

Questa del Rio News

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

IN THIS ISSUE



LOCAL BUSINESS

Questa Business Bridge Expands Local Resources,
Adds Monthly Community Classes.....Page 4
Pitch to Page.....Page 7

COMMUNITY NEWS

Housing Speaker Series Examines
Questa's Housing Needs.....Page 4
Community Gathers For Superfund
Update from EPA.....Page 5
An Ending To A Season; A Celebration Of Harvest:
Cambalache.....Page 8
Questa's FFA Off To A Great Start.....Page 12
Hands-on Training Keeps Volunteer Fire Departments
Strong.....Page 22

ARTS & CULTURE

QCC Update.....Page 14
Amalia, Ventero & Costilla Community Memory
Gathering.....Page 16

FISHING, WILDLIFE & RECREATION

Public Comment Sought.....Page 19
Trout Unlimited.....Page 20
36 Bear Complaints.....Page 21

OBITUARIES

Leroy "Columbo" Joe Arellano
William Roland MacDonald ("Bill")
Jesus (Jesse) Medina
Billy Joe Terry
Chanell Vigil.....Pages 28-29

Judge Weighs Lawsuit Over Questa Hydrogen Project As Local Tensions Spill Into Village Council Meeting



Photo by Audrianah León

People address the council, Village of Questa attorney Marcus Rael and the community on their stance toward the Green Hydrogen Project

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA &
LORA ARCINIEGA

On Sept. 3, a federal judge heard roughly four hours of arguments over a lawsuit challenging the environmental review and federal financing of a proposed \$95.6 million green hydrogen facility in Questa, then took the matter under advisement.

U.S. District Judge David H. Urias did not issue a ruling at the hearing. He said he would review the documents filed in the case before deciding whether to grant the plaintiffs' request for an injunction that could halt work on the project.

The lawsuit was filed by the Cabresto Lake Irrigation Community Ditch Association and the Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe against the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service. The associations argue that the federal environmental review was inadequate and failed to fully examine potential effects on groundwater and other regional water resources.

Urias previously denied an emergency request to immediately halt the project, finding that the plaintiffs had not demonstrated the immediate and permanent

environmental harm necessary for that relief. The denial did not resolve the underlying claims in the lawsuit. A preliminary injunction hearing was subsequently scheduled for Sept. 3.

At the hearing, the court considered documents and arguments concerning the federal agency's environmental review, the project's proposed water use, its location on property associated with the former Chevron Questa Mine and the terms under which Kit Carson Electric Cooperative would occupy the site.

One document before the court was a declaration signed Aug. 18 by Christopher McLean, an assistant administrator with USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The declaration, filed Aug. 19, describes the status of the federal financing and steps KCEC must complete before the loan can close.

The case also involves a letter of interest that KCEC submitted to RUS. The letter was the basis for RUS inviting the cooperative to submit a formal funding application under a structure consisting of an 80% loan and 20% grant, according to the documents described in court.

Another issue discussed was KCEC's

control of the project site.

KCEC and Chevron signed a three-year lease for the property in May 2026. The lease differs from the arrangement contemplated in earlier federal project documents, which had anticipated KCEC purchasing the property from Chevron. The lease runs through May 2029, according to court filings.

During the hearing, an attorney for RUS told the court that KCEC would need either a 30-year lease or ownership of the property because the land is intended to serve as collateral for the federal loan.

The lease issue is significant because the proposed hydrogen facility is expected to operate beyond the term of the current three-year agreement. The plaintiffs argue that the federal government should have reconsidered its environmental review after the lease was executed because the final terms affected questions of site control, ownership and environmental responsibility. Those claims remain disputed and have not been resolved by the court.

Water is another central issue in the lawsuit.

LOCAL TENSIONS cont'd on page 6

SCAN CODE TO



DONATE
TODAY

THIS IS A FREE PAPER.

We are a non-profit always in need of funds. If you would like to help us sustain and grow our work in serving northern New Mexico, consider a tax-free donation.

See page 3 for details about our funding.

Questa del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

Got a story? Email us at editor@questanews.com

Published Monthly by the
QUESTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
Publicación mensual por

EL FONDO PARA EL DESARROLLO ECONOMICO DE QUESTA

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

LYNN SKALL Business Manager/Gerente de negocios

LORA ARCINIEGA Assistant Editor/Editor asistente

General Inquires email info@questanews.com

or call (575) 613-6510

LORA ARCINIEGA Sales & Development Director/ Director de Desarrollo

salesmanager@questanews.com

(575) 240-4344

ALYSSAH DURAN Copy Editor/Editor de copia

AUDRIANAH LEÓN - Photographer/Fotógrafa

EMILY WILDE Graphic Design & Pagation/Diseño gráfico y paginación

LORA ARCINIEGA Reporter/Reportero

Columnists/Columnistas:

Monthly Features/Presentaciones Mensuales:

TONER MITCHELL

LIZ VAUTOUR

PAUL PASSINO

BRENDALEE REIPLINGER

DUANE ABEL

SHARON NICHOLSON

JEREMY ORTEGA

BARBARA TRACY

ELLEN WOOD

Distribution/Distribución

distribution@questanews.com (575) 613-6510

LORA ARCINIEGA Calendar Coordinator/Coordinadora de calendario

events@questanews.com

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS VIA EMAIL

SUBCRIPCIONES POR CORREO ELECTRONICO

PAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS VIA USPS \$60 per year

SUSCRIPCIONES EN PAPEL POR CORREO USPS \$60 por año

Contact us to subscribe/Pónganse en contacto para suscribir

Subscriptions@questanews.com

QUESTANEWS.COM FOR ACCESS TO PAST ISSUES

PARA REVISAR PUBLICACIONES ANTERIORES

Questa del Rio News EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

MIKAYLA ORTEGA

EMILY WILDE

LORA ARCINIEGA

AUDRIANAH LEÓN

ALYSSAH DURAN

Questa del Rio News

PO Box 1072

1 Highway 38

Questa, NM 87556

OUR MISSION

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.

NUESTRO OBJETIVO

Es informar, inspirar, contactar, y unir a toda la comunidad del norte del condado de Taos.

www.questanews.com

Check out our donate button! ¡Mira nuestro botón para donar!

Like us on FaceBook/QuestaNews

PLEASE SEND ALL COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH

NOS PUEDEN CONTACTAR PARA INFORMACIÓN

ENVÍE ANTES DEL DÍA 15 DEL MES

info@questanews.com

(575) 613-6510

COMMUNITY NEWS

OP ED: Planned Questa Hydrogen Facility Needs A Redesign



Photo by Elisabeth Dicharry

Construction for the project remains ongoing as a federal lawsuit remains pending

By ELISABETH DICHARRY

In 2026, the Albuquerque Journal published two articles about the Questa hydrogen facility and solar array. While the second article discussed water and transparency issues, neither addressed the other major concerns held by locals, New Mexicans and tourists.

During planning, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative told elected officials and the media that the hydrogen pilot facility would be built at Chevron's superfund mine site east of Questa and that it would use reclaimed mine wastewater for hydrogen electrolysis. Instead, without public input, KCEC shifted the facility to Chevron's superfund tailings property in Questa between the Guadalupe Mountains and Sangre de Cristo Range, outside the Environmental Protection Agency's superfund remediation area, and chose to use an existing groundwater well on Chevron property.

In January 2026, KCEC completed an environmental assessment, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a Finding of No Significant Impact. The EA described a 320-acre facility including the hydrogen production plant, fuel cells, compressors, storage tanks, transfer substation, transmission lines and a solar array. The 298-acre solar array area was excluded from the EA. Key biological, archaeological, health, safety, waste and other industrial impact studies remained unfinished. The public was denied a comment period, and no realistic rendering of the proposed plant was provided.

In February, with little public notice, the village of Questa created a heavy industrial zone adjacent to residential zones and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. The decision did

not adequately assess risks to homes, schools, acequias, watersheds, farmland, recreation areas and wildlife. Questa area residents organized to oppose the facility.

In May, KCEC leased 242 acres and deep-well access from Chevron. To meet federal funding deadlines, it began excavating the full area, including the solar array area needed for 84,000 panels. The proposed hydrogen facility lacked several critical permits. Heavy equipment destroyed mostly native habitat during nesting and birthing season.

By June, over 1,100 local signatures were collected on a paper petition. In response to local opposition, the Questa Village Council removed the funding for the facility's solar array from Questa's Capital Improvement Plan priorities list.

The Office of the State Engineer has not yet issued a change-of-use permit for the 523-foot well intended as its main water source for electrolyzers that split water molecules to produce hydrogen gas. The second phase of the water study by Glorieta Geoscience is still underway. Environmental impacts of extracting 47 to 100 acre feet of water annually (approximately 15 to 32 million gallons per year) from an important aquifer have not been fully evaluated. Local communities are raising alarms over how this extraction will affect the villages and traditional acequias that rely on both shallow and deep aquifers, which are part of the highly complex Upper Rio Grande groundwater basin.

Fundamental inefficiencies of hydrogen production have not been addressed. Producing 1 kilogram of hydrogen requires at least 9 kilograms

OP ED: HYDROGEN cont'd on page 3

OP ED: In New Mexico, Water Questions Deserve Facts

By JOHN D'ANTONIO JR., P.E.,
FORMER NEW MEXICO
STATE ENGINEER

Much of my career has been devoted to New Mexico water issues, including service as State Engineer under three governors. That work reinforced what New Mexicans already know: water is our most precious resource. That is especially true in Northern New Mexico, where acequias are not simply irrigation systems but part of the history, culture and identity of communities that have depended on them for generations.

Protecting our water also requires understanding how New Mexico water law works as communities consider new economic and energy opportunities.

That matters in the discussion surrounding Kit Carson Electric Cooperative's proposed green hydrogen project in Questa.

The project's water requirements are not new depletions to the Upper Rio Grande Basin. They rely on existing Chevron water rights adjudicated in the Red River adjudication, permitted by the State Engineer and already included in OSE hydrologic modeling and historically put to beneficial use. The project would use only a portion of those rights.

Current estimates are about 47 to 50 acre-feet annually for hydrogen production, with an aggregate amount of roughly 70 acre-feet discussed for operational flexibility, fire suppression

and dust control.

The associated well, POD-18, has previously been approved as a point of diversion for up to 250 acre-feet annually. In 2017, the State Engineer's Office analyzed transferring water rights to that well, including potential impairment to other rights. The transfer was approved and was not protested.

That does not eliminate the need for scrutiny today; it provides a starting point.

Before a new purpose of use can be approved, New Mexico's process gives affected water-right holders an opportunity to protest and present evidence. The State Engineer must consider impairment, conservation and public welfare.

Kit Carson has also brought in hydrologists to study the groundwater system and potential pumping effects. The central question is not simply whether the project uses water, but whether that use would impair someone else's water right.

KCEC is not proposing to take drinking water from Questa residents, domestic wells or acequias for hydrogen production. The proposed source is groundwater from POD-18, an existing well associated with Chevron's adjudicated rights. Any such use would require appropriate water rights and authorization under New Mexico law.

The well draws from more than 400 feet underground and a cement-bentonite seal from 415 feet to the surface

prevents shallow groundwater from entering the well.

Acequias are surface-water systems dependent on snowpack, runoff and annual conditions. Additional modeling is underway to evaluate the relationship between this deeper groundwater source and surrounding water users.

The project calls for reverse-osmosis treatment before electrolysis, with closed-loop technology and reuse to reduce consumptive use.

New Mexico must do more with limited resources. We need reliable electricity, rural economic opportunities and infrastructure that can withstand drought, wildfire and changing conditions without abandoning hard-won water protections.

Responsible projects should identify a lawful water supply, invest in water-saving technology, protect existing users and submit to scientific, public and regulatory scrutiny.

Protecting what makes New Mexico special cannot mean standing still. It means moving forward responsibly while protecting the resources and communities that got us here.

When it comes to water, the way forward is through science, law, transparency and a public process that holds everyone accountable.

That is how we protect New Mexico's water while still making room for New Mexico's future.

Elisabeth Dicharry is a property owner in Questa.

OP ED: HYDROGEN cont'd from page 2

of water, and the solar-to-hydrogen-to-electricity loop retains only about 30% to 40% of the original solar energy.

Two Questa-area acequias sued the USDA Rural Utilities Service in August over concerns that the hydrogen facility will harm their communities and acqui-

fers. While the federal district court denied an initial temporary restraining order, it held an expedited hearing on Sept. 3 and is currently weighing the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction.

Many people in the Questa area are rightly concerned about their health, safety and the negative environmental impacts of the entire facility. The planners and sponsors of this flawed, not-so-

green heavy industrial hydrogen plant need to go back to the drawing board and find a better solution: one that considers Questa area residents, tourists, the importance of conserving water in an arid region and maintaining the unique environmental beauty of the Questa area in northern New Mexico.



Thanks to a generous grant from the **LOR Foundation** Questa del Rio News has a few dedicated phone lines!

Now we can communicate with ease!

MAIN CONTACT

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

SALES & DEVELOPMENT

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

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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

NEWS TIPS

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



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

DUANE ABEL, MARIA GONZALEZ, CLAIRE COTÉ, TONER MITCHELL, SHARON NICHOLSON, DANIELLE LOVATO, LISA PHAM, PAUL PASSINO, QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL, BRENDALEE REIPLINGER, MELLIE RODRIGUEZ, BARBARA TRACY, LIZ VAUTOUR, ELLEN WOOD, LAUREN AND JAMES TRUJILLO, KIT CARSON INTERNET, DIEGO ORTEGA, JACKSON ORTEGA, MICHELLE SPEARS, ELIZABETH DICHARRY, BRENDA WILLS, MONIQUE PARKER, MARIANA ORTEGA, CYNTHIA RAE-VIGIL, MICHAEL CORDOVA, FRITZ DAVIS, DIEGO ORTEGA, JACKSON ORTEGA, FELIZ ORTEGA, JACQUELINE ORTEGA, UNM TAOS, JOHN D'ANTONIO JR

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

OUR JOURNALISTIC ETHICS POLICY

The Society of Professional Journalists declares four principles as the foundation of ethical journalism and encourages their use in its practice by all people in all media. We have adopted these principles as our own:

- Seek Truth and Report It.
- Minimize Harm.
- Act Independently.
- Be Accountable and Transparent.

EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE AND DONOR TRANSPARENCY POLICIES

Questa del Rio News retains full authority over editorial content to protect our best journalistic and business interests.

- We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations to support our paper. Our editorial decisions are not made based on donor support.
- We give the right to review content to ensure accuracy, however, we maintain editorial control without influence to ensure the integrity of our publication
- We are committed to transparency in every aspect of funding our organization.
- Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services, or opinions.

- We accept gifts and grants from individuals, organizations, and foundations to help with general operations, coverage of special projects and specific topics and maintain editorial control of that coverage. Our editorial judgments are made independently – not based on or influenced by donors. We do not give supporters the rights to assign, review, or edit content.
- We make public all donors who give \$5,000 or more per year.
- We do not accept donations from anonymous sources, government entities, political parties, elected officials, or candidates actively seeking public office. We do not accept donations from sources who, deemed by our board of directors, present a conflict of interest with our work, or compromise our independence.
- To download a PDF version of our correction policy, visit <https://questanews.com/about/>

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS & SUPPORTERS



Housing Speaker Series Examines Questa's Housing Needs

By STAFF WRITERS

How many homes does Questa need to meet local demand, and what can residents afford to buy or rent? Those questions are at the center of a four-part Housing Speaker Series examining housing conditions and potential solutions in the community.

The Taos Housing Partnership, in collaboration with the LOR Foundation and the Questa Economic Development Fund, is presenting the series to provide residents with data, research and case studies that could help identify housing strategies for Questa.

The first presentation, "Why Community Housing Data Matters," was held Sept. 17. THP housing consultant Daniel Werwath presented statistical information comparing housing and financial trends in Questa and Taos County from

2019 through 2024.

The presentation highlighted several differences between Questa and the county as a whole. The number of renters in Questa tripled during the five-year period, indicating a shift toward smaller, non-owner households. The community also experienced a decline in its young population, a trend that could have long-term implications for the area.

At the same time, the number of vacant homes declined by approximately half between 2019 and 2024.

As part of the ongoing QEDF Housing Project, a "windshield survey" will be conducted over the next month to help verify information about vacant properties. Local residents familiar with their neighborhoods will accompany a driver through the community to identify and record homes that appear vacant and could potentially be renovated for

long- or short-term housing.

Housing costs have also continued to rise in the Questa area, with fewer homes available for less than \$300,000. The median home sales price increased by \$100,000 between 2023 and 2026, from \$200,000 to \$300,000, according to information presented during the Sept. 17 session.

The next Housing Speaker Series presentation, "Housing Project Feasibility," is scheduled for Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Questa Public Library. The presentation will examine housing case studies and explore how data and community participation can contribute to developing a vision for housing in Questa.

The November presentation will focus on renters. "Looking at a Community Justice Model," led by the New Mexico Eviction Prevention & Diversion nonprofit, will address housing stability

for renters facing eviction or difficulty consistently paying rent.

