids from turning to drugs or alcohol out of boredom or stress.

"We believe recovery is strengthened when organizations, families, and churches work together," Pastor Gayle concludes. "Living Word Ministries is honored to partner with Vida del Norte to create places where people discover hope, experience healing, and find purpose."

Get Involved

Churches are also great at getting the word out. When a pastor mentions Vida del Norte's workshops, vaping education, trouble with addiction, or Narcan training, it helps take away the shame. It shows families that asking for help isn't a sign of weakness—it's just the right thing to do.

More voices are needed to help protect our youth. If you are a pastor, church member, youth leader, or just someone who cares about our community, the Vida Coalition needs you. Join Pastor Gayle and the rest of the team at the next Vida del Norte monthly coalition meeting, or reach out to us to see how your congregation can get involved.

Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez

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

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LOR FOUNDATION UPDATE

BY LIZ VAUTOUR

Have An Idea To Make This School Year Better? LOR Wants To Hear It.

As a new school year begins in Questa, teachers, administrators, coaches, parents, and students—like you!—are full of fresh energy, goals, and ideas.

Maybe you noticed a challenge last year that could have been solved with the right resources. Maybe you see an opportunity to start a new program, strengthen an existing one, or give students new ways to learn, connect, and grow. Maybe there's something you've always wished existed in your classroom or community but haven't known where to start.

LOR is here to help turn those ideas into action.

Over the next two years, LOR will continue working alongside people in Questa to support local solutions—including projects that strengthen education and create new opportunities for students of all ages. And you don't need nonprofit or grant-writing experience, or even a fully developed proposal, to get started! Every project starts with a simple conversation.

In the past year, local educators, school leaders, and community partners have already brought forward ideas that are making a difference. A \$9,900 grant



Courtesy Photo

to Red River Valley Charter School helped purchase new desks, chairs, and cafeteria tables to better serve its growing enrollment. An \$8,997 grant to the Questa Independent School District expanded hands-on outdoor learning by providing equipment that supports field-based education. And a \$10,000 grant to Friends of the Questa Public Library is creating new literacy opportunities for teens through curated reading boxes designed to encourage reading beyond the classroom.

Each of these projects started because someone saw an opportunity and stepped forward to help.

So, whether you're a teacher looking for classroom resources, a coach hoping to expand opportunities for students, an administrator with a vision for improvement, a parent with an idea to support families, or a student who sees a way to make school better, LOR wants to hear from you.

With just two years remaining in LOR's time in Questa, now is the time to bring forward ideas that could make this school year—and the years ahead—even better for local students.

Have an idea? Start with a conversation. Reach out to Questa Community Officer Maria Gonzalez at maria@lorfoundation.org.

Nominations Open For 2026 Taos Community Foundation Nonprofit Of The Year Award

By STAFF WRITERS

The Taos Community Foundation is accepting nominations for its 2026 Nonprofit of the Year Award, which recognizes a nonprofit organization making a meaningful impact in the community through vision, collaboration and measurable results.

The annual award honors a nonprofit that has developed a clear, inspiring and achievable vision for the future while building collaborative partnerships, addressing community needs and priorities, and demonstrating measurable progress toward its goals.

The organization selected as the 2026 Nonprofit of the Year will receive a \$5,000 grant to support its ongoing work in the community.

Nominations may be submitted by board members, staff members, supporters and other community mem-

bers. Individuals submitting nominations will be asked to provide their name and contact information.

According to the Taos Community Foundation, receiving the Nonprofit of the Year Award does not affect an organization's eligibility to apply for or receive other grants offered by the foundation.

The nomination deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, 2026.

Foundation officials noted that the award is determined by an internal committee. Each eligible organization will be represented once in the nomination pool regardless of how many nominations it receives, and multiple submissions do not increase an organization's chances of being selected.

For more information, contact the Taos Community Foundation at info@taoscf.org or call (575) 737-9300.



Courtesy Taos Community Foundation

Daniel Hutchison, executive director of Localogy, last year's TCF 'Nonprofit of the Year,' speaks about his organization's work at the annual Tradiciones event.



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CERRO WATER CRISIS cont'd from pg 1

reliably meet the community's needs.

Community members also asked whether the well drilled in 2008 could simply be deepened. Coriz explained that such a project would be expensive, technically challenging and offers no assurance that additional water would be found.

As frustration has grown during the outage, so have rumors about its cause. Claims that the community's current water problems stem from financial mismanagement are simply not supported by the facts.

We confirmed that the annual spending and budget is reviewed and approved by the New Mexico State Auditors Office along with the New Mexico Finance Authority ensuring monies are spent ethically and legally.

The challenges facing Cerro are rooted in an aging water distribution system that dates back to the 1940s. Over the decades, water lines have spread throughout the community in a complex network that runs beneath homes, stables and other areas that are difficult to access. As the infrastructure has aged, leaks have become increasingly difficult to locate and repair, contributing to the

system's ongoing problems. Additionally, regional reporting has suggested that the pump burned out, however, this is inaccurate. Inaccessible leaks caused the aquifer to drop and deplete.

The current focus remains on completing the permitting process so the replacement well can begin supplying water. State officials emphasized they are working to move the application through the approval process as quickly as possible while ensuring all requirements are met.

For Cerro residents, however, each additional day without water is measured not in permits or engineering reports, but in the daily hardships that have become part of life. Families continue to rely on bottled water, conserve every available drop and adjust routines around a resource most communities take for granted.

The mid-July meeting brought continuous frustration that progress is not being made fast enough. Until water once again flows through Cerro's aging pipes, residents remain united by both hope and the ongoing burden of waiting.

Questa del Rio News will continue following this story and provide updates as additional information becomes available, including an official timeline for restoring water service.

Join us
August 8 & 9
Questa Public Library
10 am - 5 pm

SHOWCASING ARTISTS:
 Barbara "BJ" Konior - painting, crochet
 Boneta Currey-Brown - painting
 Mary F Miller - painting
 Jake and Jolton LaFore - stained glass
 Audrianah León - photography and digital art
 Questa Quilters Guild - fabric crafts

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Questa Independent School District Prepares For 2026-27 School Year

By STAFF WRITERS

The Questa Independent School District is preparing to welcome students back to campus as the 2026-27 school year begins Wednesday, Aug. 5.

District officials encourage families to review school supply lists and complete any remaining back-to-school preparations before the first day of classes. Supply lists have been released for Alta Vista Elementary, Questa Junior High School and Questa Senior High School.

At Alta Vista Elementary, students in kindergarten through sixth grade will need a backpack, reusable water bottle and grade-specific classroom supplies. Elementary students are also asked to bring healthy afternoon snacks. Junior high and high school students are expected to arrive with essential classroom materials, including notebooks, paper,



Photo courtesy of QISD

pencils and other supplies listed for their grade levels.

The district's academic calendar includes several professional development days throughout the year, as well as scheduled holiday breaks. Thanksgiving

Break is set for Nov. 25-27, Winter Break will run Dec. 21 through Jan. 4, and Spring Break is scheduled for March 29 through April 2. The last day of school is May 27.

Teachers and staff have spent the

summer preparing classrooms and lesson plans to ensure students begin the school year in a safe and supportive learning environment.

District officials encourage parents and guardians to make sure students are registered, have the required school supplies and attend school regularly throughout the year. Families should also review transportation information and school schedules before classes begin.

School supply lists and the district calendar are available through the district and at each school campus. Families with questions are encouraged to contact their child's school for additional information.

The district says it looks forward to welcoming students, staff and families back for another year of learning and achievement.



Gabrielle Gonzales

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Gabrielle Gonzales, daughter of Matthew and Georgiana Rael of Questa, has always put faith and family at the center of her life.

Growing up in Questa, Gonzales spent time with her immediate and extended family year-round, not just on major holidays. One highlight from her childhood was the "lamb jam," a tradition started by her grandfather, Malaquías Rael Sr.

"My grampo loved family time and so did my grandma Lucy," Gonzales said. "They would butcher a lamb a few times during the summer, and it brought my whole family together. It was a big party and I hope someday we can get back to that." For Gonzales, those gatherings formed the bedrock of her childhood—an experience she shared closely with her younger brother, Matthew.

"It didn't matter if family members



Courtesy Photo

Gabrielle Gonzales

were my first or fourth cousins; we were always together. I just loved it," she said. "It made me feel so proud to be part of my family. They are good and humble people who make serving their community a priority."

Gonzales, a 2015 Questa High School graduate, initially moved to Albuquerque to study business at the University of New Mexico (UNM). After some time, she realized business wasn't her path. She took time off to reset and figure out what she truly wanted to do. Realizing she was called to serve her community and protect its most vulnerable mem-

bers, she returned to UNM and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2023.

Her initial interest in combating human trafficking eventually led her to a career dedicated to protecting children at the state level. Since January 2022, Gonzales has worked with the New Mexico Department of Justice in the Internet Crimes Against Children unit, where she serves as the program coordinator. In her role, she coordinates with law enforcement task forces statewide and acts as a liaison to ensure funding is managed properly.

"I truly love my job. I know a lot of people can't say that but I really do," Gonzales said.

Moving from a small town to Albuquerque for college brought some culture shock, but she credits the way she was raised in Questa with shaping her character and work ethic.

"My parents would always tell me to be the first to say hi to someone—not to stand off in the corner and be shy, but to talk to people," Gonzales said. "I think growing up in a small town shows you that you need community and the value of hard work."

That desire to gather people started early. When she was 4 or 5 years old, she managed to memorize her relatives' landline numbers and called the entire family to invite them over for a party. Her parents had no idea until her tía called her father to ask what food she should bring to the house.

"I'm like my grampo—always wanting to be with my family," she said.

Gonzales counts her parents, her brother Matthew, and her husband, Isaac Gonzales of Taos, as her primary advocates. She also looks up to her grandmothers, Lucy and Della, and her cousin Malaquías Rael Jr., or "JR."

"I have always looked up to JR since we were kids. Sometimes I think of him as an older brother," Gonzales said. "Even to this day, I consider him to be a huge role model to me, not only in life but as a person. And my grandmothers are both super strong and hard workers. They are the ones that fuel all of us."

Today, Gonzales and her husband are raising two children, Diego and Elicia. While they live in Albuquerque, their roots remain firmly up north.

"We visit Questa and Taos every chance we get," Gonzales said. "I want to get back to northern New Mexico at some point and give our children a chance at small-town living."

In the meantime, Gonzales stays grounded by a phrase she and her cousin Lucas share: "live life living."

"It helps remind me to live life loving my family and not spend my life working away," Gonzales said. "I want my kids and husband to see that I love my job, but I always want to show them what is truly important—and that is family at the end of the day."

New Questa Superintendent Hopes To Strengthen Schools While Preserving Community Traditions

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

With two decades of experience in education and deep roots in northern New Mexico, new Questa Independent School District Superintendent Lefonso Castillo says his priorities are simple: build trust, improve student achievement and honor the community's unique culture.

Castillo brings 20 years of experience in public education to the position. He began his career as a social studies and math teacher in Mora, where he spent 11 years helping develop a math program at a Blue Ribbon School that earned national recognition as one of New Mexico's top schools. For the past eight years, he has served as principal and instructional leader, gaining experience leading students, staff and school improvement efforts.

Originally from Vaughn, Castillo has lived in Mora for about 30 years and says the similarities between the two communities helped draw him to Questa.

"What I love most is the culture," Castillo said. "The people are united, and they believe in passing traditions on to younger generations. I want to help preserve that culture."

