

Questa del Rio News

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Honoring Dr. Anderson's Lifelong Commitment To Northern New Mexico

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Long before northern New Mexico had a network of pediatricians serving children across its rural communities, Dr. Anderson was driving from town to town, opening clinics, treating sick children and answering calls in the middle of the night.

He went where he believed he was needed most, even when it meant taking a substantial decrease in pay.

When Anderson moved to Taos in 1976, the community had no pediatrician. He left Los Alamos, where he had practiced after moving from Alaska to serve families in a region with limited access to medical care.

The decision reflected a lesson he had learned years earlier while treating Alaska Native children in remote communities: A doctor's presence could mean the difference between life and death.

After graduating from medical school during the Vietnam War era, Anderson wanted to specialize in pediatrics. He joined the Indian Health Service as a commissioned officer and served in Sitka, Alaska, caring for Native children across a vast stretch of southeastern Alaska.

The conditions he encountered left a lasting impression. His daughter, Giny Anderson, recalled that infant mortality rates in Native populations were several times higher than the national rate, along with serious threats from tuberculosis, meningitis and other illnesses. Vaccines and preventive care were not always reaching the families who needed them.

The experience shaped his understanding of medicine and strengthened his commitment to underserved communities.

Anderson and his first wife, Genna Lewis, moved their family to Los Alamos in 1965. After their marriage ended in 1972, he married Edy Anderson, a nurse who worked in nursing leadership and public health. Charlie and Edy married in Los Alamos and continued to live there until 1976, when they moved together to Taos. Through his marriage to Edy, Anderson also gained five stepchildren.

The move meant leaving the more affluent community of Los Alamos for one with greater medical needs in northern



Courtesy Photo

A giant sunflower for a man whose personality, humor and zest for life were just as big

Taos County.

"He saw the need," said his stepson, Ted Wiard. "And that's where the need was."

Anderson did not limit his work to Taos. He helped open clinics in communities including Questa and Peñasco, traveling to reach children whose families might otherwise struggle to obtain care.

The work was not always financially rewarding. Some professional partners questioned the time he spent at clinics that generated little income, his family recalled. But Anderson remained focused on the children and families who needed him.

He established the Taos Clinic for Children and Youth (TCCY) in 1976, creating a home base for his work and helping lay the groundwork for a stronger pediatric care network. Over time, other physicians, including Dr. Loretta Ortiz Y Pino and Dr. Villarreal, known as Dr. V., joined his clinic.

Their work helped build a foundation of care that northern New Mexico families could rely on, a legacy that remains significant as the state continues to face a shortage of physicians.

For Anderson's children, his dedication was part of everyday life.

They remember mornings when they woke to discover their father had been gone all night, caring for patients. When they asked where he had been, his answer was matter-of-fact.

"I was busy saving lives," he

would tell them.

Before cellphones, he carried a pager. When it went off in the middle of the night, he left home to see another patient.

Some families who couldn't afford to pay for medical care brought what they could instead. His children remember people arriving at the family home with elk meat or lamb to thank the doctor who had cared for them, and he always graciously accepted what people could give.

Those gestures reflected the trust he built with patients over decades.

Anderson also knew how to make medicine less frightening for children. At the clinic, many patients recall him pretending to be a frog, ribbiting in a child's ear to distract them while he examined it. "Some people joke that they still remember wondering if they really had a frog in their ear after they left the doctor's office," Ted Wiard said with a laugh.

Dr. Anderson often combined his medical work with his love of skiing. When taking his family to Taos Ski Valley, he would stop at the chalet to give flu shots before heading to the slopes. His goal was always to vaccinate as many people as he was able.

He skied until he was 88.

His children grew up skiing, too, and remember camping adventures in tents while their family enjoyed the pristine out-

DR. ANDERSON cont'd on page 3

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COMMUNITY NEWS

OP ED: Uranium, Land Rights, And The Future Of RCCLA Property

By ARTHUR E. GALLEGOS

I am a member of the Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association (RCCLA), a cooperative that owns a large mountain park in Amalia. This large tract of land was originally part of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant that was deeded to the inhabitants of the area before statehood. The grantees subsequently lost the land due to tax default after New Mexico became a state. A charter group from Amalia organized by my grandfather, Adolfo Gallegos Sr. and my father, Celestino B. Gallegos worked with the United States Department of Agriculture and government officials to cooperatively purchase the land in the early 1940s through a loan from the USDA. The RCCLA land runs from the north end of the 37th Parallel, which is also the Colorado state line, then south to the area known as the Urraca Wildlife Area. It shares a boundary with the Valle Vidal on the east side. The initial purchase included over 120,000 acres of mountain land and also some land in the llano south of Costilla.

In the early 1980s a group of mineral engineers doing studies on behalf of Pennzoil (the owner of Valle Vidal at that time) discovered a large, high-grade uranium vein. The vein is purportedly located on the northeast corner of the RCCLA land where it meets with Valle Vidal, Vermejo Park and the Cielo Vista Ranch. According to online information, uranium is presently one

of the most sought-after metals on earth due to electrification and AI tech infrastructure needs. Nuclear power output broke new records in 2025 and is expected to continue rising as private and public entities around the world seek to address growing energy needs.

Several years ago I went to a community meeting in San Luis and got a copy of a map showing the mountain property owned by the Cielo Vista Ranch in the San Luis Valley. It shows that the tract of land owned by the ranch includes a chunk of RCCLA land on the south side of the 37th Parallel—exactly on the site where the uranium vein is located. (Please refer to the attached map.) I have shared this observation with the RCCLA Board of Directors and members at several meetings because of the potential for future adverse possession claims from the Cielo Vista Ranch. At this time the RCCLA Board has not acted on this possible threat. In order to proactively address this possibility, I have strongly suggested to the RCCLA Board that we post No Trespassing or Private Property signs in the area.

Going forward, it is important to determine if there is uranium in that area, what grade it is, and if it is worth mining. Decisions regarding future plans for the area would be made only after holding extensive meetings with federal, state and county governments and the communities involved in order to responsibly address questions.



Courtesy RCCLA website

Rugged Mountain Landscape Along the Rio Costilla Region

DR. ANDERSON cont'd from page 1

doors. His example shaped not only their childhoods but also their understanding of what it meant to build a meaningful life.

For Wiard, his stepfather modeled how to live life passionately and fully, caring deeply for your community, loved ones and family. For Gingy Anderson, the lesson was to give your career to something bigger than yourself, while never losing your sense of wonder at the world and the life you've been given.

Anderson's commitment extended beyond treating illness. He cared deeply about preventing it.

His family remembers how upset he became when he saw children suffer from vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and mumps. Having witnessed the consequences of serious childhood illnesses in Alaska, he knew how much suffering could be avoided.

While visiting Gingy in western Colorado years ago, Anderson recognized a case of whooping cough in a woman that other doctors had not identified, his family recalled. The woman informed her doctors of the diagnosis, and about a week later, a whooping cough outbreak was declared in the county.

His expansive experience helped him recognize what others had missed. Former patients and their families continue to tell his children that he had saved their lives or the lives of their children countless times.

But medicine also exposed Anderson to pain he could not fix.

The death of Richard Wiard, Edy's youngest son, was especially difficult. Anderson struggled with the grief of watching someone he loved suffer, and with the limits of his ability to ease that pain.

His instinct was always to help. When he couldn't, the hurt remained. "He hurt so heavily because he couldn't doctor it," his family recalled. That pain reflected the same compassion that had drawn him to medicine: He felt deeply for people who were hurting, whether they were patients or family.

Edy shared his commitment to service throughout their life together, including through her work in public health and helping establish the Taos Community Foundation. She died in 2019.

In his later years, Anderson made more time for family and the outdoors. He stayed connected with his grandchildren, including those living in Oregon, Montana and Colorado, and traveled with Judy Lockwood, his partner and fellow medical practitioner in the final years of his life. They got together shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic.

As age caught up with him, he continued to make annual trips to Hawaii and never lost his appreciation for the natural world. Rivers, cliffs, clouds and wildflowers inspired him. Even after a lifetime of witnessing illness, he remained in awe of the world around him.

About three weeks before his death, Anderson had become frail. Still, his family remembers how fiercely he embraced life.

"He just loved life," Gingy Anderson said.

His family believes he held on as long as he could because he wanted to experience all that life had to offer. When he finally let go, they felt he knew his time had come.

In his final days, Anderson told Ted he was "no longer fit for this world."

He leaves behind his children Gingy Anderson, Chauncy Anderson, Finley Anderson, Barb Wiard, Tom Wiard, Ted Wiard and Rob Wiard; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, Edy, his stepson, Richard Wiard, daughter-in-law Leslie Wiard and two grandchildren, Keri and Amy Wiard, preceded him in death.

Anderson's legacy is measured not only in the decades he practiced medicine but in the families he cared for, the physicians who followed him and the children whose illnesses he treated or helped prevent.

He gave up financial security to serve a community in need. He answered calls through the night. He traveled to rural



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Anderson never lost his sense of humor, even when a giant grasshopper showed up on the menu.

communities where care was scarce and helped establish a pediatric network that would outlast his own practice.

But his family remembers more than a dedicated doctor. They remember a father and grandfather who taught them to care deeply, live fully and find purpose in serving others.

He showed them that compassion sometimes means carrying the weight of another person's suffering, even when you cannot make it disappear. And he showed them that a life devoted to others need not diminish one's own sense of wonder.

For Anderson, caring for children, loving his family and marveling at a river or wildflower were all part of the same calling: to embrace life, serve his community and leave the world a little better than he found it. And through it all, he remained a man who would stop to admire a wildflower, watch clouds move across a mountain or marvel at a river.

His family hopes that the lesson of his life endures: to live fully, to remain curious about the world and to make service to others part of one's purpose.

For Anderson, those were never separate pursuits. They were all part of the same life.



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Following in Her Father's Footsteps: Idela Medina Finds Strength Through Loss

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

At 16, Idela Medina is balancing high school, college-level coursework, athletics and community service while preparing for a future dedicated to helping others. Behind her determination is a promise she made to her father: to keep going, keep living and never give up on the future he wanted for her.

A sophomore at Questa High School, Medina is a member of the honor society and earns all A's in her college courses. She is involved in FFA, student council, volleyball, cheerleading, baseball and track. Outside the classroom, she volunteers at a local food pantry once a month and is pursuing opportunities to serve her community through emergency medical services, firefighting and law enforcement.

Her ambitions are deeply connected to her father, Jesse Medina, who served as a lieutenant at the Taos Adult Detention Center until his death from stage 4 bone cancer. He also served in fire services and was known to his daughter as someone who was always willing to help others.

Since his passing, Idela has continued to follow the example he set through his service, strength and dedication to the community.

"He sat us down and told us he had Stage 4 bone cancer," Idela recalled. "He told me, 'I want you to keep doing what

you're doing. Keep living.'"

Those words remain with her as she navigates life without him.

Some days are easier than others, Idela said, but continuing to pursue her goals helps her honor her father and the lessons he left behind.

She remembers that her father was not afraid of death or the unknown. He believed he was going to a good place and trusted in his faith. Knowing that he passed peacefully has offered her comfort as she works through her grief.

Idela's desire to serve others began long before her father's death. As an infant, she experienced two medical emergencies in which she stopped breathing. Her father helped resuscitate her at home during the first incident. During the second, she was not revived until she reached a blinking light in Taos, according to Idela.

Her father's ability to respond during emergencies left a lasting impression on her and helped shape her interest in medicine and emergency response.

Now, Idela hopes to begin working in emergency medical services as a first responder while pursuing opportunities with the volunteer fire department. She has also gained experience through work at a detention center and volunteer involvement with fire and EMS services, following in her father's footsteps.



Photo courtesy Samantha Medina

Idela's parents pose with her proudly during the state tournament. L to R: Samantha, Idela and Jesse Medina

Law enforcement is another path she hopes to explore, particularly investigative work.

Idela said she wants to help bring justice to Questa and believes the community needs credible, well-trained law enforcement officers. The death of her cousin, Alejandro, which she described as suspicious, also influenced her interest in becoming a police officer or detective.

For Idela, serving the community is not simply about choosing a career. It is about helping people, responding when others are in need and making a difference where she lives.

As the middle child in a family of nine

children, she has developed a straightforward approach to getting things done.

"I just like when people get things done," she said. "Don't dilly-dally."

That same determination carries into her schoolwork, extracurricular activities and volunteer commitments, even as she continues to process the loss of her father.

One way Idela, along with the community, honored her father's memory was through the annual Dig Pink tribute by the Questa volleyball team. The effort included a T-shirt fundraiser, bringing together remembrance and community support for Idela's family.

Through her many commitments, Idela continues to hold on to the faith that has helped guide her through difficult moments. One Bible verse, Philippians 4:13, captures the strength she draws from that belief:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

For Idela, moving forward does not mean leaving her father behind. It means carrying his lessons with her into the classroom, onto the field and into the future she hopes to build.

At just 16, she is already working toward a life of service, determined to honor Jesse's legacy by continuing to live the way he encouraged her to: with purpose, faith and a willingness to help others.

Thanksgiving Memories With Irma Cisneros

By LORA ARCINIEGA

For Irma Cisneros, growing up as the eldest of nine in Cerro meant Thanksgiving was simply about family and having enough for everyone at the table. Raised by Melesio and Locadia Quintana alongside her eight brothers and sisters, the holiday meal was warm and welcoming, but not much different from any other evening at home.

"As far as the turkey was concerned, we probably didn't have one," Irma recalls. "We likely had chicken and plenty to eat."

On the Quintana homestead which was a couple miles from the church in Cerro, life revolved around faith, family, and hard work, things Irma has never left sight of. Being the eldest meant Irma carried a bit of extra responsibility. "I

had to help my mom a lot," she says. "I took care of my younger siblings right alongside her."

Growing up, Irma and her siblings handled the hoeing and weeding, while her parents tended to the vegetable garden. "My parents built their own horno, and my dad would use it to make chicos," Irma shares.

It wasn't until the early 1960s that the traditional Thanksgiving feast became what it is today. In June of 1963, Irma married her husband, the late Milton Cisneros. After marrying, she began alternating the Thanksgiving holiday with his family, bringing her own home-grown traditions to the table. As a mother of two, Nadine and Roger, Irma cooked a classic holiday meal including turkey, sweet potatoes, cranberry relish, gravy, and chile. "I followed in my



Courtesy Photo

Irma and Milton Cisneros with their children Nadine Herrera and Roger Cisneros

mom's footsteps, making sweet potatoes just like her."

Carrying her family's love for gardening into adulthood, Irma and Milton grew a garden full of radishes, carrots,

lettuce, corn, peas, tomatoes, and green beans. Throughout the year, she baked pumpkin pies using pumpkins harvested directly from her garden. "For Thanksgiving I made pumpkin pies and breads, but it didn't feel that special to me back then because I made pumpkin pies all the time," she smiles. "My family just loved pumpkin pies."