The final presentation, "Questa Community Housing Data Findings," is scheduled for January. The date and time will be announced once details are finalized.

The Sept. 17 presentation, "Why Community Housing Data Matters," is available online. PowerPoint slides from the presentation can be requested by emailing lynn@questaedf.com.

Questa Housing Speaker Series

Thursday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m.
"Housing Project Feasibility"
Questa Public Library,
6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd
Info: (575) 586-2149

Questa Business Bridge Expands Local Resources, Adds Monthly Community Classes



Courtesy Photo

Questa Business Bridge workshops are hosted free every Thursday at the Questa Public Library

By STAFF WRITERS

Residents of Questa can access professional services, business resources and learning opportunities without leaving the village through the Questa Business Bridge, a local program now offering a new series of community classes.

The Questa Economic Development Fund established the Questa Business Bridge in 2023 with a grant from the New Mexico Economic Development Department. The program provides local residents with access to professional resources, computers and business equipment, as

well as weekly workshops, professional development training and entrepreneurial coaching.

The program is based at the Questa Public Library and recently welcomed a new coordinator, Carole Merriman. Merriman is familiar with both the library and the community through her part-time work as a library assistant. She also has a background in teaching, education and library media.

Merriman succeeds Monica McClelland, who coordinated the program for the past two years, maintaining its workshop schedule and assisting entrepreneurs and

other residents with business skills and new technology.

Under Merriman's leadership, the Business Bridge has added "Classes for Curious Questeños," a new series scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. The classes are designed to introduce participants to skills and subjects that may not otherwise be offered locally.

Classes may include holiday hair-styling, beekeeping, fly tying, mocktail making, clothing makeovers, introductory tai chi and cake decorating. Local residents with specialized skills or expertise are invited to propose classes and share their



Courtesy Image

Carole Merriman, Questa Business Bridge Coordinator

knowledge with the community.

The remaining Thursday workshops will continue to focus on business skills, workforce development, entrepreneurial startups and economic development.

The program is open to residents who are starting or expanding a business, developing professional skills or simply interested in learning something new.

The October Questa Business Bridge workshop schedule is available in an advertisement on page 15. For more information, contact Merriman at QBB-Coordinator@QuestaEDF.com.

Community Gathers For Superfund Update from EPA

By LORA ARCINIEGA

On September 24, roughly 40 community members gathered at the Alta Vista Elementary lecture hall for an update on the Chevron/MolyCorp Mine Superfund site. Organized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), the meeting covered ongoing water treatment, soil remediation, and long-term health evaluations.

The Questa mine operated for nearly a century before closing in 2014 and was designated a Superfund site in 2011, requiring long-term environmental management and restoration. The site contains approximately 300 million tons of waste rock across nine piles and 100 million tons of tailings.

Protecting the Red River

Under the site's formal consent decree, Chevron must prevent contaminated mine water from reaching the Red River.

- **Pumping Underground Mine Water:** Chevron continuously pumps underground water to keep its level below that of the Red River, preventing contaminated water from migrating into the river.
- **Wastewater Treatment & Filter Cake:** A dedicated treatment plant cleans the pumped water before it is discharged into the Red River. The remaining sludge is compressed into a dry material called filter cake.
- **Long-Term Repository Evaluation:** Filter cake is currently stored at an interim location while field teams evaluate whether the mine's open pit could serve as a permanent repository. The investigation is examining how the filter cake interacts with existing pit materials before final design and remedial action.

Cleaning Up Tailings

Five primary areas across the mine, mill site, and tailings facility are slated for cleanup, with projects at various stages of design and implementation.

- **Tailings Facilities, Dam 1 & Dam 4:** Field-work at Dam 1, covering roughly 250 acres, is complete and will inform design will inform design for the approximately 370-acre Dam 4 facility.
- **Historic Maintenance Area:** Tailings deposited near a former maintenance building outside the main tailings



Photo by Lora Arciniega

EPA meeting

facility are being mapped. Chevron has submitted a field report documenting the depth and extent of contamination to guide cleanup.

Nicole Foster, EPA Remedial Project manager, did mention the contractor replacing Granite should be selected by December this year.

- **Embargo Road Seepage:** After seepage-system upgrades and removal of pumpback ponds to control groundwater contamination, cleanup teams are shifting their focus to soil contamination south of the tailings facility.
- **With multiple agencies present,** the team clarified who is responsible for each role.
- **EPA (Physical Cleanup):** EPA oversees engineering, physical cleanup, and risk assessments used to establish legal criteria for remediation. Under federal guidelines, cleanup action requires demonstrating that contamination exceeds established health thresholds.
- **NMDOH (Community Health):** The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) now leads state-level evaluation of public-health concerns at 15 Superfund sites statewide, a role historically handled by federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). NMDOH focuses on how environmental conditions may affect human health.
- **Risk assessors** evaluate current conditions and future land-use scenarios by examining how people could be exposed to chemicals through ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact.

Primary contaminants were discussed during the risk assessment. Key substances include molybdenum, which is associated with non-cancer health effects such as joint pain or fatigue; polychlorinated

SUPERFUND UPDATE cont'd on page 19



Is Your Home Outgrowing Your Internet? Powering Up for Fall Routines

October brings a crisp shift to Northern New Mexico. As autumn settles over Questa, Red River, and surrounding mountain communities, our daily routines naturally move indoors. School is in full swing, local sports and fall activities fill our calendars, and cooler evenings mean more time spent gathered at home.

As a result, the digital demands on local households rise rapidly. Take a moment to think about everything connected to your home network right now:

- **Smart TVs** streaming local games, news, or fall movie nights in high definition.
- **Laptops and tablets** powered up for late-afternoon homework or remote work assignments.
- **Smartphones** scrolling social media and checking community updates over Wi-Fi.
- **Gaming consoles** downloading multi-gigabyte updates and streaming online multiplayer matches.

When multiple family members log on at the same time—kids submitting homework while parents finish work or stream a show—a basic connection can start to feel the strain.

The Power of True Fiber

Most residential Kit Carson Internet (KCI) households currently start on our baseline 100/100 Mbps plan—a rock-solid, synchronous fiber foundation built on reliable local infrastructure. However, as households add dozens of connected devices, bandwidth gets split. When homework, video calls, 4K streaming, and online gaming all happen simultaneously under one roof, basic bandwidth gets stretched to its limit.

To keep your home running seamlessly, KCI offers upgraded speed tiers designed to eliminate digital traffic jams and give your family total online freedom.

Level Up Your Speed Tier: Tailored for Your Family's Needs

- **The Streamer Package (250/250 Mbps):** Ideal for growing families and multi-screen homes. Double your speed to enjoy zero-lag 4K streaming across multiple TVs, crystal-clear Wi-Fi calling in spotty mountain areas, and instant homework submissions—even during peak evening hours.
- **The Gamer Tier (1000/500 Mbps):** Built for high-demand, tech-heavy households, competitive online gamers, and remote professionals. Massive multi-gigabyte game updates and patch downloads finish in seconds instead of hours, while massive file

transfers, live streams, and simultaneous 4K displays run with near-zero latency.

What High-Speed Fiber Means for Your Household

- **Zero-Lag Local & 4K Streaming:** Catch live Questa Village Council meetings, stream Wildcat sports highlights, or gather for movie night in full 4K on multiple screens with zero loading wheels.
- **Crystal-Clear Wi-Fi Calling:** In our rugged, mountainous terrain, upgraded speeds keep your Wi-Fi calling rock-solid so you stay connected without dropped calls or choppy audio.
- **Instant Homework & Large File Uploads:** High upload speeds mean research projects, digital textbooks, and large work files send in seconds without failing while someone else is gaming.
- **Lag-Free Multi-Device Gaming:** Console and PC gamers get lightning-fast responses and seamless online matches without pulling bandwidth away from the rest of the family.

Invest in Local Reliability

Unlike out-of-state satellite providers that struggle during mountain weather or legacy copper lines that slow down over distances, Kit Carson Internet delivers 100% true fiber-optic reliability. Upgrading your tier gives your network the headroom it needs while investing in local infrastructure powered by neighbors who live and work right here in Taos County.

Ready to Boost Your Speeds This Fall?

Give your home network the room it needs to power through homework, high-speed gaming, and family movie nights this season. Upgrading takes only a quick phone call!

Call: (575) 758-4838

Online: KitCarsonInternet.com



Paid Advertorial by Kit Carson Internet



Taking Pride In Questa, One Project At A Time

When you care about a place, you take care of it.

That idea is nothing new in Questa. For generations, local families have invested their time, skills, and hard work in the places they share. Sometimes that means taking on a big challenge. Other times, it means fixing something small to make a familiar place safer, more welcoming, or simply something the community can be proud of.

Two upcoming projects in Questa, supported by the LOR Foundation, demonstrate how Questeños are once again putting that spirit into action.

We're all familiar with the intersec-

tion of Highways 522 and 38—one of Questa's most visible gateways—and we know it has seen better days. The brickwork is dated, weeds have taken over, and the clock hasn't worked for years. Simply put, it doesn't reflect the community we know and love.

So, the Village of Questa and the Questa Economic Development Fund formed a volunteer Beautification Committee, and a committee member brought an idea to LOR: improve the intersection with water-wise landscaping and features honoring Questa's mining and agricultural roots. LOR provided \$25,000 to help cover the work and materials, including rock, boulders, grading, and drip irrigation.

Keep an eye out in the coming months as the work gets underway. As the improvements take shape, we hope they'll serve as a reminder that this project is about more than making an intersection look nicer. It's about taking pride in a village where generations of people have worked hard to build their lives and raise their families—and about making sure one of the first things people see when they arrive reflects that pride.

That same spirit is behind another upcoming project at the Questa



Adobe Stock Image

Public Library.

The library belongs to everyone, from kids and families to longtime residents. But its front entrance often becomes muddy, creating an unsafe and unwelcoming approach for those who use it. A board member of the Friends of the Questa Public Library saw a practical problem and stepped forward with a solution: improve the landscaping to create a safer, more accessible entrance for everyone.

The Friends had already raised \$6,000 from the community, and LOR contributed an additional \$10,000 for gravel, landscaping materials, equipment, and labor. Once the work is com-

plete, the library will have an entrance that reflects the care it has for its patrons before they even step through the door.

That's what investing in Questa can look like.

It doesn't always require a huge project, but it should always start with local people who know their community well enough to recognize its needs.

Maybe you know a park or gathering place that could use some attention. Maybe there's something that would make life a little easier for local families, kids, or older neighbors. If you've found yourself thinking, "Someone ought to do something about that," LOR Foundation wants to hear your idea.

You don't need to submit a formal application or know exactly how to make it happen. Every request for support starts with a simple conversation, and most eligible projects receive funding in under 30 days—so there's still time to turn an idea into action before the end of the year.

Questa belongs to the people who call it home. What would you do to make it even better? To start a conversation, contact Questa Community Officer Maria Gonzalez at maria@lorfoundation.org or visit LORFoundation.org.

LOCAL TENSIONS cont'd from page 1

The proposed project would use groundwater from an existing Chevron well known as POD 18. The plaintiffs contend that the federal environmental assessment did not adequately analyze potential effects of sustained groundwater pumping on nearby wells, surface water and aquia water rights.

KCEC and its consultants have said the project would use substantially less water than the well's maximum permitted capacity. According to previously published information about the project, KCEC estimates operational use at about 47 acre-feet per year, while the well has a permitted capacity of up to 250 acre-feet annually.

The lawsuit also challenges the scope and timing of the federal environmental review. The plaintiffs contend that the review did not adequately consider the proposed solar array as part of a connected project. Their challenge also includes the timing of assessments addressing potential environmental effects on health, safety, water, wildlife and vegetation.

According to the attorney representing the plaintiffs, those recommended assessments were not completed until after US-

DA's Rural Utilities Service issued its Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI.

The plaintiffs argue that the timing of those assessments meant RUS made its decision without having all of the relevant environmental information before it when it issued the FONSI. They contend that this constituted a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. Those claims are disputed and have not been resolved by the court.

The proposed hydrogen facility is planned on property associated with the former Questa Mine and the federal Superfund cleanup site, adding another layer to the environmental questions before the court. Although the solar arrays and proposed hydrogen plant sit within the Superfund boundary, they are not on top of mine tailings according to recent EPA meeting.

USDA previously issued a Finding of No Significant Impact based on an Environmental Assessment of the project. Federal officials concluded that the project would not have significant environmental effects requiring a full Environmental Impact Statement. The plaintiffs challenge that conclusion and argue that the federal review was incomplete.

The broader KCEC initiative has received a \$231 million New ERA invest-

ment from USDA for hydrogen and solar facilities with battery storage in rural New Mexico. USDA has described the initiative as a project intended to provide renewable energy and improve reliability for KCEC members.

The legal challenge has added to growing local opposition and debate over the project, particularly concerning groundwater use and construction near the former tailings site.

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative CEO Luis Reyes said the cooperative intends to continue engaging with the community while moving the project forward.

"We know there is a lot happening around this project, but our focus at Kit Carson remains on moving forward responsibly, listening to our community and doing the work that is in front of us. Over the past several months, we have made a significant effort to provide more information, answer questions and make the technical work behind this project easier for people to understand. We have also heard directly from community members who have thanked us for that outreach and encouraged us to continue the conversation. That matters to us. Questa is a community with a proud history and people who care deeply about its future. We respect that people have questions

and different perspectives, and we will continue working with community leaders, residents and technical experts as the project progresses," said Kit Carson Electric Cooperative CEO Luis Reyes. "There is still work ahead, but there is also real progress being made. Kit Carson remains committed to showing up, sharing information and working positively with the people of Questa toward a stronger and more resilient future for the community."

At a Sept. 10 special meeting of the Village of Questa Council held at Alta Vista Intermediate School, people were removed by police after a heated exchange with Village of Questa attorney Marcus Rael. Rael contends this is a federal issue, and the municipality has very little power to stop the project from proceeding.

For now, however, the federal case remains unresolved.

U.S. District Judge Urias has taken the matter under advisement and has not announced when he will issue a decision. The Sept. 3 hearing did not constitute a ruling on whether USDA violated federal environmental law, whether the project can proceed, or whether a more extensive environmental review will be required.

PITCH TO PAGE



CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY
TO BUSINESS RESOURCES,
TRAINING, AND
SERVICES



Sponsored by LOR and Brought to you by QEDF/QBB

2026 WINNER:

Brenda Wills: Memaw's Bagels & More, LLC



PITCH STORY

What inspired you to start or expand your business in Questa?

Memaw's started in September 2025 with something simple: I began making homemade bagels for family and friends. Their response made me wonder if I could turn something I enjoyed into a business. After being laid off, I decided it was time to create something of my own and take control of my future. I began researching the area and discovered an opportunity to bring fresh, handcrafted, traditional-style bagels to Questa—something I couldn't find locally.

What specific community need or gap in the local market does your business fill?

Memaw's fills a gap by bringing fresh, handcrafted bagels to our community with distinctive flavors you simply don't find in mass-produced products. I wanted to offer more than the standard choices on a grocery store shelf. Our bagels are made in small batches, with flavors inspired by our community and the foods people here love. It gives local customers a fresh, homemade option without having to leave the area to find something unique.

How will your pitch grant equipment/purchases transform your day-to-day operations and customer experience?

The pitch grant is helping Memaw's take an important step from a home-based business toward having a dedicated space in Questa. The equipment I'm purchasing will give me a more efficient workspace, better storage, and the ability to increase production without sacrificing the handcrafted quality that started this business. It will also allow me to expand what I can offer and serve customers more efficiently. Most importantly, the grant is helping me build the foundation for Memaw's to become a permanent part of the Questa community rather than simply a seasonal market business.

What is your primary goal for the business over the next 6 to 12 months?

Over the next 6 to 12 months, my goal is to establish Memaw's in a permanent location in Questa, grow a loyal customer base, and expand into wholesale and catering. Just as important, I want to build something lasting that my children and grandchildren can be part of, contribute to, and be proud of.

MEET THE FOUNDER: QUICK FACTS

What is one surprising lesson you've learned since starting/expanding your business?

I've learned to step outside my comfort zone even when I'm scared, and that every experience is a teaching moment. I never imagined people from other states would tell me they'd been waiting to visit our area just to try my bagels.

What is your favorite part of serving the community?

Some of my best childhood memories are of gathering at Grandma's dinner table, where food brought people together and conversations began. Now I'm living that through Memaw's—bringing people together and watching my own dinner table grow into a community table.

Outside of running your business, what is one thing people might be surprised to learn about you? There's more to Memaw than bagels! I used to be a bodybuilder, have a degree in private investigations, am a certified ThetaHealing practitioner, and was working toward my PhD in metaphysics before putting it on pause.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Memaw's is about more than selling food—it's about being part of the community and showing up for our neighbors. That spirit began before the business, from offering free Thanksgiving meals to volunteering with my granddaughter at the Questa Food Pantry. As Memaw's grows, I want to continue giving back, supporting local events, and bringing people together through food.