For Castillo, those traditions are personal. His 25-year-old son is a member of the local morada, following in the footsteps of his grandfather. Castillo says seeing those customs passed from one generation to the next reminds him how important it is for schools to respect and support the communities they serve. He and his life long partner, Faith Rivera, also have two daughters, ages 30 and 31 as well as two grandchildren.

Although he is still getting to know the district, Castillo says listening will be one of his first priorities.

"It's hard to answer exactly where we're going until I get a feel for the district," he said. "I want to make a meaningful difference by building trust and improving student achievement."

One of his first initiatives will be working with the community to develop a graduate profile that reflects the values of Questa.

"I want to hear from people," Castillo said. "What do you envision a



Courtesy photo

New Questa Superintendent Lefonso Castillo

Questa graduate to be? When my child graduates from Questa, what values should they have? Those need to be shared community values."

Castillo also believes athletics and activities play an important role in a small-town school district.

"In small communities, sports and activities connect people," he said. "They give students opportunities to explore the world beyond their hometown while teaching leadership, collaboration, teamwork, discipline and accountability."

While he stresses that students come before athletics, Castillo sees sports as an important part of the district's overall educational ecosystem.

"Our students are students before they're athletes," he said. "But athletics are part of what helps build the community."

He also believes student-athletes should understand the responsibility that comes with representing their school and community.

"They should be respectful and hold themselves to a higher standard because they're representing something bigger than themselves," he said.

As he begins his tenure, Castillo has already established a home in Questa, signaling his commitment to becoming part of the community he now serves.

His focus in the coming months will be meeting with students, parents, staff and community members to better understand their hopes for the district and ensure every graduate leaves Questa prepared for success in college, careers and life.



Connect Locally, Thrive Locally: Why Kit Carson Internet is the Right Choice

When it comes to choosing your internet and phone provider, the options can feel overwhelming. Big-name, out-of-state corporations and massive satellite conglomerates constantly flood our mailboxes with flashy promotions. But before you look outside Taos County for your digital needs, it's worth asking: **Where does your money actually go when you pay your monthly bill?**

When you choose **Kit Carson Internet (KCI)**, a proud subsidiary of your local Kit Carson Electric Co-op, every dollar you spend stays right here at home. We aren't just a service provider; we are your neighbors. Choosing our local fiber-optic network and VOIP digital phone services over out-of-state giants like CenturyLink or Starlink is an investment in the future of Taos County.

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In contrast, keeping your dollars local creates a powerful ripple effect:

- **Job Creation:** KCI employs local technicians, customer service representatives, and engineers who live and work in our community.
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- **Keeping Taos Connected:** We understand the unique geography and needs of our rural communities because we live here too.

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Supporting the local economy shouldn't mean sacrificing quality. With KCI, you get cutting-edge technology that rivals—and often surpasses—national competitors.

- **True Fiber-Optic Speed:** Unlike traditional copper lines (like CenturyLink's DSL) which slow down over long distances, or satellite internet (like Starlink) which can suffer from high latency and weather disruptions, KCI's fiber network delivers blazing-fast, symmetrical upload and download speeds. Whether you are working from home, streaming, or running a business, our fiber is rock-solid.
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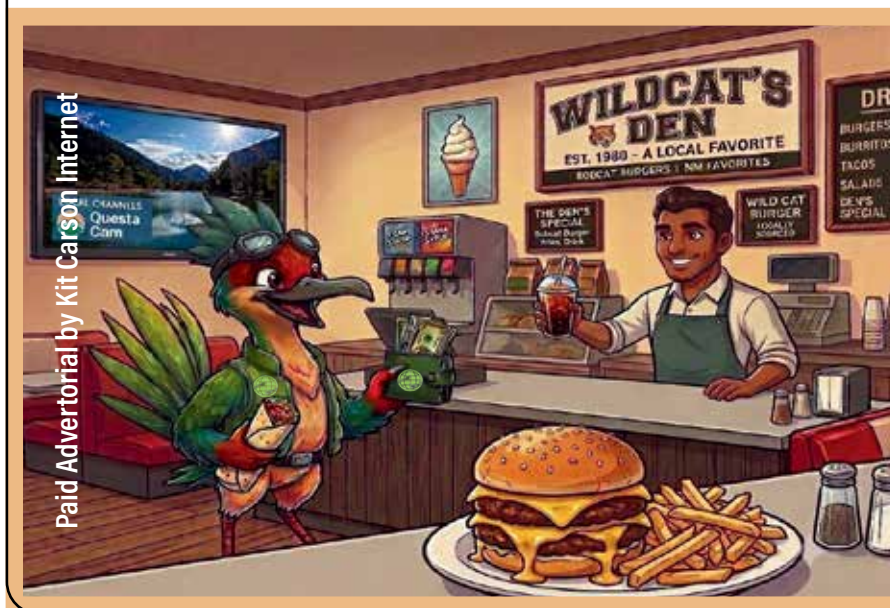
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Contact Kit Carson Internet today to upgrade to local fiber and VOIP digital phone services. Let's keep Taos County strong, connected, and prosperous together.





**QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

from the Librarian's Desk...

Sharon Nicholson

Library Returns To Routine With Exciting Fall Programs

Do you remember when summer vacation seemed to last forever? There was time for camp, family vacations,

afternoons spent reading in the shade, and endless days with friends and neighbors. Before we knew it, back-to-school shopping arrived, signaling the end of summer and the beginning of a new routine.

Today, summer seems to fly by much more quickly. As students return to the classroom and families settle into their fall schedules, the library is also transitioning from a busy summer filled with children's programs and special events to a season packed with community activities and lifelong learning opportunities.

The fall calendar begins on August 15 with Voces de Nuestro Pais featuring Daniel Lamb and Kenny Lacome. On September 12, Bobby and Dwayne

Ortega will be the Voces guests. These special presentations will celebrate music, culture, community, and storytelling, offering an engaging experience for attendees of all ages.

Returning on September 25 is the ever-popular Twirl program. Known for its welcoming atmosphere and creative spirit, Twirl encourages participants to learn, connect, and have fun together. And rumor has it there will be plenty of rubber bands involved in this month's activity!

The library's popular Wrapped Reads teen book boxes will continue through the fall. Available to all local teens—including students at Questa Schools, Red River Charter School, Roots and Wings, as well as homes-

choolers—each box includes two free books, gadgets, and snacks thanks to the generous support of the LOR Foundation. **Teens should reserve their Wrapped Reads box by the 15th of each month.**

Library staff is looking forward to welcoming patrons back as regular programming resumes. Along with these featured events, visitors can enjoy the library's collections, resources, and services throughout the year. Be sure to check the library calendar, both at the library and online, for the latest information about upcoming programs and events. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

For further information, call the Questa Library at (575) 586-2023.

Brought to you by



By LORA ARCINIEGA

On the slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, a 700-acre ranch sits between the Rio Grande Gorge and the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness. This is the Sangre de Cristo Youth Ranch, where summer camp means living together and working on a farm.

Founded back in 1985 by the late Dr. John Bud Wilson—the first surgeon to perform open-heart surgery in New Mexico—the coed camp gives young people a month-long wilderness and farm experience free of charge. Though Dr. Wilson passed away a few years ago, his family's legacy sticks around. They protect the land through permanent conservation easements that preserve the meadows, streams, and old water rights.

"Bud believed in human solidarity, so that's what we keep at the core of our program. He believed that no matter what your background is, or what your differences are, everyone can live together. Like Bud, kindness is our greatest virtue here at camp," says program director Freedom, who runs the camp today in partnership with Localogy, a northern New Mexico non-profit focused on

sustainability and youth programming.

"Every staff member was once a camper, including myself. I think this is special because staff are doing their best to provide the experience they had as children—in fact, they want to improve upon it," Freedom says.

That sense of community extends to the campers, who represent a deliberate mix of backgrounds. Roughly one-third of the campers come from the local Taos area, another third come from across the rest of New Mexico, and the final third travel from other states and even other countries. They live together in rustic cabins and participate in two main programs based on age.

For kids ages 10 to 12, the month-long Ranch Camp focuses on daily chores and group living. Older youth ages 13 to 15 attend Wild Camp, a shorter session geared toward leadership, local service projects, and back-country backpacking trips.

Campers do the actual physical work required to keep the ranch running. Daily work crews milk goats, participate in permaculture lessons and adobe work, grow food at the Lama Community Farm, clear trails, and plant trees. Everyone pitches in with cooking and laundry.

When chores are finished, campers head out for days at a time to hike Rocky Mountain peaks and visit Abiquiu Lake and the Great Sand Dunes. Back at the ranch, they spend evenings doing fine arts, playing music,

Sangre De Cristo Youth Ranch



Courtesy Photo

Campers and Counselors at Lobo Peak

practicing archery, and telling stories around the campfire.

"The heroes keeping Bud's dream alive are the staff," Freedom says. "I have my part in it, and I must give credit to current directors August and Meghan who have led the program into a new era of camp magic. The incredible support staff Juliana, Merin, Hana, and Renxian who, while organizing fun and games, ensure all the kids are safe and sound all summer. Our thoughtful cooks Keaton, Savannah, and Emily keep the kids healthy and well fed every day. To our generous cabin counselors, Sarai, Tehya, Carl, Ransom, and Grant who listen and care for every child's needs. And my dear friend Daniel who drives the bus and sings our campfire songs. Together they are on the ground giving every camper—The Best Summer Ever!"

Because the camp remains tui-



Courtesy Photo

Dr. John Bud Wilson

tion-free, spots open to new campers fill up fast. Although the current camp season has wrapped up, families can plan ahead and apply online via the registration page at localogy.org/registration. The deadline for applications is April 1 each year. Returning campers get first priority, and the remaining slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT *of the* MONTH

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.

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ATHLETE Spotlight



LILAH MONTTOYA:

11YRS OLD, 6TH GRADE, SOCCER & BASKETBALL



ACHIEVEMENTS: "I learned how to play basketball & loved it & I made a goal in a soccer game."

HERO/ROLE MODEL: "My dad."

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "I love playing each sport with my friends & I have a lot of fun."

OTHER STUFF: "I love reading books, playing with my chickens, photography & being with my sisters."



MATEO MANDONADO: 8YRS OLD, 3RD GRADE, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL (1ST AND 3RD BASE AND PITCHING)



ACHIEVEMENTS: "This last season I learned how to pitch."

HERO/ROLE MODEL: "My dad is my role model."

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "I like to play because they're my favorite sports and I've watched them since I was a baby."

OTHER STUFF: "I love to spend time with my family and play video games."

COACHING Spotlight



ISAIAH AND JACQUI ORTEGA

ISAIAH, 5 YEARS YOUTH SOCCER COACH

JACQUI, 3 YEARS LOCAL YOUTH SOCCER COORDINATOR

ONE WORDS DESCRIPTION: Lively

COACHING PHILOSOPHY: "Our coaching philosophy has always been Fun-then-Fundamentals. If soccer is fun, kids return, and fundamentals naturally follow. Helping children fall in love with the game of soccer is our goal. Wins and losses are forgotten, but the friendships, confidence, and love of the game last forever!"

ENJOYS MOST: "Coaching allows us to make a positive impact on young athletes both on and off the field. Nothing is more rewarding than watching a child gain confidence, learn a new skill, or leave with a smile."

HOBBIES: "Making memories with our family and friends! We enjoy making music and food and we value time together in our faith and other outdoor activities."