Today, Irma and Milton's family tree includes their 2 children, 3 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. The torch for hosting has been passed down, with Thanksgiving now held at Nadine's house for several years. But some traditions never fade: this year, Irma plans to bake her classic pumpkin pies and fresh bread rolls to share with the generations gathered around the table.

Home Is Where The Story Begins And Ends: Teresa Gonzales Returns To Cerro At 100

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

At 17, Teresa Gonzales left the mountains of northern New Mexico for Denver, setting out to build a life far from the farm where she grew up.

Nearly 84 years later, she has come full circle.

Teresa returned to Cerro in December 2025 with her daughter, Vicky Gonzales, after spending most of her adult life in Denver. For Vicky, the move was about more than a change of scenery. It was a chance to bring her mother back to the place where her story began.

"She started here and she'll finish here," Vicky said.

Born Nov. 24, 1925, Teresa grew up in a time when daily life revolved around family, farmwork and the land. Her father raised livestock and farmed, and everyone in the household had chores to do.

Teresa loved riding horses. To attend school in Costilla, she would ride to her grandparents' house, walk to the highway and catch a bus. In the harsh winter months, getting to school could be a challenge.

Later, she attended boarding school in San Cristobal, where she learned to ski.

At 17, Teresa had ambitions of joining the military. She wanted to join the Navy or serve in the Women's Army Corps, known as the WAC, but her father would not sign the paperwork because she was too young.

Instead, she headed to Denver.

There, Teresa found work at a meat-packing plant, where she joined other women from northern New Mexico who had settled in the city. She later began working at Gates Rubber Co. in September 1950, making fan belts for automobiles. She retired from the company in November 1985.

Along the way, she married and raised five children. Her life unfolded in Denver, where her family grew and decades of memories accumulated.

But the ties to northern New Mexico remained.

As the years passed, Teresa became the last surviving member of her original Salazar family, outliving her siblings. Photographs and conversations now help bring pieces of the past back to her.

Sometimes, Vicky said, her mother needs a reminder that they have returned

to Cerro. Other times, a photograph or a familiar name seems to open a door to an earlier time.

Teresa remembers her parents, grandparents and siblings, along with the family and traditions that shaped her childhood. She recalls traveling with her father by wagon to San Luis to take grain for processing into flour. She also remembers family visits to Taos Pueblo with her mother, who had friends there.

Even memories of childhood horseback rides have endured. With only one saddle in the family, Teresa once recalled, her older brother would claim it for himself, leaving the others to ride bareback.

Those stories offer glimpses into a childhood shaped by hard work, close family ties and a way of life vastly different from the one she would later know in Denver.

Now, back in Cerro, those memories have a familiar landscape around them.

Vicky was born and raised in Denver and spent her life there. But after retiring and realizing that few family members remained in the city, she decided it was time to move closer to relatives in northern New Mexico. She sold her house and made the move with her mother.

The transition has gone well. Although Vicky misses the convenience of city life, she appreciates the quiet, friendly atmosphere of her new home.

Teresa has settled in, too. Her daughter Lucille and son Michael, who also live in New Mexico, visit her, along with nieces, nephews and her grandchildren. Their visits help keep family connections strong and bring familiar faces into her daily life.

Teresa has five children, six grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren, a growing family that reflects the many generations touched by her life.

Teresa is generally in good health, Vicky said, though she moves slowly and sometimes experiences short-term memory loss. Talking about the past often helps her recall people and events that have shaped her life.

For Vicky, those moments are precious. They allow her mother to revisit the people she loved and the home she once left behind.

Family has remained central to Teresa's life, and so have the activities she enjoyed over the years. She was an avid



Courtesy photo

Teresa Gonzales smiles for a photograph

bowler and a good one, participating in several bowling leagues. She continued bowling until she retired from the sport at age 90, a testament to her determination and her love of staying active.

As Teresa approaches her 101st birthday, the family plans to celebrate with dinner and cake. They will keep the gathering small to protect her health.

Teresa survived COVID-19 after being hospitalized for several weeks during the pandemic. Since then, Vicky has kept the family's circle of visitors relatively small, taking care to protect her mother's well-being.

There will be no rented hall or massive party, just a gathering with loved ones and a chance to celebrate a remarkable life.

For a woman who left home as a teenager, spent decades working and raising a family in Denver, and eventually returned to the place where she began, the milestone carries a meaning beyond the number of candles on a cake.

Life took Teresa far from Cerro, but it never erased the memories or the family connections rooted there.

At home again, she is surrounded by relatives, familiar places and stories that have traveled with her across the decades. Her memories of her parents, grandparents, siblings and childhood in northern New Mexico remain an important part of her story, connecting generations of family to the place where it all began.

Teresa's journey is a reminder that no matter how far we go or how much life changes, home can still be waiting for us.

Sometimes, it takes a lifetime to find our way back.

Questa Begins Revitalizing Its Town Center

By LORA ARCINIEGA

If you've driven through Questa recently, you may have noticed a transformation underway at the digital sign near the center of town, adjacent to Veterans Park.

The project kicked off in mid-October, when about a dozen community volunteers cleared the site, removing old landscaping bricks, eliminating invasive Chinese elm trees and weeding the surrounding area. Local beautification committee members Gabe Herrera, Jason Gonzalez and Nancy Parker joined the effort, making an immediate and visible difference in the heart of the village.

Next, Gecko Landscaping will give the area a fresh, low-maintenance xeriscape design. The initial stonework and foundation will be completed soon, and the landscaping company will return in the spring to add native flowers, drought-tolerant cacti and hardy shrubs.

The long-term vision is to enhance both corners of the intersection at the Questa traffic light, creating a welcoming entrance for visitors and strengthening community pride. The proposed design will reflect the area's agricultural and mining heritage while highlighting the region's natural beauty.

Community members can also contribute to the project by donating old mining carts, historic mining tools or antique farming equipment for display at the site. The project organizers will coordinate transportation and installation and provide a plaque recognizing each donation.

To donate an item, contact the Questa Economic Development Fund at lynn@questaedf.com.

The revitalization effort highlights the power of local collaboration. Funded by the LOR Foundation, the project is supported by the Questa Economic Development Fund and the Village of Questa. The partnership demonstrates how civic organizations, local businesses and residents can work together to enhance public spaces and celebrate the community's heritage.



Photo by Lora Arciniega

Photo of the work in progress at town center, Oct. 28, 2026

Kit Carson Electric Secures \$27 Million For Rural Broadband Expansion

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative has secured nearly \$27 million in federal funding to expand high-speed internet access in rural northern New Mexico, marking the first time a provider in the state has signed a grant agreement under a federal broadband expansion program.

The funding, awarded through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, will support a nearly \$40 million project to connect 3,935 homes, businesses and community locations across Taos, Colfax, Rio Arriba, Sandoval and Santa Fe counties.

Through its Kit Carson Internet service, the cooperative plans to extend its fiber-optic network by 1,035 miles, bringing reliable, high-speed internet to more rural communities where access to dependable broadband can be limited.

The expansion is expected to create



Photo courtesy Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

new opportunities for families, students, health care providers and local businesses. Reliable internet can help students access online learning, allow residents to connect with health care providers remotely, improve access to emergency information and help small businesses reach customers beyond their immediate communities.

"We are so grateful to be granted this BEAD award that will continue to allow opportunities for rural northern New Mexicans access to affordable, reliable

high-speed internet, enhancing their quality of life," Kit Carson Chief Executive Officer Luis A. Reyes Jr. said.

The project represents a significant investment in rural infrastructure, where distance and challenging terrain can make expanding internet service more difficult.

For residents and businesses in the five counties, improved broadband access could mean more options for working remotely, pursuing education, accessing essential services and participating in an increasingly connected economy.

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative credited the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, along with federal and state partners, for helping advance the project.

The cooperative said the investment reflects its broader mission to strengthen rural communities and expand opportunities for future generations.

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By LORA ARCINIEGA

A new monthly sewing class is underway at the Cerro VFW Post, bringing community members together for an afternoon of crafting and conversation. Officially known as the Charles Cisneros VFW Post 9516, the hall has long served as a gathering hub for local service members and northern Taos County families.

Funding from a LOR Foundation grant made the class possible by purchasing three new sewing machines, cutting tools, and fabric. Those supplies join a donated machine and two brought in by the instructors, fully equipping the space for beginners of all ages, though children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sisters Maria Ortega and Henrietta Martinez lead the monthly workshops.

Crafting And Community At Cerro VFW Post 9516

Henrietta lives in Cerro, and Maria lives nearby in Costilla. When asked who is the better quilter between the two, Maria laughed and mentioned her sister. Maria noted that after stepping away from sewing for a while, she is glad to be back into it. Her advice for anyone considering the class is simple and encouraging: "Just come out and try it, you might find out that you like it."

The first gathering drew three participants who learned sewing basics, including how to thread a machine, wind a bobbin, sew a straight stitch, and cut materials. As attendees build confidence, instruction will progress to more detailed projects using the grant-funded supplies.

Organizers have kept the atmosphere casual and fun. For people who want to drop in, the room offers snacks, drinks, puzzles, and board games. The main idea behind the class is getting people out of the house to spend time together. "People say there's never anything to do. Now they have the option of coming to the class," says Maria.

The launch follows a difficult period



Photo by Dee Dee Mead

First sewing class at Cerro VFW in October

for Cerro, which spent a month and a half without running water. With the water back, activity at the post is picking up.

Maria Ortega serves as Commander of the Cerro VFW, leading alongside Quartermaster Dee Dee Mead, Senior Vice Commander Chris Williams, and Junior Vice Commander Kenny Gallegos. The officers are working on renovations in the building's old cantina portion with the goal of creating a community hangout space. "We would love to host more veterans at Cerro VFW. Feel free to join us," Maria said.

All machines, fabric, tools, snacks, and drinks are provided free of charge. The next class is scheduled for Nov. 13 at 4 p.m.

Sewing Class

Date: Second Friday of Every Month

Next Class Friday, Nov. 13

Time: 4-6 p.m.

FREE

Location: Cerro VFW

Sponsored by  LOR FOUNDATION

Court Filing Challenges Environmental Review For Questa Hydrogen Project Over 2009 Conservation Easement

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

A new court filing has brought a 2009 conservation easement into a legal dispute over the environmental review for Kit Carson Electric Cooperative's proposed hydrogen project in Questa. The filing raises questions about whether the easement applies to the project site and what effect, if any, it may have on the project's development.

On Oct. 15, the Cabresto Lake Irrigation Community Ditch Association and the Acequia Madre del Cerro de Guadalupe filed the deed with the U.S. District Court as part of their request for a preliminary injunction.

The plaintiffs argue that the easement applies to land where the hydrogen project and solar array are being built. Recorded in Taos County in 2009, the easement requires most of the property to remain in a natural condition and reportedly restricts certain activities, including utility generation and transmission facilities, some vegetation removal and most groundwater withdrawals.

Whether those provisions legally apply to the current project remains unresolved. The filing presents the plaintiffs' interpretation of the easement, but the court has not determined whether it restricts the Cooperative's planned development.

The plaintiffs contend that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service did not adequately account for the easement before issuing its Finding of No Significant Impact. That federal determination concluded that the project would not have significant environmental effects requiring a more extensive Environmental



Photo by Lora Arciniaga

Impact Statement.

According to materials submitted by the plaintiffs, a map includes land where the Cooperative has conducted construction and ground-disturbing activities since May. The plaintiffs also argue that the easement applies to land Chevron leased to Kit Carson Electric Cooperative in May 2026. The legal significance of the map and the easement's applicability to the project have yet to be determined by the court.

The filing is part of a broader lawsuit challenging the federal environmental review, the project's proposed groundwater use and its potential effects on nearby water resources.

The plaintiffs argue that the federal environmental review did not adequately assess potential effects on nearby wells, surface water and acequia flows. They have also raised concerns about the timing of additional studies, including a recommended biological study of the area and

a study addressing risks to human health and safety. According to the plaintiffs' materials, those studies were completed after the Rural Utilities Service issued its Finding of No Significant Impact.

The timing of the studies is one element of the plaintiffs' challenge. Whether

the studies required additional federal review, and whether further review is legally necessary, remains for the court to consider. The fact that studies were completed after the federal determination does not, by itself, establish that the original review was legally deficient.

As previously reported by *Questa del Rio News*, U.S. District Judge David H. Urias heard arguments on the plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction on Sept. 3 and took the matter under advisement.

The Oct. 15 filing does not announce a court ruling or order construction to stop. A preliminary injunction, if granted, could restrict certain activities while the lawsuit proceeds, but the filing itself does not change the project's legal status.

The court must still consider the parties' arguments, including the legal effect of the conservation easement, the adequacy of the federal environmental review and the plaintiffs' request for preliminary relief.





Questa Economic Development Fund & the LOR Foundation Presents

2026 Questa Speakers Series:

"An Overview of NM Tenant Rights, Changing Housing Policy, and the Community Justice Worker Movement"

Attorney Winter Torres will present insight on these topics, from her perspective as Founder and CEO of NM Eviction Prevention and Diversion. Her organization works to keep people housed, primarily in Santa Fe County, but with an eye on expansion throughout Northern NM.

November 19, 2026 5:30-7pm

Questa Public Library

6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd

Questa, NM 87556






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Questa Wildcats Earn State Playoff Berth, Ranked No. 10

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Questa Wildcats are headed to the state football playoffs after finishing the regular season with a 5-5 record and earning the No. 10 ranking in New Mexico's 8-man football rankings.

The Wildcats closed their regular season with a 48-36 loss to the Clayton Yellowjackets on Oct. 24 during Questa's homecoming game. Despite the setback, the team secured a postseason berth, according to an announcement from Questa Independent School District.

Questa will face Gateway Christian at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, according to MaxPreps. The Wildcats will look to extend their season and continue their pursuit of a state championship.

Junior Remington Smith has been a key contributor for Questa, averaging 81.6 yards per game and recording 13 total touchdowns. He also has four inter-

ceptions on defense.

Junior quarterback Lukas Cisneros has thrown 11 touchdown passes, while senior Juan Cisneros has averaged 69.1 rushing yards per game to help lead the Wildcats' ground attack.

Defensively, senior Diego Ortega has averaged 12.6 tackles per game. Senior Matthew Vigil has recorded an average of 0.4 sacks per game, according to MaxPreps.

The school credited the players, coaches and supporters for the team's accomplishments and encouraged the community to rally behind the Wildcats as they enter the postseason.

Questa is coached by Dwayne Ortega, Mark Ortega and Justin Martinez.

With a playoff spot secured, the Wildcats will turn their attention to Gateway Christian and the opportunity to continue their season in pursuit of a state title.



Photo courtesy of Questa Independent School District.

Questa Ladycats Volleyball Charges Into Strong Season Finish

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

The Questa Ladycats varsity volleyball team is entering the final stretch of the regular season after a strong campaign marked by key performances from veteran players, contributions across the lineup, and continued support from the Questa community. With senior night approaching and three regular-season matches on the schedule, the Ladycats are focused on finishing strong and maintaining their position in District 6-1A.