2025 ALUMNI: Where are they now?



Monique Parker: MS Parker LLC

Looking back over the past year, how did winning the 2025 pitch grant help push your business forward?

The pitch grant gave my business the capacity to work more efficiently and pursue new opportunities. Since then, I've expanded my marketing communications work through local projects that combine marketing, storytelling, social media, video and community engagement

What is the biggest milestone or achievement your business reached in the past 12 months?

Expanding my consulting work has been a major milestone, including marketing communications for Kit Carson Internet, designing the assets for Red River Oktoberfest and Vino in the Valley, and taking on marketing communications for Taos County's CEED (Community Energy Efficiency Development) program.

What new products, services, or updates can local customers look forward to from you this season?

I'm building on that momentum through storytelling and video projects. I've created numerous customer success stories for Kit Carson Internet, including a recent video highlighting residential and business customers. I've also produced a video for the Taos County CEED program. I'm excited to bring more of that storytelling. I love sharing the stories of our residents and businesses—their experiences, their successes, and the ways local programs and organizations are making a difference in their lives.

moniqueparker.net

In the 2025 Pitch Contest, Monique Parker took home the top prize of \$5,000 for MS Parker LLC.

**Memaw's
BAGELS & MORE**

Special Offer

Mention this feature and receive **\$5 OFF**
a Half-Dozen Bagel Bundle
—six handcrafted bagels plus
one 8-oz cream cheese.

One offer per customer.
Valid through November 30, 2026.



As a contestant of the 2026 Pitch Contest, Brenda Wills was awarded \$5,800 for equipment for her bagel business.



<https://www.facebook.com/memawsbagelsandmore2025>

(407) 617-8761

Storefront Location Coming Soon!

Memaw's Bagels plans to open its first storefront store at 2349 Highway 522 in the Family Dollar and Questa Lumber complex. The shop is expected to open Oct. 5. The current plan is to operate about four days a week. The shop currently offers seven bagel flavors. Regular offerings include everything bagel, cheddar and Hatch green chile bagel while others rotate in and out of availability.

Interested in competing in the 2027 Pitch Contest? We want to hear your vision. Reach out to Lynn@QuestaEDF.com for entry details and contest guidelines.

Brought to you by



By LISA ANN PHAM

As Questa Farmers Market closes its 10th season, we end our time together with a grand celebration, in collaboration with the 38th Annual Cambalache Harvest Festival.

Throughout time, communities have gathered at summer's end in gratitude for the gifts of the land, to enjoy the fruits of our labor, reflect on the year's harvest, and prepare for winter. In this changing of seasons, we ask: What gifts do we have to share? What can be released for regeneration? And what seeds are worthy to plant for the future?

Together we sit in a time of changing the unknown. This has been a difficult year for so many, and our community has found itself divided over what the future holds. Through the many ripples and waves, QFM's Sunday Market has become a steady

An Ending To A Season; A Celebration Of Harvest



Photo by E. Wilde

Questa Farmers Market

place to come together across the wide spectrum of labels and beliefs, finding connection through local food, music, and one another.

In this space, we can imagine and begin to create what we want to build. Who do we want to be? What life do we want to foster, nurture, and grow? What have we learned, and how can we carry these lessons forward?

Give It to Cucui

So much weighs us down - patterns, grief, worries, fears, regret, shame. The list grows heavier with time. It is too much to carry. Write your burdens in your penas, give them

to Cucui, and let them rise in the smoke, carried to the Higher Spirit for transformation. Let it release.

Sharing in Bounty

The strength of community is found in times of challenge, and in celebration. Together we share our art, our talents, our bounty, and our own special flavor that makes us each unique. Trading goods is only part of the equation; we all hold gifts to share. Let this be a space to bring them.

Carry Forward

It is easy to focus on what we don't want, what we don't like, what ails and bothers us. How often do we get

lost in complaint, unable to see the beauty in front of us? How often do we tend to our wishes, our hopes, and our intentions?

In releasing our burdens, we open space for something else to take life. Leave your prayers, wishes and blessings in the collection of prayer ties to carry up to the skies above through the winter months ahead.

Centering Elders & Children

The wisdom taught to us by our Elders holds a special place in our hearts. The joy we hold for our children and the opportunities we open for our youth carry the future of what may be. With focused space for these generational bookends, we help heal our past and nurture our future. Activities and special areas for both will anchor the celebration, as we come together in dance, craft, art, food, commerce, healing and play.

Nobody knows what's ahead. But this I do: whatever it is, we are better together.

We invite you to join us in celebration, gratitude and honor - for ourselves and each other.

See you there!

Annual Cambalache Brings Music, Tradition, And "The King" To Questa on Oct. 4

By LORA ARCINIEGA

The King is coming to Questa, and organizers are preparing to roll out the red carpet, possibly with a police and fire department escort.

Local Dennis Martinez will perform as Elvis at noon Sunday, Oct. 4, during Questa's 38th annual Cambalache Harvest Festival at La Placita, the newly named gathering space in the parking lot of the Questa Visitor Center at 1 Highway 38.

Rooted in Spanish bartering traditions, Questa's Cambalache has a distinct history. "The festival, including its tradition of burning the cucuy, began in Mora before moving to Questa," says Cynthia Rael-Vigil. Though originally planned as a traveling event, local founders including Cynthia Rael-Vigil, Michael Rael and the late Aaron Rael established the event in Questa over 30 years ago and the community has fully



Photo by E. Wilde

It's a lively annual frito pie eating contest

embraced and sustained it. This year, Michael Rael will host live music at La Placita throughout the day.

At 2 p.m., attention turns to the annual Enriquetta Memorial Frito Pie Eating Contest. The contest holds a deep personal meaning for the Rael

and Vigil families.

When asked what the competition means in memory of her daughter Enriquetta, Cynthia shared: "It means a lot. We had just started the Frito pie eating contest and she won. It became a popular thing and many of her friends would say they would show up and beat her. She liked Frito pies. It's a remembrance of her and it means a lot to the family." Following a huge turnout of participants last year, this year's competition promises to be just as popular.

The festival concludes at 4 p.m. with the traditional burning of the cucuy. Cynthia fondly recalls gathering old pants, shirts, and shoes alongside Questa to build the cucuy in past years, a tradition many hands in Questa have helped carry on over the decades.

The free, family-friendly event will bring together music, food, local

crafts and community traditions while celebrating the fall harvest and closing out the Questa Farmers Market's 10th season.

CAMBALACHE SCHEDULE OF ENTERTAINMENT:

- 10 AM** Michael Rael & Gang
- 11 AM** The RyeDeer Show
- 12 PM** Elvis with Dennis Martinez
- 1 PM** Arellano Brothers
- 2 PM** Tios Mios, Enriquetta Memorial Frito Pie Eating Contest
- 3 PM** Questa & San Luis Mariachis
- 4 PM** Burning of cucuy, Michael Rael hosts music and Questa Stories

Sponsored by





Village of Questa



TRUNK or TREAT

Friday, October 30, 2026

3:00 PM-6:00 PM

Questa Business Park

We would love your participation!

Please contact Valerie Vigil at

vvigil@villageofquesta.org or

575-586-0694 to participate.

Students in need of volunteer hours
contact Valerie to assist with this
event.

Free Trick or Treat bags
while supplies last!

Free pumpkins

FREE

FUN

GAMES



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

UNM-Taos Enrollment Reaches Highest Level Since 2017

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Enrollment at the University of New Mexico-Taos has climbed to its highest level since 2017, with the campus reporting a 5% increase in total student enrollment for fall 2026 compared with the previous year.

According to UNM-Taos' Fall 2026 Census, 1,302 students were enrolled this fall. Enrollment among students from the local area, referred to by the university as home students, increased 8% over fall 2025.

The university also reported a 6% increase in total semester credit hours, while semester credit hours among home students increased 8%.

"This year's census reflects the impact of our collective efforts to focus our efforts in serving our Northern New Mexico students," Alejandra Villalobos Melendez, director of Strategic Initiatives and Research at UNM-Taos, said in a statement. "We continue to experience sustained, measurable enrollment growth among our local students by expanding access, strengthening student

support, and creating meaningful pathways to success."

Several student groups recorded notable increases, according to the university:

- Certificate-seeking students increased 17%.
- Dual-credit students increased 10%.
- Non-degree-seeking home students increased 18%.
- First-time students increased 26%.
- Indigenous home student enrollment increased 59%.

The university also reported gains in student retention. Overall retention increased to 68%, up 2 percentage points from the previous cohort. Retention among Indigenous students reached 74%, while the university said the retention gap between women and men also narrowed.

Census Day is the university's official enrollment count and provides a snapshot after registration changes, including course adds, drops and other adjustments made at the beginning of the semester.



Photo courtesy of UNM-Taos

UNM-Taos leaders attributed the enrollment gains to the work of faculty and staff supporting students throughout the academic process, from recruitment and enrollment to graduation and career preparation.

The campus has continued to emphasize access to certificates, workforce training and degree programs, as well as services intended to support student

persistence and completion.

"We are encouraged to see strong growth among both new and returning students as more learners choose UNM-Taos to pursue their educational goals," Villalobos Melendez said.

The fall 2026 enrollment figures put UNM-Taos at levels not seen in nearly a decade, according to the university.

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.

Proudly
sponsored by --->



ATHLETE Spotlight



DIEGO ORTEGA

12TH GRADE, 17 YEARS OLD, PULLING GUARD & MIDDLE LINEBACKER IN FOOTBALL, BASEBALL AND TRACK



Photo by Sean Kelly

ACHIEVEMENTS: Team Captain, All State Linebacker in 2025 - All District Offense and Defense in 2024 and 2025 and currently leads the state in our division in tackles and had 126 tackles in the 2025 season

HERO/ROLE MODEL: "My sister, Mariana, who never gives up and does her best in anything she puts her mind to."

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "The competition and the excitement of the games."

OTHER STUFF: "I like to hang out with family and friends and work."



JACKSON ORTEGA: 6TH GRADE, 11 YEARS OLD, SOCCER, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL



ACHIEVEMENTS: "My favorite achievement was playing on the Taos Little League All Star Team for baseball."

HERO/ROLE MODEL: "My dad and mom."

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "I love playing sports and being with my friends."

OTHER STUFF: "I like to hang out with my family, play video games with my friends."

COACHING Spotlight



MICHELLE SPEARS

7 YEARS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL, 4 YEARS ASSISTANT SOFTBALL, 12 YEARS MIDDLE SCHOOL (VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, SOFTBALL, CHEER)

ONE-WORDS DESCRIPTION: Determined

COACHING PHILOSOPHY: "To develop well rounded individuals that understand the meaning of TEAM; who show good sportsmanship by respecting the game and all those involved with it, and that can persevere through adversity and setbacks by never giving up."

ENJOYS MOST: "Seeing the pure joy players exhibit when they realize their growth, not only in fundamental skills but in the overall game and self confidence."

HOBBIES: "Reading, puzzling, watching sports, spending time with family and friends"

HOMEGROWN HUSTLE



OCTOBER BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY: KEEPING THE COLD AT BAY



By LORA ARCINIEGA

In Questa, we don't just have "winter" we have a season that lasts months and tests our homes. By the time the October winds begin to howl and night temperatures drop, the priority for every household shifts from aesthetics to the simple goal of staying warm and dry.

In the fifth installment of our "Building Our Community" series, supported by the LOR Foundation, Questa Lumber and Hardware (QLH) is highlighting their Heating and Plumbing options. QLH is focused on helping you fortify your home before the ground freezes and sub-zero temperatures arrive. With an El Niño winter potentially on the way, the goal is to ensure you're fully prepared for the cold months ahead.

Reliable Heat for the Long Haul

For many in our community, the heart of the home is the stove. Whether you rely on the tradition of wood or the convenience of pellets, QLH is stocked and ready. October is the critical month to inspect your heating systems. Questa Lumber provides a full range of pellet fuel, stove pipes, and maintenance tools to ensure your primary heat source is efficient and safe. They also carry electric

space heaters and infrared options for those cold spots in the back rooms of the house.

Beating the "Big Freeze"

There is nothing quite as stressful as a bursting pipe in the middle of a January night. The QLH plumbing department is currently geared toward prevention. From foam pipe insulation and heat tape to outdoor faucet covers, QLH offers the "winterization kit" every resident needs. Also stocked is a variety of water heaters and repair parts, because when your plumbing fails, you can't afford to wait for a delivery from the city.

Sealing Your Home

Beyond the pipes and the stoves, keeping a home warm is about keeping the cold air out. This month, QLH is highlighting their extensive selection of weatherstripping, window film kits, and spray foam insulation. It's often the smallest gaps around a door or window that lead to the highest heating bills. The team at QLH can show you exactly which products will seal those leaks and keep your hard-earned heat inside where it belongs.

A Resource in the Storm

When the power goes out or the temperatures drop, Questa Lumber & Hardware stands as a vital resource for our neighbors and takes pride in knowing that the products they sell keep local families safe and comfortable through the toughest months of the year. Don't wait for the first blizzard. Stop by this October and get your home winter-ready.

Established in 1953, Questa Lumber & Hardware was built on a mission to provide the tools and support necessary for our remote mountain community to thrive. For over 70 years, that mission hasn't changed: we are here to help our neighbors build, grow, and sustain the land we love.

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

the 28th Annual

Taos Storytelling Festival

SOMOS
A Place for Words in Taos
presents





Michael "Ya-Schay" Garcia • Lori Tazbah Taphonso • Kika Vargas

Saturday, October 10th

Community Storytelling Event Storytelling Workshop | StorySwap

get all the details at

SOMOSTAOS.ORG

SOMOS - 575-758-0081 • 108 Civic Plaza Dr, Taos, NM 87571

made possible in part by: Taos Community Foundation, New Mexico Humanities Council, a division of the National Endowment of the Arts, New Mexico Arts, a division of the department of Cultural Affairs; Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation, Taos County Lodger's Tax, and individual donors

FALL INTO FLAVOR

FRESH BREWS FOR CRISP DAYS



CELEBRATE THE CHANGING OF THE SEASONS WITH US!

As vibrant gold transforms the mountains surrounding Red River, there's no better spot to soak in the autumn views than our heated patios. Plan to visit us for the annual Oktoberfest celebration on Oct. 9th-11th!

RED RIVER
BREWERY & DISTILLERY

GOT QUESTIONS?
GIVE US A CALL!
575-754-4422

OPEN FOR LUNCH AND DINNER DAILY
217 W MAIN ST, RED RIVER, NM 87558
REDRIVERBREWING.COM

Questa's FFA Off To A Great Start

By MARIANA ORTEGA

The Questa FFA chapter is off to a great start this year, with members already earning impressive awards and opportunities to compete.

One exciting achievement is Brisa Lara qualifying to compete at the National FFA Convention in the Spanish Creed Speaking Contest. Her accomplishments show both her hard work and dedication. Lara placed 3rd at the state contest last year, just one out of the opportunity to compete at Nationals. The first week of school, Mrs. Adams received word that one of the competitors ahead of Lara would not be able to compete, moving her to that spot. Nationals will be held in Indianapolis Oct. 20-23.

FFA members also had the opportunity to participate in the Taos County Fair, showcasing their many projects and dedication to their FFA chapter. Jessi Jackson earned the Heritage Buckle. The 4-H Heritage Buckle Contest is a youth essay competition where members write about their agricultural background and family heritage. Winners receive a custom belt buckle and a junior association

membership. Jackson also won Reserve Grand Heifer honors, and a Showmanship award for her steer project. Darren Trujillo earned first place and Best of Show for his button quail project, while Mia Ramos earned first, second, and Best of Show awards for her Netherland Dwarf rabbit project. All 3 members did an amazing job of showcasing their livestock projects.

Members also submitted welding and metal work projects, doing exceptionally well. Darren Trujillo earned first place for his Mule Deer Shed and fire pit, as well as first place and best of show alongside Atreyu Segura for their firewood rack. Kaylei Cordova earned first-place for her horseshoe turtle art and second place for both her deer shed and fire pit. Cordova and Juan Cisneros also received 2nd place for their firewood rack. Giana Young earned second place for her horseshoe-art cross, and Cisneros won third place for his elk shed. Other projects that showcased and placed 1st and 2nd were feeders made by members Juan Cisneros, Darren Trujillo, Diego Ortega, and fellow welding



Courtesy Photo

Questa FFA projects win awards



Courtesy Photo

Mia Ramos shows her rabbit during the Taos County Fair



Courtesy Photo

Members of the Questa FFA stand together for a photo

FFA cont'd on page 18

FEEL THE MUSIC. SUPPORT THE TRADITION. CELEBRATE CAMBALACHE!

QUESTA MARIACHI LIVE IN CONCERT!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 3:00 PM

La Placita, The Parking Lot at the Questa Visitors Center, 1 HWY 38, Questa, NM

SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC & YOUTH

Official Questa Mariachi T-Shirts for sale!

Treats, and fundraisers during the show.

Join the Sound! Interested in playing or supporting?

We meet every Monday at 6:00 PM at the Cerro VFW. All are welcome!

Check out my Communities of Questa Mariachi projects!