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE PROGRAM CONTINUES: "Local youth programs build healthy, connected communities. We are grateful to the Taos Youth Soccer League, Questa Schools, and dedicated volunteers. We're especially grateful to the Gonzales and MacDonald families for their many years of dedication to youth soccer. Seeing its positive impact on our community motivates us to coach. Interested in joining? Families can learn more and register at taosyouthsoccerleague.com."

APPLICATION
DEADLINE
Monday, July 20 by 3pm

2026 QUESTA PITCH CONTEST \$30,000 IN PRIZES



OPEN TO NEW & EXISTING
FOR-PROFIT BUSINESSES IN THE QUESTA AREA
WITHIN ZIP CODES 87512, 87519, 87524, 87556, 87564

THREE WORKSHOPS ARE REQUIRED
for all Pitch participants to compete for a share
of \$30,000.

Thur, July 23, 5:30pm

How to write a Pitch/Elevator Speech

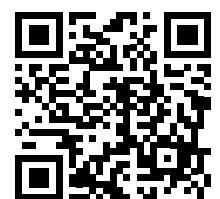
Thur, Aug 6, 5:30pm

Elevator Speech Practice & Internal Contest

PEER JUDGED, CASH PRIZES
FOR TOP CONTESTANTS

Thur, Aug 13, 5:30pm

Practice Your Pitch



Scan code and fill out online
application. Deadline Monday July 20

PITCH CONTEST!

Thur, Aug 20, STARTS at 3 pm

LYNN SKALL Director QEDF: lynn@questaedf.com, (575) 586-2149

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



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

Brought to you by



By LORA ARCINIEGA

Now in its third year under the dedicated coordination of Jaclyn Tregle—a K-2nd grade teacher at Roots & Wings Community School in Lama—and her team of 7 full time camp counselors—Justin Powers, Spencer Warnock, Jessamy Morby, Esperanza Quintana, Delilah Rael, Melinda Rael, Mariana Ortega, along with part-time help from Amalia Gonzalez—the Vida del Norte Camp has become a highly anticipated summer tradition for youth in Questa and the surrounding areas.

Vida del Norte Coalition originally launched its summer camp program in 2019 as part of its core mission to provide healthy, positive alternatives for local youth and prevent substance misuse. By keeping kids engaged, active, and connected to their peers, the camp fills a vital need in the community. The program is made possible through a combination of federal and state grant funding secured by the coalition, alongside generous community donations, ensuring that financial barriers never keep a child from participating.

Geared toward 5 to 12-year-olds, the camp operates Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (with flexible pickup times), using the Youth Center near the Questa Public Library as its base camp. Over the course of 12 days throughout late June and July, campers dive into a packed schedule of morning and afternoon activities.

The main goal of the camp is simple: get kids out into nature, away from screens, and exploring the incredible beauty of our own backyard.

Water play is always a massive hit. Campers frequent local favorites like Eagle Rock Lake for fishing and swimming, the Red River Fish Hatchery, Wild Rivers, Columbine Trail, the John Dunn Bridge, and floating down the Rio Costilla at RCCLA. Throughout these outdoor adventures, campers frequently spot local wildlife, including bighorn sheep at Wild Rivers, snakes,

and raptors along the trails.

Back at base camp, favorite activities include graffiti rock art with Mark Lewis Wagner, dance sessions with Monica McClelland, natural print making art with Claire Coté and the highly anticipated water day at base camp complete with relays, limbo and a presentation from the Questa Fire Department. Through it all, Jaclyn and her staff pro-

mote outdoor play and environmental education, teaching campers to respect nature and the land they live on.

To ensure the program remains accessible to all local families, camp is entirely free for those who need it, while families who are able to pay or donate are welcome to do so.

Parents consistently share how much their children look forward to the

program each summer. As one parent shared, “My child has found a new respect for nature and the outdoors. Jaclyn and her camp counselors teach the children how to live and play in nature, and each day is something for my child to look forward to.”

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LOR
FOUNDATION

Connecting Youth With Nature: Inside The Vida Del Norte Summer Camp



Courtesy photo

Vida Del Norte Campers and Counselors



Photo by Jaclyn Tregle

Campers cool off in a waterfall during an adventurous hike up Columbine Creek Trail



Photo by Jaclyn Tregle

Rafting down the Rio Costilla in RCCLA



NORTEÑAS CONNECT

WHEN WOMEN CONNECT, COMMUNITIES THRIVE.

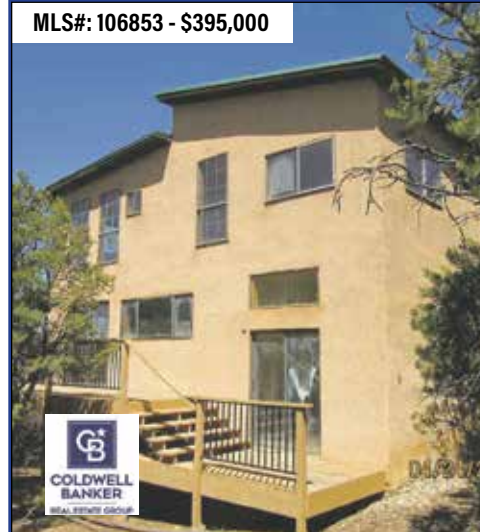
WOMAN OF THE MONTH: JULY 2026
ROSALIE ORTEGA



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



MLS#: 106853 - \$395,000



A mountain home needs finishing. Wooded lot, grand western views. Finish this mountain house for a wonderful three level home, with well. Propane. Well is drilled.

Listed by Peter French
Coldwell Banker
Mountain Properties
Mobile: (575) 770-4322
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MLS#: 114608 - \$395,000



Just north of Questa, this 1.34-acre former herb farm features a 1,700 sq. ft. main house with sunroom and a 700 sq. ft. guest studio. Enjoy an artist studio, bocce court, water cisterns, and stunning Sangre de Cristo views.

Listed by Peter French
Coldwell Banker Mountain Properties
Mobile: (575) 770-4322 Main: (575) 758-8673



WILDFIRE MITIGATION UPDATE

Keeping Northern New Mexico Safe, Resilient, and Powered

"Lifting fire restrictions is encouraging, but it does not mean the wildfire threat has disappeared... Public safety must come first."

— Luis A. Reyes Jr., CEO, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

1. Active System

Maintenance & Upgrades

- **Local Crews at Work:** KCEC crews are performing critical system maintenance and inspections in the Peñasco and Questa areas.
- **Modernizing the Grid:** Upgrading older equipment to modern vacuum reclosers to isolate faults, speed up repairs, and boost reliability.
- **Driver Safety:** Please slow down and give our crews room to work along roadways and near power lines.

2. Advanced Technology for Early Detection

- **Expanding AI Cameras:** Partnering with NMSU to add three new Edge AI cameras (for a total of eight) in strategic areas like Taos Canyon and Upper Red River for 24/7 smoke and flame monitoring.
- **Satellite & Risk Intelligence:** Utilizing AiDash satellite data for vegetation management and Firescape for real-time fire-weather intelligence.

3. Operational Safety Measures

- **Non-Reclose Operations:** To prevent potential ignitions, automatic power restoration remains disabled in key areas.
- **Expect Longer Patrol Times:** Crews must visually inspect lines before power is safely restored during an outage. We appreciate your patience as we prioritize safety.

How You Can Help

- **Stay Alert:** Monsoonal lightning and dry vegetation can still spark fires quickly.
- **Vegetation Safety:** NEVER attempt to trim trees near power lines yourself. Contact KCEC to handle it safely.

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

For more information and updates, visit kitcarson.com



Kit Carson Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Funding is limited and distributed on a qualifying basis—apply early!

Questa, Cerro and Costilla Gas Stations Experience Fuel Shortages Amid High Demand

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Drivers across northern Taos County are finding it harder to fill up their vehicles as gas stations in Questa, Cerro and Costilla are reporting fuel shortages, with some grades of gasoline completely unavailable.

As of July 28, the Questa and Cerro gas stations have run out of premium and plus gasoline, attributing the shortages to an increase in tourism traffic that has driven up demand during the busy summer season.

A source familiar with station operations, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said fuel tank readings are sent to the owners every morning and evening to help ensure fuel is ordered before supplies run low.

According to the source, inventory management extends beyond fuel deliveries. "We order products as needed to fill shelves as needed," the source said

when asked about in-store inventory.

Some community members have also expressed concerns that the stations' overall product selection is not as robust as it was under previous ownership.

The source said fluctuating fuel prices have created additional challenges for forecasting demand and placing orders.

"The economy has been somewhat unstable due to gas prices fluctuating so significantly in recent months. This is making it difficult to establish a steady baseline for what needs to be ordered. It also makes it difficult to create a plan for upcoming months."

As of publication, premium and plus gasoline remained unavailable at some of the affected locations, according to local residents.

We reached out to the stations' owners for official comment regarding the fuel shortages, inventory concerns and ordering process. We did not receive a response by publication time.



Courtesy photo

Brought to you by



By LISA ANN PHAM

As we enter the halfway mark for Questa Farmers Market's 10th (and my first) season, I can finally take time to reflect on what this experience has taught me. It has been a season in transition, learning along the way as new energy meets the seasoned.

The dynamic is bound to create change, even without intention. It's part of the process.

Nature itself shows us that change is the only constant. And our market? Always moving, always shifting, always changing. Each week brings a different recipe of flavors and feel. Some weeks are electric, buzzing with energy and bursting with bounty; others are quieter, slower, and smaller.

There really isn't much we can control. Between unpredictable weather, surprise outages, parking madness, and the whole human

Transitions & Change, Lessons Learned From The Market

element, loosening the grip is the only way through. (Being totally fine with falling flat helps too.)

Just like life, we expand and contract, ebb and flow, learning to pivot and breathe with whatever each moment throws our way.

That's the rhythm.

Learn and adjust, or get run over (sometimes literally!).

In this time of greater uncertainty, we all get to choose our contribution to the greater whole. What imprint do we want to make?

With Questa Farmers Market, we continue to strive to co-create something truly unique with our Community: an accessible connection to fresh produce from known and trusted growers, small-batch food featuring locally sourced ingredients and made with loving hands, a wide variety of local musicians that lift and connect, and a lively shared space where our diverse cultures, backgrounds and beliefs come together into one ever-changing mosaic of life.

"Loving thy neighbor" starts here: with good food, good feelings

and human connection. Built together, shared together, and nurtured together in the backdrop of the most stunning of surroundings.

There's no place like it.

We'll see you at The Market!

Market Guide: Where to Use Your New Mexico Food Benefits

The Bonus Bucks Program ends August 30th. Look for the signs posted at booths for any new additions.

SNAP: Wooden Coins

- DUF (Double Up Food Bucks): Silver Coins
- BB (Bonus Bucks): Green Dollars

Participating Vendors:

SNAP, DUF, BB

- Cultivo – Farm fresh produce
- Pacheco Farm - Farm fresh produce (as available)
- Muy Chingon – Canned Vegetables
- Spirit Healing – Fresh herbs & starters

SNAP

- Evelyn's Treats,
- Memaw's Bagels & More,



USDA
Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program

- The Wild Bakery,
- Questa Bees,
- Guadalupe Honey,
- Laurel Tree Delights

August Music Calendar

Aug 2: Arellano Brothers

Aug 9: Marlo Mortenson

Aug 16: Justin Powers' Marina Trio

Aug 23: RhondaVoo Duo

Aug 30: Rattlin' Aspens Stringband

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Community Business Steps Up: J&L And LOR Foundation Host Successful Trail Cleanups

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Northern New Mexico's scenic public lands are looking a lot cleaner and safer thanks to a powerful community effort. J&L (including J&L Rentals and J&L Powersports) and Enchanted Off-Road in Red River teamed up to launch a series of community trail cleanups aimed at promoting responsible recreation and preserving the region's natural beauty.