The team's success has extended beyond the court. On Saturday, Oct. 24, the junior varsity and varsity teams celebrated homecoming while hosting their annual Dig Pink volleyball game, raising money for the family of the late Jesse Medina, who died of cancer, and Kim Santistevan, a Questa High School alumna who is battling cancer. The fundraiser reflected the program's commitment to supporting families in the community.

Several players have helped drive the varsity team's success throughout the season. Senior Esperanza Vallejos has been a standout at the net, averaging 2.0 kills per set with a .314 hitting percent-



Photo by Alyssah Duran

Questa Ladycats display unison in their game as they play NM School of the Deaf on Oct. 28

age. Junior Maliyah Dominguez has anchored the back row, averaging 4.8 digs per set, while junior Allison Segura has contributed from the serving line with 31 aces and has recorded 119 assists.

Senior leaders Mia Ramos, Melinda Rael and Mariana Ortega have also played important roles in the Ladycats' season. Ramos, an outside hitter, Rael and Ortega, defensive specialists, bring

experience and leadership to the varsity lineup. Their contributions and support for their teammates have helped strengthen team chemistry and sustain the Ladycats' competitive play as the season winds down.

The Ladycats suffered a 3-1 loss to Mora on Oct. 27 before continuing their schedule against New Mexico School for the Deaf on Oct. 28 where they won 3-0. As the regular season comes to a

close, the team will look to build on its strengths and carry its momentum into the final matches.

The Ladycats celebrated senior night Thursday, Oct. 29, at home against Mesa Vista. Questa will now face Des Moines Monday, Nov. 2, at 5 p.m., before closing out the regular season in Peñasco Thursday, Nov. 5, at 5 p.m.

The team is coached by Michelle Spears, and Sasha Martinez.

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT *of the* MONTH

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

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ATHLETE Spotlight



EVANIE MARTINEZ

8TH GRADE, 13 YEARS OLD, VOLLEYBALL



ACHIEVEMENTS: "My team and I got 2nd place for our most recent tournament."

HERO/ROLE MODEL: "My parents."

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "I love diving, serving and spiking the ball."

OTHER STUFF: "I like traveling and hanging out with my friends."

SIMON SISNEROS: 3RD GRADE, 8 YEARS OLD, SOCCER, BASKETBALL, SKIING, SWIMMING & BIKING



ACHIEVEMENTS: "Starting as goal keeper this season & doing jumps & tricks on my bike."

HERO/ROLE MODEL: "My family."

WHY DO YOU LOVE IT: "I love sports because I like being physically active, I like being on teams & making new friends & it's awesome being outside."

OTHER STUFF: "I like having fun with my family, playing games with friends & going on adventures!"

COACHING Spotlight



JUSTIN MARTINEZ



2 YEARS ASSISTANT VARSITY BASKETBALL, 2 YEARS ASSISTANT VARSITY FOOTBALL, VARIOUS YOUTH SPORTS

ONE-WORD DESCRIPTION: Energetic

COACHING PHILOSOPHY: "All kids are different. Understanding each child's mindset to gauge their strengths and weaknesses is crucial to their development. My goal as their coach is not only to develop their athletic abilities, but also to build confidence in themselves as teammates and as individuals."

ENJOYS MOST: "Spending time with my family and just hanging out with them. They truly are my favorite people in the world to be around. We love watching and playing sports."

HOBBIES: "Reading about cars and trucks, being outside and trying to stay active, riding my dirtbike, oh yeah... watching sports!"

HOMEGROWN HUSTLE



Happy Thanksgiving

Grateful for our neighbors, our community, and the place we call home.

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WOMAN OF THE MONTH:
OCTOBER 2026
NAOMI GOMEZ



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.



Housing Speaker Series Addresses Eviction & Renter's Rights

By STAFF WRITERS

On Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026, attorney and homelessness prevention leader Winter L. Torres will be in Questa to lead a community discussion about tenant rights, changing rental policies, housing access and affordability in Questa and northern New Mexico.

This free presentation will take place at the Questa Library from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and is open to the public. The presentation is part of the Questa Housing Speaker Series made possible in partnership with the Questa Economic Development Fund, the Taos Housing Partnership, and the LOR Foundation. Refreshments will be provided.

Torres will present information regarding:

- (1) Tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities under current New Mexico law; comparing local laws to national norms and those in other states.
- (2) A new statewide tenant service of Community Justice Workers - expected to come online next year - who will provide legal advice and legal representation to low-income households that cannot afford a lawyer or for those who live in rural areas where few attorneys are available.
- (3) Preview housing and homelessness-related legislation expected to be addressed during the upcoming

Legislative Session.

"It's crucial that we address housing and homelessness for rural New Mexicans, too—not just for those living in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces. For instance, I bet almost no one knows that there's usually no lawyer in the courtroom for most evictions outside of Las Cruces and Albuquerque," stated Torres. Plan to attend to learn more about your rights.

Join Torres for this informative presentation. She will be available for questions around evictions, landlord relationships, homelessness, and more, and will provide information on resources that can help address these critical issues in northern NM.



Questa Housing Speaker Series NM Eviction Prevention & Diversion

Date: Thursday, Nov. 19

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Questa Public Library
6 1/2 Questa Pk Rd, Questa, NM 87556

LOR FOUNDATION UPDATE BY LIZ VAUTOUR

The Good Work Happening In Questa

It's no secret that Questa has seen its share of disagreements lately. People have strong opinions about the future of their community, and those conversations aren't always easy.

But even as some of those disagreements take center stage, there's another story unfolding in Questa. One that doesn't always make headlines or generate much attention. It's the story of local people who see something their community needs and quietly get to work.

So far in 2026, the LOR Foundation has supported more than 65 locally led projects in Questa with over half a million dollars in funding. Behind each of those projects is someone who recognized a need, came up with an idea, and stepped up to do something about it.

Some folks are finding ways to give local kids more opportunities to learn, play, and grow. Others are working to support elders, improve shared spaces, or make everyday life a little easier for their neighbors. These efforts may not always be the talk of the town, but they

matter. And taken together, they're making a real difference in Questa.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we want to recognize the people behind this work. The volunteers, organizers, teachers, parents, and everyday residents who give their time and share their skills to transform their ideas into action. We're continually inspired by their commitment to Questa.

Chances are, you know some of these people. They're the familiar faces who plan events, volunteer their time, and take on projects year after year. They do a tremendous amount for Questa. But they shouldn't have to do it all.

We believe everyone in Questa has something to offer.

Maybe it's a skill you've developed over the years, a little time you can spare, or a creative fix you've been thinking about. Maybe you have an idea that could make life better for local elders, student athletes, young families, aspiring homeowners, or kids with special needs who could use more resources close to home. You don't have to have all the answers. You don't have to belong to an organization. And you don't have to take on a project by yourself. That's where LOR can help.

Every request for LOR funding starts with a conversation, whether by phone or in person. There's no formal application, no deadline, and no expectation that you have every detail accounted for before reaching out. All you need is the seed of an idea and a willingness to be part of making it happen. We can talk through what's possible together and



Photo by Claire Côté

Local youth give park benches a fresh coat of paint as part of a youth-led effort to clean up Questa Park

help connect you to like-minded neighbors. And most eligible projects receive funding in less than 30 days.

We also recognize that not everyone has extra time or energy to give. Between work, family, and everything else life demands, many people already have plenty on their plates. But if you have an idea, a skill, or a little time to share, we hope you'll consider putting it toward something that could make a difference for your neighbors.

Because there's no shortage of things worth doing in Questa. And the more people who step up, the more good work can get done.

LOR has just two years left in Questa, and we want to make the most of that

time. There's still so much opportunity to support the people and places that matter to this community. **Our time here is limited. But the possibilities for Questa are limitless.**

This Thanksgiving season, we're grateful to everyone who has welcomed LOR into their community work, shared their ideas with us, and put in the effort to make those ideas a reality. Thank you for allowing us to be part of that work. We're proud of what we've accomplished together, and we're looking forward to what comes next.

Have an idea? Reach out to community officer Maria Gonzalez at maria@lorfoundation.org or visit lorfoundation.org to get started today.

PITCH TO PAGE



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CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY
TO BUSINESS RESOURCES,
TRAINING, AND
SERVICES

2026 WINNER:

Tatyana De Pavloff: Sew Artful



PITCH STORY

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

Questa is home and I love it here! Being a costume designer with over 25 years of experience in theater and fashion, I traveled a lot. When I settled in Questa in 2020, I realized I wanted to stay in my community and share my skills here. I needed a job, and I quickly discovered that to serve my community, I had to create that job first.

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

While already living in Taos for 12 years doing creative textile projects and alterations, moving to Questa brought so many alteration requests that it became clear this was the niche to fill. So I opened Sew Artful. I knew it would be the only professional sewing shop between Taos and Alamosa, and the demand was already high.

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

I started with 25-year-old home studio equipment, and my iron blew up after 8 months! Entering the Pitch contest was a fantastic experience, and my business won a top prize! The \$5,000 award got me a

new industrial sewing machine and a specialty cover stitch machine to deliver higher quality in a shorter time. A professional steam system adds precision on delicate fabrics, and my favorite purchase is an adjustable mannequin in "real people" sizes 8-20!

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

Besides growing revenue from alterations, I plan to add a retail shop selling up-cycled and restored vintage pieces, as well as a mobile "last minute and emergency" bridal alterations service on location.

MEET THE FOUNDER: QUICK FACTS

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

I learned that getting myself "out-of-the-box" and putting my business in front of judges could be a good experience and a little boost. It was a fantastic experience!

What is your favorite part of serving the community?

I love hearing customers say, "I am so happy I found you!" as I help them look sharp and feel amazing in their unique style and body.

Outside of running your business, what is one thing people might be surprised to learn about you?

Before opening my shop, I worked as a costume designer and a makeup artist for many theater and fashion industry projects in this country and Moscow, Russia.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

How does your business directly benefit or enrich the Questa community?

My customers range from brides and cowboys to dance students, skiers, and local restaurant owners needing repairs. By doing alterations, I help people look sharp and feel amazing in their clothes without having to buy new ones. As my business grows, I am also hoping to carve out time for sewing workshops and educational projects for Questa youth.



2026 Winner Sew Artful:
Tatyana De Pavloff was awarded \$5000



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Next door to Yoga Sala.
(575) 737-8187

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2025 Winner Enchanted Circle Auto Lock & Key:
John and Kristy Foster was awarded \$3000

2025 ALUMNI: Where are they now?



Enchanted Circle Auto Lock & Key: John and Kristy Foster

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

The grant money my business received from the pitch contest was a catalyst and momentum has not faded. Equipment purchased allowed me to offer additional locksmith services, expanding my customer base and networking opportunities.

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

Gaining the trust of local residents and visitors has been the greatest achievement. Marketing in a small community, word of mouth recommendations and reviews are priceless and I appreciate each referral! I am grateful for connections made with wonderful people in our community.

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

In 2027 I hope to further expand my services for motorcycles, RV's and ATV's and to continue to learn new skills and techniques.

Contact Info & Logo

The best way to reach me is to give me a call at (505) 235-7730. You can also visit my website at www.locksmithquesta.com



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.



Questa To Yale, Abran Montoya-Bloom Carries His Hometown With Him

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Abran Montoya-Bloom has built a career at the intersection of finance, real estate, construction and healthcare, helping develop facilities that expand access to healthcare. But the lessons that shaped his success began long before his career took him to Yale. They began in Questa.

Montoya-Bloom, 36, is Yale's director of capital program development. He recently joined Yale after working as a capital finance consultant at Brown University, continuing a career that has taken him from New Mexico to California and Colorado and now to the East Coast.

Yet no matter how far he travels, New Mexico remains home.

"I catch myself saying, 'We're going home,'" Montoya-Bloom said. "Home is Questa, but in reality, New Mexico is home."

After graduating from Questa High School in 2008, Montoya-Bloom attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, where he majored in accounting and worked in the university's accounting department and as a resident assistant. He then spent about three years in California working in corporate accounting, including positions with Clif Bar and Conagra Brands, before moving to Denver around 2013 to work for Kaiser Permanente in finance, accounting and capital planning.

He eventually discovered that his passion extended beyond accounting.

"I loved accounting, but my passion is where finance, real estate and construction meet to increase access to healthcare," he said.

In healthcare, that intersection can have a direct impact on people's lives. Developing facilities closer to patients can mean less travel and better access to essential services, a mission that has become central to his work.

The resourcefulness behind that

mission, he said, was shaped by growing up in Questa.

As a teenager, he recalls exploring the community on four-wheelers, learning to navigate unexpected challenges on their own. If an ATV ran out of gas or a friend got hurt, they had to find a solution, whether that meant contacting their parents or figuring out how to get everyone home.

"Ultimately, we had to figure out how to get ourselves out of the situation," he said with a laugh.

Those experiences taught him resilience, independence and the importance of seeing a problem through.

"Problem-solving was natural," he said. "We had to be really resourceful. If we needed to get something done, we had to find a way to get it done."

His parents, Chris and Yolanda Montoya, reinforced those lessons. His father, a self-described fixer in Abran's telling, taught him to approach problems practically through hands-on work repairing things around the house and working on cars. That real-world understanding has proved valuable in his career, where he collaborates with people in construction, real estate and finance.

His mother, Yolanda, always encouraged him to figure things out on his own, an independence that made him resourceful early on.

Mentors in Questa also helped shape his path. Sally Lucero, his accounting teacher, believed in his abilities and helped him secure an internship at Chevron Mine during his junior and senior years of high school. Although Lucero has since passed away, Montoya-Bloom continues to credit her with laying the foundation for his career.

Patricia Torres, whom he affectionately calls Grandma Pat, became another lasting influence. The two met during his internship, and Torres continued to offer personalized guidance and career advice long after those early years.

Their support reflects what Montoya-Bloom considers one of Questa's greatest strengths: a community that invests in its people and shows up for one another.

"There is something incredibly special about growing up in Questa," he said. "The community is so connected, but because it's so real and pronounced, it's sometimes easy to forget our own identity is in helping and supporting one another, even when we don't get along."

He hopes residents continue to recognize that strength and take pride in where they come from.

That connection to New Mexico also



Courtesy Photo

Abran Montoya-Bloom

shaped his personal life. Montoya-Bloom met his husband, Carl, in Denver in 2018, and they married in Santa Fe in 2021. The city was a meaningful choice for the couple, who share a love for New Mexico and wanted to celebrate close to family.

The Montoya family is especially close-knit, he said, making a small wedding guest list a challenge. Inviting one person could easily mean inviting the entire 150+ member family, so the couple chose an intimate celebration.

"Having a small wedding was in no way a personal jab to anyone," he said with a laugh, "but it was not easy to navigate that decision because of the close bonds in our family."

In the future, Montoya-Bloom hopes to establish a home base in Questa or northern New Mexico. He and Carl return whenever they can, particularly around the holidays, keeping family and their connection to the state close.

That same commitment to connection and access extends beyond his professional life. Montoya-Bloom serves on the board of the Providence Public Library, a role that reflects his lifelong love of reading.