You can donate <https://www.venmo.com/u/MariachiVive>

TAOSHousingPARTNERSHIP.ORG

Questa Economic Development Fund & the LOR Foundation Presents

2026 Questa Speakers Series:

"Project Feasibility"

Join us for a presentation of regional case studies. Learn how data and community participation can aid in the building of a community housing vision in Questa. Snacks will be provided.

Please join us!

October 15, 2026 5:30-7pm

Questa Public Library

6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd
Questa, NM 87556

VIDA DEL NORTE: STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THIS IS A PAID AVERTORIAL BY VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION



By LORA ARCINIEGA

Building a safe, healthy community takes all of us. Across Northern Taos County, youth substance misuse prevention isn't just an individual or family responsibility it is a mission that requires support from every corner of our town. That is why the Vida del Norte Coalition brings together twelve different sectors of our community to protect our kids. Among these, the Government Sector plays a critical role in turning community goals into long-lasting protection.

Why Local Government Matters in Prevention

When we talk about the government sector, we mean our local town leaders, village staff, county officials, and public agency representatives. While community groups build awareness, the local government provides the practical support, infrastructure, and public policy needed to keep young people safe.

Local government partners make a real difference in three big ways:

- **Creating Safer Communities:** Municipal leaders help establish local policies that protect youth such as keeping parks tobacco-free, supporting safe zoning, and encouraging local businesses to practice responsible alcohol and tobacco sales.
- **Investing in Our Kids:** Civic leaders decide where community funds go. When our local government prioritizes public parks, community spaces, and youth activities, it gives our kids positive, safe places to gather and grow.
- **Connecting Public Efforts:** Government partners help align local prevention programs with county-wide health initiatives, ensuring that youth wellbeing remains a top priority for local leadership.

When local governance actively supports community coalitions, it sends a clear message: our youth matter, and their health and safety are worth investing in.

Get Connected with Vida del Norte Coalition:

To learn how your business can participate or support youth prevention efforts in Northern Taos County, visit vidadelnorte.com or email Maria.Gonzalez@VidaDelNorte.com

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR YOUTH: HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

"Being involved with the youth in our own community is a very important matter. I believe that the Village of Questa understands this. We have the Mayor and village clerk, Valerie Vigil, who both sit on the Vida de Norte Coalition. I finally attended my first meeting this last month. Every individual that spends time with our youth, whether it's being their coach, friend, or role model, can support strategies that reduce youth substance use and promote community health and safety."

-Councilman Jason Gonzalez

Get Involved with Vida del Norte Today!

Real prevention doesn't happen behind closed doors in the Village chambers; it starts with ordinary citizens stepping up. Whether you work in local government, run a local business, raise a family, or simply care about our community's future, your voice and hands are needed.

Here is how you can step up and make a difference:

- **Join a Coalition Meeting:** Attend an upcoming Vida del Norte meeting to share your ideas and see how community members and local leaders collaborate.
- **Advocate for Youth:** Speak up at municipal and county meetings in favor of local parks, youth programs, and health-focused policies.
- **Volunteer Your Time:** Help organize local events, family activities, and community outreach campaigns. Together, community members and local leaders can build a safer, healthier environment where every child in Northern Taos County can thrive. Reach out to the Vida del Norte Coalition today to find out how you can get involved!



Village of Questa Municipality Offices

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

BUSINESS

CIVIC/VOLUNTEER

HEALTHCARE

LAW
ENFORCEMENT

MEDIA

OTHER /
WELLNESS

PARENTS

RELIGIOUS/
FRATERNAL

SCHOOL

STATE/LOCAL
GOVT.

YOUTH

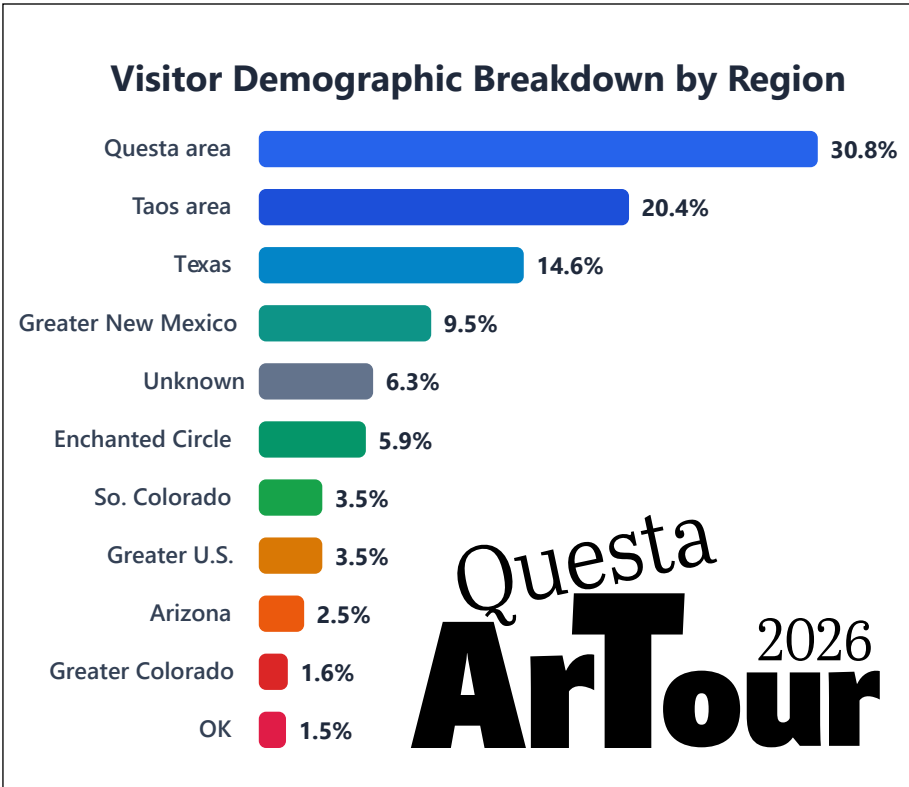
YOUTH-SERVING



Questa Art Tour Success & Gratitude ~ Ceramic Café is Back for Fall!

By QCC Board Members

The 2026 Questa Art Tour was another successful event with many new and returning visual artists and over 600 art-viewing guests. Visitors enjoyed an additional variety of musical offerings throughout the tour this year too. Thanks to much grant writing that paid for extensive advertising, our local artists welcomed customers from Arizona, Oklahoma,



Texas, Colorado, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Taos. We also loved seeing our local neighbors who came out.

A huge thank you to all art tour

patrons near and far; thanks also to all our sponsors and participating artists - we truly couldn't do it without you and your wonderful work! Deep appreciation for



Photo by Claire Côté

Questa Art Tour Guests enjoy music by Mark Dudrow and Martha Shepp at the Sunshine 360 Hub in Sunshine Valley, August 2026

the many folks that brought the event to fruition: volunteers and artist-volunteers that helped with the plethora of event tasks and to our QCC contractors for all of the essential but often invisible labor: Alberta Bouyer (marketing), Pilar Robledo (outreach) and Sierra Hedberg (grants manager+). Last but not least, gratitude for grant funding from Taos County, Chevron Grants for Good and Taos Community Foundation. This project was also supported in part by an award from New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Fall Ceramic Café Session, Oct. 21 - Dec. 16, 2026

The Art Room at the Questa Youth Center will again be alive with clay artistry this fall starting October 21 through December 16 (with a week off for Thanksgiving). During this eight-week session, the studio will be open on Wednesdays 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. You can be self-guided, or get help from hosts and ceramicist guides Carole and Anna. All abilities are welcome, from newbies to experts. Clay, tools and other materials are provided, as well as glazing

and firing! The free, all-ages, open clay studio is supported by participant donations. (If you plan a large volume of work, we ask that you pay for your clay). Please note that all kids under 12 years must be accompanied by an adult. The timing of this Ceramic Café aligns perfectly to get out and create some beautifully intentional holiday gifts and offerings. We hope to see you in the clay studio! Find more information at QuestaCreative.

org. For more info leave a message at (575) 586-5658 or questacreativecouncil@gmail.com.

Fall Ceramic Café Session,

When:

Wednesdays,
4:30-8:30 p.m.
Oct. 21 - Dec. 16, 2026

Who: All ages, all levels welcome

Cost: Free, donations appreciated



Photo by Claire Côté

Ceramic Café in the Questa Youth Center Art Room, Fall 2025



**QUESTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

from the Librarian's Desk...

Sharon Nicholson

Questa Public Library Launches Game Night

Looking for a fun way to spend an evening, meet new people, and maybe show off your competitive side? The Questa Public Library has just the thing.

The library is excited to launch Com-

munity Game Night, a new program designed to bring neighbors together for an evening of board games, card games, laughter, and friendly competition.

Whether you're a seasoned strategist, a card shark, or someone who simply enjoys a good time with friends, Game Night offers a chance to unplug, relax, and enjoy the company of fellow community members. "Libraries are places where people come together to learn, explore, and connect," said library volunteer Dawn Provencher. "Game Night is another way for us to bring the community together. You don't have to be an expert at any game. Just bring your sense of fun."

While the goal is certainly to have a good time, Game Night offers ben-

efits beyond entertainment. Games encourage creativity, critical thinking, teamwork, and communication. They also create natural opportunities for conversation and connection, something that's increasingly valuable in today's busy world.

For adults and teens, Game Night provides a fun activity that brings generations together. For adults, it's a chance to unwind and socialize. For newcomers to the community, it's an easy, welcoming way to meet people. Games break the ice and bring people together.

Participants can expect a variety of games ranging from quick and easy favorites to strategy games that challenge players to think several moves ahead. Don't know how to play? No problem.

There will be plenty of people ready to teach newcomers.

The library encourages everyone to come out, try something new, and enjoy an evening of good-natured fun. After all, the only thing better than winning a game is sharing a laugh with your neighbors. So gather your family, challenge a friend, or come solo and make some new ones. Game on, Questa!

GAME NIGHT

When: The 1st and 3rd Tuesday, beginning Oct. 6

Time: 5-7 p.m.

Location: Questa Public Library

For more information, contact the Questa Public Library at (575) 586-2023

Questa Public Library
Presents:

ADULTS & TEENS

Game Night

Join us for a night full of fun, laughter, and friendly competition!

Starting in October!

Every 1st & 3rd
TUESDAY
5:00PM - 7:00PM
@ Questa Public Library

Have a favorite game?
Bring it in and teach others to play!

FREE WORKSHOPS

QUESTA BUSINESS BRIDGE

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY TO BUSINESS RESOURCES, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

Located at the Questa Public Library

Bridging the Digital Gap: Tech Support with Audri León	THURS. OCT. 1 12-1PM
Classes for Curious Questeños Community Members Sharing Their Craft <i>Behind the Shelves: Exploring Your Library</i>	THURS. OCT. 8 5:30-7PM
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting with Anwar Kaelin, SBDC Director	THURS. OCT. 15 By Appt. Only
Housing: Understanding Project Feasibility Taos Housing Partnership & LOR	THURS. OCT. 15 5:30-7PM
Medicare 101 for Open Enrollment with Usla Gregory, Independent Rep	THURS. OCT. 22 5:30-7PM

 **REGISTRATION HELPS THE INSTRUCTORS, WALK-INS ARE WELCOME.**
For more information, contact Carole at QBB-Coordinator@QuestaEDF.com







CULTURAL TREASURES • A CELEBRATION OF

PLACE

A SHOWCASE OF
TAOS COUNTY COMMUNITIES

JOIN US! |  Thurs, Oct 8, 2026
3-7pm |  Taos County Plaza &
Historic County Courthouse



Explore Taos County, All in One Afternoon!

For one special afternoon, communities from across the county will come together inside the renovated Historic County Courthouse to share what makes each place their own. Think of it as a countywide community expo.



Food, Music, Dance and Living Traditions:

Tios Mios • Los Comanches de la Serna • Poet Olivia Romo • Weaving demonstrations and adobe making • Trampas Land Grant information • A model of Tio Vivo • T.A.C.O. Car Club Car Show • Free traditional food (while supplies last) • La Fraternidad Piadosa de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno • For all generations to enjoy and share together!

Learn more:
CulturalTreasuresProject.org

Thank you to our funders:









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

“Amalia, Ventero & Costilla Community Memory Gathering” at Screaming Bull Lodge, Oct. 17

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: On Sat, Oct. 17, 2 - 4 p.m. join us at the Screamin' Bull Outfitters Lodge for this month's event, Amalia, Ventero & Costilla Community Memory Gathering, with Chris, Gloria and Louie Lucero, and their relatives, friends and neighbors. They will reflect together on early days in their communities, experiences with their families, local schools, teachers, traditions and more.

“Many people we grew up with have left town or left this world, so we are excited to get together, reminisce and put our memories together,” expresses Gloria Lucero.

Louie Lucero established Screamin' Bull Outfitters in Amalia in the late 1970's with his wife, Gloria as lodge manager. It was not long after that his son, Chris Lucero, joined his father in the business of outfitting private land elk hunts on the Rio Costilla Park Ranch. They have both been instrumental in helping to shape not only the management of the area elk herd but also its other natural resources. Chris now runs the business and Louie and Gloria support



Courtesy Photo

Louie, Chris and Gloria Lucero at the Screamin' Bull Outfitters Lodge, September 2026

the guiding business with hospitality and cooking at the lodge.

The Luceros have deep roots in Amalia. Chris Lucero describes: “Being born and raised in the valley gave me the blessing of family and a childhood of security, happiness and support in a community where friends and family were all watching and “babysitting” as my brother and I rode our banana seat pedal bikes up and down the dirt road. We always knew there was security in this community. Enjoying the outdoors of fishing and camping drew me to the passion of hunting and guiding. Carrying on the tradition of hunting has become part of my world. Life in Amalia is like no other, a grounding rod you might say.”

Find Screamin' Bull Lodge at #761 NM Highway 196, Amalia, NM, for this special Voces de Nuestro País event.

Looking Back: Our Sept. 12th event featured Bobby Ortega and his son, musician and football Coach Dwayne Ortega. Bobby reflected on the local mountains and canyons that inspire him and “La Otra Vanda” where they run cattle. Dwayne performed traditional music, including mariachi songs and “la entrega.” He explained that understanding lyrics was essential to conveying emotion behind the music; for him this was the path to also becoming fluent in Spanish. The heart of the conversation centered on family history and cultural preservation. They traced their lineage through the Rael and Ortega families, described the matanza, and recalled the early 20th-century sheep herders, including Bobby's grandfather who left tree carvings in what is now National Forest and Wilderness. Discussions touched on the Catholic church as a cornerstone of Questa's community,



Photo by Claire Coté

Michael Rael, Dwayne Ortega and Bobby Ortega, September 12, 2026

culture, and history. The conversation concluded with tributes to the heritage of the Northern Rio Grande region, and the sense of shared duty to pass traditions on to the next generation.

Save the date: On Sat, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voces de Nuestro País is teaming up with The Paseo Project, Del Fuego, and the Forest Stewards Guild to bring the “Disturbance” project to Questa. Fire Ecology Day at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center is a day-long event exploring wildfire as both a destabilizing force and a generative ecological process with art exhibits, talks, family fun activities, music and food and our Fire Stories Open Mic. Come share your fire story!

Each “Voces” event is recorded and released as a video and audio 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 connection and understanding 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 LOR Foundation, Taos Community Foundation Chevron Grants for Goodpast and the Manitos Community Memory Project. Thanks to Wyman Edwards for Video Recording and Dan Kuehn for website design and

media upload. Learn more about the community archive and listen to community stories at [QuestaStories.org](https://www.QUESTASTORIES.org).

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 or text (575) 224-9066.



**Voces de Nuestro País
Amalia, Ventero & Costilla
Community Memory Gathering
Saturday, Oct. 17
2 - 4 p.m.**

The Amalia, Ventero & Costilla Community Memory Gathering is a live community event hosted by Voces de Nuestro País. Attendees will gather with Chris, Gloria, and Louie Lucero—along with their relatives, friends, and neighbors—to reminisce and share stories about early life in their communities, family experiences, local schools, traditions, and local history. The event is recorded and later released as a video and audio podcast.

Where: Screamin' Bull Outfitters Lodge,
#761 NM Highway 196, Amalia, NM

Contact:

Michael Rael: rael870@gmail.com

Claire Coté: QuestaStories@gmail.com

Phone/Text: (575) 224-9066

Website: [QuestaStories.org](https://www.QUESTASTORIES.org)

OCTOBER 24
5-8PM

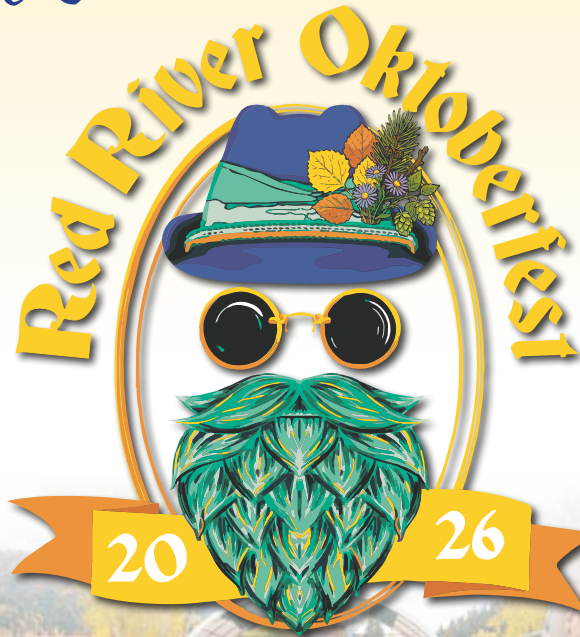
QUESTA *a*
River Fest

CARNIVAL GAMES—LIVE MUSIC—HAY RIDES
FOOD/DRINKS—INFLATABLES—PRIZES



River Community Church
65 S KIOWA RD.