The initiative kicked off on May 30th, when volunteers tackled the Cabresto Lake trail. While the team successfully removed a massive amount of litter, organizers noted a disappointing abundance of alcohol-related trash left behind by visitors. However, the off-road community rose to the occasion, leaving the area far better than they found it. Kent Irving from New Mexico Game & Fish was also on hand to share valuable conservation insights with the volunteers.

Building on that momentum, the groups hosted a second cleanup on June 29th at Mallette Park and the old golf course in Red River. Working alongside the U.S. Forest Service, participants cleared bags of trash and heavy debris.

Ricardo León from the Carson National Forest joined the group to speak on crucial topics, including current wildfire conditions, Stage 2 Fire Restrictions, and trail safety.

These vital stewardship projects are made possible by financial support from the LOR Foundation. The foundation funded the cleanup supplies, trash bags, snacks, and drinks, as well as fire extinguishers with mounts given to the first five volunteers at the events. Additionally, the LOR Foundation helped sponsor special trash cleanup bags that will be handed out for free all summer long. These free bags are available for pickup at the Questa Visitor Center, the J&L Powersports/Rentals location, and the Red River Chamber of Commerce.

According to the event organizers, this project is exactly what the off-road community is about: taking care of public lands, supporting one another, and setting a positive example. The work continues throughout the season. **The next cleanup day is scheduled for August 30th** to tackle the Lama trail area, and an October date is currently in the works.



Courtesy Photo

Ricardo León from the Carson National Forest discussing current wildfire conditions, Stage 2 Fire Restrictions, and trail safety with the group.



Photo by Lauren Trujillo

Trash clean up bags available at Questa Visitor Center, the J&L Powersports/Rentals location, and the Red River Chamber of Commerce.



Courtesy Photo

Volunteers help with trash pick up.

Illegal Dumping Continues On BLM Land Near Cerro, Prompting Cleanup Efforts And Enforcement

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Illegal dumping continues to be a recurring problem on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land near Cerro, raising concerns about environmental damage and the impact on the surrounding community.

Local Juan Cisneros expressed frustration over trash being discarded on public lands near the Cerro landfill located at 351 Cerro Road in Cerro. Some believe the problem may stem from confusion about where household waste and other materials can legally be disposed of, rather than deliberate disregard for the law.

In response to questions from the Questa Del Rio News, the BLM outlined the agency's efforts to address illegal dumping and protect public lands.

According to the BLM, staff monitor reported dumping locations and assess whether hazardous materials are present. If a site is determined to be safe, the agency works to arrange cleanup efforts, often coordinating volunteer events with park rangers and field office staff. When hazardous materials are identified, the BLM contracts specialized crews to safely remove the waste.

The agency also works closely with law enforcement when necessary. Officials said that depending on the severity of a dumping incident, BLM personnel coordinate with law

enforcement officers and partner agencies to investigate violations and mitigate damage.

The penalty for illegal dumping on BLM land is a \$500 fine. In addition to the fine, individuals found responsible may face criminal charges and be required to pay the costs associated with cleaning up the site.

To identify those responsible, BLM law enforcement officers regularly patrol public lands, investigate tips from the public, and use overt cameras in some locations where illegal dumping has been documented.

The BLM emphasized that illegal dumping affects far more than the appearance of public lands.

"The Taos Field Office works hard to keep our public lands free of illegal dumping," Winifred "Wendy" Brown, a spokesperson for the BLM said in a statement. "Illegal dumping impacts visitor experience, our communities, in addition to the impacts on Cultural and Natural Resources. We are eager to work with community partners to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

As dumping continues to be reported near Cerro, community members hope increased awareness about proper disposal locations, along with continued enforcement and cleanup efforts, will help reduce the problem and preserve the area's public lands.



Photo by Juan Cisneros

Photo of the illegal dumping occurring in Cerro

Round 2 Of Cultural Events Fund Awards

\$25,000 To Eight Taos-Area Events

By STAFF WRITERS

Eight cultural events celebrating the traditions, arts and heritage of Taos and Northern New Mexico have been selected to receive grants through the second round of the Cultural Events Fund, completing the inaugural year of the pilot program.

Taos MainStreet, in partnership with the Town of Taos and Taos County, announced the latest cohort of recipients, awarding a combined \$25,000 to events scheduled between June 1, 2026, and Jan. 1, 2027.

Launched in 2025, the Cultural Events Fund provides financial support to nonprofit organizations, businesses, individuals and community groups that preserve and promote the region's cultural traditions through new, existing or revived events.

The second round matches the program's first round, which also distributed \$25,000 to eight organizations, bringing the total awarded during the pilot year to \$50,000. Individual grants range from



Photo courtesy Taos Main Street

Locals can be seen dancing La Marcha in the Taos Plaza

\$1,500 to \$5,000.

The largest grant, \$5,000, was awarded to Cambalache: Harvest Festival in Conjunction with Questa Farmers Market, an annual celebration marking its 38th year in 2026. Scheduled for Oct. 10, the festival combines harvest traditions with the burning of the Cucui, a longstanding Taos County tradition.

Two events received \$4,000 grants: the Local Food Fiesta, hosted by the Taos County Economic Development Corporation on Sept. 12, and the Re-Earthing

Futures Festival at Rio Fernando Park, set for Oct. 10. The Local Food Fiesta highlights Northern New Mexico's agricultural heritage, while the Re-Earthing Futures Festival will celebrate traditional practices such as adobe construction, seed saving, textile production and animal husbandry, culminating in the construction of a community seed library.

Fiestas de Taos, a centuries-old celebration of local culture and heritage which took place July 17-19, received \$3,500.

The Puro Norte Truck, Bike and Car

Show, held June 13, was awarded \$3,000 to support its showcase of traditional music, dance, visual arts, local food and artisan demonstrations reflecting the area's Indigenous, Hispanic and rural communities.

A \$2,500 grant went to the Los Comanches de la Serna Community Event, a nearly 300-year-old New Year's Day tradition in Ranchos de Taos honoring community members named Manuel or Manuelita through ceremonial dances, songs and processions.

Two recipients each received \$1,500 awards: Taos Plaza Live, the Taos County Chamber of Commerce's free summer concert series running **Thursdays from July 23 through Aug. 20**, and Cultural Stewardship of Land and Water Across the Rio Fernando de Taos Watershed, a summer and fall initiative led by the Rio Fernando de Taos Revitalization Collaborative focused on connecting residents with the watershed and its historic acequia system.

For more information about the Cultural Events Fund and other Taos MainStreet programs, visit taosmainstreet.org.

Taos Plaza Live Returns With Free Five-Week Summer Concert Series

By STAFF WRITERS

The Taos County Chamber of Commerce kicked off the Taos Plaza Live concert series July 23, bringing five weeks of free live music to the historic Taos Plaza gazebo.

The annual summer series will take place every Thursday through Aug. 20 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., featuring local and regional musicians performing in the heart of downtown Taos. Organizers say the event is designed to celebrate Northern New Mexico's music scene while encouraging residents and visitors to gather, dine, shop and enjoy the plaza.

The 2026 lineup includes:

- July 30: Stone Daddy with Jimmy Stadler at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Chris Arellano Brothers Band with Jimmy Stadler at 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 6: Lucero Brothers Band at 5:30

p.m., followed by Katy P & The Business at 6:30 p.m.

- Aug. 13: Gabriella Salazar Band at 5:30 p.m., followed by El Grupo Mezcal at 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 20: Iriebellion at 5:30 p.m., followed by Last to Know at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and arrive early to explore businesses surrounding Taos Plaza before performances begin.

The concert series is supported by numerous local government agencies, businesses, nonprofit organizations and community partners, including Taos County, the Town of Taos, Visit Taos, Los Alamos National Laboratory through TRIAD, the LOR Foundation, Taos Mountain Casino, Holy Cross Medical Center, Taos Ski Valley, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, UNM-



Courtesy Photo

Taos, Taos Community Foundation and several local media organizations.

Additional support comes from volunteers, musicians, first responders, the Taos County Sheriff's Office

and the Taos County Lodgers Tax Grant program.

More information, including the full concert schedule and event updates, is available at taoschamber.com.

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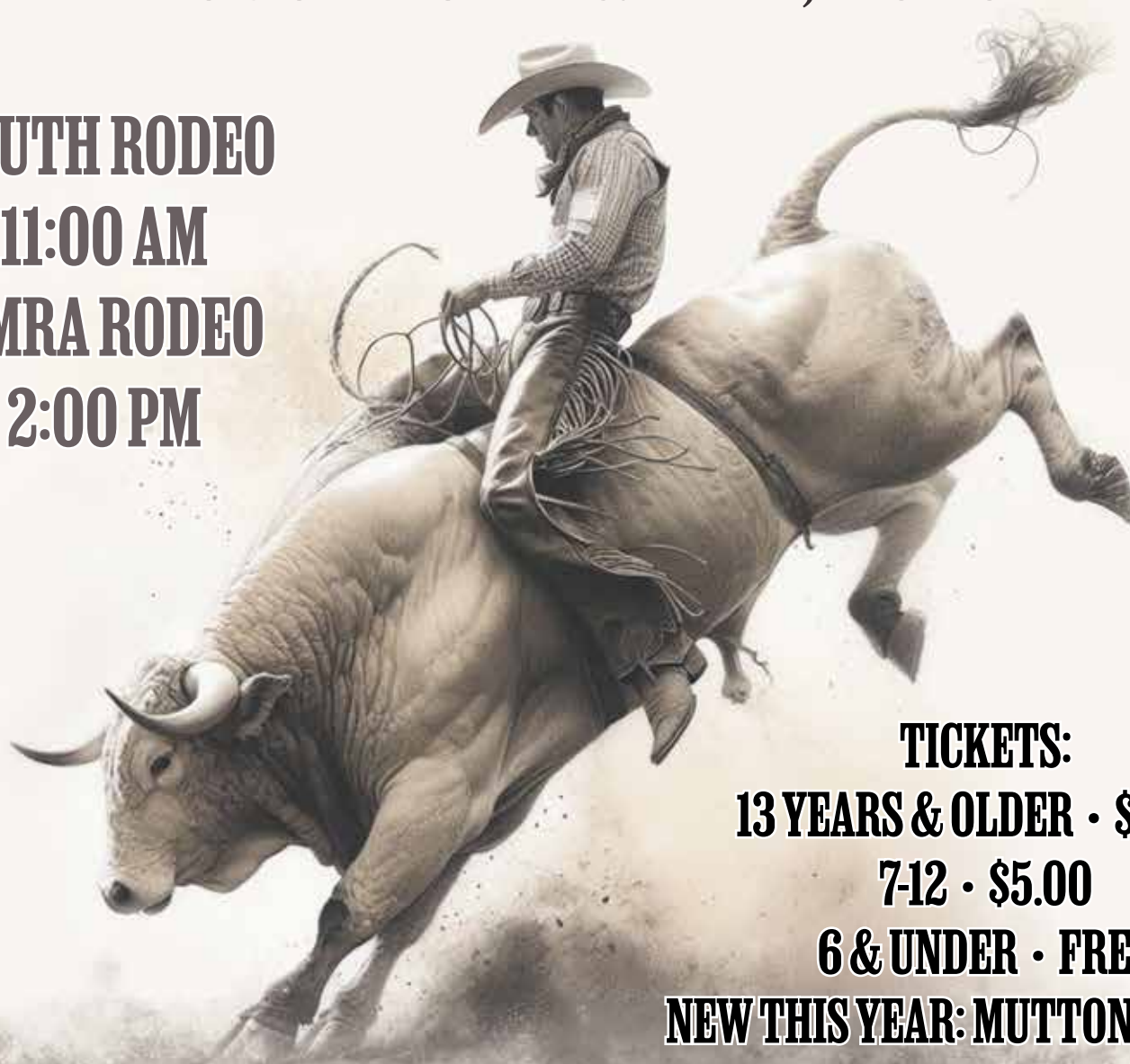
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Questa Art Tour Time Again!