As a child, books allowed him to explore worlds beyond his own and imagine possibilities outside the boundaries of a small town. That experience helped him understand how important access to books and public resources can be, especially for people with limited opportunities.

Growing up in Questa, where a public library was not available to him as a child and the nearest hospital was a 45-minute drive away, Montoya-Bloom learned firsthand how geography can shape access to essential resources. Those experiences continue to inform his commitment to

equity, both through his work in healthcare development and his service on the Providence Public Library board.

He sees a common thread between the two: ensuring people have access to the resources they need to thrive. Libraries open doors to knowledge and possibility, while healthcare facilities bring essential services closer to the communities that need them. For Montoya-Bloom, expanding that access is more than a professional mission; it is personal.

That commitment has become a golden thread running through his life, connecting the curiosity and resourcefulness he developed in Questa to the work he does today.

As he sits alongside colleagues from major cities and prestigious Ivy League institutions, Montoya-Bloom takes pride in how far he has come without losing sight of where he started. "I sit at tables with people from big cities and Ivy League schools, and I'm proud that a kid from Questa is right there with them."

He has never lost sight of where he came from, or how the challenges of growing up in a rural community shaped his determination to help ensure others have access to opportunities and services that can change their lives.

The lessons he learned at home, resilience, resourcefulness, ambition and the importance of community remain with him.

For Montoya-Bloom, carrying Questa with him is about more than remembering where he came from. It is about honoring the people who helped him get where he is and making sure the values he learned there continue to shape what comes next.



Historic Roots, High-Speed Fiber: How Local Hardware Pillars Serve the Community

Across Northern New Mexico, our communities have always been built on determination, local trust, and hard work. Long before high-speed fiber cables traversed the Sangre de Cristo mountains, local lumber yards and hardware suppliers were laying the physical foundation for our homes, ranches, and town centers.

Today, local institutions like Randall Lumber & Hardware in Taos and Questa Lumber & Hardware right here in North Taos County remain the vital backbone of regional commerce.

Founded in 1921, Randall Lumber & Hardware holds the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating business in Taos. Up north in our own backyard, Questa Lumber & Hardware carries a similarly rich legacy. Founded in 1953 by Jose Malaquias "Mel" and Lucy Rael, the store grew from a modest one-room storefront—which even sold home appliances—into a thriving, multi-generational cornerstone serving Questa, Cerro, Costilla, Red River, and surrounding communities for over seven decades.

While their mission to serve neighbors hasn't changed, keeping that legacy alive requires blending old-school personal service with 21st-century digital efficiency.

"At Randall's, our focus is making sure everybody's house is warm, not leaking, or has good windows," shares Mark Sheriff, Hardware Manager at Randall's. "A good home is a necessity, and it's meaningful to serve the local community rather than dealing with massive corporations."

To keep operations running smoothly, high-capacity fiber supports critical back-office systems, cloud-synced Point-of-Sale (POS) terminals, and VoIP phone lines. Before switching to Kit Carson fiber, data congestion frequently disrupted daily retail operations.

"The largest pain point before was that there was only so much bandwidth... it was like having too many straws in the same cup," Mark explains. "When other businesses were backing up their systems, our system would basically become non-operational."

Danielle Lovato, Business Manager at Questa Lumber and granddaughter of founders Mel and Lucy Rael, remembers those technology shifts firsthand—from counting nuts and bolts by hand as an 11-year-old to navigating DOS-based systems and dial-up internet.

"Ordering used to be hit or miss," Danielle recalls. "If we had internet issues right before our 3:00 p.m. cutoff, our vendor orders wouldn't submit. Now, even a last-minute order hits the

deadline every time. It's one click away, and there it is."

Equipped with a degree in computer networking, Danielle returned to her family's business 13 years ago to modernize its operations. Today, high-speed fiber powers every corner of the store:

- **Mobile Inventory & Pricing:** Staff use mobile handheld scanners on the floor to adjust inventory, check pricing, and process stock in real time without paper logs or terminal bottlenecks.
- **Cloud Server Uptime:** Fast fiber allows real-time cloud server backups, ensuring sales and inventory stay live even during physical server maintenance.
- **Instant IT Support:** Third-party IT specialists can securely access and troubleshoot any of the store's 10 terminals within an hour, resolving issues quickly and keeping checkout lines moving.
- **Hometown VoIP Care:** While customers wait on hold, custom recordings highlight store offerings—from flooring and appliances to fishing licenses—alongside a nod to the store's 70-year history.

"With fiber, our daily vendor orders submit automatically with zero delay, transactions are faster, and if we ever have a question, one simple call gets us a quick answer," says Danielle.

For Mark, the value comes down to direct human connection. "With big cellular carriers, you're at their mercy," Mark adds. "With Kit Carson Internet, it's simple. It's nice to work with a local partner you can actually build a relationship with."

Together, Kit Carson Internet and local heritage businesses like Questa Lumber and Hardware and Randall's demonstrate how combining community roots with modern fiber connectivity keeps Northern New Mexico thriving.



Paid Advertorial by Kit Carson Internet



Tools for the Hands That Build our Communities

By LORA ARCINIEGA

November Building Our Community:

In our high elevation communities, getting things done yourself and maybe with some help from dad, isn't just a habit, it's a way of life. Whether you're fixing a broken gate, hanging a door, or building a handmade gift for a neighbor, the people in Questa and across northern New Mexico are known for rolling up their sleeves and putting in honest work.

This month wraps up the "Building Our Community" series, supported in part by the LOR Foundation. For the final installment, Questa Lumber and Hardware (QLH) is honoring local makers, builders, and DIYers by focusing on Tools & Hardware. As winter and the holidays roll in, QLH is proud to be the spot where your home and land projects get off the ground.

The Right Tool for the Job

Any local craftsman will tell you good work starts with the right tool. Your DIY projects demand heavy-duty gear, which is why QLH carries top-brand power tools, from rugged cordless drills and impact drivers to precision saws and sanders, built to handle tough job sites and cold weather.

Looking for trusty hand tools? The aisles at QLH are fully stocked with reliable wrenches, hammers, chisels, and measuring tools that will stay in your truck or garage for years to come.

Hardware That Keeps Us Together

Sometimes the smallest part causes the biggest headache. QLH keeps their

hardware department packed with the nuts, bolts, screws, and specialized fasteners that keep Questa and surrounding communities standing strong. When you're one bolt away from finishing a job, you shouldn't have to drive all the way down the highway. QLH has got what you need right here in town.

Practical Gifts for the Holidays

With November here, tools make thoughtful, lasting gifts for family and neighbors. Whether it's a young adult setting up their first toolkit or a seasoned pro replacing a worn-out favorite, giving a quality tool means giving something that lasts a lifetime. This season, keep it practical and support the hands-on spirit that makes our communities so strong.

Six Months of Building Together

As we finish this series, QLH wants to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the LOR Foundation for supporting this series and to neighbors and customers. From planting spring gardens back in June to checking out the aisles for that perfect holiday gift in November, this series has brought valuable information to locals.

Stop by Questa Lumber & Hardware today, where they're always happy to help you tackle your next project!

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.

Taos Feeds Taos To Kick Off Holiday Season With Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Taos Feeds Taos will kick off the 2026 holiday season with a pancake breakfast fundraiser Nov. 14 to support its efforts to assist families throughout Taos County.

The breakfast is scheduled from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago in Taos. Tickets cost \$10 each.

Organizers said community support helps sustain the organization's holiday assistance program. Last year, Taos Feeds Taos provided assistance to 1,200 households in Taos County during the holiday season.

Those unable to attend the fundraiser can make a contribution through the organization's website. For more information, contact Ernestina Cordova at (575) 770-0681.

Taos Feeds Taos will accept applications for holiday food assistance by phone Nov. 16-18. Applicants should

call (575) 613-8435 and are asked to call only once. Organizers said someone will return each applicant's call.

The program serves Taos and surrounding areas, including Peñasco, Picuris, Amalia, Costilla, Questa and Cerro, according to the organization's announcement.

Applicants should be prepared to provide the following information:

- Proof of income for each household member, such as a pay stub or disability income documentation, including Veterans Affairs benefits.
- The number of people in the household.
- The last four digits of Social Security numbers.
- A utility statement, such as an electric, gas or water bill, to verify physical and mailing addresses.

Qualified applicants will receive a grocery voucher by mail during the first week of December. The vouchers



Courtesy Photo

2025 Taos Feeds Taos event at the Super Save in Taos

can be redeemed at Taos Super Save Grocery Store.

Voucher recipients can shop at Super Save Dec. 21-22 to receive a free ham. Vouchers expire at noon Dec. 24.

For application information, call (575) 613-8435 during the Nov. 16-18 application period.

Taos Feeds Taos Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, Nov. 14

Time: 8 - 10 a.m.

Admission: \$10

Location: Bent Lodge
124 Camino de Santiago in Taos

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
11-12 PM	Communities of Questa Mariachi
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

DISTURBANCE

ART EXHIBITIONS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS BY

Scan QR Code for full November event details or location changes due to inclement weather, or visit paseoproject.org/disturbance2026

VIDA DEL NORTE: YOUTH-SERVING

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTORIAL BY VIDA DEL NORTE COALITION



By LORA ARCINIEGA

When it comes to supporting our kids in northern Taos County, it truly takes all of us working together. The Vida del Norte Coalition focuses on youth mental wellness, healthy choices, and substance abuse prevention right here in Questa. While the coalition brings together twelve community sectors, Youth-Serving Sector Lead Winter Hernandez shares a personal perspective on why showing up for local youth matters so much in her role.

Being a Trusted Voice for Our Kids

At the end of the school day at the Vida del Norte after-school program, children rush over to Hernandez excited to share what made them happy, what is bothering them, or how they feel.

“In those moments, I’ve realized that I’ve become someone they look forward to seeing and trust enough to open up to,” shares Hernandez. “I’ve started to feel like an older sister to them, and it means so much to know they feel comfortable talking to me. This experience has shown me how important it is for children to have caring people who listen, support them, and make them feel valued.”

These daily connections have strengthened her belief in youth-serving work and shaped her future goals of planning to study child psychology in college and become a child therapist. “I want to be someone kids can talk to without fear of judgment.”

“The support children receive today can shape who they become tomorrow, and even small acts of care can make a lasting difference,” she explains. “I want every child to feel safe, loved, and supported while growing up in a community that values their well-being and gives them the opportunity to make happy memories.”

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

EMPOWERING OUR KIDS: INSIDE QUESTA'S VIDA DEL NORTE YOUTH-SERVING SECTOR

Responding to Community Challenges with Care

Working directly with youth highlights both the strength and the real struggles facing northern New Mexico. While neighbors here come together with care and compassion, addiction and substance misuse have also hurt local families and changed lives.

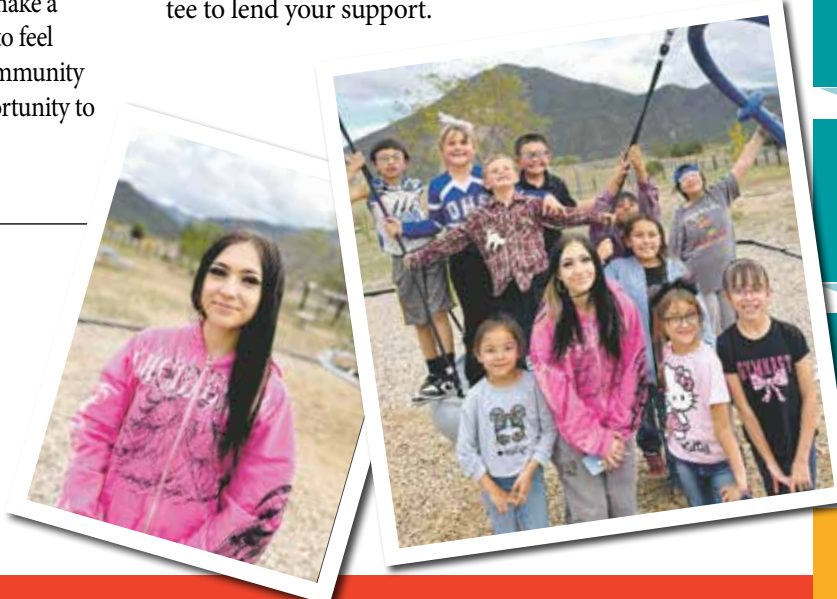
Rather than allowing anger and negativity to divide the town, her message is centered on understanding and unity.

“These issues remind me that we need to respond with greater understanding, positivity, and support rather than allowing anger and negativity to divide us,” Hernandez shares. “We may not be able to solve everything at once, but we can show up for one another and make sure no one feels alone. As the youth-serving sector lead, I want to be someone this community can trust. We cannot change everything overnight, but by coming together and putting our children first, we can create a better future for the next generation.”

Get Involved: How You Can Help

Strong communities build strong youth, and there is a spot for everyone to pitch in.

- **For Youth (Middle & High Schoolers):** Join the Active8 Youth Coalition. Build leadership skills, earn community service hours, and help plan fun local events.
- **Active8:** We offer a scholarship to youth who complete a full year of service with Vida Del Norte.
- **For Parents & Families:** Attend monthly coalition meetings, connect with other parents, and support local youth activities.
- **For Neighbors & Businesses:** Volunteer your time, sponsor youth programs, or sit on a coalition committee to lend your support.



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

Focus & Freedom: Pop-up Exhibition By Claire Coté & Martha Shepp



Photo by Claire Coté

Martha Shepp with her artwork in Claire's studio, November 2026



Courtesy Photo

Claire Coté with Olga Gressot at Claire's open Studio event December 2024

By STAFF WRITERS

"Focus & Freedom" is a pop-up exhibition by Claire Coté & Martha Shepp. Join them at Claire's Studio for this one-day "Taking-Up-Space Exhibition", part of an international movement of women and non-binary artists showing their artwork throughout the month of November.

"Freedom is foundational for us as artists, supporting exploration and shapeshifting across forms

and topics. Pairing this with deep focus and discipline is an ever-changing balance that both challenges and fulfills," says Claire Coté.

Martha's current work focuses on the past in order to re-create from these ideas, in the now. Old photos, artwork, and tales from childhood tell the story better than memories. Martha is enjoying the process of revisiting and decoding the cryptic messages these artifacts hold, with total freedom.

Claire's practice is grounded in daily

rituals, acts of slowing down and being present: early-morning walks around Eagle Rock Lake, painting local "plant neighbors" and savoring cups of tea. The resulting artworks are an invitation into this practice of curiosity and connection.

The show will feature mixed media works by both Claire and Martha, as well as cards, prints and other special items for holiday gifting.