OCTOBER THUR 8 - SUN 11
The Celebration Continues



**SCAN CODE FOR TICKET
 INFORMATION & FULL
 SCHEDULE!**

P.S. Living nearby? Be sure to ask about our locals' pricing at the gate!



*See
 you soon!*

Supported in Part by Taos County Lodger's Tax & Town of Red River Special Event Funding
 Red River Oktoberfest is paid for in part by Taos County Lodger's Tax

The Majestic Harbinger of Fall

By FRITZ DAVIS

It is a sound unlike any you have heard in your own backyard, unless you live in the mountains of New Mexico. Primal, abrasive and guaranteed to send a chill down your spine — it's special. It almost has a mechanical quality, and has been compared to the noise of a rusty pump handle, the kind used to pump well water years ago.

It is called bugling. It's a fall phenomenon and you may hear it anywhere in the mountains. It is a genuine indicator that autumn is in full swing and winter is not far away. The screams of the bull elk in full rut will not soon be forgotten.

Don't be surprised if you hear the bugling while you are in town. The sound can travel for miles and miles in the thin, clear mountain air. Its point of origin is anybody's guess.

In the high country of Northern New Mexico, elk or wapiti — scientific name *Cervus canadensis* — are the biggest creatures in the woods. The only member of the deer family that is larger is the moose and, while moose have been known to wander south into New Mexico from Colorado while following the Rio Grande, they are not residents like the elk.

Wapiti are members of the deer family, but make no mistake, you will not confuse them with the mule deer that inhabit the Sangre de Cristo mountains. An elk can be twice the size of a deer, and an average weight can reach 700 pounds. In fact, an elk calf can weigh as much as a full grown deer. They are substan-



Photo by Fritz Davis, Red River Miner

A magnificent bull elk relaxing after an early snowfall

tial creatures.

Only the males have antlers, which they shed every year, growing new ones each year. A bull elk's antlers can reach 4 feet above its head, giving the animal a height of 9 feet! There are no 9-foot deer!

Do not be surprised if you see a large herd grazing in the Moreno Valley between Eagle Nest and Red River. It is unclear as to the exact size of that herd, but estimates over the past 20 years have ranged from 600 to 1000+.

Driving at night through the Moreno, especially in the winter, can provide an interesting thrill. The elk frequently gather on Highway 38 in an effort to enjoy the warmth of the asphalt. If you are traveling that road, do not be in a hurry. The damage they can inflict on a vehicle can be substantial.

If you're headed north on highway 522 out of Questa towards Colorado, be on the lookout for elk who have been known to come down from the Latir mountains and cross the road headed to the Rio Grande.

FFA cont'd from page 12

classmates Atreyu Segura, Noah Mando- nado, and Matthew Vigil.

Not to be forgotten, Jolene Segura submitted a drawing for the 2026 Fair book Cover Contest and won. Her art work was displayed on the cover of the Fair book and she received a \$50 gift card for her efforts.

On August 27th, FFA officers, Mariana Ortega, Mia Ramos, Matthew Gallegos, Frankie Archuleta, Allison Segura, Jolene Segura, and Kaylei Cordova joined peers from across the state this week for the annual Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) conference.

The event serves as a training ground for elected FFA student executives. Through specialized workshops and collaborative team-building exercises,

student leaders develop critical skills in public speaking, strategic planning, and professional communication.

The primary objective of COLT is to empower these student officers to effectively manage their local FFA chapters. Participants leave with concrete goals, comprehensive action plans, and a unified vision to guide their school agricultural programs and community outreach initiatives for the upcoming academic year.

The Questa FFA Chapter is off to an amazing start, making this school year one to be proud of. If you are interested in supporting this group or looking for more information about how this organization might help the community please contact our advisor, Clara Adams.

*Mariana Ortega is the
 Chapter Reporter for the Questa FFA.*

382,874 Acres Proposed For Prescribed Burning In Truchas-Costilla Project, Public Comment Sought

By STAFF WRITERS

Managers at Carson National Forest are seeking public comment on a proposed forest management project aimed at reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health across a large portion of the forest's east side.

The Truchas to Upper Costilla Headwaters Active Management Project would include prescribed fire, fuels reduction, timber stand improvement, aspen and meadow maintenance, and post-fire ecosystem management. The project covers portions of the Camino Real and Questa ranger districts.

Forest managers said the work is intended to protect forest stands, watersheds, infrastructure and communities while restoring forests adapted to regular fire. Wildland-urban interface areas that have not received recent treatments would receive priority.

The proposed analysis covers all areas except designated wilderness that were not analyzed under the National Environmental Policy Act as part of the recent Taos Canyon and McGaffey Ridge projects.

Areas overlapping with ongoing projects also would be incorporated into the proposal. Those projects include Kiowa-San Cristobal, Highway 150, Pueblo Ridge, Rio Trampas and Valle Vidal.

The proposal would bring projects approved under the Carson National Forest's 1986 land management plan into consistency with the forest's 2022 plan. That would move management toward updated objectives and desired conditions based on recent community input and the best available science.

In total, the analysis covers 382,874 acres for prescribed fire, with 104,822 acres overlapping areas identified for

mechanical fuels-reduction treatments. Forest officials emphasized that treatment is not planned for every acre included in the analysis. Additional analysis of current and changing conditions on the ground would be used to determine where work takes place.

The proposal also includes temporary transportation system changes that would allow the use of more than 175 miles of roads, most of which are existing non-system roads with year-round vehicle restrictions. About eight miles of new roads would remain open to the public after the project is completed.

The draft environmental assessment, supporting documents and information on submitting comments are available at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/carson/projects/377818>

Public comments are due by Oct. 8, 2026.

SUPERFUND UPDATE cont'd from page 5

biphenyls (PCBs), historically concentrated around the mill area; and heavy metals.

- **Past Exposure:** Risk assessments consider present and future risks, but historical exposures from decades ago cannot be directly measured because chemicals change or degrade over time. Previous assessments found that exposure pathways such as dust inhalation and eating local garden produce did not exceed long-term safety thresholds.

- **Private Wells:** Municipal water systems are routinely monitored, but health officials strongly encourage Questa residents who rely on private drinking-water wells to have their wells tested to help ensure groundwater safety.

Green Hydrogen

During the open Q&A, many attendees raised concerns about the proposed green hydrogen plant and its location within the Superfund site.

EPA clarified that although the proposed facility is within the broader Superfund boundary, it is not located on top of mine tailings. Officials also said the areas containing the site's solar arrays are not designated tailings areas.

QuestaNews.com

Disturbance Days **NOVEMBER**

Wild Rivers Fire Ecology Day

Art • Science • Stories • Community

Saturday
November 7th
10-5pm

Wild Rivers Visitor Center

36° 40' 50.88" N, 105° 40' 22.80" W
1120 NM-378, Questa, NM 87556

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 10-2 PM | "Drawing on Earth" Chalk Activation with Mark Lewis Wagner |
| 10-5 PM | "The Medicine of Disturbance" Exhibition Trailer |
| 10-5 PM | Disturbance, A Forest in Motion: A Youth Art + Ecology Event - Questa Edition |
| 10-5 PM | Rio Grande Watershed Scroll + Puzzle by Scott Sutton |
| 12-1 PM | Shifting Mosaics: Ellis Margolis and Manny Lopez with Special Guests |
| 1-2 PM | Lunch Provided with Music by Michael Rael |
| 2-4 PM | Voces de Nuestro País: Fire Stories |

THE
PASEO
PROJECT

DEL
FUEGO

Forest Stewards
Guild

QUESTA

ART EXHIBITIONS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS BY

DISTURBANCE



Scan for full event details or visit
paseoproject.org/disturbance2026





By Toner Mitchell

Let There Not Be Light

We've already been reminded how quickly the fishing can go south when the weather gets so hot. First of all, fish need water, of which we've had precious little until just recently. Warm water is another thing. How often do you find yourself in an intolerably sweltering situation thinking, "Hmm, I think I need a big plate of food."

But at its worst, summertime in New Mexico teaches some of the best fishing lessons. Aside from the above, - fishing is bad when the water is slim and warm - fishing on a bright clear day can be pretty slow too. The old fishing adage of thinking like a fish holds true again: sane people seek shade when the sun is high overhead and blasting. Well, trout feel the same way.

I recently had a chance to fish in Montana, a welcome relief given how sad New Mexico's drought situation. As we all know, the state and trout are legendarily synonymous, and I was excited to be reminded of what my favorite fish looks like. Montana never disappoints.

It turns out they've had a pretty crispy summer up there too thanks to a dry winter and spring. Due to its water and heat woes, the state has been closing its trout streams to fishing by 2:00 in the



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Ruby River Brown

afternoon (a super idea, I must say). Fortunately, however, the heat had broken by the time we got there, so our spirits were super high.

We fished Madison the first day, the famous fifty-mile riffle, one of the three rivers (along with the Jefferson and Gallatin) that join to form the Missouri River headwaters. It's an imminently wadeable stream in spite of its size and uniformly strong current. Near the town of Ennis where we fished it, the Madison braids into multiple side channels that all hold rainbow and brown trout. A tentative wader can feel perfectly at home.

As expected, the fish were in a generous mood, lying below drop offs and smacking our grasshoppers enthusiastically. We trailed nymphs below the hoppers, and the fish hit them too. Both rainbows and browns had a silvery sheen and sparkled like diamonds when going airborne in the bright morning sun. They were fat and Madison strong.



Photo by Toner Mitchell

O'Dell Creek

But they were small, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Like in the town where you live, you want small ones running around. It means the town is making babies. But on Madison that day, I definitely started to wonder where the adults were. A couple decades ago, my non-fishing wife caught a 22 inch rainbow at the same area only ten yards away from the parking lot. Where was that guy?

We fished that afternoon over the hill from Ennis on the Ruby River, a much smaller stream running through a New Mexico-like canyon arrayed in pinons and junipers. There I managed to find a big fish. But just one, and unlike on the Madison, the little fish weren't coming out to play. We quit around cocktail hour, right as the big sun was disappearing behind the canyon wall in the west and right when another fisherman, a local or at least someone who knew what he was doing, pulled into the parking lot.

The following morning we fished

O'Dell Creek, a winding, meadowy dream I've been wanting to fish forever where I'd heard most of the fish have PhDs. Thus I was proud of myself when I started catching fish right away. I had it all figured out, stay close to the high grassy bank so as not to stand out against the sky.

But again, none of my fish were big. The only fish of any size were the ones I spooked from under the weedy shelves near the bank. At which point I realized what the problem was: I wasn't catching big fish because the big fish weren't there. They were chilling in the shade - to put a very fine point on it, out of the bright sunshine - like I should have been.

I finally gave up and headed back to the car, right when a cloud covered the sun. Two of my crew members were waiting by the car. The other guy would be an hour away from getting back. He apologized for being late, then said he was too busy catching big fish.

Taos County Merges Volunteer Fire Districts to Boost Response Times and Lower Insurance Rates

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Facing a nationwide decline in volunteerism, Taos County Fire and Rescue has restructured its rural emergency services, consolidating several neighboring volunteer fire departments into merged regional districts.

Under New Mexico state statute, volunteer fire districts must maintain at least 10 active personnel on their rosters. As changing lifestyles and demanding work schedules led to shrinking volunteer numbers in rural areas,

maintaining standalone crews in every community became increasingly difficult. Rather than closing understaffed stations, Taos County Fire and Rescue Chief Mike Cordova spearheaded a series of strategic mergers that reduced the county's active volunteer districts.

For Cordova, now in his 11th year as county fire chief, the mission is personal. He began his own fire service career as a volunteer in his hometown of Questa, starting on EMS calls before earning his EMT license, taking on driving roles, and advancing



ing through emergency fire and EMS services. Without a traditional college degree, Cordova built his leadership

path from the ground up, driven by a commitment to community safety and local volunteers.

Under the new structure, neighboring communities have been paired into unified districts. Costilla and Amalia now make up Taos County Fire District 1, while Latir and Cerro have joined to form District 2. Similar consolidations were enacted for Lama and San Cristóbal (District 3) and Carson, Ojo Caliente, and Tres Piedras (District

RESPONSE TIMES cont'd on page 29

36 Bear Complaints As Dry Conditions Bring Bears To Lower Elevations

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

New Mexico Game & Wildlife officials have received 36 bear complaints throughout Taos County this year, as warmer temperatures and dry conditions push bears into lower elevations in search of food and water.

The increase in bear activity in Taos County is part of a broader trend across New Mexico, according to the department. Higher temperatures and a lack of moisture this spring and summer have reduced food and water availability at higher elevations, forcing bears to move farther in search of resources.

That movement can bring bears into residential areas, where food and water are more readily available. Garbage, leftover pet food, birdseed and fallen fruit can all attract bears to homes and neighborhoods.

The department said its priority is to keep bears alive and prevent them from becoming habituated to people.

Residents can help by eliminating attractants from their yards and securing potential food sources, officials said.

Residents are advised to never feed or approach bears, intentionally or unintentionally. Bears that learn to associate people and homes with food can become habituated, increasing the potential for conflicts.

Garbage and recycling should be secured, and bird feeders should be removed when bears are active. Pet food should not be left outside, and outdoor pets should be fed portions that can be completely consumed at each meal.

Residents who use outdoor grills should clean them thoroughly after

each use, removing grease and fat, and store grills and smokers in areas inaccessible to bears.

Wildlife officials also encourage residents to notify neighbors about recent bear activity.

Property owners can protect livestock, beehives and other potential attractants with fencing designed to keep bears out. Electric fencing has proven to be an effective deterrent without causing long-term harm to bears, according to the department.

Homeowners in bear country are also encouraged to take precautions around their properties. Fruit trees should be planted away from homes, fruit should be picked as it ripens and fallen or spoiled fruit should be removed. Woodpiles can attract rodents that bears prey upon and should be kept away from houses.

Compost piles should also be located away from homes and should not contain fragrant foods such as melon rinds. Livestock, chicken pens and beehives should be kept away from houses when possible.

People who encounter a bear while walking should remain calm and never run, wildlife officials said.

If a bear is spotted, stand upright, slowly wave your arms and back away. People should also watch for cubs and avoid getting between a mother bear and her young.

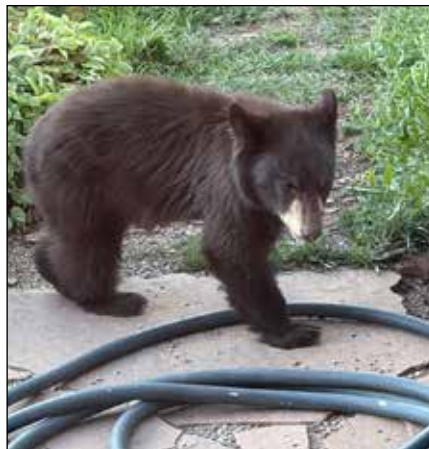
If a bear attacks, officials advise people to fight back aggressively.

The department said bears have adapted to living near people, and residents can help reduce conflicts by adapting their properties and habits to avoid providing bears with easy sources of food.



Photo by Christina Roybal

A bear was spotted rummaging through a large dumpster in late August at the RCCLA grounds



Courtesy Photo

One of our readers in El Prado sent us this photo of a baby bear on her back patio sighted in Sept



Winter Readiness with J&L Powersports: Get Ahead of the Cold

By LORA ARCINIEGA

Whether northern New Mexico hands us three feet of snow or just a light dust, one thing is guaranteed: cold weather is on its way. For many locals, from ranchers hauling water and feed to property owners stacking firewood, a UTV doesn't get parked when winter hits, it becomes an essential workhorse. And for those eager to head into the high country, snowmobile season is right around the corner.

J&L Powersports will begin taking in snowmobiles for winter service around mid-to-late October. The key message this season is simple: don't wait until the snow is already on the ground. Every year, machines sit through the fall only to refuse to start when the first heavy storm rolls through. Bringing equipment in early guarantees it's turn-key ready the moment you need it.

Pre-Season Maintenance & Upgrades at J&L

Before temperatures drop, a thorough check up helps prevent costly breakdowns or being left out in the cold. Key items to inspect include:

- **Basic Maintenance Checks:** Batteries, fluids, coolant, belts, brakes, tires, tracks, and overall safety inspections.
- **Winter Work & Comfort Accessories:** Upgrades can be installed ahead of time, including cab heaters, full enclosures, snowplows, winches, and track conversions.