Does this annual event bring the most people out in Questa? Maybe. Our tenth anniversary art tour last summer saw over 800 individual art lovers out and about in our village. They enjoyed the sheer volume of talent hiding here, and discovered local gems such as the restored San Antonio de Padua church, an exhibition stop full of local art and craftsmanship (with expert historian, Flavio Cisneros, offering insights!).

Our tour route is known for its unspoiled landscape that many from as close as Taos or Red River have yet to

discover. Now, in our eleventh year we can proudly say that our local creatives have helped raise the profile of our village, and helped instill a reputation for beauty, both on the canvas and in our surrounding public lands.

This year, the tour begins with a new pop-up gallery at the Lama Community Center just 3.5 miles south of town, so slow down at the top of Garrapata hill and be ready for some fabulous artistry. Western landscape painter Ken Geisen and multi-media artist Monique Belitz, plus guest Alma Quilian from Hondo make for a high-quality welcome at this stop #1 on the map! Stop #2 finds Evelyn Coggins at her studio just as one enters Questa, always a popular site. It is full of reimagined furniture, with unique jewelry also on offer.

New this year, Questa businesses are on the map presenting the talents of their staff, family and friends. The turn up Hillside drive finds more expert craftsmanship by the Ortega/Cisneros

family. A turn east, nestled at the edge of the Carson National Forest, are the studios of well-known painter Peggy Trigg and potter Mike Ridder, plus guest artists for the weekend.

Visitors arriving from the north can start their day at our 'bonus' studios near the state line. Award-winning painter, Karen Ahlgren, will open her studio at its repurposed old church in Garcia. On the way, you'll pass art-tour signage leading to the studio of painter Steve Gomez, a favorite from last summer.

And, between all these are more studios, and more pop-up galleries. All of this within the stunning views of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and the National Forest.

A new highlight will be the Cerro VFW, one turn west off highway 522. Eleven artists will show here, including tour favorites, some new faces, and some talented artist vets not to be missed. Surprise food offerings may be on site, and the Communities de Questa Mariachis

plan to stop by! Tour visitors really must continue down this road to find the studio of Cerro painter Mary Jo Kelly, featured in our advertising.

As usual, the neighborhood of El Rito, north of Questa bursts with strong and varied artistry. New for 2026 is the studio of ceramicist Carole Merriman. This is also where you can find the beloved Mose from the now-closed Furniture Barn, plus other guest artists. Our beloved previous co-owners of the now-closed Art Questa, Sandra and Roger Harrington, will be hosted at the impressive studio of fused-glass artist Barrie Andrews.

We hope to see all you art-loving locals, visitors, and day-trippers come out for this fabulous Questa event! Find more information at QuestaCreative.org, phone (575) 586-5658 or email arttour@questacreative.org. Tour map-brochures will be widely available, at every tour stop, plus the Questa Visitor Center in the middle of the village.



WOW art glass by artist
Barrie Andrews



Painting by Ola Sun



Painting by Karen Ahlgren



FOR MORE INFO & MAPS SCAN CODE



Blue church by MJ Kelly



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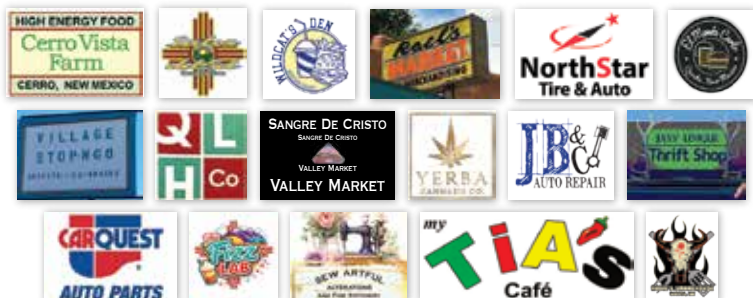


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By **CLAIRE COTÉ**
Director of Voices of
the Northern Rio Grande

Kenny LaCome & Daniel Lamb

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

Voces de Nuestro País ~ Voices of Our Area are monthly story gatherings celebrating local voices and culture. Featured local guests share stories of family, community, history, love, land, work, adventures, and misadventures.

Coming up: Voces de Nuestro País will offer two sessions in August on the 15th and 22nd. Come to Questa Library for our thirteenth session, "Daniel Lamb & Kenny LaCome: History & Inspiration". Daniel Lamb has deep roots in Taos County, growing up in Red River and attending school in Questa at La Cienega. With an academic career in Social History he worked with Augustine Martinez to establish UNM Taos. Lamb owns and manages All Seasons Inc., his family business and is serving his first term as a Town Councilor for Red River.

Kenny LaCome grew up in Taos, as a motorcycle technician and racer. He became a paraplegic after a road-racing crash in 1983, but went on to become a pioneer in adaptive sports, competing at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Paralympics and earning a U.S. patent for his sit-ski suspension design across 38 seasons of Alpine and cross-country sit-skiing. He is a Certified Living Foods Health Educator and advocate and has been growing sprouts and drinking wheatgrass juice for more than four decades.

On Aug. 22 join us for a field trip to Cerro Vista Farm 10 a.m.- 12 noon, for food-growing stories with Daniel Carmona & Gaea McGahee. Daniel Carmona has spent 47 years farming in the high-altitude, short-growing-season conditions in Northern Taos County, cultivating his own seed to select the best-tasting, cold-hardest varieties. He has been growing food commercially at Cerro Vista Farm for



Courtesy Photo

Daniel Lamb at All Seasons Inc., featured guest
August 15, 2026

thirty years. Drawing on decades in local organic food systems, he believes farms like his must form close partnerships with restaurants and grocery stores to stay relevant and successful.

Gaea McGahee is a community organizer and entrepreneur in Questa who founded the Questa Farmers Market in 2016 and owns and teaches at Yoga Sala, a community space for movement arts. In 2024, she launched the Cultivo Project, a nonprofit youth farming initiative, which trains young people in sustainable agriculture while strengthening the local food system in northern Taos County.

Looking Back: Our twelfth session in July featured brothers Joseph and Ricky León, who kept us laughing as they reflected on their upbringing in Cerro and their careers and life beyond. They shared nostalgic stories of farm life, mutual hatred for the shag carpet of their childhood home, family bonds, and local characters that shaped their community. Joseph recounted his distinguished federal career, including roles in the Forest Service and BLM and Ricky shared about his many years with Kit Carson Electric. The brothers also swapped wild tales, from legendary local figures and animal encounters to the deep camaraderie forged during many years spent as wildland firefighters. The conversation was a beautiful tribute to the traditions and enduring spirit of the region, celebrating their lifelong dedication to community and family.

Each event is recorded and released as an audio and video podcast on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music; search "Voces de Nuestro País" to find these new sessions. By sharing these stories virtually, we hope to extend and multiply the sense of community connec-



Courtesy Photo

Kenny LaCome on his sit-ski, featured guest
August 15, 2026



Courtesy Photo

Gaea McGahee with Farmer Daniel Carmona in
the fields at Cerro Vista Farm, July 2026, Photo by
Kestrel Andrus



Photo by Claire Coté

Left to right: Michael Rael, Joseph León and Ricky León, Questa Library, July 11, 2026

tion that is felt during the live gatherings. Please tell your friends and family!

MC Michael Rael and Claire Coté host these monthly gatherings and podcast episodes, 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 growing 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. Thanks to Wyman Edwards for Video Recording and Dan Kuehn for website design and upkeep. Learn more about the community archive and listen to community stories at QuestaStories.org.

Don't miss this month's events: Sat. August 15, 2 - 4 p.m. "Daniel Lamb & Kenny

LaCome: History & Inspiration" at Questa Library on and Sat. August 22, 10 a.m.- 12 noon "Daniel Carmona & Gaea McGahee: Keep it Growing" at Cerro Vista Farm, 198 Lower Buena Vista Rd, Cerro, NM.

If you have stories you'd like to share, please contact Michael Rael or Claire Coté. Email Michael at rael870@gmail.com or Claire at QuestaStories@gmail.com or call/text (575) 224-9066.

Voces de Nuestro País

History & Inspiration

Sat, Aug 15 • 2 - 4 p.m.

Location: Questa Public Library

Keep it Growing

Sat, Aug 22 • 2 - 4 p.m.

Location: Cerro Vista Farm, 198 Lower Buena Vista Rd, Cerro, NM

The History Of Red River's Little Red School House

By FRITZ DAVIS

The Little Red School House sits next to the Red River Library at the corner of Jayhawk Trail and Main St. (NM Highway 38) and houses the collection of the Red River Historical Society. It is a time machine offering a glimpse into the colorful past of the Town of Red River.

The Red River School building opened its doors in 1915, a replacement for the original log school house built on the banks of Bitter Creek in 1896 for the children of rainbow chasers who came to the mining camp beginning in 1895. The log building also was a social gathering place until burning to the ground in 1914.

The Little Red School served as a one-room school from its opening until 1942, when public education shifted to the Moly Mine school located at the mine site in Red River Canyon. It operated, however, for another 30+ years as a social center in the community, hosting weddings, funerals, dances and special events such as art shows and lectures.

The building sat on the banks of Bit-

ter Creek until 1999 when it was moved to its current location. It was originally white and, at one time, gray. The Red River Women's Club decided to paint the building red in 1962 because that was, they believed, the color a school house should be in America.

Today, the Little Red School House is still educating children and adults alike, as well as entertaining them with pictures, artifacts, and stories about the dynamic days of the tiny mining town that became a tourist destination in the mountains of Northern New Mexico.

In addition to the Red River Historical Society artifacts and photos on display, a school class-room (circa 1920s) has been created in half the 20' x 40' room. The desks, blackboard, geography maps and decorative showcase are from the school itself, saved from destruction by longtime Red River residents.

The Little Red School is open Tuesday through Saturday, 1-5 pm. There is no charge. Donations are most welcome.

The Outdoor Exhibit located behind the building includes items from the



Photo by Fritz Davis

The Little Red School House, Red River, NM

early mining days, including sections of the water piping that was part of the Big Ditch which was used to deliver water from the Upper Red River Valley to Etown for hydraulic mining. The first chairlift engine from the Red River Ski Area is also on site.

Prospectors explored the Red River Valley as early as 1879 when the Copper King mine was established. The nearby gold camps of Elizabethtown and LaBelle were partially responsible for the interest that eventually led to the founding of Red River City in 1895.

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FLOORS THAT HANDLE OUR MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLE

By LORA ARCINIEGA

In mountain towns like Questa and surrounding communities, our floors take a beating. Between the winter slush, spring mud, heavy boots, and muddy paws, a floor around here has to be more than just nice to look at—it has to be tough enough for Northern New Mexico.

For the third part of our “Building Our Community” series, supported by the LOR Foundation, we’re talking all about flooring and tile. Late summer is actually the perfect time to get your floors ready before the cold weather sets in.