Find their work online:

Claire Coté: www.clairecote.com on

IG @clairecotearts

Martha Shepp: www.marthashepp.com, <https://fineartamerica.com/art/martha+shepp>

Focus & Freedom: Claire Coté & Martha Shepp

Nov. 28, 2026, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

One-Day Pop-up Taking-Up-Space Exhibition

Claire Coté Arts Studio, Questa NM - 3204 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556

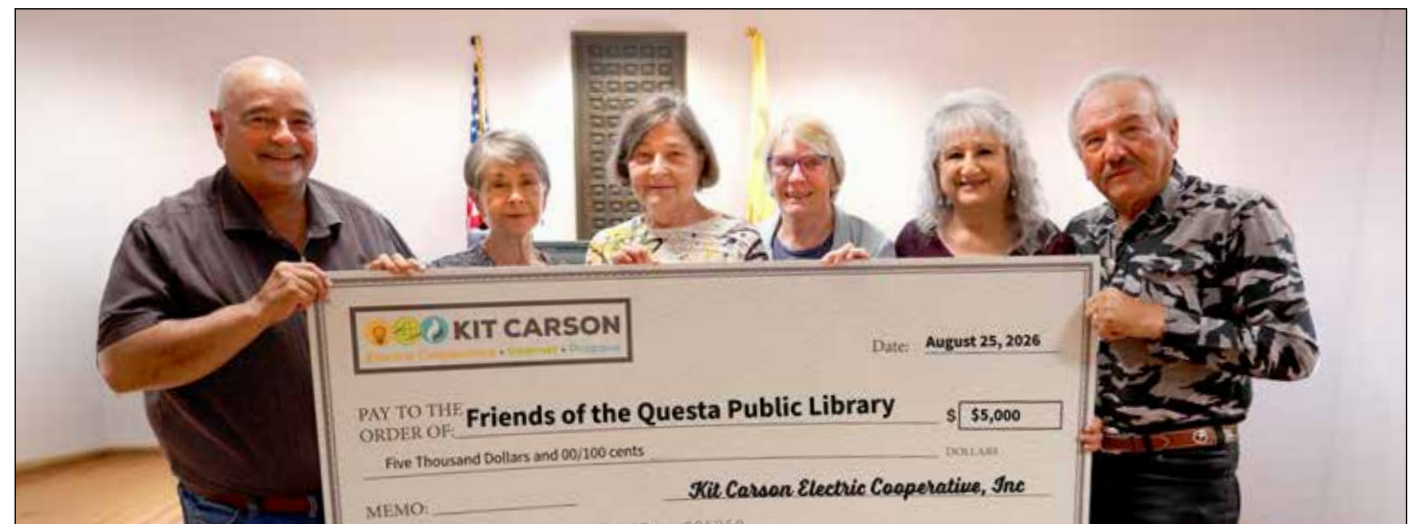


By DAWN PROVENCHER

Five Years Ago...

Five years ago, the village of Questa opened the doors to the expanded library we enjoy today. After years in the portable building donated by Pojoaque Pueblo, the June 2021 grand opening was celebrated by many and continues to serve our community.

How did this new building come about? Certainly the Village of Questa supports our library in many ways. Tens of thousands of dollars are budgeted each year for maintenance, repairs, employee salaries, and more. However, there are practical limits to these funds. It is safe to say the Friends of the



Courtesy Photo

Evelyn Coggins, Margaret Lejuste, Sharon Nicholson accepting a generous donation from KCEC representatives

Questa Public Library (FQPL) played a major role.

Grant applications written by FQPL Board secured monies from the Taos Community Foundation, Guzman Electric/Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, the LANL Foundation, and the McCune Foundation. The furnishings and shelving, along with many new books were purchased with this funding.

After receiving Capital Outlay funds requested by late NM Senator Carlos Cisneros, the new library became a reality.

Grant money continues to be crucial to the Library's day to day function. In addition to the Board's grant writing skills, several other FQPL members locate grant sources and secure funds for the library each year.

If you have visited the beautiful library expansion, used the computers, printed copies, participated in meetings and activities, checked out books, videos, or audio books, you are benefiting from the coordinated efforts of the Village, the staff, generous donors, volunteers, and the Friends of the Questa Public Library. Ask during your next visit how you can become a Friend.



Traditional Foods Cooking Class

By QCC BOARD MEMBERS

The holidays are just around the corner! Holiday's equal food, family, more food, fellowship, and fun! Back by popular demand, Flavio Cisneros with the Questa Creative Council-offering a free traditional food's cooking class this fall. Come learn Flavio's recipes and techniques 10 a.m. - noon, Saturday, Nov. 14 at Living Word Ministries' event building.

An active board member of the

QCC, Flavio helped found the Questa History Trail, and during the Questa Art Tour he provided information, history, art, and restoration, which he helped with on site (by cooking for the workers) at St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

Cooking Class Menu:

EMPANADITAS: These little deep-fried meat pies use lean pork ground together with seasonings and fruit sealed into a flaky crust. Flavio will have some already made, so you don't have to wait for a taste, and he will then demo their creation. "It's very hands-on, grinding the meat and gathering and mixing everything for the filling," says Flavio.

BISCOCHITOS: Flavio's famous biscochitos have received many compliments, both locally and in other parts of New Mexico. He has made hundreds of them for many different functions and events. They always disappear fast and get a big thumbs-up.

PRUNE PIE: Flavio will demo pit-

ting, cooking, and mashing the filling and adding cinnamon and sugar. A flaky crust, too, yum! There will be already cooked prune pies to sample while you learn.

Flavio says, "When both my parents passed away I realized I had a craving for these foods. I started making them by experimenting to figure out the recipes, as I did not write them down while mom was still alive. My own taste buds told me if things were right or wrong."

What makes these traditional dishes so special? They are about family but also about this place. This place was a crossroads, explains Flavio, for Comanche, Kiowa, Apache, and Plains natives, on their way to Taos Pueblo to trade. Crops and animals that were local lay the foundations for a regional cuisine born of necessity, which then became tradition.

"All is not lost... We can still share these things that are part of our past and teach others," says Flavio.

Come be part of continuing our community's traditions, on Nov. 14, 10 a.m. - Noon. Living Word Ministry's event room is adjacent to the church at #12 Llano Rd., on the north side of Questa. Find more info at QuestaCreative.org or leave a message at (575) 586-5658.

Cooking Class

When: Saturday Nov. 14

Time: 10 a.m. - Noon

Location: Living Word Ministry's event room is adjacent to the church at #12 Llano Rd.

Find more info at QuestaCreative.org or leave a message at (575) 586-5658.

The Ceramic Cafe

When: Wednesdays through Dec. 16

Time: 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Art Room at the Youth Center
Come build your pieces this month in preparation for glazing and firing in December!

Find more info at QuestaCreative.org or leave a message at (575) 586-5658



from the Librarian's Desk...

Sharon Nicholson

Gratitude

November is a time to count our blessings, and as I reflect on all I have to be thankful for, I think about the library and the people who walk through its doors every day.

Many people assume librarians are most thankful for books, and while I certainly love books, it is the people behind the pages who make being the librarian so meaningful. The greatest blessing in my job is the opportunity to connect with members of our community and be a small part of their lives.

I am thankful for the child who proudly carries a stack of books to the circulation desk, excited to discover new adventures. I am thankful for the student who comes seeking information and leaves with confidence. I am thankful for the patron who stops by just to share a favorite book recommendation or tell me how much a story has meant to them.

Every day brings something different. One moment, I may be helping someone locate information they need. Next, I may be assisting a person with technology, recommending a good book, or

welcoming a family to a library program. These simple interactions remind me that libraries are about far more than books. They are about people, connection, and community.

I am also grateful for the opportunities libraries provide. Libraries are among the few places where everyone is welcome. Whether someone comes to learn, read, research, create, or simply find a quiet space, the library opens its doors without expectation or judgment. I will never take that for granted.

Of course, I am thankful for the books as well. Each of the books on our shelves represents a new idea, a different perspective, or an opportunity to learn something new. Books allow us to travel without leaving home, meet people we never otherwise encounter, and better understand the world around us.

I am thankful for my colleagues, volunteers, and library supporters who work tirelessly to make our library a place where people feel welcomed and valued. Their dedication helps ensure that our community continues to have access to resources, programs, and opportunities that enrich lives.

Most of all, I am thankful for the privilege of serving this community. In a world that often feels busy and divided, the library remains a place where people can gather, learn, and grow together. Every library card issued, every question answered, and every book checked out is a reminder of why this work matters.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this

month, I encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on the people and places that make our communities stronger. For me, one of those places

will always be the library, and one of my greatest blessings is the chance to serve those who call it their own.

Happy Thanksgiving!

CREATIVE FAMILY FUN WITH TWIRL @ QUESTA LIBRARY



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART & MATH ACTIVITIES WITH TWIRL!

STEAM PLAY

Friday, November 20th at 1:00pm

Come make scribble bots with Twirl! Create a robot that bounces on marker legs and turns its movements into colorful art. You'll get to experiment with motion, vibration and creativity as your bot dances across the paper.

Geared towards elementary aged children and their families. Parents and kids learn together as they play, create & explore!

For more information call 575.586.2023





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

Fire Stories Community Open Mic

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, water, work, adventures, and misadventures.

Coming up: This month's first event, "Fire Stories Community Open Mic" is on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2-4 p.m. at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center. Voces de Nuestro País is teaming up with The Paseo Project, Del Fuego, and the Forest Stewards Guild to bring the wildfire "Disturbance" project to Questa and Cerro. Fire Ecology Day at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center is a day-long event (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) exploring wildfire as a both a destabilizing force and generative ecological process with art exhibits, talks, fun family activities, music, food and open mic in the afternoon. This story-sharing session will be a Community Memory Gathering of experiences with fire, as we mark the 30th anniversary of the Hondo Fire that occurred in May 1996. Are you or have you been a firefighter? Have you experienced a wildfire in your community or a house fire? Come share your fire stories! (This outdoor event will proceed with an indoor plan at the Questa Youth Center and Library if weather is prohibitive at Wild Rivers. Please check <https://paseoproject.org/disturbance2026> for updates.)

Our second event this month will take place on Saturday Nov. 21, 2-4 p.m. at Questa Public Library, featuring music and stories with David Dawson of Questa, Dino Archuleta of Cerro and Fritz Davis of Red River.

David Dawson is an autoharp pioneer from Hawaii. Dawson fell in love



Photo by Michael Rael

David Dawson at his home in Questa, October 2026

with the instrument in 1960 and after forming Dawson & Cunha, he moved to Los Angeles and co-founded Hearts and Flowers, which recorded two Capitol albums, scored a regional hit with "Rock and Roll Gypsies," and shared stages with Buffalo Springfield and Arlo Guthrie. In 1992 David retired from music and moved to Questa, where he opened a welding shop, became a beloved community member, and skied 50 days a year. In 2014, he released his album Listen at Bear Rock Studio.

Back by popular demand, Dino Archuleta and Fritz Davis will also join us on November 21. They were featured in our second Voces event and podcast, a year ago on Nov. 8, 2025. Dino's stories were tear-jerking to gut splitting of his family and wild days, growing up in Cerro and performing in unusual settings. With humility and humor, Fritz Davis shared stories of his early life in Kansas that led him to settle in Red River and his life as a performer, musician and newspaper editor, and how music has been a connective thread through it all. This time Dino and Fritz are bringing their instruments! We are looking forward to a wonderful afternoon of stories and music with these three cherished community members and esteemed musicians.

Looking Back: On Saturday, Oct. 17 a group of over 25 folks came together at the Screamin' Bull Outfitters Lodge for the Amalia & Ventero Community Memory Gathering. Hosted by Chris, Gloria and Louie Lucero welcomed all with chilé and posolé, snacks and drinks. Relatives, friends, neighbors and curious ones came to the lodge to listen and reflect together on the early days, childhood memories, family connections and experiences, community histories, local schools, teachers, and living off the land through timber production, sheep herding, cattle ranching,



Photo by Claire Coté

Fritz Davis, Dino Archuleta and Michael Rael at Voces de Nuestro País

farming, hunting, fishing and guiding. We learned that Amalia was originally known as "Piña" when it was established in 1844, but later was often confused by the Post Office with another town called "Pina," so the name was changed to Amalia by the postmaster in 1919.

Water, land and a strong, self-reliant work ethic were at the center of the conversation. The RCCLA (Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association) was established in 1942, with the purchase of 80,000 acres of land from the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant. Its cooperative ownership bonds the community together. If one's family bloodline is not already part of it, there's no way to buy your way into it. Among the folks who shared stories and historical reflections were Manuel Martinez, Maxine Ortega, Ron Martinez, Vangie Leyba and Louie, Gloria and Chris Lucero, as well as others. We are grateful to all who attended and shared stories.

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!

Save the date: Christmas Songs & Stories, December 20, 2-4 pm, Cerro VFW.

Musicians from local church groups will come together to celebrate the season. Join us to listen and perhaps sign along!

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.

Don't miss this month's events:

Fire Stories Community Open Mic, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2 - 4 p.m. at Wild Rivers Visitor Center, Wild Rivers Visitor Center, near Cerro, 1120 NM-378, Questa, NM 87556

Music & Stories with David Dawson, Dino Archuleta & Fritz Davis, Saturday, Nov. 21, 2 - 4 p.m. at Questa Public Library.

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.

Fire Stories Community Open Mic

Date: Sat., Nov. 7

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

Location:

Wild Rivers Visitor Center, near Cerro
1120 NM-378, Questa, NM 87556

Music & Stories with David Dawson, Dino Archuleta & Fritz Davis

Date: Sat., Nov. 21

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

Location: Questa Public Library

6 1/2 Questa Pk Rd, Questa, NM 87556

Lend a Hand, Fill a Plate.

The North Central Food Pantry Needs YOU! Volunteer with Us!

We love and greatly appreciate our volunteers! They are the backbone of our pantry and the heart of our mission. Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? Consider volunteering!

THANK YOU to our current team: Our wonderful local community members, Questa High School students and the corporate teams from Questa Credit Union, Vista Bank and Chevron.

OUR IMPACT IN QUESTA

We serve nutritious food to over 1,000 people a month in Questa and the surrounding communities.

LOCAL & FRESH:

A portion of the food we distribute is purchased from Sangre de Cristo Valley Market and wonderful fresh produce is purchased from Cultivo.

HOLIDAY HELP:

At Thanksgiving, each household receives a turkey and a box of fixings!

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

WHO WE SERVE

All residents in Questa and the surrounding communities are welcome to register. For those who aren't able to come to a distribution, proxy forms are available.

WHEN TO GET FOOD

November (Special Dates)
Friday, Nov. 13th and Friday, Nov. 20th
December (Special Dates)
Friday, Dec. 11th and Friday, Dec. 18th

LOCATION:

On top of the hill next to Questa Head Start and the Ancianos Senior Center on Embargo Road off Route 522.

EMERGENCY FOOD BOX

Call Jeannie: 575-586-0486 or 575-779-9194
Call Nancy: 575-586-2069 or 505-699-7563



CONTACT & REGISTRATION

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

JeanneAnn Collins - volunteerncfp@gmail.com (575)-224-1466

REGISTRATION

Register in person on distribution day
OR call (575) 586-0486 or (575) 779-9194

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Via Paypal on our website, by mail, or in person.