Winter Trail Riding & Mountain Safety

Winter alters where and how you can ride. Many favorite summer trails in the surrounding mountains become inaccessible, hazardous, or legally off-limits. Keep these safety practices in mind before

heading out. Below are tips directly from James and Lauren on how to play and work safe:

- **Know Your Route:** Verify that trails are legally open for winter use, and recognize that familiar terrain changes dramatically under snow, ice, and heavy drifting.
- **Prepare for Rapid Weather Shifts:** Mountain weather shifts rapidly, and temperatures plummet as soon as the sun drops. Take out behind the peaks a simple mechanical issue in July can become a critical emergency in January.
- **Pack Essential Gear:** Always inform someone of your route and expected return time. Carry extra warm layers, gloves, food, water, a first-aid kit, a flashlight, basic repair tools, recovery/tow gear, and a reliable communication device.
- **Know When to Turn Back:** Riding alone or pushing past safe limits in deep snow increases the risk of getting stranded. Turning around early is always better than facing a dangerous recovery.

Service Options

J&L Powersports services ATVs, UTVs, and snowmobiles, including older models that need extra care. For local residents unable to transport their machines, **pickup and delivery services** are available.

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



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



NORTEÑAS CONNECT

WHEN WOMEN CONNECT, COMMUNITIES THRIVE.

WOMAN OF THE MONTH:
SEPTEMBER 2026

LORRIE JARAMILLO

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.



Hands-on Training Keeps Volunteer Fire Departments Strong

By LORA ARCINIEGA

For three intense days each September, recruits from across Northern New Mexico gather in the Enchanted Circle to take on a unique challenge: learning the essential, hands-on skills of firefighting with zero classroom theory.

The annual Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Mini Academy, hosted by the Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Protection Association, offers critical Fire 1 and Fire 2 training designed to turn new recruits into fully functioning firefighters in a single weekend. By eliminating prolonged classroom lectures, the academy allows volunteers to gain practical experience fighting fires, operating water apparatus, and managing emergency scenes without taking extensive time off work.

Now in its 25th year, the academy has trained well over 400 firefighters since its inception, which began with early live-burn exercises in Taos Ski Valley. Today, thanks to funding from state legislation championed by Senator Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales and contributions from local departments, the academy operates out of an expanded regional training facility equipped with specialized fire props.

While built primarily to serve the 19 fire departments within the Enchanted Circle area, the mini academy opens its doors to surrounding rural departments, including Dixon Fire.

Taos County Fire and Rescue Chief Mike Cordova, who serves as the academy's Operations Section Chief, emphasizes how rare and vital the program is for rural fire protection across the region. "Minus the state fire academy, I believe this is one, if not the only, regional academy that



Photo by Lt. Payne, Taos County Fire Rescue

Participants engage in fire suppression activities

is hosted every year," Cordova said. "Ninety percent of people here are all volunteers, and we're able to do this year after year and create successful firefighters. It's just amazing."

This year, 16 cadets signed up to participate, supported by a dedicated staff of 40 to 50 company officers, chiefs, and instructors who volunteer their weekend to mentor the incoming class. Recruits range from young men and women entering emergency services to career personnel and older community members looking to give back.

Despite nationwide trends of declining volunteer numbers due to busy schedules and family commitments, the mini academy continues to thrive as an essential recruitment tool. For Cordova, the program reinforces the heart of community-based emergency response. "If you want to truly help someone and not do it for your own personal gain, then become a volunteer firefighter," Cordova said. "It truly gives you a sense of community pride."



Photo by Lt. Payne, Taos County Fire Rescue

Cadets listen in at the three day mini fire academy

Sponsored by LOR FOUNDATION

Real Local Fiber.
YOUR INTERNET BILL COULD SUPPORT A LOCAL TECHNICIAN.
OR A BILLIONAIRE'S SPACE PROGRAM.



When you need your internet, you shouldn't have to look to the sky for answers.

We build, maintain and support our fiber network right here in Northern New Mexico. And when you need help, you know where to find us.



REAL PEOPLE
Local employees who live here



REAL SUPPORT
Talk to a real team, not a call center thousands of miles away.



REAL ACCOUNTABILITY
People you can reach when you need us.



REAL INVESTMENT
Your internet dollars stay in our community, supporting local jobs, businesses and projects.

Local network. Local jobs. Local future.
Proudly serving Northern New Mexico.

FAST. LOCAL. FIBER.

(575) 758-4838 KitCarsonInternet.com



KCEC 2025 ENERGY MIX



LOCAL SOLAR + GUZMAN ENERGY = A DIVERSE ENERGY PORTFOLIO FOR NORTHERN NEW MEXICO

In 2025, approximately 87.26% of the electricity serving Kit Carson Electric Cooperative members came from renewable energy resources.

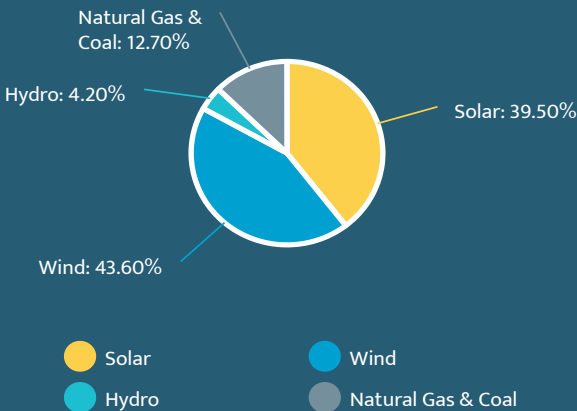
RENEWABLE ENERGY

87.26%

Nearly 9 out of every 10 kWh is renewable and carbon-free.

KCEC 2025 ENERGY MIX

Local solar generation combined with renewable resources supplied through the Guzman Energy portfolio.



THE NUMBERS

SOLAR — 39.5% local solar
Today, KCEC is 100% Daytime Solar

WIND — 43.6%

HYDRO — 4.2%

KCEC is projected to be 100% renewable by 2028.



Battery storage matters. Batteries generate electricity only when they are discharged, so they aren't counted in the 87.26%. They store available power for later use, strengthening reliability and resilience.

WHERE DOES KCEC'S ENERGY COME FROM?

KCEC has taken a two-part approach to building its energy portfolio. First, KCEC generates solar energy locally in Northern New Mexico. This allows the cooperative to take advantage of the region's abundant sunshine and produce electricity closer to the communities it serves. Second, electricity that KCEC does not generate locally is supplied through Guzman Energy and its portfolio of generation resources.

In 2015, KCEC's energy mix was 78% coal and natural gas, with just 2.7% local solar and 19.3% from other renewable resources, including hydro, wind and solar. A decade later, KCEC has transformed its energy portfolio to approximately 87.26% renewable energy, demonstrating how far our cooperative has come in reducing its reliance on fossil-fuel generation, expanding local solar, addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

BODY MIND SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY



Forgiveness Is For you, Not Them

Here we are again, fall and winter headed our way and changes in nature shows us how it's time to let go, much like a tree that lets go of its leaves that no longer serve a purpose and that remaining on the tree would just be useless dead weight. That is how carrying a grudge can be for any of us – dead weight. Forgiveness is a quiet act of profound internal courage. It's not meant to condone bad behavior or

invite a toxic person back into our life. It is an act of unchaining ourselves from them. Choosing to forgive or hold onto resentment triggers a profound chain reaction across our entire being. When we don't forgive, our body and mind are trapped in a state of chronic defense; when we do forgive, we shift into a state of deep healing.

Staying in a state of unforgiving, is detrimental to our physical, our mental and our spiritual being. We live in a physical world, and our bodies do not experience resentment passively, they experience it as an emergency. To hold a grudge or shall we say, refuse to forgive is like weaponizing our nervous system against ourselves. Often resulting in elevated cortisol, high blood pressure and weakened immunity. Whereas when we do forgive, it can calm the nervous system, lower the heart rate and support deeper sleep.

On a mental level, unforgiving can burden the mind with obsessive think-

ing. It can create anxiety and mental fatigue. None of which are helpful for a peaceful life or a healthy one. When we let go and forgive, we have a steadier regulation of the emotions and a much lighter outlook on life which gives the body and mind relief from the tensions and frustrations of past injuries that are exactly that: past. It's time to let it all go and find freedom in our hearts, mind and body.

On a spiritual level, unforgiving can cause stagnation and a sense of being isolated, closing us off from the natural flow of love, joy, and peace – keeping us tangled in a toxic connection to trauma and unresolved pain. It's as if our hearts become hardened and disconnected from divine peace. When we forgive and forget, we can experience a greater flow of energy, deeper empathy and a wonderful inner freedom.

As we prepare ourselves and our homes for the coming colder season, perhaps we can also prepare our inner



lives. True forgiveness is not a favor we do for the other person that may have hurt us in some way; it is a profound gift of health, freedom and peace that we give ourselves. So, before the first snow falls this year, ask yourself: What useless heavy burden am I willing to let go of?

It has been said that being unwilling to let go and forgive is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die.

SENIOR MENU: OCTOBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Hamburger Macaroni Tossed Salad Mediterranean Blend Veggies Wheat Roll Peaches	2 Chicken Tacos Salsa Roasted Zucchini Pinto Beans Orange
5 Papas Con Chorizo Flour Tortilla Pinto Beans Spinach, Carrots Pineapple Chunks	6 Hamburger Steak w/Grilled Onions & Gravy California Blend Veggies Salad, Wheat Roll Apricots	7 Hot Dog Cucumber & Tomato Salad Baked Fries Pears Vanilla Yogurt	8 Sloppy Joe Broccoli Caesar Salad Vanilla Yogurt Strawberries & Bananas	9 Carne Adovada Pinto Beans Calabacitas Tortilla Tropical Fruit Salad
12 CLOSED Columbus Day	13 Scrambled Eggs Hashbrowns w/Peppers & Onions Salsa Flour Tortilla Banana, Vanilla Yogurt	14 Classic Burger w/Lettuce, Tomato & Onion Potato Wedges Roasted Brussel Sprouts Fruit Salad	15 Herbed Pork Chop Brown Rice Pilaf Vegetable Medley Salad Applesauce	16 Frito Pie Capri Vegetables Spiced Peaches
19 Chicken Strips Pasta Salad Winter Blend Veggies Strawberries & Bananas	20 Ham Scalloped Potatoes Carrots Wheat Roll Vanilla Yogurt, Fruit Cocktail	21 Red Beef Enchiladas Pinto Beans Capri Veggies Apple	22 Fried Chicken Three Beans Salad Spinach Honey Cornbread Peach Cobbler	23 Meatloaf w/Gravy Parsley Potatoes Italian Veggies Roll, Tropical Fruit Salad Peanut Butter Cookie
26 Orange Chicken Chow Mein Noodles w/Stir Fry Blend Veggies Jello w/Pineapple	27 Baked Fish Wild/Brown Rice Mediterranean Blend Veggies Angel Food Cake w/Whipped Topping	28 Chile Relleno Green Chile Sauce Pinto Beans Spanish Rice, Chateau Blend Veggies Apricots	29 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes w/Country Gravy Broccoli w/Red Peppers Wheat Roll Pear	30 Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Green Salad Carrot & Raisin Salad Fruit Salad



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

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

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

Currently, exercise classes are not available.

Donations for transportation are encouraged.

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



LIVE LOVE LAUGH

by Ellen Wood
a.k.a. Maruška

How Would You Like To Die?

I've mentioned the Five Tibetan Rites in this column before, but let me review what they are: these Rites are a series of physical movements developed by lamas in Tibet about 2500 years ago and handed down from generation to generation. They were kept secret in Himalayan monasteries because they are a path to higher consciousness for the initiated, with the side benefit of youthfulness.

These are not physical fitness exercises. Author Peter Kelder, who brought the Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation to the west in the 1930s, specifically tells us in *The Eye of Revelation* (later released as *The Ancient Secret of the Fountain of Youth*), "I would like to make it clearly understood that these are not physical exercises at all. They are only performed a few times a day; so

few times that they could not possibly be of any value as physical culture movements. What the Rites actually do is this: They start the seven Vortexes spinning at a normal rate of speed; at the speed which is normal for, say, a young, robust, strong, virile person of twenty-five years of age."

There you have it! Kelder goes on to say the Five Tibetans affect the body, mind and emotions, activating key energy centers in the body. It also stimulates the glands of the endocrine system. Most importantly, these physical movements help you discover your true nature as a multi-dimensional being. They help you open your heart, expand your consciousness and generate sexual energy to clear away physical and energetic blocks.

With these Rites you generate more life-sustaining energy through the spinning of the seven vortexes. Once your body's energies flow freely through their channels and all seven vortexes are spinning at the same speed, your body can transform itself and maintain health and vitality for a long, healthy, youthful life.

These seven energy vortexes are not the seven chakras many of us are familiar with. As Kelder explains, "There are two of these vortexes in the brain, one at the base of the throat, another in the right side of the body [at the waist] opposite



Gemini generated image

the liver, one in the sexual center and one in each knee.

"These spinning centers of activity extend beyond the flesh in the healthy individual, but in the old, weak, senile person they hardly reach the surface except in the knees. The quickest way to regain health, youth, and vitality is to start these magnetic centers spinning again."

I practice the Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation (almost) every day and I've had enormous benefits, so I highly recommend them. But first get your doctor's permission.

Want to see how to do them? Go to

my website, www.howtogrowyounger.com. The Tibetan Rites of Rejuvenation video is the third one down on my home page. A spiral-bound book on how to do them is available on my website as well.

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.

ESSENTIAL HOME WINTERIZATION SOLUTIONS
KEEP YOUR HOME COMFORTABLE AND SAVE ENERGY.

- ROOF HEATING CABLES**
(to prevent ice dams)
PREVENTS ICE DAMS & DAMAGE
- WINDOW INSULATION SHRINK-KITS**
CREATES AN INSULATING BARRIER
- FOAM OUTLET SEALERS**
BLOCKS DRAFTS & AIR LEAKS
- HEAVY-DUTY WEATHERSTRIPPING**
SEALS GAPS AROUND DOORS & WINDOWS
- DOOR SWEEPS**
ELIMINATES DRAFTS UNDER DOORS

THE GREAT WINTERIZATION CHECKLIST

October is the ultimate deadline for winterizing homes in the high desert.

QUESTA LUMBER & HARDWARE CO.
2349 State Road 522 • Questa NM • 575.586.0414
questalumber.com

JR (Malaquias) says:

Get new tires that won't flatten your wallet.



The price is always right.

NorthStar doesn't trick people out of their money – we leave that to the big city folks with marble floors and chandeliers.



575-586-0561 • 2460 State Road 522, Questa NM



Heavy Or Light Weight Training

Does it matter if we train heavy or light? We have always heard that in order to gain muscle, train with heavy weight and less reps. Today, the ideal rep range is between 8-12 reps. With today's research, heavy or light to moderate weight can build muscle. If this is true, we need to find and utilize practical approaches that make the research true. One thing is for sure, if you want to get stronger, you need to train with heavy weights in order to recruit motor units. These types of athletes are power lifters, specific strength sport athletes and anyone wanting to increase their 1 repetition max.

Muscle growth is a different question and requires different types of training. Muscles can grow without using maximal force in which lighter weight is used to achieve muscle growth. The main goal for muscle growth is performing resistance at the highest effort while doing any light or moderate set. Remember, every set of reps should be done or close to muscular failure regardless of weight. While performing sets with lighter weight, the body doesn't need to recruit motor units because the load is easy enough to handle the work load. The more reps you are doing, the more you get fatigued and the muscle fibers can't handle the workload. The nervous system recruits more additional motor units and larger high threshold fibers which can help in potential muscle growth. By the last high repetition performed, the muscle fiber recruitment is very high although the weight is light. Light weight doesn't mean using tiny weights and going through the motions. It means using decent weight with an all out effort for every set. Eventually, fatigue will settle in using high reps as one does using heavy weight with low reps. The higher reps will cause a burning sensation, heavier breathing, and more cardiovascular benefits. The problem with light weight training is that people will stop their set early because of the burning sensation. Most of the time when this happens, you

still have more reps left in you. As long as you're doing sets to failure or 1 or 2 reps short of failure the benefits will come. This is one reason people choose to use moderate weight where the reps aren't that high but still go to failure and reap the benefits of lighter weight.

Although, lifting heavy or light to moderate weights is effective for the individual's needs, the main goal is to train with maximum effort to failure or just short of it. Weight is important but training with all out effort is more effective than the numbers printed on the plates. Muscles don't care how much weight is being used or reps being performed. It responds to the recruitment of fibers in order to lift the weight.

Regardless of lifting heavy or light, people will experiment with different programs until they find the most productive and effective one to use. Heavy weight will produce strength and light to moderate weight can help develop muscle growth and reduce injuries and joint stress. With light weight most people will fail or change the weight to moderate or heavy because of the effects light training has on the body. Instead of questioning heavy vs light, ask yourself whether your current training provides progressive overload, all out effort, proper technique, and enough recovery time. When you realize your training is developing muscle growth, stick with that program and tweak it as needed.