Style That Can Take a Beating

Picking the right flooring up here means balancing what looks good with the reality of our weather. Over at Questa Lumber and Hardware (QLH), the flooring section is picked out specifically with locals in mind. QHL has a lot of options, including Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP)—which looks just like real wood but is completely waterproof and scratch-resistant—and classic tile that can handle the heavy traffic of a busy mudroom or kitchen.

If you want something warm underfoot for those freezing winter nights, QHL also have high-quality carpeting to make your place feel a lot cozier.

Why Think About Floors in August?

Local contractors will tell you that upgrading your floors before the first snow hits is a smart move. New floors keep your feet warmer by blocking under-floor drafts, and they don’t trap years of dust the way old floors do. Plus, laying down tile or stone around a wood stove or pellet heater isn’t just about looks—it’s a safety must-have that protects your home while giving it a new look.

Keeping it Local

We’ve seen some great transformations around town lately, from old adobe homes getting a clean tile refresh to new builds putting down resilient floors that can handle years of real mountain living. Buying your materials right here in town means you don’t have to pay massive shipping fees, and you get advice from neighbors who actually know what works in our climate.

Whether you’re remodeling the whole house or just fixing up one room, swing by this month and let QLH help you figure out what will work best for your home.

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.



By Toner Mitchell

Monsoon Season

As I write this, a mountain of clouds is building over my house. It’s growing darker, and I’m feeling the corners of my mouth turning up. Yesterday at a meeting in Chama, it rained for an hour. In the time it took to write that sentence, I’m starting to hear raindrops on the roof. So I guess the monsoon has arrived and all our problems are solved.

I know, I know. Isn’t it fun, though, to get a big jolt of hope? If for no other reason than to see the clouds crawling across the forests, to imagine animals walking out into the middle of a downpour for a nice cool rinse or rolling in a wallow, a moment of pretending might be called for.

I say this knowing that just yesterday, some rancher friends of mine say their cows are coming home looking for water. Other friends are getting in trouble for their cows going down to the creek. Even though the Jemez have been getting some afternoon storms, the ground is still hard as a rock, and the grass isn’t growing fast enough. The cows, and no doubt plenty of other animals, are parched. And the creeks are taking a beating.

The headwaters of Canjilon Creek are dry. The stream’s handful of surviving cutthroat trout are stranded in puddles separated by dry streambeds and are at risk of disappearing for all time. I’m not exaggerating. Forever. Certainly Canjilon isn’t the only stream running on fumes.

It’s weird to make such an observation without also suggesting a solution that can

be pulled off the shelf and put into action. Or, in the spirit of today’s media culture, there’s got to be someone to blame. As much as I hate to dust off the worst of tautologies, I have to say it: it is what it is. I’m afraid that’s all the satisfaction we’re going to get.

If those of us who aren’t devoutly religious haven’t done so already, perhaps it’s time to surrender to fate or, if we’re feeling confident that we might wield some influence, it might simply feel good to say a prayer or two or a thousand. We think of praying as asking for things, which certainly doesn’t hurt. But we can also give thanks. Clouds and even a few drops of rain offer an infinity of reasons to be grateful, as every churchgoer and farmer well knows. This urge to pray isn’t directed at them. It’s for me.



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Canjilon Cutthroat

Our drying headwater streams will have water in them soon. If this isn’t true, it is at least unfalsifiable. I’ll take those odds. The only alternative is to mope around the house thinking that all is lost, evidenced by the news on our TVs or smart phones. What relief will come from thinking this way? What satisfaction?

I’d rather lift up my head and marvel at the rain, maybe take in a lungful of freshened air like it’s the last I’ll ever take. Or, as the case may be, the first. That it’s falling now is as sure a sign as any that it will fall again. Prove me wrong.



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Canjilon Dry, June 26



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.

Carson National Forest Lifts Local Fire Restrictions Despite Residents' Concerns

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Carson National Forest lifted all Stage 2 fire restrictions at 6 a.m. on July 21. Officials rescinded the order after recent monsoonal storms, increased humidity, low wildfire danger, and strong public compliance significantly reduced the risk of human-caused wildfires across the forest.

They cautioned, however, that increased lightning activity is expected to continue throughout the monsoon season and could ignite new wildfires. Several lightning-caused fires were reported over the past week but were quickly contained by firefighters despite burning in areas with continuous fuels.

Although local restrictions have been lifted, permanent national fire prohibitions remain in effect year-round on all national forests, including a ban on fireworks. Visitors are also reminded never to leave campfires unattended and to completely extinguish them before leaving a campsite.

The decision drew criticism from many residents living in and around the Carson National Forest. Many took to the agency's social media page to add their frustration with this decision.

"I live next to Carson National Forest, walk my dogs there every day. It is in no way moist, despite the bit of rain we have received," Leslie Kennedy Wilson wrote on social media. "Please do not allow camp fires of any kind at this time."

Becky Mayo, who said she owns property in the Tusas area, questioned whether officials had adequately assessed conditions.

"We have property on the Tusas, it is so dry," Mayo wrote. "Had a good rain last Wednesday, but the creek is already drying up, the rain soaked



right into the ground. Maybe get out of your vehicles and walk and see how powdery the dirt is?"

Rebecca Quintana, who said she lives along the western edge of the Carson National Forest, also believes the restrictions were lifted prematurely.

"Way too early," Quintana wrote. "I border the Carson on the west side, and it's very, very dry. The rains have been scattered, and it didn't penetrate the soil. This could be a very big mistake."

Others shared similar concerns.

"Just because we got a little rain don't mean anything, the ground probably dried up right away," Cheryl Quintana commented.

"Way too early," wrote Joy Willis-Garcia. "Moisture has been hit and miss in most locations. Springs, creeks, ponds are all bone dry."

Some residents said they fear that allowing campfires could put nearby communities and homes at risk if conditions remain as dry as they believe.

Forest officials emphasized that lifting local restrictions does not mean wildfire season is over. They urged visitors to continue practicing responsible fire safety and said temporary restrictions could be reinstated if conditions worsen later this summer.



The Hunter's Edge: Gearing Up for Northern New Mexico's Fall Season

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Every fall, Northern New Mexico becomes a hub for hunters from all over. Between Wheeler Peak and the Latir Wilderness, we have some of the most rugged, beautiful public lands in the state. Whether you are tracking elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, cougar, or bear, our local unit is second to none. Because of that, hunting season is one of the busiest times of the year for Questa.

Navigating these mountains requires respect and the right gear. Around here, UTVs are essential tools. A side-by-side saves your truck from a brutal beating, lets you haul heavy camp supplies, and gives you a way to pack out your harvest. For out-of-towners, renting locally means you don't have to haul a massive trailer hundreds of miles. It's also a lifesaver if your own machine is in the shop or if you only need one a few weekends a year.

Questa is Your Hunting Headquarters

Using Questa as your base camp just makes sense. We are centrally located with quick access to the Carson National Forest, state, and BLM lands. Plus, you can grab fuel, stock up on groceries, sit down for a good meal, and get plenty of ice—which is critical for keeping your harvest fresh.

If you need a ride, J&L Rentals has you covered. They are a local, family-owned operation offering well-maintained multi-passenger UTVs built for this exact terrain. Because the J&L crew lives, works, and hunts right here, they know these mountains inside and out, meaning you can focus entirely on your hunt rather than equipment headaches.

Play It Safe and Respect the Land

Mountain weather changes fast, and cell service is spotty at best. Before heading up, download offline maps on onX Offroad (which we highlighted in our first article), keep a Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Map handy, and check NMDGF regulations. Always pack extra clothes, water, tools, a first aid kit, and tell someone exactly where you're going.

Owners Lauren and James also remind everyone to be good stewards. "Stick to designated motorized routes, respect private property signs, leave gates as you found them, and please pack out your trash so we can keep these mountains pristine."

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J&L offers a convenient pick-up and delivery service covering Questa, Red River, Eagle Nest, Taos, Taos Ski Valley, and Angel Fire.

If you use J&L Powersports for your own machine, this is a game-changer. If you break down on a trail, don't own a trailer, or can't easily load a heavy UTV, they will pick it up, fix it, and bring it back. For J&L Rentals customers, they can deliver your side-by-side right to your vacation home, local hunting camp, campground, or outfitter by appointment.

As the J&L team puts it: "Our goal is to make the entire process as easy as possible, whether you're servicing your own machine or renting one for your next adventure." Stop by J&L, say hello, and tap into some local knowledge for the ultimate hunter's edge this fall.



Courtesy Photo



This ad has been partially paid for by J&L Powersports & sponsored by the LOR Foundation

BODY MIND SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

You Are My Sunshine

As you can see from the title, I began with an old song again - You Are My Sunshine - my only sunshine - You make me happy. I will end it there as that is my point in the following words.

Within the last month I have begun sitting outside in the early morning sun and have become devoted to it as a wonderful way to set my day. I began with only a few minutes and now I linger for a longer time. It is such a peaceful experience, and I have found this time to

be deeply refreshing and nourishing to my whole body and mind. I often go out first thing and watch the sun come over the mountains. I began doing this little ritual because I simply enjoy being outside before the sun gets too hot. I have discovered that it triggers hormones that boost my mood, improve my energy levels and help me to sleep better at night.

Our body has a natural timer, a clock, called the circadian rhythm. When we experience the early morning light (without sunglasses) it signals the circadian rhythm to stop the sleep hormone (Melatonin) and start the wake-up hormone (a healthy level of cortisol). It is a reset that lets the body timer know exactly when to rest later.

Very Well Mind states that by doing this practice we experience better sleep because the morning light helps the body release melatonin when it gets dark outside. It also creates a better mood because the sun boosts serotonin which is a chemical in the brain that makes us feel calm and happy. And then it creates

more energy. It gives us a natural, jitter-free energy boost for the day.

Sunlight interacts with our skin prompting the body to synthesize Vitamin D, and Vitamin D strengthens our bones and supercharges the immune system. And because the early morning sun releases nitric oxide into the bloodstream which then dilates the blood vessels, it naturally helps to reduce blood pressure.

The objective is to face the direction of the sun but never stare directly into the sun. Just let the natural light reach your eyes.

Of course, there are those who are getting ready to go about their day and may not feel they have the time to enjoy sitting quietly in the morning sun. But for those who dare to take time for themselves, all the gifts of the morning sun take no longer than five to thirty minutes daily. It is good to know that the best timing for the early morning sun is within thirty to sixty minutes of waking up. The UV rays are mildest

between 6:30 and 8:30 A.M. making it an ideal time.