MAILING ADDRESS:

North Central Food Pantry
P.O. Box 134, Questa, NM 87556

WEBSITE & GENERAL

ncfpquesta.com
ncfpquesta@gmail.com



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

Red River Dedicates Water Reclamation Facility To Longtime Public Servant Russell Church

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

For more than 30 years, Russell Alan Church dedicated his work to the town of Red River, guided by a simple belief: He did it because he cared about the community.

Now, that commitment has a permanent place in the town he loved.

Family, friends, former co-workers, town employees and community members gathered for the dedication of the Russell Alan Church Water Reclamation Facility, honoring a man whose years of service left a lasting mark on Red River and the people who call it home.

The ceremony celebrated more than Church's professional contributions. It recognized the integrity, knowledge and deep affection for his hometown that defined his work and the legacy he leaves behind.

Mayor Calhoun and town officials welcomed the crowd on what the mayor described as a beautiful afternoon.

Speakers included Tappan Mahoney, owner of Dennis Engineering, as well as Church's wife, Pam, and his brother, Randy. His daughter, Jessica Rael, shared a heartfelt tribute to her father.

Also present was Church's son, Stuart Church, seen comforting his family in honoring his father and celebrating the lasting legacy he leaves behind.

His daughter shared that her father often explained his dedication to his work in the simplest terms.

"He always said when it came to any of his work, 'I do this because I care for this town,'" she said.

Those words, she said, reflected the

way Church approached every challenge. He never compromised his integrity and always sought to do what was right.

His commitment was rooted in a remarkable understanding of the community he served. Through decades of work, Church developed an extensive knowledge of Red River's infrastructure, including the locations of its water lines, and worked alongside engineers on projects that helped shape and maintain the town.

Mahoney, who worked with Church on numerous projects, including a major sidewalk project, considered him a mentor and friend.

That friendship also became part of the tribute. Dennis Engineering donated the sign bearing the facility's new name, with Mahoney and his co-worker, Richard Runyon, helping ensure it was built to endure.

For the family, the sign represents something bigger than a name on a building. It is a lasting reminder of a man who poured his time, knowledge and heart into the place he called home.

In a message following the ceremony, the mayor expressed gratitude for the turnout and for the opportunity to honor Church alongside those who knew and loved him.

"I'm so glad his name will now have a permanent place in the community he loved," the mayor said.

That same sentiment was captured in a poem written by his daughter during the ceremony, titled "Where His Heart Will Always Be." The tribute described a man who found his greatest treasure



Courtesy photo

L to R: Randy Church, Stuart Church, Jessica Church and Pam Towry Church stand proudly in front of the dedicated sign to Russell Church

not in wealth or recognition, but in his hometown, its people and the work he could do to make it better.

"He never needed riches, Or his name in shining gold. His treasure was his hometown. And the stories that it told," she read.

Her words reflected the spirit behind the dedication: that a life's worth cannot always be measured by titles, awards or material success, but by the care someone gives to others and the good they leave behind.

Church believed a town worth loving was a town worth fighting for, as expressed in the poem. His decades of service put that belief into practice, one project and one challenge at a time.

The facility dedication also served as

a reminder that the strongest community legacies are built through years of quiet, consistent work — often by people who never seek recognition for doing what they believe is right.

As Red River moves forward, Church's name will remain tied to the essential work of serving the town, a fitting tribute to someone who gave so much of himself to its future.

The poem closed with a reflection on the kind of legacy that outlasts buildings and the passing of years:

"But a man who truly loves his town, leaves a light that never dies."

For Red River, the dedication of the Russell Alan Church Water Reclamation Facility ensures that the light and the love he left behind will not be forgotten.

Red River Brewery & Distillery Earns Fifth Consecutive Top-Five Craft Vodka Ranking

By STAFF WRITERS

Red River Brewery & Distillery has earned the No. 4 spot on USA TODAY's 10Best list of Best Craft Vodka, marking the fifth consecutive year the New Mexico distillery has ranked among the nation's top five.

The annual award recognizes 10 of the country's top craft vodkas, with winners selected through public voting by readers of USA TODAY and 10Best.com.

The latest recognition adds to the growing list of honors for Silver King

Vodka, the distillery's signature spirit, which has received 17 national awards. Those accolades include a double-gold medal and a Best of Class award from the American Distilling Institute.

Made with mountain snowmelt water from Red River, Silver King Vodka is distilled at an elevation of 8,750 feet, making the facility one of the highest-elevation distilleries in the world.

Head distiller Gavin Whealy said the distillery's water source and high-altitude production process contribute to the vodka's flavor profile.

"Our pristine water and low-temperature distillation, made possible at this elevation, continues to give Silver King Vodka its smooth and subtle flavor profile," Whealy said. "Winning five years in a row is a testament to the consistent quality of our product and the passion of our hard-working team."

Michael Calhoun, owner of Red River Brewery & Distillery, credited customers and supporters for helping the business earn continued national recognition.

"Five years in a row!" Calhoun said.

"We are honored, year after year, by the support and patronage of our fans and customers. We're passionate about crafting high-quality spirits and deeply grateful for this award."



Courtesy photo

Ski Town Looks To Winter '26 - '27

By FRITZ DAVIS

El Niño has been the topic of conversation in the media since early 2026 and has become the subject of endless predictions and speculation about the coming weather season. The current El Niño forecast is stronger than any observed in at least 30 years, and Arizona and New Mexico seem destined for moisture. Mix with cold air and the possibilities of a snowy season look excellent.

Advertised for over 60 years as The Mountain Playground of the Southwest, Red River inhabitants are anticipating an overdue return to winter recreation seasons like the days of the early 1990s.

It's a long-standing Red River tradition to begin the ski season on the day before Thanksgiving. This year the fun starts on Wednesday, Nov. 25, as the first chairlift at the Red River Ski & Summer Area (RRSA) will begin operation. The RRSA will be open on weekends only until Dec. 11, when it goes into service seven days a week.

Thanksgiving Day will see the re-



Photo by Todd Michael

Red River Turkey Race

sumption of another Red River tradition: the Frozen turkey race at the RRSA. The event first began when Chef Shotgun Carl Hodges at the Day Lodge had too many turkeys on hand and Wally Dobbs, Clerk of the Course, thought a holiday race was a fun idea.

Brave contestants of all ages attempt to ride a frozen turkey down the slope and the event has become a crowd

favorite, with the exception of one year when Chef Shotgun Carl cooked all the turkeys for hungry diners at the Day Lodge and forgot to leave a few birds for competition purposes.

Festivities continue T-Day at 7 p.m. with the lighting of the trees in downtown Brandenburg Park during the "Switch on the Holidays" ceremony. The dazzling display of colored lights is

followed by the arrival of Santa Claus riding in the Red River Fire Department Ladder truck—with full lights and sirens—at the Conference Center to hear children's wishes and hand out candy canes. There will be cocoa, cider, and yummy cookies, too!

That evening, the first torchlight parade of the season will occur on The Face at 7 p.m. at the Red River Ski Area. The event is free to the public.

Ski Season Begins

Wed. Nov. 25

www.redriverskiarea.com

Frozen Turkey Race

Date: Thanksgiving Day, Thur. Nov. 26

Time: Noon - 1 p.m.

Registration closes around 11 a.m.

Location: By the Main Chalet at Red River Ski & Summer Area, Red River

Tree Lighting & Torch Light Parade

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Red River Ski Area

International Latin Music Duo Sol y Canto To Perform In Questa

By MIKAYLA ORTEGA

Sol y Canto, an award-winning Latin music duo featuring a Puerto Rican-Argentine singer and a New Mexican guitarist, will perform at The Sala in Questa at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22.

The husband-and-wife duo of Rosi and Brian Amador blends original songs with Latin music classics, drawing on musical traditions and rhythms to explore themes of love, hope, social justice and everyday life.

Rosi Amador, whose family roots are Puerto Rican and Argentine, is known for her clear, expressive vocals. Brian Amador, a New Mexico native, accompanies her on Spanish guitar and contributes original compositions.

Their performances feature vocal harmonies, Spanish guitar, cajón and bongos, with music ranging from lively dance rhythms to gentle ballads.

Sol y Canto has won Boston Music Awards three times as Latin Artists of the Year, according to the duo's promotional materials.

The Questa concert is part of the musicians' upcoming visit to New Mexico,



Courtesy photo

which also includes a performance in Albuquerque. The appearance offers audiences in northern New Mexico an opportunity to experience the duo's blend of original songwriting and Latin musical traditions.

The concert is scheduled for 3 p.m. Nov. 22 at The Sala in Questa. Tickets are \$25 per person and the public is encouraged to attend.

Sol y Canto

Date: Sunday, Nov. 22

Time: 3 p.m.

Admission: \$25

Locations:

The Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa, NM

LEAVES ARE CHANGIN' EIGHTEEN TAPS KEEP FLOWIN'



TAKE IN THE GORGEOUS SEASON FROM OUR HEATED PATIOS!

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By Toner Mitchell

Shutting Down

Pretending for a second that there isn't a scientific explanation for leaves turning the colors they do, why did the power in the sky decide to make them yellow, orange, red, and pink? And all at the same time? Why can't leaves just fall at once and spare us the incremental misery? No changing colors, just green leaves falling over the course of a day or two. As it is, it's impossible to keep your eyes off the mountains, or on the road, knowing that even the slightest breeze up there is spinning millions of gold aspen coins quietly to the forest floor. You know the mountains are changing right before your eyes, but you don't really know it until it's over.

Then there's male brown trout, more

yellow, orange, and red but in much higher intensity than throughout the rest of the year. As with bull elk, autumn is the time when his drive for romantic consummation runs a little hotter than the instinct to not get killed. He's blinded by lust – temporarily stupid, in other words – charging competing suitors then hurrying back to his sweetheart's side over and over. You catch a big male brown trout during or right after spawning and he hardly fights. That's because he's tired from the mating ritual. It's not a bad idea to resist the urge to target brown trout around spawning season, this year especially with the drought we've had and the consequent importance of regenerating the fish stocks we may have lost.

I love the sounds of fall, the special treat of sitting above the Valles Caldera and hearing elk bugles rising out of the fog-covered valley floor. On walks through the woods, I swear I can tell the difference between the wind making leaves brush against each other and the hollower sound of air rushing through the naked limbs of November. You're out in the yard and just like that the sound of incongruous croaking seeps into your consciousness.



Photo by Toner Mitchell

Simon Canyon, San Juan River

Looking up its geese or cranes in an arrow headed south.

I want to say that people are better in the fall, which could either mean that others are actually more pleasant to be around or that we ourselves are, which is essentially the same thing. By the end of October, we've received a constant message that things are wrapping up for the year: aspens falling, that once a year blue of the sky, putting on that hoodoo that's been in the closet all summer. Balloon Fiesta.

Cambalache. Halloween. Cutting wood and the cows coming home. Fall reminds us that life is an ongoing transition, a series of inevitabilities. Ever so gently, it forces us to accept.

Thus ends yet another failure to capture in writing the frustrating beauty of autumn. How fitting. Just like the season, writing about it is about grasping at what remains and knowing that even if I could catch it, I could never hold on. It's not about holding on, but letting go.

Brought to you by



By LORA ARCINIEGA

When President Obama designated the Río Grande del Norte National Monument in 2013, local feeling was mixed with anticipation and uncertainty. Community leaders like Esther Garcia fought fiercely during that process to guarantee that local residents could continue accessing and utilizing the landscape as they had for generations. The designation secured crucial protections against public land sales and mining exploration, but it left an essential question of who would care for the land day-to-day? While the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) serves as the land manager for the monument, extra support was needed for outreach, stewardship, and youth engagement. About

five years ago, Nick Streit, a lifelong Taosño, started the Friends of the Río Grande del Norte to bridge that gap, later becoming an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit. "The idea was to connect the community with the monument and with the public lands," Streit says. "Also to make sure the monument remains protected." Today, the organization anchors its mission across four key pillars: Conservation, Advocacy, Community, and the Outdoor Academy. Through Conservation, the group leads habitat restoration, cleanups, trail maintenance, and progressive range practices. A prominent initiative is the virtual fencing project, which uses e-collars to help local ranchers manage cattle grazing, improving both range health and wildlife habitat. Partnering with Trout Unlimited and supported by the LOR Foundation, the Friends are also securing funds to reopen the La Junta trail, which has been closed for nearly a decade, and providing wildfire safety equipment to the BLM. Through

Friends Of The Río Grande Del Norte

Advocacy and Community, the organization protects public lands from being sold off or exploited, ensuring local voices guide land management decisions. Events like free community fishing days with expert guides build strong ties between neighbors and the landscape. The heart of their youth outreach lives in the Outdoor Academy, led by Ben Mortensen. Working weekly at Taos High School and monthly at Questa High School alongside Clara Adams, the program introduces students to stewardship, fly fishing, and outdoor skills. "We want local youth to have a love for the place where they grew up," Mortensen notes. The Outdoor Academy creates direct pathways into the regional outdoor economy. Summer trips take students on six-day water adventures, building confidence and leadership skills. Through paid internships with partners like the Questa Ranger District, the BLM, Taos Fly Shop, and Río Grande Adventures, students turn early outdoor experiences into

potential careers. Looking ahead, the Friends are partnering with Paseo and the J.R. Logan Disturbance Project on November 7 for an all-day event revolved around the project, continuing their commitment to keeping Questa's backyard healthy and vibrant for generations to come.

Get out and Enjoy Your Backyard

You don't need to be an expert angler or have a bunch of gear to come out and enjoy the monument. Families here have been driving through Cerro to reach the Río Grande for generations. Walking down the trail, spending time on the sandy beaches, and hiking through the piñon and juniper are the real treasures waiting right in our backyard. Keep an eye out for upcoming educational events offered by the Friends of the Río Grande del Norte, and make some time to get outdoors.

Sponsored by



Wild Rivers Fire Ecology Day Brings Art, Science, Stories & Community Together

By STAFF WRITERS

On Saturday, Nov. 7, The PASEO Project, Del Fuego, the Forest Stewards Guild, and LEAP present Wild Rivers Fire Ecology Day, a free public event at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center near Cerro (1120 NM-378, Questa, NM 87556).

Bringing together artists, scientists, educators, and local residents, Wild Rivers Fire Ecology Day explores how fire and ecological disturbance shape the forests, watersheds, and communities of Northern New Mexico. Running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., visitors can experience interactive exhibitions, hands-on activities, watershed education, live music, a free community lunch, and conversations with researchers and storytellers. The event invites all ages to view fire not simply as a destructive force, but as part of a larger story of adaptation, ecological renewal, resilience, and relationship to place.

"Wild Rivers Fire Ecology Day creates a space where art, science, and lived experience come together," says The

PASEO Project. "We're inviting people to explore disturbance from many perspectives, through the eyes of young artists, researchers, cultural practitioners, and community members connected to this landscape."

"We're excited to engage our Northern Taos County communities in public dialogue on the increasingly important topic of fire," says Claire Coté, director of LEAP. "It's been seven years since we sunsetted NeoRio at Wild Rivers, and we are thrilled to bring innovative art and ecology back through this collaborative pop-up event!"