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

Paul Passino has a Bachelor's 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.



Here comes Fall! The air is crisp, leaves are starting to change and warm comfort meals are in order for the upcoming months. Enjoy this braised beef recipe with roasted fall vegetables, garlic mashed potatoes or steamed rice. After building the braise base, you can put all ingredients into a slow cooker instead of the oven. Just make sure to cook until very tender!

Red Chile Braised Short Ribs

INGREDIENTS

Short Ribs

- 5-6 lb beef short ribs, bone-in (or substitute beef chuck flap)
- 2 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 2-3 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 2 cups beef stock
- 1 cup dry (not sweet) red wine
- 2 bay leaves

New Mexico Red Chile Sauce

- 4 oz dried New Mexico red chile pods
- 3 cups hot water or beef stock
- 1 tsp kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp rendered beef fat or vegetable oil

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prepare the Red Chile

- Remove stems and seeds from the dried chile pods.
- Toast the pods briefly in a dry skillet over medium heat, about 20-30 sec. per side. Do not burn them—the chile should become fragrant but not bitter.
- Place toasted chiles in a bowl and cover with hot water or stock. Let soak for 20 min.
- Drain, reserving about 1 cup of the soaking liquid.
- Blend the softened chiles with: garlic, cumin, oregano, salt, vinegar, and reserved soaking liquid.

- Blend until very smooth. Strain through a fine-mesh strainer and set aside.

2. Sear the Short Ribs

- Preheat the oven to 325°F.
- Season short ribs generously with salt and pepper.
- Heat oil in a heavy Dutch oven or braising pan over medium-high heat. Sear the short ribs on all sides until deeply browned, about 3-4 min. per side.
- Remove beef and set aside.

3. Build the Braising Base

- Reduce heat to medium.
- Add onion and cook until softened and lightly caramelized, about 6-8 min.
- Add garlic, cumin and oregano. Cook for about 30 sec.
- Add tomato paste and cook for 1 min., stirring constantly (do not burn).
- Deglaze with the red wine, scraping the browned bits from the bottom of the pan.
- Reduce the wine by about half.

4. Add the Chile

- Add approximately 2 cups of the red chile sauce and the beef stock.
- Bring to a simmer.
- Return the short ribs to the pan. The liquid should come about 1/2-2/3 of the way up the ribs, not completely cover them.
- Add bay leaves.
- Cover tightly with a lid or foil.

5. Braise

- Place in the oven and braise for approximately 3 1/2-4 hrs., turning the ribs once or twice.
- The ribs are finished when the meat is extremely tender and a fork slides easily into the meat.

6. Finish the Sauce

- Remove the ribs from the braising liquid.
- Skim excess fat from the surface.
- Remove bay leaves.
- If necessary, simmer the sauce uncovered until it has reduced to a rich, glossy consistency.
- Taste and adjust with: salt, red chile sauce, a small splash of apple cider vinegar

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



By J. ORTEGA

UNSTOPPABLE

Starring Jennifer Lopez, Bobby Canavale, Michael Pena and Jharell Jerome
Directed by William Goldenberg
Rated PG-13
Streaming on Amazon Prime

First Impression:

Unstoppable tells the incredible true story of 2011 NCAA wrestling champion Anthony Robles and how he accomplished this feat with one leg. We have seen many inspiring sports stories before, but this is one of the absolute best. You will be cheering and inspired by the adversity Robles had to overcome.

When we think about sports films, they can often be very formulaic. We see the hero lose early, doubt themselves, and eventually find a way to win in the end. Although these movies can be great cinematically, like *Rudy* or *Remember the Titans*, writers sometimes take a few too many liberties with the story, pushing too far into fantasy just to create a more compelling narrative. I, for one, was very disappointed when I found out the real story of Rudy Ruettiger was highly fabricated. Details ranging from his teammates turning in their jerseys to his coach disliking him were false. In real life, Rudy's coach, Dan Devine, encouraged him and was all for him playing. Perhaps the most memorable part of the film was when Rudy was carried off the field. While that did happen to Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana, who played for Notre Dame at the time, he said the team did it as a joke, rather

than the triumphant accomplishment portrayed in the film.

So, when I watched *Unstoppable*, I am happy to report that it stays true to the real story of Anthony Robles. Robles even served as the body double for the actor portraying him. We start by seeing Robles as a dominant high school wrestler who just won the national title in Philadelphia, only to see the wrestler he beat get a full ride scholarship to Anthony's dream school in Iowa all because Iowa wrestling doesn't believe he can compete at the next level with only one leg. In fact, he gets only one scholarship offer, and it's to a school that is not known for producing national champions. Anthony decides to stay home instead and walk on at Arizona State.

The film also goes to great lengths to show how Anthony's personal life, specifically his loving relationship with his mother (Lopez) and his rocky relationship with his stepfather (Canavale), shapes and drives him to be the best he can be.

In conclusion, I know football season is starting up and watching a great sports movie can really amp you up for the season. Give this movie a shot; you won't be disappointed.



FINAL VERDICT: 4 OUT OF 5 STARS



Screen Grab

GEARED UP FOR FALL



QUALITY MEATS • TRAIL SNACKS • COFFEE

HEARTY MEALS FOR COLD MORNINGS AND LONG TRAIL DAYS.

Heading out to hunt, camp, or view the golden aspens? Grab trail-ready lunches, coffee, and stew ingredients right in town.



Stay tuned for monthly deals on

OPEN DAILY: Mon-Sun • 7AM - 8:30 PM
 5 Supermarket Rd, Questa (off Highway 522)
 (575) 586-0233

Are you looking for something different?

UPFRONT.
No surprises. Just the facts.

HONEST.
Built on trust. Committed to you.

READY.
Ready to list your home or help you find the one that's right for you.

Proudly serving buyers and sellers in the *Enchanted Circle of New Mexico.*

Kim Leach, REALTOR®

575-770-4432 | kim@swanrealtyinc.com

Local Knowledge. Strong Connections. Proven Results.
 Your Real Estate Partner Every Step of the Way.

NMREC License #54466

Shop Local. Get Rewarded!

DON'T LET YOUR CAR SPOOK YOU THIS HALLOWEEN!

Mysterious smoke or noises? Check your fluids before small troubles turn into ghastly repair bills.

Get all your automotive necessities at Q-Town Auto Parts!

(575) 586-0419 | 2420 St. Hwy 522 • Questa, NM 87556 • (575) 586-0419
 Your Local Hub for Auto Parts & Equipment Rentals

WILLIAM J. SALLS, MSN/CRNP

● Urgent Care

● Family Medicine

● Colorado & New Mexico

● Open to New Patients

● Accepts Cash

● All Insurance

● Telemedicine

● House Calls

● Botox

● Weight Loss

wjsalls.com

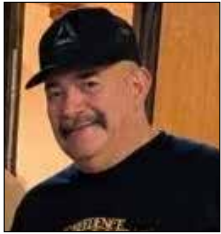
575-770-5528

OBITUARIES



Sponsored by Mountain Home Health Care
has been providing Home Health Care and Hospice Services to the Taos community since 1975.

(575) 758-4786 • mtnhomehealth.com 630 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Taos



Leroy "Columbo" Joe Arellano
d. Sep. 14, 2026

It is with deep sadness and loving remembrance that the family of Leroy Joe "Columbo" Arellano announces his passing on September 14, 2026, in Alamosa, Colorado. Leroy, affectionately and widely known throughout his life as "Columbo," was born on July 19, 1957, in Colorado, to Adolph Arellano and Agatha Arellano. To so many who knew and loved him, the name Columbo became a special part of who he was—a name spoken with friendship, love, and countless fond memories.

Columbo received his high school diploma and went on to spend many years working as an equipment operator in the mining and agriculture industries. He was an incredibly hard-working man who was never afraid of a long day or a difficult job. Whether he was operating heavy equipment, working outdoors, or chopping wood, Columbo believed in putting his whole heart into whatever needed to be done. His dedication, strength, and willingness to work hard were qualities that defined him throughout his life.

From a young age, Columbo had a love for basketball. He enjoyed playing while growing up and continued playing throughout his high school years, creating memories that he carried with him for the rest of his life. He also had a deep appreciation for music. He loved listening to his favorite songs and especially enjoyed playing his guitar. Music brought Columbo comfort and happiness and was a special part of who he was.

Columbo also loved fishing and spending time outdoors. One of his greatest joys was driving around in his beloved 1955 Chevy, a car that brought him great pride and countless good memories. Those who knew Columbo will remember a man who knew how to enjoy life's simple pleasures—a good song, time spent fishing, playing his guitar, working with his hands, taking a drive in his Chevy, sharing a laugh, or simply spending time with the people he loved.

Above all, Columbo was a man of faith. He carried a strong devotion to the Lord throughout his life and found strength, peace, and guidance through prayer. He could often be found praying his Rosary, something that was deeply meaningful to him. His faith remained an important foundation in his life, guiding him through both joyful and difficult times.

Columbo will also be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor. He had a way of bringing laughter into a room and creating memories through his jokes, stories, and unforgettable personality. His family and friends will deeply miss his laughter, his presence, his hardworking spirit,

and the warmth he brought into their lives. The nickname "Columbo" will forever bring a smile and a memory to the many people who had the privilege of knowing him.

Left to cherish Columbo's memory are his loving mother, Agatha Arellano; his son, James (Lexi) Salazar; his grandchildren, Zackery Salazar and Marshall Salazar; his sister, Bessie Rascon; his brother, Frank (Dawn) Arellano; and his godchild, Nathaniel Herrera.

He is also lovingly remembered by his nieces and nephews, Norma (Nicolas Padilla) Rascon, Javier (Kristi) Rascon, Bonnie Rascon, Amy (Veto) Vialpando, Monique Romero, Robert (Amber) Arellano, Jalen Arellano, and Devin Arellano; his special nephew, Michael Sandoval; as well as many extended family members, friends, and loved ones whose lives were touched by Columbo throughout the years.

Columbo was preceded in death by his father, Adolph Arellano; his brother, Ernie Arellano; his maternal grandmother, Bessie Barela Sanchez; and his niece, Michelle Rascon. He now joins those who went before him, leaving his family to find comfort in their memories and in the faith that was so important to him.

Although Columbo's passing leaves an emptiness in the hearts of those who loved him, his life leaves behind countless memories that will continue to be cherished. His hardworking hands may now be at rest, but the lessons he taught, the laughter he shared, the music he loved, and the faith he carried will live on through his family. May every song, every cast of a fishing line, every sound of a guitar, every classic Chevy on the road, and every prayer of the Rosary bring a loving reminder of Leroy "Columbo" Arellano and the beautiful memories he leaves behind.

A Rosary was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church in Costilla, New Mexico.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church in Costilla, New Mexico. Interment followed the Mass at Amalia Cemetery in Amalia, New Mexico, where Columbo was laid to rest.

To leave online condolences for the Arellano family, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com

The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa



William Roland MacDonald ("Bill")
d. Aug. 23, 2026

William Roland MacDonald ("Bill"), passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on August 23, 2026.

Born and raised in Laurel, MD, he is preceded in death by his father, William H. Roberts MacDonald, his

mother, Martha Adkins MacDonald, and his sister, Martha Roberts MacDonald.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Joan Humphreys MacDonald, two children: Martha Greer Jaramillo (Bob) and William Ives MacDonald (Kimber), four grandchildren: Samuel MacDonald (Gina), Maya MacSim (Dylan), Aidan MacDonald and Nadia MacDonald (Tiffany) and one great grandson: Kiran Ash.

Bill was an attorney in Westminster, MD for 50 years before retiring and moving to Cerro to be near his family. He loved volunteering at Wild Rivers and becoming part of the Northern New Mexico community.

Rosary was recited on Monday August 31, 2026 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cerro. Mass of Christian burial was held on Tuesday September 1, 2026 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Cerro a burial followed at the Cerro Cemetery.

Donations in Bill's honor may be made to Red Willow Hospice.



Jesus (Jesse) Medina
d. Sep. 10, 2026

Jesus Arturo (Jesse) Medina, Jr. 53, passed away September 10, 2026. He was born on June 27, 1973 to Jesus A. Medina, Sr. and Victoria Medina.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Jesus A. Medina, Sr.; his grandparents Manuel A. Romero, Sr. & Idela (Lulu) Romero, Antonio & Pablita Medina, and Lucy Medina; Nino Manuel A. Romero, Jr.; niece Mia Trujillo; and sister-in-law Edwina Cortez.

Jesus is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Samantha; children Rebecca (Anthony), Mateo, Emelina (Michael), Yesenia (Dominic), Idela (Dee-Dee), Carlos, Antonio, Abigail, and Enrique; mother Victoria Medina; sister Sara Medina; grandchildren, Ethan, Myra, Kayla, Richard, Madison (Mattie), and one on the way; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins; very special friends and co-workers, Leroy & Lupita Vigil, Berna Jaramillo, affectionately known to the kids as "grandma Berna", Leo Valencia, Tito & Cruz Duran, Amanda McComb and Ricky Fisher (known by Jesse as his other babies); other extended family and friends who were a big part of Jesse's life.

Special gratitude to Glenda Carlisle and staff from Taos Mountain Home Hospice; Deacon Marcos Rael and Louise Gallegos.

Rosary was recited on Monday, September 21, 2026. Mass of the Christian burial was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, both held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa; Burial will follow at El Pueblito Cemetery.

Serving as Pallbearers: Leroy Vigil, Mateo Medina, Carlos Medina, Antonio Medina, Bernadine Jaramillo, Rick

Fisher, Leo Valencia and Tito Duran.



Billy Joe Terry
d. Aug. 16, 2026

Billy Joe Terry, born in 1948, in Alabama, passed away on August 16, 2026, in Albuquerque, NM. His life was marked by compassion for others, an irrepressible curiosity, and a steadfast dedication to making the world a kinder, more understanding place.

Billy devoted much of his career to helping others as a Special Education teacher in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he touched the lives of countless students and colleagues before retiring. He was known not only for his professional expertise, but also for his deeply caring spirit, sincerely investing in the growth and well-being of the children he taught. He obtained his Master's degree, further exemplifying his commitment to learning and self-improvement.

Beyond his vocation, Billy was an individual of many interests and enthusiasms. He was a true spiritual seeker and a free thinker, a proud accomplishment that he carried throughout his journey. His resourcefulness and creative spirit often found expression in his passions—he was devoted to needle point and loved exploring thrift stores for hidden treasures. An avid rock and antique collector, especially of pottery and gems, Billy found beauty in the unique and the unusual.

Billy was also a Raiki master, a testament to his belief in the healing power of kindness and energy. He was methodical in everything he undertook, yet exuded warmth and humor, and he had the remarkable gift of being both a persuasive "negotiator" and a sincere, dear friend to those around him. Those who knew him well will remember his big smile, his gentle and sweet nature, and his wonderful sense of humor.

His pleasures in life were simple and genuine; Billy loved chocolate and relished quiet evenings as what he fondly called a "TV junkie." He was also proud to be a strict vegetarian, honoring his convictions with patience and consistency.

Billy's family and friendships meant a great deal to him. He is survived by his dear friends, who stood by his side with unwavering support and affection. He leaves behind his nephew Bryan, and cousins Linda and Gene Koon and Tina Barnes. Billy was also preceded in death by his younger brother, whose memory he cherished.

Billy Joe Terry's legacy is one of wisdom, caring, and joyful discovery. He will be remembered as a man whose smile lit up rooms, whose sincerity forged lifelong bonds, and whose gentle heart made the world a gentler place.

OBITS cont'd on page 29

OBITS cont'd from page 28

Those who were fortunate enough to know Billy will carry with them the gifts of his friendship, his laughter, and his unwavering kindness, committing his memory to their hearts always.



Chanell Vigil
d. Aug. 30, 2026

Chanell Vigil, 17, of Costilla, New Mexico, passed away on August 30, leaving behind a lifetime of memories and a love that will forever remain in the hearts of her family, friends, teammates, classmates, and community.

Chanell was a senior at Centennial High School, where she embraced every opportunity to be involved, make memories, and make the most of her high school years. She was a talented, dedicated, and hardworking student-athlete who participated in basketball, volleyball, track, and cheerleading. Of all the sports she loved, basketball held a special place in her heart. She also loved cheering on the boys after her games alongside her fellow cheerleaders, always bringing the same enthusiasm and energy that made her so special.

Chanell was more than an athlete. She was a bright and determined young woman who balanced high school and college classes while continuing to participate in the activities she loved. She had big dreams for her future and was excited about attending college after graduation and earning a degree in engineering. She had so much ahead of her, and she carried those dreams with determination and hope.

One of the many things that made Chanell so special was the love she had for her community. She believed in giving back, helping others, and contributing to the people around her. She understood the importance of being part of something bigger than herself, and she gave her energy, and heart to the people and community she loved.

Chanell was a loving, bright, and beautiful soul whose presence could never go unnoticed. She had a contagious smile and a laugh that could light up an entire room. Her smile was one of the things people will remember most about her, it had a way of making everyone around her smile, too. Chanell had a warmth and energy about her that drew people to her, and her loving heart touched the lives of so many.