The following is taken from a poem by Christine Sine:

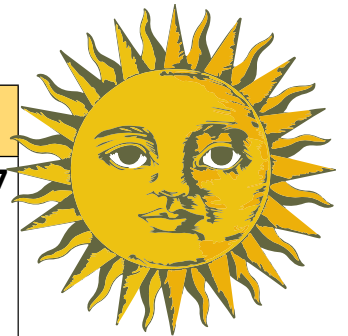
*In the Morning Sunlight
I sit in the morning sunlight
Allowing my face to feel
The warmth of the dawning sun.
I sit basking in the warmth
So beautiful,
So life giving,
I sit and breathe in the fragrance
And the joy of it.*



Gemini generated image

SENIOR MENU: AUGUST 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Sloppy Joes w/Peppers & Onions Green Beans Potato Wedges Apricots	4 Shrimp Alfredo Italian Blend Veggies Salad w/Ranch Dressing Orange	5 Hot Dogs Black Eyed Peas Spinach, Carrots Watermelon Oatmeal Cookie	6 Macaroni & Cheese Brussel Sprouts Salad w/Boiled Egg Vanilla Yogurt Pineapple Tidbits	7 Beans & Ham Coleslaw Cornbread Grapes
10 Red Chile Beef & Potatoes Calabacitas Broccoli Flour Tortilla Tropical Fruit Salad	11 Herbed Fish Wild/Brown Rice Winter Veggies Salad Stawberries & Bananas	12 Beef Fajitas Salsa, Pinto Beans Capri Vegetables Flour Tortilla Fruit Cocktail	13 Garden Salad w/Chicken & Boiled Egg Wheat Roll Apple	14 Sweet & Sour Pork, Brown Rice Stir-Fry Veggies Fortune Cookie Mandarin Oranges & Pineapple Tidbits
17 Pepper Steak Snow Peas w/Seasame Seeds Brown Rice Cinnamon Apple Sauce	18 Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/Garbanzo Beans Fresh Pear	19 Taco Burger Salsa, Pinto Beans Broccoli Salad Mixed Berries Vanilla Yogurt	20 Waffle Sausage Patty Hard Boiled Egg Hashbrowns w/Peppers & Onions Spinach Fruit Salad	21 Ravioli w/Meat Sauce Italian Blend Veggies Roll Cantaloupe
24 Baked Chicken Nuggets California Blend Veggies Pasta Salad Sliced Strawberries	25 Bean & Cheese Burrito Red Chile Salad Apricots	26 Soft Chicken Tacos Pico de Gallo Calabacitas Pinto Beans Spiced Peaches	27 Meatloaf w/Gravy Baked Potato w/Chives Green Beans Roll Orange	28 Fish Sandwich Herb Roasted Potatos Vegetable Medley Grapes
31 Pork Chop w/Gravy Rice Pilaf California Blend Veggies Salad Banana Jell-O	<i>Summertime & the Living is Hot</i>			



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.

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PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MENU IS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE



LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

Nothing Ages You Faster Than STRESS!

How do we know? Well, let's back up for a second and look at the science of aging. DNA is the genetic material that makes up the chromosomes, and each chromosome starts out with a lengthy protective cap – a specific sequence of DNA – at each end. These caps, called telomeres, are like the plastic-coated tip of a shoelace that keeps the shoelace from unraveling. Telomeres help organize our chromosomes in the cell nucleus, allow proper chromosome replication in cell division and keep chromosomes from fusing with one another.

Throughout life, though, and as the cells divide, the telomeres get shorter

and shorter. Eventually they become too short to protect the DNA. At this point cellular damage begins to occur, leading to malfunction in crucial organs like the brain, heart, liver, and pancreas. Muscle loss also occurs, and, eventually, extreme weakness and frailty ensue. Scientists are learning that when the telomeres get short enough, deterioration associated with aging occurs.

In a Harvard-affiliated study, researchers boosted the cellular levels of telomerase, the enzyme that lengthens and repairs telomeres, in mice – and saw significant signs of age reversal. Even fur on the mice that had turned gray was restored to dark fur. The researchers were surprised to see such dramatic results. In measurable ways, the mice grew younger.

Some interesting new studies focus on the relationship between stress, telomere length and cellular aging in humans. Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn, a Nobel laureate who first identified the enzyme telomerase, has examined the effect of psychological stress at the cellular level. As reported in *The New York Times*, Dr. Blackburn and Dr. Elissa Epel, a research psychologist interested in chronic stress, studied telomere length in two groups of mothers. One group had normal, healthy children;



Gemini generated image

the other group of mothers had a child with a chronic illness. Dr. Blackburn and Dr. Epel found significant differences between the groups, and found that the longer the mother had been caring for their chronically ill child, the lower their telomerase levels and the shorter their telomeres.

Although genes play a role in telomerase production, so does stress. The external conditions of a chronically ill child created enough chronic stress to affect the body's ability to repair itself. Increased stress levels, scientists found, can measurably accelerate the aging process at the cellular level. The research team found similar effects among primary caregivers for partners with dementia. A 2012 study at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston tracked telomere length in more

than 5,000 women and confirmed similar findings.

A recent study by Dean Ornish, M.D., founder and president of the Preventive Medical Research Institute and clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, showed that comprehensive lifestyle changes can have a positive effect on telomere length. His research was based on a host of lifestyle changes including meditation and showed that telomeres actually increased in length for those in the 5-year study who followed a lifestyle plan that included eating whole foods, exercising, and meditating.

If you, like most people, have accepted the belief that age reversal can't happen, you may want to challenge that belief. Replace it with a belief based on new information – it is possible to reverse the signs of aging and grow younger. Reducing stress is one of the most effective ways to do it.

*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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August 8 & 9

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

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Intermittent Fasting

I'm sure many people have heard about this dieting trend that people are using to lose weight. Intermittent fasting is a plan that is designed to eat and fast on a time schedule that switches between the two. Research has shown that IF is a way to lose or manage weight and also has the benefits of reversing or preventing some forms of disease. Most diets focus on what you eat but IF is all about when you eat.

Let's look at our daily approach to starting intermittent fasting. We start off by eating between a six- to eight-hour timeframe every day and then fasting for 16 hours. An example of this diet is to eat during the window from noon to 8 p.m. and fast from 8 p.m. all the way up to noon the next day. This is a 16/8 diet plan: eat during the 8 hours and fast for 16 hours.

During your eating time, you should eat normal to smaller size portions of healthy food such as protein, complex carbs and good fats. We can't go crazy with junk food or fried items and treats. With intermittent fasting you can enjoy a range of different healthy foods during the 8-hour time frame and in return you aren't starving yourself like other diets. Many people agree that the Mediterranean diet is a good menu source because it allows all the healthy choices from protein, leafy greens, olive oils, and un-



Courtesy Photo

refined carbs. When you're fasting for 16 hours, water and zero-calorie beverages such as black coffee and green tea (no sugar) are permitted.

The benefits of IF are not only to burn fat, but also obtain healthy end goals, such as longer life, leaner body composition, and sharper mind because of the metabolic switch that happens.

Remember, intermittent fasting isn't for everyone, but can be a life changer with benefits. IF may have different effects on different people, so always be sure to check in with your primary physician, especially if you start feeling light-headed, have nausea, or headaches etc.

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.



HEIRLOOM TOMATO SALAD WITH SUMMER PEPPERS, SQUASH & BURRATA (MOZZARELLA)

To me, there's nothing better than fresh tomatoes in the summer. Pair them with summer peppers, squash and burrata cheese (creamy mozzarella) for a wonderful summer salad. Optional is to serve with arugula, croutons or grilled garlic bread. Make sure to season generously with flaky sea salt.

INGREDIENTS

4 large heirloom tomatoes, cut into wedges and/or slices
1 small zucchini, sliced into rounds
1 yellow squash, sliced into rounds
2 summer pepper, whole
8 oz burrata cheese (2 small balls or 1 large)
1/4 cup fresh basil leaves
Flaky sea salt
Fresh cracked black pepper
Lemon Basil Vinaigrette
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp sherry vinegar
1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
1 tsp lemon zest
1 tsp honey
1 small shallot, finely minced
1 tbsp chopped basil
Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste

PREPARATION

1. Grill the Vegetables

Heat a grill or grill pan to medium-high. Toss squash and peppers with 1 table-spoon olive oil, salt, and pepper. Grill squash 1–2 minutes per side until lightly charred but still firm. Grill peppers 3–4 minutes until slightly blistered. Cool slightly.

2. Make the Vinaigrette

Whisk together:
Olive oil
Sherry vinegar
Lemon juice and zest
Honey
Shallot
Basil
Salt and pepper

3. Assemble

Arrange the heirloom tomatoes on a large serving platter. Layer the grilled squash and peppers between the tomatoes. Tear the burrata into large pieces and nestle throughout the salad. Scatter with basil. Drizzle with the lemon basil vinaigrette just before serving.

Season generously with flaky sea salt and black pepper.

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.

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By J. ORTEGA

OBSESSION

Starring: Indie Naverette, Michael Johnston,
Cooper Tomlinson and Megan Lawless
Curry Barker
Streaming on Peacock

First Impression:

First time Director Curry Barker has truly made something special in the realm of Horror and Suspense! Obsession is an instant classic that will be talked about for years to come. Newcomer Indie Naverette has burst onto the movie scene in a major way. She is a force to be reckoned with and will become a major Hollywood star due to this film.

As I have said in the past horror films are very hit and miss with me. They tend to get bogged down in how disgusting or how gory they can be. Or get caught up in cheap jump scares that do nothing to move the plot forward or make the story more interesting. So that is why I think this small indie movie by the name of Obsession has really captured the cultural zeitgeist in American culture in 2026.

First, we must examine how it became one of the most profitable films ever made. Produced on an initial budget of just \$750,000, it has grossed \$450 million at the box office as of July 2026.

In a world where social media leaves us increasingly isolated and divided, this film's ability to generate such incredible word-of-mouth is genuinely impressive. For a film to capture the attention spans of Americans at such a scale is truly special this day and age.

I must give a big round of applause to first-time director Curry Baker, who accomplished an incredible feat at just 26 years old by making the most profitable movie ever. He is also a true student of the genre, filling the film with tributes to classics like The Exorcist and The Twilight Zone.

Also, a very distinguishable feature if the film is the lighting. The film is lit in a unique way to where there is mystery and dread awaiting the characters the lighting always follows. And last but not least the film would not have been able to be this successful without the performances of these unknown actors from the Star Nikki(Naverette) to the supporting characters of Bear(Johnston) Ian(Tomlinson) and Sarah(Lawless) they all contribute and build the story around the featured performance of Navarette.

Final Verdict:

Obsession is a film that comes around once and a while and surprises and delights you as a film watcher. It's a film that sticks with you for days after you watch it and makes you want to rewatch it again to discover further details that may have been missed on the first watch. I'm sure you've seen the memes on Tik Tok and Instagram go ahead and check it out on Tik Tok it's quite the treat.

FINAL VERDICT: 5 OUT OF 5 STARS



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OBITUARIES



Naomi May Cardenas
d. June 15, 2026

Naomi May Cardenas, a beacon of warmth and unwavering devotion, passed away June 15, 2026, in her beloved hometown of Taos, New Mexico. Born in February in Taos, Naomi's life became a tapestry rich with love, dedication and an extraordinary spirit that touched all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A woman of remarkable grace and strength, Naomi embodied kindness and compassion. She was happy, loving, nurturing, gentle and calm. She possessed keen intuition, an amazing ability to listen, and a heart that was nonjudgmental, protective and accepting of everyone she encountered. Those who knew Naomi admired her not only for her beauty, inside and out, but also for her wisdom and her unique sense of humor, especially with her daughter, which brightened the lives of family and friends alike.

Naomi's professional life was marked by dedication and meticulous care. She served as office manager at Taos Foursquare Church and later worked in human resources at Community Against Violence. One of her greatest joys was working alongside her daughter, a testament to the close and cherished bond they shared.

Family meant everything to Naomi. She was the kind of mother every child hoped for—steadfast, nurturing and deeply loving. Her children, Camille and Josiah, were always foremost in her heart and mind, and she embraced the role of mother with pride and devotion. To her son, Josiah, she was the enduring rock in his life. To her daughter, Camille, she was both a confidante and a best friend, and their daily conversations became a treasured tradition filled with love and mutual respect. Her marriage to Richard spanned 45 years together, including 43 years of marriage, and was built on a foundation of love, partnership and unwavering commitment.

Naomi's home reflected her deep Christian faith, creating a sanctuary of love, spirituality and compassion for her family. She was also a gifted cook whose red chile and signature arroz con pollo became favorites among family and friends, especially during holiday gatherings where her generosity and hospitality shined.

Her passions extended beyond her family and career. Naomi delighted in the beauty of nature and especially loved hummingbirds, butterflies and dragonflies that visited her flower garden. Roses were her favorite flowers. Her favorite color was maroon, though she appreciated nearly every color except yellow. Music filled her life, particularly the sounds of the 1970s and 1980s and the timeless music of Elvis Presley, inspiring her love of dancing and celebration.

She also loved to travel, try new foods and discover new fragrances, embracing life fully and encouraging others to savor every precious moment.

Naomi was survived by her husband, Richard Cardenas; her children, Camille Rael (Daniel) and Josiah Cardenas (Kylie); her grandchildren, Catalina, Luciano, Cristian and Donovan; her birth mother, Esther Cordova (John); her siblings, William "Billy" Martinez, Joseph "Jodge" Martinez, Darlene Tafoya (Alfred), Vivian Herrera (Augustin), Paco Cordova (Jessica) and Soña Romero (Levi); along with many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Josie Martinez; her father, Benny Martinez; and her brothers, Michael "Maggie" Martinez, Filbert Herrera and David Herrera.

Naomi May Cardenas' memory remained a luminous thread woven into the lives of those she loved. Her devoted husband, Richard, her beloved daughter, Camille, and her cherished son, Josiah, continued to carry forward her legacy of compassion, strength and unconditional love.

Family and friends gathered June 25, 2026, at Bataan Hall in Taos to celebrate Naomi's remarkable life and enduring legacy. The memorial service was followed by a time of fellowship where stories, laughter and tears honored a life lived with grace, purpose and unwavering love.

Naomi May Cardenas was a treasured member of her community, a nurturing soul who loved freely and fiercely. Her spirit continued to live on in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known her, and her legacy of faith, kindness and joy remained an inspiration to all whose lives she touched.



Jon Carlton Gauna
d. June 27, 2026

With heavy hearts and profound sadness, we announce the sudden passing of Jon Carlton "Carl" Gauna on June 27, 2026, in Questa, New Mexico. He lived in Albuquerque but his heart lived in Angel Fire, New Mexico and Salt Lake City, Utah. He leaves behind many cherished memories and unfulfilled plans to spend time with his family and friends.

Carl was born in Fort Sumner, New Mexico to Charlie and Ramona Gauna on May 16, 1970. Four years later he was joined by his sister Cecilia Denise Gauna-Wigelsworth (Joel). The small family was complete when his niece Theodita "Theo" Gauna-Wigelsworth was born in February 2015. When Theo was two, she had trouble pronouncing "Carl" and called him "Caco," which he was known by ever since.

He is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents Eva and Isidro Cordova, his paternal

grandmother Inez Gauna, uncle Tano Gauna, uncle Tony Gauna, and aunt Valeria Gonzales (Ermino).

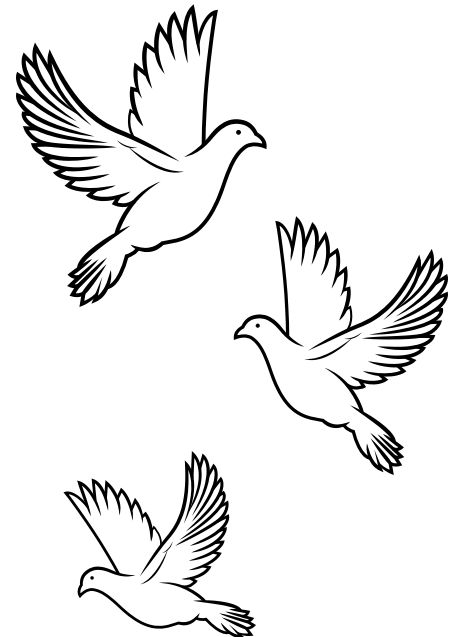
He is survived by his parents, sister (brother-in-law), and niece; uncle Andy Cordova (Romie), uncle Joe Cordova (Esther), aunt Mary Ann Reichert (John), aunt Rosie Marino, uncle Lucio Gauna (Connie), aunt Carmel Hart, uncle Joe Gauna (Florinda), and many, many beloved cousins.



Cora Victoria Barela-Cardenas
d. June 23, 2026

Our beautiful and lovely mother, Cora, peacefully went home to the Lord on June 23, 2026. She resided in Bremen, Georgia and was surrounded by her daughter Veronica and her family. Cora was born to Dorotea and Frank Martinez on September 18, 1933. Unfortunately, Dorotea passed away while giving birth to Cora and her twin brother. Cora was then adopted by a wonderful lady named Adelaida Barela, who raised her as a single mother. As a young child, Cora thought she was an only child and later discovered she was blessed with 18 siblings, which included full siblings, half-siblings, step siblings and adoptive siblings. Adelaida raised Cora with a strong Catholic upbringing and faith in God. They would walk every Sunday from the Columbine to attend mass at St. Anthony's in Questa. She taught Cora how to cook, clean, farm, garden, sew, can and make the best pastries. Her specialties were pumpkin pies, empanadas and biscochitos. Cora and Adelaida resided in Columbine and Cora attended the Moly Mine School. She then moved to Questa in order to attend and complete high school. In Questa, Cora developed strong values of family, kindness, patience and resilience that would define her life. Cora married Luis Cardenas of El Prado in 1953. They had eight children. Cora was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother whose life centered around her family. In her teenage years and early twenties, she worked cleaning rooms in Red River. After marrying she became a homemaker. Once her children were

grown, she went to work for the Questa School District as a cook. Cora will be remembered for her caring and feisty spirit, which truly makes her unforgettable. She brought warmth to everyone around her. She found great joy in cooking, sharing laughter, and dancing. Her home was always filled with love. Her presence was a source of comfort and happiness to all who knew her. Cora's legacy of love, strength, kindness, and spirited determination will live on through her family and all those whose lives she touched. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered. Cora is preceded in death by her husband; Luis Cardenas, her son; Frank Cardenas (Bro. Martin), her infant sons; Joseph and Rubio Cardenas and her son-in-law; Bobby Ramos. Cora is survived by two sisters; Loretta Duran-Sanchez (Victor) and Teresa Martinez, her sons; Avenancio and Mennard Cardenas, daughters; Luisa Mara Ramos, Veronica Lamendola (John) and Angela Coretta Paras (Michael). She is also survived by six grandchildren; Nicole O'Donnell (Terrence), Brian Ramos (Madison), Kevin and Eric Lamendola, Annalee and Cora Paras. Three great-grandchildren; Terrence III, Bobby and Madeline O'Donnell. In addition, her best friend since childhood; Lillian Ortega. A special thanks to Tanner Hospice Care in Bremen, GA and Cora's wonderful caregivers, Camille and Kristy. The funeral Mass was held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa on July 27, 2026, at 11:00 AM, with burial at San Pedro Cemetery with a Celebration of Life Luncheon at Rosie's Smokehouse.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR • AUGUST 2026

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QISD First day of School

AUG 6: THUR 5:30 PM
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AUG 8-9: SAT - SUN
Questa Art Tour 2026 Find more information at QuestaCreative.org, phone (575) 586-5658 or email arttour@questacreative.org. Tour map-brochures will be widely available, at every tour stop, plus the Questa Visitor Center in the middle of the village. See article on page 18, Ad on page 19

57th Annual Rodeo de Taos @ TCSP Rodeo grounds, Taos. Local Entries call (575) 751-6769, General Entries call (575) 864-9426. See ad on page 17

AUG 13: THUR 3 PM
QBB FREE Workshop: Practice Your Pitch (Pitch Contest Prep) @ Questa Public Library. Email QBB-Coordinator@qedf.com. See ad on page 11

AUG 15: SAT 2 - 4 PM
Voces de Nuestro País History & Inspiration w/ Kenny LaCome & Daniel Lamb @ Questa Public Library. Can't attend in person? Episodes are also available as a podcast on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music. More information at <https://questastories.org/> See article on page 20

5:30 PM
Two Steppin' Class w/ Mile Hinton teaches two step classes for beginners - (dance barefoot, socks or slippers) @ Yoga Sala, 331 State Hwy 522, Questa. Free or by donation. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

AUG 22: SAT 2 - 4 PM
Voces de Nuestro País Keep it Growing w/ Gaea McGahee with Farmer Daniel Carmona @ Location: Cerro Vista Farm, 198 Lower Buena Vista Rd, Cerro, NM. Can't attend in person? Episodes are also available as a podcast on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music. More information at <https://questastories.org/> See article on page 20

AUG 29: SAT 4 - 6 PM
Concert & Dessert - Celtic Tunes & Original Songs. Becky Reardon, Julie Hawley, and Joan Zucker, \$15 to \$30 @ Yoga Sala 331 State Hwy 522, Questa. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

Weekly Events

SUNDAY

Refer to the Area Church Directory (on this page) for a list of local church and temples

9 AM
Qigong with Julian, in person only, \$10-15. @Yoga Sala, 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, NM. For more info visit yogasalaquesta.org

10 AM - 2 PM
Questa Farmers Market. Every Sunday featuring local produce, art & music Every Sunday. Join us @1 HWY 38, Questa, NM. More info visit <https://questafarmersmarket.org/>

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

3 - 5:30 PM
Cultivo Farm Stand & Share Pick-up @Yoga Sala, 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. Every Tuesday through Sept. 29. More info visit cultivoproject.org

WEDNESDAY

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

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

6 - 7 PM
FREE Mariachi Lessons, with Rachel León. Beginners: In person only. Located @ Rael's Coffee Shop. 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 @ Rael's Coffee Shop. 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. @Yoga Sala, 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 Jiwanshakt, in person only, \$10-15. @Yoga Sala, 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, NM. For more info visit yogasalaquesta.org

SATURDAY

10 AM
Free Community Tai Chi, with Reto, in person only, @Yoga Sala, 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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Rev. Jason Pettigrew (575) 586-0470
Sunday 8 a.m.
Sunday noon mass

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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

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KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

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

PATH OF LOVE

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

AMALIA

SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH

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

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Fellowship 3rd Sunday of the month
Highway 196, Amalia, Pastors: Lorenzo & Arleen Lucero (575) 770-5716

RED RIVER

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

100 Copper King Trail, Corner of River St & Copper King Trail - Sunday 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

103 High Cost Trail
Sundays 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Joe Phillips (575) 754-2882

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

North end of Silver Bell Trail, Red River
Saturday 6 p.m. (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.) Father Pettigrew (575) 586-0470

Enjoy the Monsoon
Season & Going
Back to School



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DINING GUIDE

QUESTA



- Thursday Night Jam Session - 6pm
- Espresso - Chai - Tea (Punch Cards Available)
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NOTICES

Jobs

PT Coordinator wanted for the Questa Business Bridge for hands-on orchestration of workshops and training sessions, event promotion, attendees' coordination, more.

Approx 20 hours/month, up to \$500/month. Send email with resume to lynn@questaedf.com.

Distribution Coordinator needed for Questa del Rio News. Work approx 2-3 days/month starting at \$300/month. Paperwork, deliver papers, coordinate volunteers. Must have own car; distribution days vary at the end of each month. Send email expressing interest to lynn@questaedf.com.

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

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

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.

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.



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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

DINING GUIDE ON PAGE 31



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