Schedule of Events

The morning begins from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the "Drawing on Earth" chalk activation, where artist Mark Lewis Wagner invites visitors of all ages to draw and connect with the place. Running continuously from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Garcia, Gonzales, and Santistevan families present "The Medicine of Disturbance," a pop-up exhibition trailer inspired by post-fire monitoring. Con-

currently, students from Alta Vista, Roots & Wings, and Red River Valley Charter Schools present "Disturbance, A Forest in Motion," featuring youth artwork and family activities. Artist Scott Sutton also hosts his 3D subwatershed puzzle and Natural Pigments Rio Grande Watershed Scroll throughout the day.

Midday programming features live traditional performances from Communities of Questa Mariachi, led by Rachel León, in the amphitheater from 11 a.m. to noon. Following the performance, researchers Ellis Margolis and Manny Lopez host "Shifting Mosaics" from noon to 1 p.m., discussing centuries of ecological and human history along the Rio Grande del Norte.

From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., attendees can enjoy a free community lunch provided by Friends of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, with music by Michael Rael. The day concludes from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with "Voces de Nuestro País: Fire Stories," hosted by Michael Rael and Claire Coté. Marking 30 years since the Hondo Fire, this session gathers local fire

memories to expand the digital archive at QuestaStories.org.

Event Details & Attendance

Wild Rivers Fire Ecology Day takes place Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Attendees should dress warmly and bring camp chairs. Location is weather-dependent; visit paseoproject.org/disturbance2026 for updates.

About The PASEO Project

The PASEO Project is a Taos-based arts non-profit dedicated to transforming Community with Art and Art with Community through free public programming.

Wild Rivers Fire Ecology Day

Date: Saturday, Nov. 7

Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission: FREE

Location:

Wild Rivers Visitors Center

1120 NM-378, Questa NM 87556



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November WORKSHOPS 2026

Medicare 101 for Open Enrollment with Usla Gregory, Independent Rep	Tues. Nov. 3, 1:00-2:30pm Questa Public Library
Bridging the Digital Gap: Tech Support with Audri Leon	Thurs. Nov. 5, 1:00-2:00pm Questa Public Library
Classes for Curious Questeños Community Members Sharing Their Craft BEE KEEPING 101	Thurs. Nov. 12 5:30-6:30 pm Questa Public Library
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting with Anwar Kaelin, SBDC Director	Thurs. Nov. 19 By Appointment Only Questa Public Library
Eviction Prevention & Diversion: Looking at a Community Justice Model	Thurs. Nov. 19, 5:30-7:00pm Questa Public Library

Visit our Questa Business Bridge Hub online for full class descriptions.
Registration helps the instructors, walk-ins are welcome

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BODY MIND SPIRIT

By BARBARA TRACY

Mudras

During the last few months, I started practicing mudra gestures. I will say that I am new at this and have had to do some research to find out some of the information I share here. What I can say with certainty is that there is a definite change in my nervous system, a quieting of the mind and an easing of my days.

Our hands possess some of the highest concentration of nerve endings and the fine motor control centers in the entire body. By touching and forming specific fingertip gestures (which

Gertrud Hirschi in her book “Mudras – Yoga in your hands” refers to as hand yoga), we engage important regions of the brain’s sensory cortex. By using our hands and fingers in mudras, we are able to interrupt the stress signals in the central nervous system. Hand mudras help balance the autonomic nervous system and can help stabilize blood pressure and improve heart rate.

Doing mudra gestures can keep bioenergy and electromagnetic energy from escaping from the body. By joining fingertips together, it forms a closed circuit redirecting energy inward to help heal and bring balance to organs.

As some of you know, I have written about the importance of the five elements in our physical existence. In relation to that, it is considered in traditional Eastern sciences, each finger is a transmitter of one of these elements. When a fingertip is brought into contact with the thumb (which is the fire element), that specific elemental energy is either amplified, stabilized,

or purified.

The basic understanding is that the thumb is fire, the index finger is air, the middle finger is space, the ring finger is earth and the little finger is water. According to Hirschi in her book, Mudras, the best-known mudra is Chin Mudra. Here, the thumb is symbolic of cosmic (divine) and the index finger is symbolic of individual (human) consciousness. The ultimate or primary goal of yoga is the oneness of humanity with cosmic consciousness. With this gesture, the human being expresses this desire.

I am not a teacher of mudras, that’s a fact, but perhaps the next time you meditate or need to calm your nerves or run-away mind chatter consider this – Sit quietly in a comfy chair or whatever works for you. Place your feet flat on the floor if possible. Place your hands one on each leg palm up. Then join the thumb tip to the index fingertip, close your eyes, take a gentle deep breath and then settle into a quiet even



breath. And check those shoulders, make sure they are not wrapped up around your ears in tension. Let go and relax into the experience.

I started doing mudras by instinct during my meditation and as I noticed the difference, I became curious and found the book mentioned here. Please know, there is so much more to doing mudras than what I am sharing here and if you feel like exploring, I do suggest you find a resource to give you more in-depth information. In my case, it is a book. In the meantime, give it a try, you might be pleasantly surprised.

SENIOR MENU: NOVEMBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Smothered Red Chili Bean & Cheese Burrito Spinach, Brussel Sprouts Apricots, Vanilla Yogurt	3 Baked Chicken Breast Brown Rice California Blend Veggies Tossed Salad Apple crisp	4 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Italian Veggies Tossed Salad Plums	5 Green Chile Chicken Enchiladas w/Lettuce & Tomato Pinto Beans Carrots Fruit Cocktail	6 Cheeseburger w/Lettuce, Tomato & Onion Beets Three Beans Salad Peaches
9 Smothered Tamales w/Red Chili Pinto Beans Spanish Rice Capri Veggies Mixed Fruit	10 Beef Tips in Brown Gravy w/ Mushrooms, Egg Noodles Winter Blend Veggies Wheat Roll Mandarin Oranges, Chocolate Pudding	11 CLOSED Veterans Day	12 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes w/Country Gravy Chateau Blend Veggies Wheat Roll Warm Sliced Apples	13 Chicken & Rice Soup w/Carrots Tossed Salad Wheat Roll Spiced Peaches
16 Salisbury Steak w/Mushroom Gravy Egg Noodles Spinach, Sliced Carrots Wheat Roll Fresh Pear	17 Fish Taco w/Spanish Slaw Salsa Black Beans, Calabacitas Strawberries & Bananas	18 Green Chile Chicken Posole Capri Veggies Tortilla Spiced Apples	19 THANKSGIVING DINNER! Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Stuffing, Green Beans, Cranberry, Salad, Wheat Roll & Pumpkin Pie	20 Sweet N Sour Pork Brown Rice Asian Veggies Mandarin Oranges
23 Chicken Fajitas w/Peppers & Onions Tortilla, Salsa Capri Blend Veggies Pinto Beans Madarin Oranges	24 Taco Salad w/Ground Beef Salsa Ranch Dressing Pinto Beans Banana	25 Tuna Salad Sandwich Parsley Potatoes Brussel Sprouts Pineapple Tidbits	26 CLOSED Thanksgiving holiday	27 CLOSED Thanksgiving holiday
30 Chicken Soft Taco Salsa Capri Blend Veggies, Pinto Beans Tropical Fruit				



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

10 Daily Practices That Could Reverse Or Prevent Alzheimer's

On Nov. 18, I will be 90 years old. Here are the daily practices that I have used to reverse early Alzheimer's. I continue to practice these action steps to keep the Alzheimer's gene I inherited in the "off" position.

- 1. Cut way down on sugar.** Some scientists are calling Alzheimer's: Diabetes Type 3. Too much sugar screws up the brain and suppresses the immune system, among many other ghastly things. Don't count the sugar in fresh fruit.
- 2. Drink half your body weight in ounces of water.** And change your diet. Eat more veggies and non-farmed fish.
- 3. Observe your thoughts.** When your mind chews on something over and over, it can actually change the structure of your brain. The best time to practice is when you're brushing your teeth since you don't need your conscious mind then – it's all muscle memory. Write on a sticky note: What am I thinking right now? and put it by your sink.
- 4. Release toxic emotions.** Negative thoughts and emotions can get stuck in your physical cellular energy system and prevent you from experiencing joy. Do this: feel the negative emotion as strongly as you can, then drop the story. When the story creeps back in, feel the emotion as strongly as you can, then drop the story. Continue until you can actually feel the release of the negative charge. Skip if you're feeling happy.
- 5. Write an affirmation seven times.** Write "My mind is clear and sharp" four times with your dominant hand, twice with your non-dominant hand and once more with your dominant hand. Before sleep, review what you're grateful for.



- 6. Do the Five Tibetan Rites.** These miraculous, ancient physical movements are highly effective for rejuvenating your brain and body. Go to my website www.howtogrowyounger.com and see my newest book. Skip if it's too difficult.
- 7. Exercise your brain.** Yes, you can train your brain at any age! Scientific studies on neuroplasticity show that the brain is capable of creating new neuronal pathways no matter how old you are. Memorize, memorize, memorize. Do arithmetic in your head. Learn a new language. I do Elevate brain exercises on my cell phone.
- 8. Supplements.** For more than 20 years I've been taking over-the-counter

supplements for my brain and I am convinced that they are a very important part of my program. Consult your doctor about starting supplements for your brain, like Vinpocetine and low dosage Lithium.

- 9. Meditate.** Regular meditation transforms you from the inside out and lets you access your deepest inner reserves for healing and living joyfully. Studies show that meditation can reverse memory loss. Even five minutes a day of turning off your brain can have a profound effect.
- 10. Do something good for someone, including yourself.** Even little things count. Make a quick phone call or send an email to cheer someone up. Or do something good for yourself. Whether it's painting or roller-skating or a bubble bath – make sure to fit joy and play into your life every day.

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

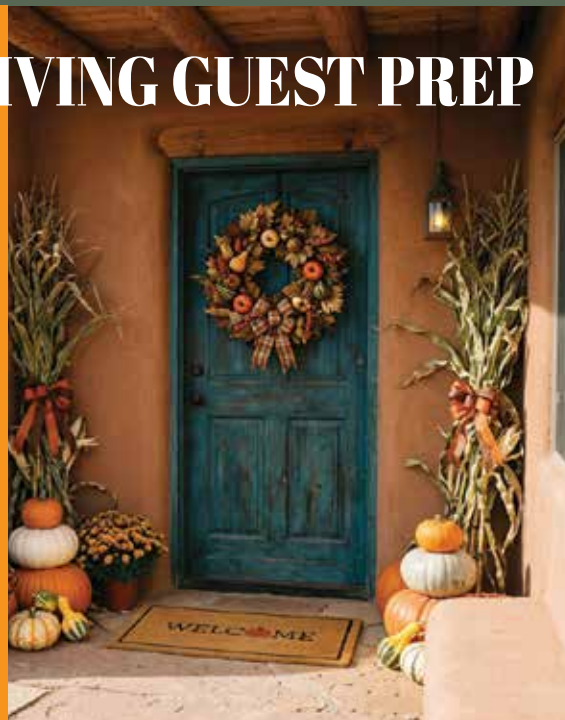
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Exercise, Your Health, And Physical Ability

The majority of people choose a certain type of exercise and stick with that program. As we become older and in our adult life, we should be performing three types of exercise such as aerobic, strengthening, and balance/flexibility. These three exercises work together by making the body stronger, more flexible, and better cardiovascular conditioning. The exercises can also help someone prevent boredom by doing the same exercises daily or weekly. Many exercises can be found for each of these categories which you can perform and develop for your own needs and fitness level.

Aerobic exercise involves getting more air into the lungs and pumping more blood to the muscles of the body. This type of exercise will increase your breathing and heart rate. Aerobic exercise usually lasts longer and requires 100 - 150 minutes weekly of exercise such as walking, slow jogging, swimming laps, biking, yard work, dancing etc. Anything that is performed for a longer period of time at a good pace is aerobic and benefits your overall cardiovascular health. A good practice to do while doing aerobic exercise is to try talking. If you can speak easily or have a conversation, then pick up the pace. If you can't speak or have a hard time conversing, then slow down your pace and find your comfortable pace.

Strength training consists of lifting weights or performing some type of resistance training for a number of reps and sets. Doing this type of exercise will help in daily activities such as climbing stairs, getting up from your

chair, carrying groceries and many more daily activities. Strength exercises should target all body parts and broken up into different days. Always give your body parts at least 2 days of recovery before exercising them again. Depending on your experience of training, start off slow and easy, light weight and over time you can add weight that your sets will consist of 8-12 reps and no more than a total of 10-15 sets per week for larger muscle groups and no more than 10 total sets for smaller groups. Strength training can consist of resistance bands, free weights, machines, body weight, and any other type of resistance exercise.

Flexibility and balance consists of stretching your muscles for a certain amount of time. Always stretch the muscles when they are warm to prevent injury. When the muscles are warm, they're more flexible than when they're cold. An example of this is a new rubber band being stretched out and snaps, while stretching an older used band will give more flexibility. Balance and flexibility helps prevent injuries and falls and should be done at least 3 times per week. Some exercises that help develop balance and flexibility are yoga, standing on 1 foot, balance beam, walking backwards or sideways and many more exercises that can be done from home.

Always try to combine all three types of exercises listed above to help in the development of a healthier lifestyle. As we get older, we need more exercises that will help strengthen our bodies, keep our muscles flexible, and strengthen our overall cardiovascular system. Listen to your body, as it will let you know how hard you can push it to receive the benefits from exercising.

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.

AEROBIC, STRENGTH & FLEXIBILITY



What is Thanksgiving dinner without the sides?! I can't imagine having a perfectly cooked, juicy turkey and no buttery mashed potatoes, herbed stuffing, or roasted vegetables to pair with. It has become a yearly tradition in my home to make this potato casserole. This recipe comes from my husband's maternal side of the family. Gramma Rip's recipe has been passed on to Jason through his mother Terri. Now, we make this wonderful, hearty dish together and serve alongside our turkey. Pro tip- if you have leftovers, warm a piece the day after, top with red chile and a fried egg. Trust me, you won't be disappointed.

Kugelis- Gramma Reiplinger's Lithuanian Potato Casserole

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. bacon, diced
7 large eggs
6 medium russet potatoes, peeled and grated
3/4 cup unseasoned breadcrumbs
1 medium yellow onion, diced
1/2 medium yellow onion, grated
2 1/2 cups whole milk

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven. Heat to 350°F. Grease a 13 × 9-inch baking dish.
2. Render diced bacon and diced onion. Place both in a saucepan and set over medium heat, cook until the bacon fat has rendered and the bacon is cooked but not crisp. Remove from the pan and set aside. Reserve all bacon drippings.
3. Peel and grate the potatoes and 1/2 onion into a large mixing bowl. Work quickly to minimize discoloring (oxidation) of the potatoes. Use the same box grater for both! Yes, the onion will make your eyes water.
4. Add the eggs, breadcrumbs, milk, and the rendered bacon, onion mixture (including bacon drippings) and mix thoroughly. Season with salt and black pepper.
5. Fill the baking dish. Pour the mixture into the prepared 13 × 9-inch baking dish and spread evenly.
6. Bake at 350°F. Bake for 1 hour.
7. Reduce the temperature. Lower the oven to 325°F and continue baking for another 30 minutes, until the top is golden brown and the center is set. Rest and serve.

Traditionally served with sour cream and sliced scallions (optional)

Recipe credit: Gramma Reiplinger, shared by Terri Reiplinger

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

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

Starring: John Candy, Steve Martin, Laila Robbins, and Michael McKean

Directed by: John Hughes

Rated: R (really, MPA?)

Streaming on: Paramount+ and Pluto TV

First Impression: Greetings, all! It is November, so that means settling down with family for Thanksgiving, and I decided to review my favorite movie about Thanksgiving: *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*. This John Hughes classic is the quintessential Thanksgiving film; it is about travel, it is about family, and it is about unexpected friendship. It is my favorite John Candy and Steve Martin performance. The chemistry these two great comedians have together is unmatched in the buddy comedy genre, which Hollywood has done to death.

When you think about the holiday season, Thanksgiving usually gets overlooked. Between Halloween and Christmas, Thanksgiving usually gets the redheaded middle-child treatment. We spend most of Thanksgiving obsessing about the meal or the football game and thinking of creative ways to avoid talking politics with certain family members.

Hollywood has usually ignored Thanksgiving and left it to TV to highlight the holiday. Some TV shows, like *King of the Hill* ("Happy Hanks-giving"), *Friends* ("The One with All the Thanksgivings") and *Modern Family* ("Three

Turkeys"), feature it, but when it comes to movies, the cupboard is quite bare. So I personally want to give thanks for a movie like *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* because it captures the essence of Thanksgiving travel: the stress, the anxiety and the hijinks that arise when trying to get home for the holiday.

The plot of the film is quite simple. Steve Martin plays a no-nonsense ad executive named Neil Page, who is in New York for meetings two days before Thanksgiving. As he tries to get to the airport to return to his family in Chicago, he meets a loud, obnoxious but endearing shower curtain ring salesman, Del Griffith, played by John Candy. As both men try to get to Chicago for the holiday, they encounter mishap after mishap that leads them on a journey involving, you guessed it, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*.

This is a movie that, in my opinion, the whole family can enjoy. The only reason I believe it received an R rating is a scene in which Steve Martin swears for a minute straight because of the incredibly bad luck he's had throughout the film. Another cool aspect is the interesting side characters Martin and Candy encounter. Their limited screen time doesn't matter, as these characters keep your attention and stay with you throughout the film.

In conclusion, make it a new tradition this Thanksgiving to watch *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*. As a yearly tradition, it never disappoints, and the ending gets you every time.



FINAL VERDICT: 5 OUT OF 5 STARS

GATHER AT OUR TABLE.

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Charlie Anderson
d. Oct. 14, 2026

Charlie Anderson, 93, passed away peacefully at his home from natural causes on October 14, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edy Anderson; stepson, Richard Wiard; daughter-in-law, Leslie Wiard; and granddaughters, Keri and Amy Wiard.

He is survived by his partner, Judy Lockwood; children Chauncey, Gingy, and Finlay Anderson, and Barb, Tom, Rob, and Ted Wiard, and their partners. He also shared his love and pride with his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Charlie will be remembered by his many dear friends and the community he considered family. His commitment to humanistic pediatrics left a lasting impact throughout New Mexico, and his legacy as a community pediatrician will continue for generations.

Charlie and Edy arrived in Taos with their children in 1976. Through hard work and dedication to the community, they founded Taos Clinic for Children and Youth, where Charlie became affectionately known to many as "Doc." There, he fulfilled his passion for caring for children and their families as a local pediatrician.

In addition to his involvement in multiple professional organizations, Charlie consistently supported the Taos Community Foundation and Golden Willow Retreat, both of which became important institutions within the community. His love of service, the outdoors, skiing, tennis, golf, family, and community made him a cherished presence throughout Taos and beyond.

One of Charlie's final remarks reflected his gratitude for a life well lived: "I am grateful to look back at this age and know it was all worth it."

In lieu of flowers, donations in Charlie's honor will be appreciated at Golden Willow Retreat, P.O. Box 569, Arroyo Hondo, NM 87513 (www.goldenwillowretreat.org), or Taos Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1925, Taos, NM 87571 (www.taoscf.org).

A memorial service is being planned for March 2027.

The family of Charles Anderson entrusted Rivera Family Funeral Home with the honor of serving them.



Mary R. Culbertson
d. Oct 17, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mary R. Culbertson, of Albuquerque, formerly of Questa, New Mexico, who passed away on Oct. 17, 2026, following a short illness.

Mary spent most of her working life in Red River, where she worked as a waitress and housekeeper from the early 1960s through the early 2000s. While working at the Alpine Lodge, she met and fell in love with her cowboy, who was working for Galleguer and Gwinn Stables at the time. Their love story led to 46 years of marriage.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Max and Eva Montoya of Questa, New Mexico; her beloved husband of 46 years, Jerry Culbertson of Questa and Red River, New Mexico; and her childhood best friend, Olivia Rael of Questa.

She is survived by her daughter, Stormy Trujillo of Albuquerque; her grandsons, Joe'l Trujillo of Albuquerque, Florentino (Christina) Trujillo of Camarillo, California, and Elijah Trujillo of Albuquerque, New Mexico; her great-granddaughters, Vida Guerrero and Halona Trujillo; her brothers, Juan Raul Montoya and Claudio (Dora) Montoya, both of Albuquerque; her sister, Virginia Zoll of Ontario, Canada; and many nieces and nephews.

Mary will be remembered by her family and friends for the life she lived, the love she shared, and the memories she leaves behind. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Private services will be held at a later date.



Idabel Medina
d. Oct. 14, 2026

It is with heavy hearts and immense sadness that we announce the passing of our beautiful and beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Idabel Medina, 88, Idabel was entrusted to the Lord on Oct. 14, 2026.

Idabel was born on April 4, 1938, in Arroyo Seco, NM to Lauriano and Anita Cordova. The family moved to Bitter Creek, WY in 1942 and Hanna, WY in 1948. They eventually relocated to Denver, CO in 1954 and Idabel lived there until she moved with her husband and children to Questa, NM in 1973.

Idabel was a cherished mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend. Her memorable voice, infectious smile, and generous spirit had an impact on so many of us that were fortunate to have shared mutual paths in life.

Idabel is preceded in death by her parents; Lauriano Cordova and Anita Cordova, Siblings; Eddie Cordova, Serafin Cordova, Connie Romero, Addie Romero, Laura Johnson, and Grace Foster, In-laws; Johnny Romero, Lawrence Romero, Sally Cordova, and Rick Johnson. She is survived by her children; Phillip (Wanda) LaFore, Debbie (Leroy) Romero, Jake (Jolton) LaFore, and Dynell LaFore, Grandchildren; Leroy (Monique) Romero Jr., Andrea (Keith) Boss, Joaquin Romero, Devin Santistevan, and Jacob Santistevan, Great-Grandchildren; Ava Boss, Bryson Boss, Mateo Romero. And In-laws; Felia Cordova and Marvin Foster.

Idabel was a person of faith and loved prayer and reflection. She adored her family and cherished family gatherings near and far. Her trips to Colorado to visit her family were highlights and she looked forward to every trip. She co-owned and operated two local restaurants in Questa and was also the Village of Questa's municipal clerk from 1974-1980.

Though Idabel faced unforeseen hardships in her life she remained optimistic and her faith, determination, and resilient spirit got her through those challenging times.

Her family and friends will miss Idabel profoundly and the pain of her absence is immeasurable. We are grateful and blessed to have shared our lives with Idabel and our love for her is never-ending. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ embrace her and welcome her into the Kingdom of Heaven and grant her everlasting life and peace.

A rosary was recited Oct. 25, 2026 Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa. Mass of Christian burial was held on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026 St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Questa. A burial followed at the San Pedro Cemetery.

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



Brenda Louisa (Hurst) Romero
d. Oct. 5, 2026

Brenda Louisa (Hurst) Romero, 64, of El Prado, New Mexico, peacefully entered eternity on October 5, 2026, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was born in Taos, New Mexico, on January 4, 1962, and was raised by her mother, Benita (Espinosa) Hurst, in Questa, New Mexico.

Brenda was known as a loving, caring, and compassionate mother and grandmother. She will be remembered most for her delicious cooking and prolific gardens.

She is survived by her husband, David Romero Jr.; her children, Bernadette (Ramon) Romero, Angela Romero, Ben (Cheyenne) Romero, and Joseph (Hannah) Romero; eight grandchildren; and her siblings, Bernice, Billy, Clara, Rosie, Carmen, and Lulu.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Benita, and her siblings, Matthew, Karen, Ben, Patricia, Charlie, and Jimmy.

May her memory forever be a blessing, and may her legacy continue through her loved ones.

A service was scheduled for Oct. 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Rivera Family Funeral Home.



Alfonso Jose Gonzales
d. Oct. 19, 2026

Alfonso Jose Gonzales, 90, a resident of Amalia, passed away peacefully on October 19, 2026. A full obituary was pending and would be posted as soon as it became available.

A rosary was recited on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Costilla. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday, Oct. 23, 2026, at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Costilla, with burial following at the Amalia Cemetery.

The family of Alfonso Jose Gonzales entrusted the care of their loved one to the caring staff of DeVargas Funeral Home of Taos.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR • NOVEMBER 2026

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE BORN IN NOVEMBER!

NOV 3: TUE 1 - 2:30 PM
Medicare 101 for Open Enrollment
w/ **Usla Gregory** @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. See Ad on page 23

NOV 5: THUR 1 PM - 2 PM
QBB Workshop: Bridging the Digital Gap @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For info email qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See Ad on Page 23

NOV 7: SAT 2 - 4 PM
Fire Stories Community Open Mic @ Wild Rivers Visitor Center, near Cerro, 1120 NM-378, Questa, NM 87556. See Article on page 18

10 AM - 5 PM
Wild Rivers Fire Ecology Day @ Wild Rivers Visitor Center, near Cerro, 1120 NM-378, Questa, NM 87556. FREE Event. See Article on page 18

NOV 11: WED
Veterans Day

NOV 12: THUR 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Classes for the Curious Questenos: Community members sharing their Craft: Bee Keeping 101 @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For info email qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See Ad on Page 23

NOV 13: FRI 4 - 6 PM
FREE Sewing Class @ Cerro VFW 9516, 108 NM-378, Cerro, NM 87519 See Article on page 6

5-6 PM
Flute Meditation & Potluck: relax and reset your nervous system. Matt Lopez will play multiple types of Native American flutes, Suggested donation \$20 for music. Join for a potluck following. @ Sala, Hwy 522, Questa, NM.

NOV 14: SAT 8 - 10 AM
Taos Feeds Taos Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser @ Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago in Taos. \$10 per ticket. See Article on page 14

10 AM - NOON
Cooking Class @ Living Word Ministry's event room is adjacent to the church at #12 Llano Rd. Find more info at QuestaCreative.org or leave a message at (575) 586-5658. See Article on page 17

NOV 19: THUR 5:30 - 7 PM
2026 Questa Speaker Series: overview of NM Tenant Rights and more @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. See Article on page 10 and Ad on page 23

BY APPOINTMENT
1:1 Confidential Business Consulting with Anwar Kaelin, SBDC Director @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. For info email qbb-coordinator@questaedf.com See Ad on Page 23

NOV 20: FRI 3 - 5 PM
Local food sale followed by concert 5:30 with Justin Powers' Marina Orchestra, suggested \$20 for music. Join for a potluck following at 6:30 PM @Sala, Hwy 522, Questa, NM.

NOV 21: SAT 2-4 PM
Music & Stories with David Dawson, Dino Archuleta & Fritz Davis @ Questa Public Library, 6 1/2 Municipal Park Rd. See Article on page 18

NOV 22: SUN 3 PM
Sol y Canto Concert @ The Sala, 2331 NM-522, Questa, NM. Admission: \$25. See Article on page 21

NOV 25: WED
Red River Ski & Summer Area Opens See Article on page 21

NOV 26: THUR
Happy Thanksgiving

NOON - 1 PM
Red River Ski & Summer Area Frozen Turkey Race @ By the Main Chalet at Red River Ski & Summer Area, Red River, NM: Free to watch and free to participate See Article on page 21

NOV 27: FRI 3 PM - 5 PM
See Santa at the TWIRL Aglow Party! Face Painting, Live Performances, Fun & Treats @ Twirl, 225 Camino de la Placita, Taos. (575) 751-1402. See Ad on Page 23

NOV 28: SAT 11 AM - 5 PM
Focus & Freedom: Claire Coté & Martha Shepp - One-Day Pop-up Taking-Up-Space Exhibition @ Claire Coté Arts Studio, Questa NM - 3204 NM-522, Questa, NM 87556. See Article on page 16

Weekly Events

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

5 PM
Free/By Donation Community Yoga, gentle practice with Rae, in person only. @Yoga Sala, 2331 State Hwy 522 Questa, For more info visit yogasalaquesta.org **NO CLASS NOV 16 & 23**

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
Yoga for Strength - with Gaea, in person only, \$10-\$15 @Yoga Sala, 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org **NO CLASS NOV 24**

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

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 **NO CLASS NOV 25**

11 AM
New day and time! Seated Yoga Practice - with Gaea, in person only, FREE @Yoga Sala, 2331 State Hwy 522, Questa, NM. More info visit yogasalaquesta.org **NO CLASS NOV 25**

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. Info visit QuestaCreative.org

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

SATURDAY

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

CHURCH & TEMPLE DIRECTORY



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

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Cerro - Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
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Amalia - Santo Niño - 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4 p.m.

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Service: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Nursery and Kids' Church at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
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RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Jesse Hardy, 65 S Kiowa Rd, Questa, NM
87556 List of events and services at rccquesta.org/community

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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
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Highway 196, Amalia, Pastors: Lorenzo & Arleen Lucero (575) 770-5716

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

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NOTICES

WANTED

DO YOU HAVE A VACANT HOME IN THE QUESTA AREA? Are you interested in getting it fixed up to rent? The QEDF is looking for empty local homes that could be part of a rehabilitation project to create additional rental properties in our area. Contact Lynn at lynn@questaedf.com.

OLD MINING/AG EQUIPMENT WANTED: The landscaping project next to the Veteran's Park will have an agricultural and mining theme. Do you have an old mining cart, large historic mining tools, or antique farming equipment you would like to donate to display at the site? We'll coordinate transport and include a plaque at the site to recognize your donation. Email lynn@QuestaEDF.com

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 a.m., Check out Noon-3:30 p.m., Recovery monitoring 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Instrument pack cleaning and sterilization 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Cleaning 1:30-3:30 p.m. Outreach on your own schedule or for events. Training provided. Contact spaytaos@gmail.com for more information.

Notices

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

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

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

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