She was known for her positive attitude, determination, enthusiasm, and loving personality. She brought energy wherever she went and gave her all to the things and people she cared about. Whether she was on the basketball court, running track, cheering from the sidelines, sitting in the classroom, or simply spending time with the people she loved, Chanell had a way of making her presence felt.

Though her life was far too short, Chanell made an unforgettable impact in the 17 years she was given. She was a daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece, friend,

teammate, classmate, student, and so much more. She leaves behind a legacy of love, determination, joy, and a reminder to live life with passion and purpose.

Chanell's dreams of college, engineering, and the many years ahead may have been left unfinished, but the dreams she carried, the love she gave, and the person she was will never be forgotten. Her life was a gift, her memory is a treasure, and she will forever be loved.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Billy Vigil Sr., and Everto Arellano; her grandmothers, Lucia Salazar, Marie Arellano, Albina Gallegos, and Cynthia Ortega; her uncle Donovan Vigil.

She is survived by her parents, Billy and Sinead Vigil; her birth mother Narcissa Ortega; her siblings Alianna Vigil, Giovanni Vigil, and Briella Vigil; her grandparents, Nick Vigil, Martha Archuleta, Loretta Salazar, Billy Salazar, Sara Fernandez, Narciso Ortega; her great grandparents Ruth Vigil, Cipriano Salazar; her aunts, Connie Vigil, Naomi Salazar, Misty Vigil, Lolli Ordaz, Christine Vigil, Cindy Gallegos, Lorraine Trujillo, Angela Salazar, and Gina Vigil; her uncles, Dominic Vigil, Dominic Rael, Billy Salazar Jr., Mike Urioste, Kyle Ortega, Glen Vigil, Ronnie Trujillo, Vince Ortega, and Armando Fernandez; along with her extended family, friends, teammates, classmates, and all those fortunate enough to know and love her.

A Rosary Service was held on Sunday, September 13, at Sacred Heart Church in Costilla, New Mexico.

Funeral services were held on Monday, September 14, at San Luis School in San Luis, Colorado.

Chanell's energy, smile, laughter, dreams, and beautiful spirit will live on in all of us. Chanell was deeply loved, and will never be forgotten.

Rest peacefully, Chanell. We love you forever.

RESPONSE TIMES cont'd from page 20

4). Municipal fire departments, such as the Village of Questa, remain separate entities.

Cordova emphasized that the decision was driven by the practical reality of maintaining emergency coverage for rural residents. "Per state statute, you have to have at least 10 people on a volunteer roster. And there were some districts in the county where we didn't have that. So instead of shutting down the district, we decided to do mergers," Cordova said. "It was really out of necessity."

Operationally, the mergers eliminate the delay of multiple dispatches. When a call comes in, personnel across both combined communities receive a single, simultaneous page, putting more responders and water apparatus on scene faster. The consolidation also provides a financial benefit for local homeowners by improving ISO (Insurance Services Office) ratings. By pooling equipment, volunteer rosters, and water storage capacity—including fixed 40,000-gallon suppression tanks—merged areas will qualify for lower ISO scores, directly reducing property insurance premiums.

12 YEARS POWERED BY OUR COMMUNITY

KNCE

93.5 FM

TRUE TAOS RADIO

Powered by local listeners, volunteer DJs, and community pride since day one.

Thank you for keeping independent radio alive across northern New Mexico.

Tune to 93.5 FM
Stream at truetaosradio.com

FRAUD FAILS WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER

RED FLAGS TO WATCH FOR

Be cautious if you receive a message that:

- Creates a sense of urgency.
- Promises money, prizes, or unbelievable deals.
- Requests passwords, PINs, or one-time verification codes.
- Comes from an unfamiliar email address or phone number.
- Contains spelling mistakes or unusual grammar.
- Asks you to pay using gift cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers.

Cybersecurity tips
BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR CREDIT UNION

QUESTA CREDIT UNION

Not a member yet? Joining is easy. Call today! (575) 586-0423
Questa Credit Union 2433 Hwy 522 Questa, NM 87556
questacreditunion.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • OCTOBER 2026

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN OCTOBER!

OCT 1: THUR NOON - 1 PM
QBB Workshop: Bridging the Digital Gap @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For info email gbb-coordinator@questaedf.com
 See Ad on Page 15, Article on page 4

OCT 4: SUN 10 AM - 2 PM
LAST DAY OF THE SEASON! Questa Farmers Market. Celebrate Cambalache. Join us @ 1 HWY 38, Questa, NM. More info visit <https://questafarmersmarket.org/> See article on page 8

3 PM
Questa Mariachi Live in Concert @ Questa Farmers Market. Support local music & Youth. See ad on page 12

OCT 8: THUR 5:30 - 7 PM
QBB Workshop: Classes for Curious Questeños Community Members Sharing Their Craft. Behind the Shelves: Exploring Your Library @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For info email gbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See Ad on Page 15, Article on page 4

OCT 10: SAT
28th Annual Taos Story Telling Festival @ SOMOS, 108 Civic Plaza Dr. Taos. (575) 758-0081. For info visit somostaos.org See Ad on Page 18

OCT 8: THUR 3-7PM
Cultural Treasures Celebration of Place, a showcase of Taos County Communities @ Taos County Plaza and Courthouse. Learn more at CulturalTreasuresProject.org See ad on page 15

OCT 8-11: THUR-SUN
Red River Oktoberfest @ brandenburg Park, Red River. See ad on page 11 for ticket info and schedule.

OCT 12: MON
Columbus Day

OCT 15: THUR 5:30 - 7 PM
Questa Housing Speaker Series @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For info: (575) 586-2149
 See article on page 4, See ad on Page 15

BY APPOINTMENT
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting with Anwar Kaelin, SBDC Director @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For info email gbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See article on page 4, See ad on Page 11

OCT 16: FRI 10 AM
Cultivo Event, Garlic Planting and Potluck. Open to the community @ Cerro Vista Farm, 198 Lower Buena Vista Rd., For info: (575) 224-2102 Email cultivoprogram@gmail.com.

OCT 17: SAT 2-4 PM
Voces de Nuestro País, Amalia, Ventero & Costilla Community Memory Gatherings @ Screamin' Bull Outfitters Lodge, #761 NM Highway 196, Amalia, NM. For info (575) 224-9066
 See article on page 16

OCT 22: THUR 5:30 - 7 PM
Medicare 101 for Open Enrollment with Usla Gregory, Independent Rep @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For info email gbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See Ad on Page 15, Article on page 4

OCT 24: SAT 5-8 PM
Questa Riverfest @ River Community Church, 65 S. Kiowa Rd. Questa. See ad on page 17

OCT 30: FRI 3-6 PM
Trunk or Treat @ Questa Business Park. For more information call (575) 586-0694. See ad on page 9

OCT 31: SAT
Happy Halloween!

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

MONDAY

10 AM
NO CLASS OCT. 5 - 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 @ Cerro VFW. Contact (575) 779-0565 or email vozdeoro2017@gmail.com for more info.

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

TUESDAY

9 AM
Oct 20 & 27 ONLY - Free/By Donation, Qigong with visiting teacher Martha Morgan @Yoga Sala, Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org

5-7 PM
Game Night. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday. @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Rd, Questa. For more info (575) 586-2023
 See ad on page 15, article on page 14

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

4:30 - 8:30 PM
Oct 21 - Dec 16. Fall Ceramic Cafe Sessions- All Ages and levels welcome. FREE by donation @The art room in the Questa Youth Center next to the Questa Library. More info visit QuestaCreative.org See article on page 14

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
NO CLASS OCT 16 - Yoga, Stretch & Balance with Jiwan Shakti, 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

Promote your Events for FREE online at questanews.com



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)

CHURCH DIRECTORY SPONSORED BY RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH

QUESTA

ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH

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

MISSION CHURCHES OF ST. ANTHONY'S:

Costilla - Sagrado Corazon - Sunday 10 a.m.
 Cerro - Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
 Every Saturday until May 1, 4 p.m. and Wed. 4:30p.m.
 Amalia - Santo Niño - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 p.m.

FREEDOM CENTER CHURCH

2558 Hwy 522, Questa
 Sunday Service 11 a.m.
 Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday at 6:00 pm
 Visit us online: freedomquesta.com
 (832) 790-7604

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 oeaohoo17@gmail.com

QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

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

KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

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

PATH OF LOVE

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

AMALIA

SANTO NIÑO MISSION CHURCH

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

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

RED RIVER

FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

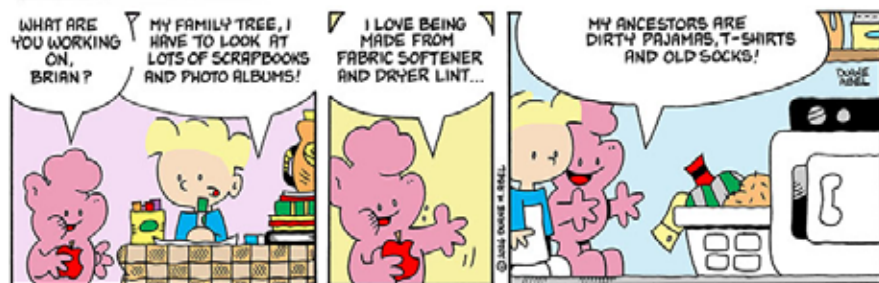
100 Copper King Trail, Corner of River St & Copper King Trail - Sunday 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

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

ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



zed by duane m. abel

www.corkeycomics.com

Follow us on Facebook @questanews for on-going & up-to-date news.

DINING GUIDE

QUESTA



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

2430 NM-522,
Questa, NM 87556

QUESTA



Specialty sodas, matcha,
iced lattes, lemonade, & more.

QUESTA

ORDER FAST, EAT FASTER.

WILDCAT'S DEN Open 11-7pm Mon- Sat



2457 NM-522 • Questa



Local Favorite since 1980

QUESTA

Questa Farmers Market

MAY 24 THROUGH OCT 4
@ QUESTA VISITOR'S CENTER
farmers
gardeners
local musicians
food entrepreneurs • community connection

SUNDAYS 10 am - 2 pm



QuestaFarmersMarket.org
(575) 425-0650

A Nonprofit Program of Locality 50(c)(3)



**GOT FOOD?
ONE SPACE
NOW AVAILABLE!!
CALL FOR RATES
(575) 240-4344**

TAOS AND EL PRADO

Featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives



NEW! SECOND LOCATION!
El Prado - Northside Taos
900 Paseo del Pueblo Norte

1379 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur, Taos
(575) 758-2599
antoniosthetaste.com



EL PRADO

Voted "Best of Taos" New Mexican food and Top spot for Breakfast & Brunch



GOLDEN PIÑON
New Mexican Restaurant
Taos, NM

88 State Rd Highway 150, El Prado • (575) 776-3202

RED RIVER

You Order. We Cook. All Fresh. No Pre-Made Food



The freshest food in town
from the friendliest family:
Jack & Amanda Yu!

YU GARDEN
asian cuisine

OPEN: TUE-SUN • 11 AM - 8 PM
CLOSED MONDAY

500 West Main St, Red River NM • (575) 754-9959

RED RIVER

FOOD • BEER • WINE • ICE CREAM • DESSERTS

Yesterdays Diner

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER

CALL FOR HOURS

yesterdaysdiner.com

612 West Main St, Red River NM • (575) 754-6233

NOTICES

Jobs

HOUSEKEEPER, EXPERIENCED
PREFERRED FULL-TIME RED RIVER OR
QUESTA PH: (575) 754-2961

WANTED

Fixer Upper Cargo Trailer, Questa
or surrounding area, ASAP,
Fernando Mares (505) 373-1353

Room for rent, RV SPACE, Fixer
Upper, Mobile Home, Casita or
Living Space Property Maintenance
Live~ In Exchange, In or near
Questa, or Red River Soon as
possible, Fernando Mares (505)
373-1353

Notices

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

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

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

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

Food Pantry- North Central New
Mexico Food Pantry: second and
fourth Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon at
140 Embargo Rd. in Questa. If you
need an emergency food box or
other information, please call Jeannie
Masters (575) 586-0486 or (575)
779-9194; or Nancy Parker (575)
586-2096 or (505) 699-7563. To
make a donation, go to ncfpquesta.com
or mail to: North Central Food
Pantry, PO Box 1076, Questa, NM
87556. For more information, please
email wrmesquire2@gmail.com. If
you would like to volunteer, please
call Jeannie (numbers above).

**Spay Taos: FREE Spay & Neuter
Service for all cats and dogs.**

Description of Services: spay or
neuter, vaccines included if needed,
microchip included if needed, e-collar
if appropriate, aftercare for surgery
related complications. 36 Highway
522, El Prado, NM. North of the 'Old
Blinking Light,' directly opposite Taos
Veterinary Clinic. Call (575) 240-8549
or email spaytaos@gmail.com or visit
spaytaos.org. If you want to volunteer,
duties include: Check in 7:30-9:00,
Check out 12:00-3:30, Recovery
monitoring 8:45-2:30, Instrument
pack cleaning and sterilization 9:00-
3:00, Cleaning 1:30-3:30. Outreach
on your own schedule or for events.
Training provided. Contact spaytaos@gmail.com
for more information.

**FREE
Classifieds!**
Questanews.com



Got Food? Tell everyone about it. CALL OR TEXT (575) 240-4344 FOR RATES!

YERBA CANNABIS CO.



2339 NM 522
Questa, NM 87556
575-240-8579

Monday through Saturday 10am-7pm
Sunday 12pm-6pm

Scan to Shop

SHOP QUESTA

LOCALS SHOP LOCAL

RETAIL | ART | FURNITURE | HOUSEHOLD | ANTIQUES | STUFF

Thrift de Questa
THE ART OF THRIFT



41 HIGHWAY 38 QUESTA, NM 87556 (Next to the Questa Post Office)
(575) 779-3723 • HOURS: WED-SAT • 10AM - 4PM

STORAGE UNITS AND ESTATE BUYERS

Blazing speeds for less. Switch today!

Switch to Fast Fiber, Save Every Month.

- Business & Residential
- Fast Fiber
- Digital Phone
- Free Install*

*Some restrictions apply.

KIT CARSON
Internet

(575) 758-4838 KitCarsonInternet.com

SITE CLEARING • EXCAVATION • SEPTIC INSTALLATION
DRIVEWAYS • DEMOLITION • MULCHING

CUTTING EDGE EXCAVATION

AMELLIO QUINTANA
575-770-3136

CONTACT US AT (575) 586-0734



3840 HWY 522 QUESTA, NM 87556

SAND • GRAVEL • CONCRETE • ROLL-OFF DUMPSTERS

2329 NM-522 Questa

Sew Artful
Stitchery & Alterations
(575) 737-8187

Make an Appointment or Walk-In



BRIGHT RAIN COUNSELING

TONYA WALKER
MA, LPCC

COUNSELING FOR ADULTS
TRAUMA, DEPRESSION, ANXIETY

575-240-8511

2349 STATE HWY 522 SUITE 5
QUESTA, NM 87556

BRIGHTRAINCOUSLING@GMAIL.COM

BEN MOORE • DEWALT • STIHL • YETI

QUESTA LUMBER & HARDWARE CO.



Monday-Friday 8 AM - 5 PM, Saturday 8 AM to 3 PM
2349 NM-522, P.O. Box 199, Questa, NM 87556
Phone: (575) 586-0414 Fax: (575) 586-1916

HOME STARTS HERE

• FURNITURE • APPLIANCES • MATTRESSES •
• BED & BATH • GIFTS • HOME GOODS •

Easy Financing & Lay Away

TAOS LIFESTYLE TAOSLIFESTYLE.COM

815 PASEO DEL PUEBLO SUR
TAOS, NEW MEXICO
575 758 5885

OFFERING SERVICES

G-TOWN AUTO PARTS

RENTAL EQUIPMENT • OIL CHANGES



2420 ST. HWY 522 • QUESTA, NM 87556
(575) 586-0419

Let's Roll!



Professional Painting Services LLC
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
EMAIL - LETSROLLNM@GMAIL.COM
MARSHALL - 575-425-9563 ARMANDO - 575-779-3869

CANNABIS FLOWER • EDIBLES • VAPES • CONCENTRATES

SEE OUR MENU & SPECIALS

the Vault
(575) 316-9404



320 W RIVER STREET • RED RIVER

SCVM QUESTA

SANGRE DE CRISTO VALLEY MARKET

Your Fresh Start Starts Local.

OPEN EVERYDAY: 7 AM-8:30 PM
5 Supermarket Rd, Questa (off Highway 522) • (575) 586-0233

Enchanted Circle

AUTO LOCK & KEY

JOHN FOSTER

locksmithquesta.com (505) 235-7730

The only thing missing is YOU!

You are invited Sundays 10:30AM with Kids & Youth Activities

LWM Questa, 12 LLano Rd
(575) 613-8010 • LWMsite.org



575-586-0561

NorthStar Tire & Auto



The guys at NorthStar give the best care for the car or truck you love!

NorthStar Tire & Auto

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS