

JULY 2019

# Questa Del Rio News

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I'M  
TIRED.  
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OUR PIÑON TREES?  
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THEY  
ARE BACK!  
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QUESTA • RED RIVER • CERRO • COSTILLA • AMALIA • LAMA • SAN CRISTOBAL

## Costilla-Amalia Reunion Brings Families Back to Their Roots

By SARA MARTINEZ

The families who have come from Costilla and Amalia have many memories of this place. Even those who did not grow up here and visited as children remember the feeling of complete freedom. With the uptick in people's interest in their ancestry and heritage and the yearning for connection to their roots, a Facebook group was created, called The Families of Costilla and Amalia, New Mexico. It became a wonderful online place to share family photos, childhood memories, stories, traditions and find long lost cousins. The group quickly grew and today has 2,100 members and includes the neighboring communities of Garcia and Jaroso, Colorado. On July 6th and 7th, these friends and families will gather for a Community Reunion of grand proportions.

Many people feel a lot of happiness being involved in the group, recalled Pauline Rivera, a former resident of Costilla and member of the group. She posed the idea of a community reunion to the group and "interest grew like wildfire." Pauline, along with about 20 other volunteers

formed a committee to put the reunion together.

The Costilla-Amalia Reunion will have plenty of opportunities to make new memories and remember times past. A historical parade, booths with local vendors selling food from family recipes and other local trinkets, a photo exhibit with hundreds of pictures, Northern New Mexico history, and traditional events and music, just to name a few. Organizers are expecting 500-700 people to attend from New Mexico, Colorado and as far away as New Zealand.

Mrs. Rivera said that the reunion would be a success if people who attend walk away with new and happy memories, whether it is someone they connected with, a photo they have seen or just the general feeling of nostalgia and orgullo por nuestros familias. Organizers hope this will be a beginning of renewed connections, leading to other events in the future.

The Costilla-Amalia Reunion will begin on July 6th with registration at 8 a.m. at the Plaza de Arriba off N.M. High-

**REUNION** continued page 28



Photo by Sara Martinez

Ute Mountain is an iconic landmark of the Costilla area for its profile against the ever changing sky and serves as a backdrop for other significant landmarks.

### Positive Thoughts by Donna Mitchell-Moniak

On July 4th, independence will be celebrated across America. Backyard barbecues and picnics will culminate with fireworks lighting up the night. Independence Day marks when the thirteen colonies declared they would unite and create something that had not yet existed:

a democratic nation. The founders wrote that in being independent from England, the newly-created nation would learn to stand on its own by the power and will of the people. Governance would be based on representation of the demographics of the colonies. The United States of America, still colonies at that point, would be a government and nation "of the people, for the people, and by the people." Though early forms of democratic rule were as old as ancient Athens, nothing on this scale

had yet been attempted in the world.

Independence from England could only be accomplished through interdependence. The colonies had to band together, north and south. Assistance from other nations such as France and Spain would also be necessary. And, the population of the colonies - almost all immigrants or imported slaves - would have to work together toward a goal that

**POSITIVE THOUGHTS** continued page 28

### REUNION EVENTS

- Saturday July 6th
- Historical Parade
- Historical Ceremony
- Special Guests
- Veterans, Senior Citizens, Professionals Celebration
- New Mexico Cultural Traditions
- New Mexico Musical Traditions
- Historical Points of Interest
- Photo Exhibit
- New Mexican Food/Art/Other Vendors
- Prizes
- Reunite with Family, Friends and Neighbors
- Nuevo Americana Music Festival

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# Questa Del Rio News

NOTICIAS QUESTA DEL RIO

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR July CONTRIBUTORS  
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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

July is off to a glorious start with a magnificent display of flowers. After a winter and spring with lots of snow and rain, the flowers are popping up to say, "Thank you!" Flowers have their own language and it speaks to our souls. They console us when we are grieving and celebrate with us on special occasions. If you have ever been in the hospital and someone brought you flowers, you know they made you feel better. The healing effects of flowers are well known and documented. Flower remedies touch us on a very subtle emotional level.

The flowers beckon us to go outside and smell the roses. (And did we mention aromatherapy? Just smelling roses uplifts us). One of the great things about summer is spending more time outside. Whether you are grilling in your backyard, sitting on the porch, or enjoying a meal under the trees with your family, outdoor living areas are the best. Where we live, the great outdoors is our living room. Our area is a special place, people come from all over the world for outdoor activities like hiking, camping, fishing, and riding mountain bikes and to experience the scenic beauty that we take for granted. Nature is very accessible to us. We should count our lucky stars. (Stars, by the way, are a HUGE part of the great outdoors, we can just look up on a cloudless night and be dazzled by the great Milky Way!)

It is especially important for kids to be outside; those who grow up in nature become happier adults. And grown-ups who spend time in nature have lower stress and anxiety. Even spending two hours a week in nature is linked to better health and well-being. In this crazy world governed by technology where the average kid spends more time in front of a screen than sleeping, it is easy to get disconnected from what life is really about. Nature helps make sense out of life, if we take the time.

We recently observed Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year and the pivotal point when the days begin to grow shorter again. In ancient cultures these celestial events were the big holidays. Nature moves in circles and time takes on new meaning when we observe natural cycles. When the flowers bloom, it is time to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. What if we looked at our clock and it said, "Time to Bloom!?" Think about that. How would you bloom? What would your fullest expression be? Look at your watch, is it time to bloom?



Photo by Meagan Selvig

Green Gentian takes two years to complete its growth cycle. The first year it produces the stalk and leaves. The second year it flowers. This is a magnificent year for Green Gentian Flowers if you are lucky enough to come across them in the wild.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS WHO HELPED MAKE OUR JULY ISSUE ANOTHER WONDERFUL PAPER**

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surprise us. Traveling at a slower speed we might be able to stop before we hit it. "THINK BEFORE YOU SPEED." Animals live on our planet too, but they don't drive a vehicle.

YOLANDA ACOSTA

*Thank you, Yolanda. I hope your message will reach a lot of readers and they will be more mindful about who or what is sharing the road with them. The warning to slow down is a good one.*

EDITOR  
 LOU MCCALL

I love Barbara Tracy's "Sunshine" article. When I was a kid and we drove to relatives' houses on Sundays with our whole family would sing. Our favorite was (and still is) "You Are My Sunshine." Barbara's article touched my heart.

ELLEN WOOD

I love your paper, it is more readable than the New York Times and more relevant!

MOSE

**We Need Your Help To Cover The News In Your Community!**

Please remember to let us know what is going on. We hear about events after they happen and shucks, we are here to help you promote events--and for free (unless you decide to buy advertising)! Reporting on this diverse and widespread community requires many eyes and people willing to keep the paper informed. Because we are largely a volunteer organization (thus understaffed) we rely on "citizen reporters" to cover news in their communities. Please let us know (ahead of time), or better yet, write the story. Send us what you have and if appropriate, we will share it!



Since we have wildlife coming down from the mountains for food and water, through the Questa and Red River canyon, people need to slow down.

The highway department has a huge sign warning people that there is wildlife on the roadway. Yet people feel the need to speed and hit these poor animals. On June 6/20/2019 a one-year old brown bear was killed because someone felt the need to speed. Consistently we are having other animals like wild sheep, and deer getting hit, and if they don't die instantly they suffer because Game and Fish can't come out fast enough to end their suffering. Two years ago, on good Friday a wild sheep was hit by a dump truck and that poor animal was lying in the middle of the road suffering. Yet, we are supposed to be the humans with a brain that don't use it to think, or just don't care, because we are behind the wheel?

Not to say that sometimes animals

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**  
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# Camping in a Mountain Hideaway = Summer Goals

RCCLA PARK  
By SARA MARTINEZ

Camping at Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association Park (RCCLA), has given me some of my best childhood memories. In the mid-80s, the whole community would head up the mountain for 4th of July weekend. As I became an adult, it became a place of serenity and beauty. There is something about being in the wild that fills you with a sense of being completely carefree. Camping with a tent or RV at RCCLA Park should be one of your summer goals.

RCCLA Park, located in Amalia, NM, is 10,000 acres of lush green wilderness. Especially this year, after all our winter and spring rains, the landscape is filled with wild flowers and more verdant than it has been in years. Campsites include picnic tables, fire pits and well-maintained outhouses. Whether you want to sit back and relax in nature, go for a hike or go fishing in the lakes and streams, you will find so many ways to enjoy your stay.

Native Trout are bountiful in the various lakes, creeks, streams and rivers, providing enjoyable fishing for every skill level. In just a few hours of hiking, you can visit all nine lakes that make up Latir Lakes and reach the summit of Latir Peak. Once you get up to a certain point you have panoramic views of the surrounding mountain peaks in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado.

At night, as the temperature drops so does most of the noise from the wild-life. Once you get your fire going, you can enjoy your evening under the stars in the quiet, crisp mountain air.

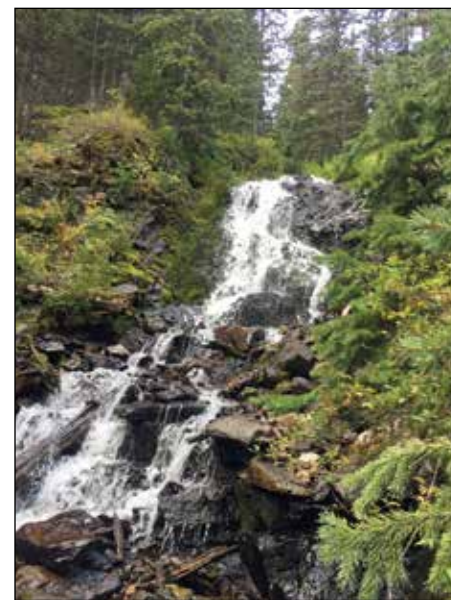


Hiking near the 9th Latir Lake.

Some people discovered RCCLA Park on accident and can't believe they have found such a gem. Others travel from across the globe after hearing about it from friends and family. No matter the way you find yourself camping there, you will want to spend as much time as

possible in the RCCLA wilderness.

After their stay at RCCLA Park, most people only have one dilemma, do they tell everyone they know, or do they keep it a secret? With so much mountain to share, even at its peak times, you can find a little hideaway camping spot.



Waterfall near the 3rd Latir Lake.



Little Blue Lake.

Amalia is magic and camping at RCCLA Park in the summer is the reason.

Rio Costilla is open for the 2019 Summer Season from May 1st through Labor Day Weekend. Latir Lake and Little Blue Lake typically open for July 4th Weekend.

RCCLA has managed, what has become the Rio Costilla Park, in an effort to sustain its abundant wildlife and ensure population increase in the future. The Park is striking for its purity and grandeur. <https://www.riocostillapark.com/>

## HISTORY

- The founding members of RCCLA purchased 80,000 acres in 1942
- RCCLA Ranch was part of the Sangre de Cristo Land Grant
- Cattle ranching was the original purpose for RCCLA founding members
- In 1983, areas of the ranch were opened to visitors for hunting, fishing and camping

## FUN FACTS

- Latir Lakes is made up of nine lakes
- Association members continue to bring their cattle to RCCLA Ranch to graze during the summer months
- Special Red Chili water is what sustains the trout population as designated by the NM Department of Game and Fish

## SEE YOU THIS SUMMER

### PRICING

- \$10 Daytime use per vehicle
- \$20 Overnight camping per vehicle
- \$7 Per person for fishing in the Park streams and lakes
- New Mexico State Fishing License Required for Rio Costilla Streams and Costilla River

### CAMPING AMENITIES

- Trash dumpster — located across from big Canopy in Park
- Septic Waste dump site — located at the old El Gato Lodge
- No Potable water in Park, however RVs/Trailers can be filled with potable water at Park's main office, located in Costilla

### OUT-OF-TOWN AND OUT-OF-STATE SEASON PASSES

- Season passes available. Passes entitles visitors and immediate family (spouse, and any children under the age of 18 years old) to enjoy fishing, camping and recreational activities on Rio Costilla Park open acres only. Contact the RCCLA Office if interested, (575) 586-0542.

**Main Office:** #72 State Road 196  
Costilla, New Mexico 87524-0111

**Office hours:** Monday through Friday, 8 A.M.-5 P.M.

**Call us:** (575) 586-0542 or (800) RIO-PARK

**Email us:** [info@riocostillapark.com](mailto:info@riocostillapark.com)



## DOUBLE EAGLE ELECTRIC

Johnny Gonzales of Questa has had a passion for electrical work since he was a teenager. He started apprenticing with his older brother, Ben Gonzales, Jr. who taught him the basics and gave him a strong foundation. By the time he was 19, he was a licensed journeyman electrician. He moved to Albuquerque and built his business there and after returning to Questa in 2017, he still has many loyal clients back in Albuquerque. Double Eagle Electric celebrated its 10 year anniversary in September. The name Double Eagle was inspired by his lifetime fascination with the noble bird as a symbol of freedom and power.

Johnny still loves electrical work. It is always new and exciting and never a daily grind. He says electrical work is not difficult, it can be complex and requires attention to detail. Double Eagle has a reputation for taking pride in excellent work. Johnny believes that anything worth doing is worth doing correctly. He has had to let employees go because they

did not share his work ethic, take pride in their work or they took short cuts, which can be dangerous in this trade. He now has two employees, Gilbert Roybal and Dean Max Martinez, who he considers a great team. Many of Double Eagle's contracts are out of town. Gilbert and Dean Max perform much of the out of town work with Johnny's supervision. Johnny prefers to stick closer to home and family and to his Church, Harvest Questa.

Johnny and his wife, Kristi are pastors at Harvest Questa. They graduated and were ordained through the Passion Church School of Ministry by Rev. Brian Alarid and Dr. Mercy Alarid. They wanted to return to their home town to serve the community of Questa. It is a miracle story how they came to serve at Harvest Questa and they frequently share their miraculous story with others. Johnny and Kristi have four children and are happy to be back in Questa. They have been so active in the community that it is hard to believe they have only been back for two years. For some of their events and activities, they have partnered with other community groups and churches.

Johnny would like to hear from you



if you would like to know more about Double Eagle Electric. They are a full service company, providing residential and commercial new construction and service work, service upgrades and troubleshooting. He can be reached at doubleeagle23@hotmail.com or at 575.770.5843.

## AROUND THE BEND

Introducing our newest feature, Our Travel Section. Unfortunately, we don't have a travel writer (yet) so we are offering a self-serve travel section in our paper. Have you gone somewhere and want to send us a photo and tell us about it? We would love to share your journey! Send your photo with caption to news@questaedf.com and we will print it.



*Courtesy Photo*

Spanish translator Dr. Teresa Dovalpage, with her husband, Gary James on a recent trip to Egypt.

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# 2019 QUESTA COMMUNITY DAY

**SATURDAY: JULY 27**  
**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**AT THE QUESTA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

- Free Fun for Friends and Family!
- Picnic Lunch
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- Activities with Twirl
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- Summer Reading Program Rewards



This Ad is Sponsored by Chevron Environment Management Company • This Event is Sponsored by The Questa Public Library located at 61/2 Municipal Park Road, Questa, New Mexico



# Officer Ronald E. Shores Honored for His Ultimate Sacrifice

BY LOUISE GALLEGOS

When I decided to run for Questa Village Council in the 2018 Municipal election, one of my friends, Susie Chapman asked if I would do one thing for her. Chapman was a dispatcher for the Village of Questa (yes Questa used to have its own dispatch office). She told me that we had a local police officer, Ronald E. Shores, who lost his life in the line of duty saving the life of then Mayor Max Ortega, Sr. He has never been officially recognized for it and she made me promise to find a way to let the community know who he was and what he did.

Officer Shores served on the Questa Police Force for a little less than two months. On November 3, 1977, he was called by the Taos County Sheriff Department to assist with a criminal who was fleeing from Santa Fe heading toward the Colorado border. He established a roadblock by parking his police car across both lanes of the two-lane bridge to slow down the suspect or hopefully stop him completely. The car approached at a high rate of speed and the suspect's car went out of control and headed toward the Mayor. Officer Shores

came out from behind his police car and pushed the Mayor out of the way. He was hit by the suspect and killed at the scene.

The badge Officer Ron Shores was wearing when he was killed is on display at the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy in Santa Fe. He should be remembered and serve as a model for his courage in the face of duty.

It makes me happy to report that, with the help of Chief Nick Lamendola and his staff, we put up a plaque in the Motor Vehicle Department recognizing Officer Shores' for his dedication, service and ultimate sacrifice. Chief Lamendola presented the plaque at the Village Council Meeting on Tuesday May 14th, honoring Officer Shores for his selfless service and in honor of Officer Appreciation Day (Wednesday, May 15th). We hope that everyone who walks through the office will see the plaque and for a moment be thankful for Officer Shores valor and contribution to our community.

*The Questa Police Department and the Village of Questa have been unable to attain a photo of Officer Shores, if anyone has one or knows where we can find one, please let us know.*



Courtesy Photo

If you have eaten at Frank's Eats and Sweets in Questa recently, you would have noticed the huge patriotic display to honor Veterans that was created for Memorial Day. Along with the other red, white and blue decor, it is a nice way to celebrate through the summer with the 4th of July, as well. The Veterans' display is expected to continue to grow as Frank would like it to become a permanent display. Frank had help from Billie Jane Sanchez and Natalie Montoya. The photos of these local veterans were sent to Frank via Messenger or Facebook, he printed them out and laminated them. If you have a Veteran you would like to honor, connect with Frank Rael and send him the photo. Frank said it is good to honor those who serve our country.

# Questa Del Rio News

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PAGES

for OUR community's news.

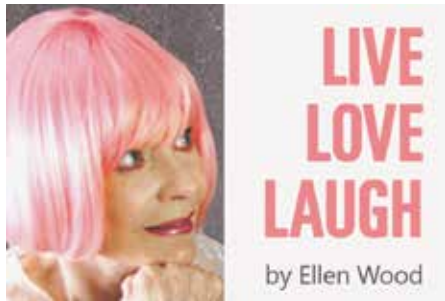
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## “Ooooooh. Aaaaah. That feels soooooooo good.”



Ever have someone wash your hair and massage your scalp? It feels so good, you're probably glad your head is leaning back over the sink so you won't drool on your chin. It's a time for allowing your consciousness to go to your scalp and just feel the pleasure.

Scalp massage has been used by many cultures throughout history to stimulate hair growth. I can't vouch that it will grow new hair, but it does increase blood

circulation to the brain. Of course, the top of your head is one of the most difficult places to get blood flowing, since we usually just keep our head upright all day. Scalp massage will get blood circulating up there and may even stimulate new hair growth, as some folks claim.

The method I use takes just 15 to 20 seconds, so get your doctor's permission first and then try this: Bend at the waist and let your head fall forward. Keep your legs straight, feet hip-width apart. With each hand take a small bunch of your hair at the roots and gently pull 3 to 5 times rapidly. Then move to the next clusters of hair and continue that process until you've covered your whole head.

Another nourishing form of skin stimulation is body massage. Massage is actually an ancient form of healing, opening our energetic pathways to receive

unlimited energy from the universe. This healing touch helps your body activate its natural restorative powers, stimulating your own healing systems, and greatly reducing stress. It also feels incredibly good.

There are many variations of massage; some, such as deep tissue massage, require advanced training and a thorough understanding of anatomy and physiology, which a licensed massage therapist has. But education and a license are not enough. You want someone whose energy resonates with yours. How do you know if it does? Talk with that person and listen to your body. You know how it feels to be standing close to someone you're fond of – your body and emotions send signals to your brain that say I really like this person and you feel very comfortable. You also know how it feels to stand close (your body won't let you stand too close) to

someone you're not comfortable with.

Use those feelings to see how you resonate with the massage therapist. That's how I found Maria Mikhailas, who is now also my very good friend. Before my massage, I soak for 15 minutes in her hot tub au naturel. Sometimes I treat myself to her Egyptian Anointing, which whisks my mind into a deep meditation.

I know other truly amazing massage therapists in Questa, El Rito, Cerro and Sunshine Valley. No doubt there are excellent massage therapists in Red River and other areas served by this newspaper as well. When you find someone you have a good feeling about, try a massage. If it feels good, just sink totally into the experience and let your body be immersed in their healing touch.

## “Ohhh. Ahhh. Qué rico se siente.”

¿Alguna vez te han lavado el cabello y te han dado un masaje en el cuero cabelludo? Se siente tan bien, que lo más probable es que estés feliz de tener la cabeza

inclinada hacia atrás en el lavadero para no babearte de gusto. Es un momento para dejar que tu conciencia vaya hacia el cuero cabelludo por el puro placer de sentir.

El masaje del cuero cabelludo ha sido utilizado por muchas culturas a lo largo de la historia para estimular el crecimiento del pelo. No puedo asegurarte de que te saldrá cabello nuevo, pero sí aumentará la circulación de la sangre en el cerebro. Por supuesto, la parte superior de la cabeza es uno de los lugares más difíciles para que la sangre fluya, ya que generalmente mantenemos la cabeza erguida todo el día. El masaje en el cuero cabelludo hará que la sangre circule por allí e incluso puede estimular el crecimiento de cabello nuevo, como afirman algunas personas.

El método que yo uso toma solo de 15 a 20 segundos, así que primero obtén el permiso de tu médico y luego intenta lo siguiente: dobla la cintura y deja que la cabeza te caiga hacia adelante. Mantén las piernas rectas, con los pies separados a la distancia de las caderas. Con cada mano, toma un mechón de pelo por las raíces y tironea suavemente de 3 a 5 veces con rapidez. Luego pasa a otros mechones de pelo y continúa ese proceso hasta que hayas cubierto toda la cabeza.

Otra forma excelente de estimulación de la piel es el masaje corporal. El masaje es en realidad una manera antigua de curación que nos abre los caminos energéticos para recibir la energía ilimitada del universo. Este toque curativo ayuda al cuerpo a activar sus poderes restauradores naturales, estimulando sus propios sistemas de curación y reduciendo en gran medida el estrés. También se siente increíblemente bien.

Hay muchos tipos de masajes; algu-

nos, como el masaje de tejido profundo, requieren un entrenamiento avanzado y un conocimiento profundo de la anatomía y la fisiología, los cuales debe tener un masajista con licencia. Pero la educación y una licencia no son suficientes. Quieres a alguien cuya energía resuene con la tuya. ¿Cómo sabes si ese es el caso? Habla con esa persona y escucha a tu cuerpo. Tú sabes cómo se siente estar cerca de alguien que te cae bien: tu cuerpo y tus emociones le envían señales al cerebro que dicen: Me gusta mucho esta persona y te sientes muy cómodo. También sabes cómo se siente estar cerca (tu cuerpo no te dejará estar demasiado cerca) de alguien con quien no te sientes cómodo.

Usa esos sentimientos para ver cómo resuenan con el masajista. Así es como encontré a María Mikhailas, que ahora también es una muy buena amiga mía. Antes de mi masaje, me remojo durante 15 minutos en su jacuzzi muy “al natural.” A veces me regaloneo con su Unción Egipcia, que me lleva la mente a una meditación profunda.

Conozco a otros masajistas verdaderamente excepcionales en Questa, El Rito, Cerro y Sunshine Valley. Sin duda, también hay excelentes masajistas en Red River y en otras áreas a las que llega este periódico. Cuando encuentres a alguien con quien tengas una buena conexión, trata un masaje. Si te sientes bien, nomás empápate totalmente en la experiencia y deja que el cuerpo se sumerja en su toque sanador.

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# BODY | MIND

By BARBARA TRACY

## OUR LARGEST ORGAN

If you could touch your liver, your heart, your kidneys, or any organ, would you consider applying any toxic substance directly to any of them? I would venture to say, "No!" We understand that doing such a thing would be dangerous and that these organs are a precious component of our health and our lives. And yet people are unconsciously and consciously applying lotions, soaps, creams and makeup laden with unknown ingredients many of which are toxic. And they are applying these substances to the largest organ of the body – the skin!

Our skin is a living organ and the largest organ of our human body. The shelves of our markets and pharmacies are lined with products promising to soften our skin, make us look radiant, younger and so on. Yet the ingredients in these products have great potential to do harm to our body. Our skin absorbs whatever lotions, creams, oils, soaps,

shampoos, conditioners etc. that we apply to it. What is applied to the skin must be assimilated, metabolized and eliminated by the body. Pure vegetable oils or natural organic creams and products are not only readily absorbed by the body but also contribute to positive improvement by feeding the body.

*"We should never use anything on our skin that we would not eat."*

– Dr. Farida Sharan,  
School of Natural Medicine

The skin wraps our entire body and the importance of the skin is very often mistreated and misunderstood. Most people don't even consider the functions of this largest of all organs and how it affects our lives. Our health depends on the skin functioning in its two-fold duties of respiration and excretion. It absorbs oxygen and water and exhales poisonous gases. The skin has millions of pores from which a constant stream of acids and toxins flow. If these pores are blocked, the toxins collect in the skin and lymph, or return to the liver, forcing extra work on an active major organ.

Bathing and brushing the skin is important, so that dead skin is shed, allowing fresh skin to breathe and eliminate without inhibition.

Diet is also of great importance. A diet poor in nutrition especially those laden with non-foods that are now available in greater quantity than those that are fresh, wholesome and organic, wreak havoc on our internal systems of physical function including our skin.

*"Your skin is the fingerprint of what is going on inside your body, and all skin conditions, from psoriasis to acne to aging, are the manifestation of your body's internal needs, including its nutritional needs."*

– Dr. Georgiana Donado

Skin also needs to be exercised. Hot and cold alternating temperatures in bathing, showering and saunas exercise the skin and increase and equalize the

circulation, so that each part of the body receives its equal share of life-giving blood. Cold water contracts the blood vessels and lessens the amount of blood at the surface. Hot water draws the blood back to the surface, stimulating and giving relief to the organs under the skin as it breaks up congestion.

Almond oil mixed with coconut oil, jojoba oil and avocado oil makes a beautiful body lotion, especially when you add aromatic aromatherapy oils.

### Epsom salts/cider vinegar bath:

Add a cup of Epsom salts to a cup of apple cider vinegar. Mix in a tablespoon of vegetable oil and then rub it all over your skin while you stand in the bath. This removes old skin. Let the salts fall into the water. This bath is both eliminative and relaxing and leaves the skin feeling smooth.

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## Family Fun Encourages a Stronger Community



Courtesy Photo

Regular square dancing and square dance festivals are just some of the activities offered at the Red River Community House.

BY SARA MARTINEZ

Have you heard the phrase, “It takes a village to raise a child”? Those who run the Red River Community House (RRCH) would probably say “It takes a community to raise children in worship, helpfulness and of course, to have good family fun.” With 12 members plus 2 honorary members on the Board of Trustees and 18 people serving as coordinators for the plethora of activities offered at RRCH, it is easy to see how they accomplish their mission every summer. From June-September, RRCH is dedicated to the community, providing valuable opportunities for families, friends and visitors in Red River.

The RRCH was founded in 1940 and its history is a great little story. In 1977 one of its founding members, Ruth Yeager, wrote down the history of the RRCH as she remembered it. The 12-page book is an interesting read about the mid -1900s in Red River, when it was a deserted mining town. Families from Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas and other places found it and created a new community spirit, renovating miner’s cabins and finding fellowship. Turns out Ruth was the driving force for creating the Community House. In the book, Rev. Richard M. Freeman writes, “Her enthusiasm and dedication to the best, whether in business, home, or church, has served across the years like a campfire on a cold night. She warmed others and gave them confidence they were not alone in their vision for the future.”

The RRCH continues in the same

spirit, those who are involved in the coordination of activities and services make sure that families in Red River have a place to enjoy each other. From yoga, to movies, summer camps for kids, hiking, square dancing and Sunday worship, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Visit their website for a calendar of all events.

*The Red River Community House, like any other worthwhile achievement, was first an idea conceived by five people gathered one rainy, chilly night before a good fire in a cozy cabin, enjoying popcorn and fellowship, feeling fortunate to be in the cool beautiful Rocky Mountains. These five were namely: W. P. Foster; his daughter Wellene from Enid, Oklahoma; Verne Hendry from Oklahoma City, who lived with his mother in the first lovely place built as a summer home, the Kaufman house, situated in Bitter Creek Canyon; Mrs. Walter Bachman and Mrs. Hal Yeager, from Wichita Falls, Texas.*

— *From The Little Red Book by Ruth Yeager*

RRCH runs the Explore Nature Program, which gathers those who are interested in enjoying the bountiful natural world around Red River. In June, they had two weeklong summer camps for kids ages 6-11. Also, in June was the 9th Annual Arbor Day Celebration, where participants planted Arbor Day Trees among other activities. If you missed the June events, not to worry, there are still plenty of activities ahead and there is al-



Courtesy Photo

The red River Community House, located at 116 E. Main Street in Red River has been a vital part of community life since 1940.

ways next year for their annual offerings. Daily hikes around Red River, led by RRCH staff are quite popular. For kids, there is the Red River Ranger program and Investigation Station.

If dancing is more your thing, there are three Square Dancing Festivals planned for Summer 2019. The first one begins on July 13th, led by Toby &

Wednesday night on a big screen at 8:30 p.m. There are five Wednesdays in July which gives plenty of opportunities to enjoy a movie or all five on the lawn. Ralph Breaks the Internet, Mary Poppins Returns, ET, A Dog’s Way Home and Incredibles 2 are all scheduled for July.

Sunday worship is another weekly offering at RRCH. The interdenominational service provides traditional Christian worship that features different Pastors and Music at the pulpit each week from churches around Texas and the surrounding states. Service begins at 10:30 am with coffee, donuts and visiting at 10 a.m.

Finally, RRCH has a variety of events to enjoy music in the fresh mountain air. Dulcimer and Old Tyme Music Festival is on the first weekend in August and the Bluegrass Festival is August 22-25th. Music in the Mountains is held on Fridays with a concert in the evening from 7-8:30 p.m. and Jam Session on the porch from 4-6 p.m.

If you spend some time at RRCH, you are sure to find an event or activity that interests every member of your family, every day of the summer. Enjoying the warm summer months with family and friends in the beautiful landscape of Red River will make wonderful memories. The Red River Community House will reinforce what your family values for future generations.

Red River Community House  
116 E Main St. Red River, New Mexico 87558  
redrivercommunityhouse1940@gmail.com  
575-754-2349  
redrivercommunityhouse.com



## The Unique Legacy of Juan Bautista Rael: Part 3

By ROBERT WASSERSTROM

### THE BLUE BULL

A widower lived with his young daughter, Arcita. He told her to stay away from the neighbor woman because he knew she was a witch. One day their fire went out, so Arcita went to the neighbor and asked for a coal to restart it. The woman was pleased to see her and gave her a honey cake. After that, Arcita visited every day and ate honey cakes.

One day the neighbor said that Arcita's father should marry her. "No!" he told his daughter. "Today she's giving you honey cakes, but tomorrow she'll be giving you cakes of bile!"

But the girl insisted and finally they were married. The woman also had a daughter and soon they made Arcita take care of the cattle and started to treat her very badly.

One day Arcita turned her cattle out to graze and saw a blue bull among them. He came close to her and said,

"Listen, Arcita! Tomorrow your stepmother is going to say that she wants to slaughter me but she intends to kill you instead."

[The next day they ran away. Along

the road, the bull fought a tiger and then a lion. Finally, they arrived at the king's palace.]

As soon as they got near it, Arcita climbed down off the bull. He told her that he was a soul in Purgatory and gave her a staff and a knife to cut off his head. Then he gave her a dress made of wood and told her to kill him, so she did. She buried the carcass and spread the hide over his grave, because he had told her that whenever she needed something, she should strike her staff three times on

### *"I'm from the City of Water."*

his grave.

She put on the dress of wood and went to the king's house, [where she found work as a maid].

[The next day, she brought a tray with water to the prince, who kicked her and threw her down the stairs.] But she quickly got up unhurt and shook out her wooden dress.

Later that day, everyone went to Mass and the cooks asked her to watch the kitchen while they were gone. She went to the bull's grave and struck it three times with the staff. The bull appeared

and asked her what she wanted. She said:

"I want a beautiful horse that is better than the king's, with a saddle made of pearls and diamonds. And for myself, I want a dress with golden slippers that surpass anything a princess could have."

He gave her what she wanted and she left for church. When she got there, the prince offered to help her dismount, but she said no, her horse wouldn't let anyone else get near her. The prince asked her where she was from and she answered:

"I'm from the City of Water."

[The following days, these events were repeated with the City of Towels and the City of Combs. Each time she got away before he could follow her.]

On the third day, the prince had ordered his men to put pitch in the church doorway. As she was running away she tried to jump over the pitch but one of her slippers got stuck. The prince grabbed the slipper and said that he would marry whoever it fit.

So all the girls in the palace tried the slipper on. And when none of them

could put it on, the maids were called. Only Fantasma [which means ghost or scarecrow], as the other maids called her, didn't appear. But eventually she came and it fit her perfectly. The prince became angry and called her a thief. She told him:

"You're a bigger thief than I am."

"Alright," he said, "we'll appoint [three] judges and see who's right."

The prince appointed three judges. And then she appeared again with both slippers on and the beautiful dress that she had worn in church. They decided that she was the same girl and the prince declared loudly that she would become his wife. The wedding was called and they were married.

*In 1930, Juan Bautista Rael recorded this version of the Cinderella story as it was told by Salomé Cook in Questa. I have shortened Rael's original transcription and used square brackets [ ] to show where it has been compressed. If anyone would like the complete uncompressed English transcript or the complete Spanish-language text, let me know, Rob Wasserstrom: wasserstromrobert@gmail.com*

## La herencia única de Juan Bautista Rael: Parte 3

Por ROBERT WASSERSTROM

En 1930, Juan Bautista Rael gravó esta versión del relato de Cenicienta contada en Questa por Salomé Cook. Acorté la transcripción original indicando con paréntesis [ ] las frases afectadas. Si algún lector prefiere leer el cuento entero, con mucho gusto se lo envió. wasserstrom-robert@gmail.com

### El torito azul

Era un hombre que tenía una muchachita. Le tenía mandao a la muchachita que no fuera a case su vecina porque él sabía que era bruja. Un día le apagó la lumbre. Se fue pa case la vecina [a pedirle una lumbre] y la vecina la recibió muy contenta. Pues de ai iba ella todos los días a case la vecina y le daba ella sopitas de miel.

Le dijo un día que le dijera a su padre que se casara con ella y él le dijo:

"¡No! ¡Quién sabe si hora te las dé de miel, de aquí a mañana te las dará de jiel!"

Pero la niña insistió y por fin se

casaron. La mujer tenía una muchacha también. A poco tiempo la pusieron a cuidar las vacas y empezaron a tratarla muy mal.

Un día echó sus vacas y las echó pa la vega, y entre las vacas se la había juntado un toro azul, y una mañana que estaba el toro azul echao cerca de la muchachita, le dijo:

"¡Oye, Arcita! Mañana me van a matar. Tu madrastra se va a aprevenir para matarme a mí mañana pero no me van a matar a mí sino que a tí."

[Al día siguiente se escaparon. En el camino, el toro venció un tigre y un león. Llegaron al palacio del rey.]

Luego que llegaron, se apió ella. El toro le dijo que era una ánima del purgatorio y le dio una vara y un cuchillo [para degollarlo]. Entonces [el toro] le dio el un vestidito de palo y [la muchacha] lo enterró y destendió el cuerito sobre su sepulcro, porque él le dijo que cuando se hallara en trabajos, diera tres veces con su varita en su sepulcro.

Se puso un vestidito de palo y se fue para case el rey [donde entró como

criada].

[Al día siguiente, llevó agua al príncipe, quien la pegó y la tiró por la escalera.]

Cuando cayó ella abajo, se levantó muy liviana y se sacudió su vestido y no se lastimó.

En esta mañana iba a haber misa y las demás cocineras le pidieron que se quedara ella mientras qu'iban ellas a misa. Se fue para onde estaba su torito y dio tres varacitos encima y se levantó el toro y le dijo que si qué quería. Le dijo:

"Quiero un caballo muy lindo que ni el rey no lo ha de tener y una silla compuesta con perlas y diamantes y para mí un vestido que ni una princesa no lo tenga y unos chapincitos de oro."

Se los dio y se fue. Cuando llegó, le ofreció el príncipe apiarla del caballo, y le dijo ella que no, que su caballo no consentía que se arrimara nadien. El príncipe le preguntó que si de dónde era ella, y ella le dijo:

"Soy de la Suidá de la Agua."

[Se repiten su maltrato en el palacio y su llegada como princesa a la iglesia.]

[El tercer día,] el príncipe había puesto trementina en la puerta de la iglesia a ver si la podían agarrar a la muchachita. Luego, salió ella muy liviana y quiso brincar la trementina y se pegó una de las chinelitas. Entonces el príncipe agarró la chinela y dijo que a la muchacha que le viniera esa chinela, con esa s'iba a casar él.

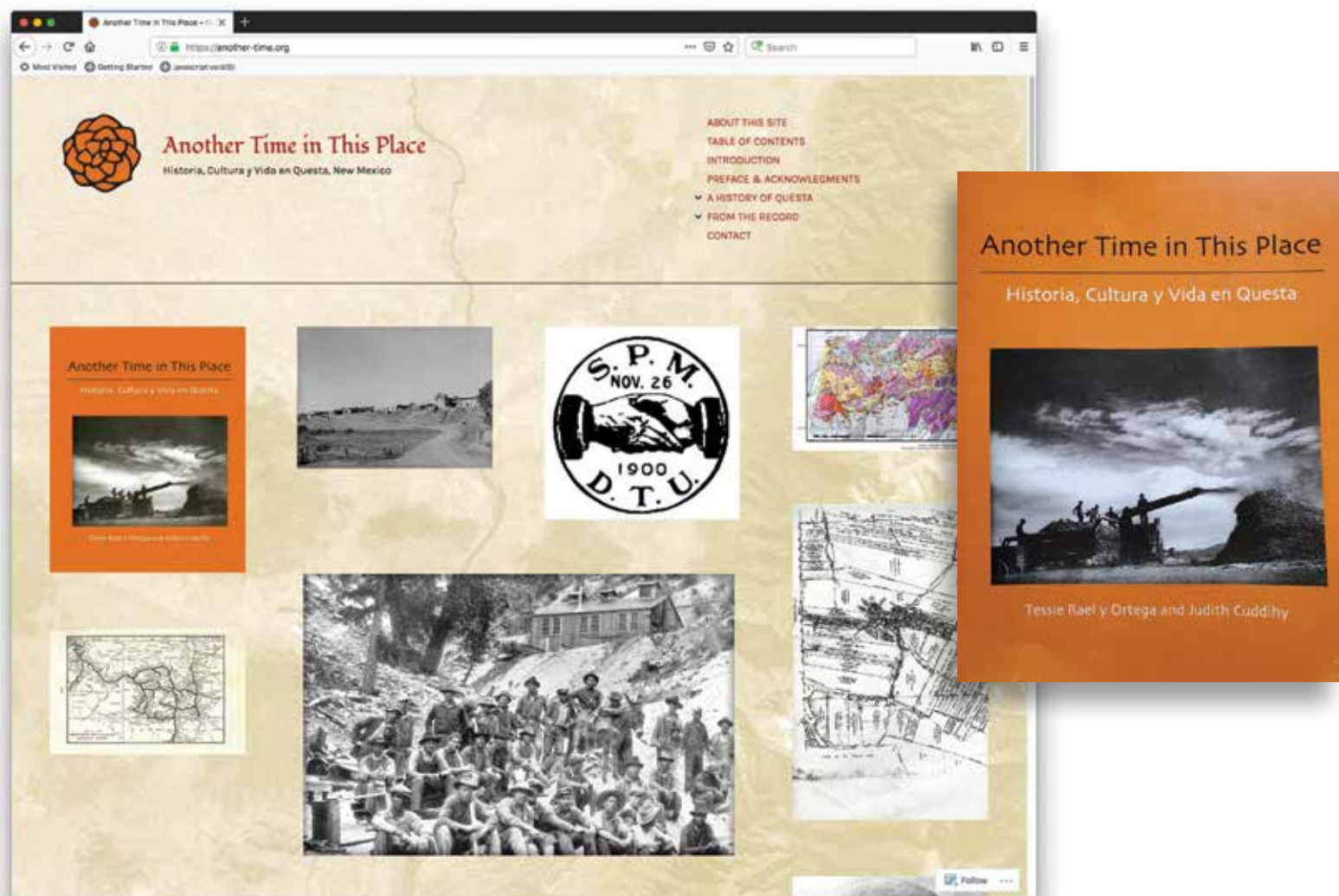
Y luego empezaron a medirles a las muchachas la chinela. Pues que al fin acabaron y faltaban las criadas del rey. La Fantasma, como le decían ellas, no salió. Luego la llamaron a ella y se la midieron y se la puso ella y pronto le vino. Entonces el príncipe se nojó y le dijo que ella era ladrona y le dijo:

"Pues si tú eres más ladrón que yo."

"Está bien. Pon unos jueces."

Y puso unos jueces el príncipe y luego salió ella de adentro con las dos chinelas y el último traje que se puso pa la misa. Y luego decedieron que era de ella, y entonces gritó el príncipe que ésa era su mujer y con ésa se casaba.

Pues que formó la boda y se casaron y vivieron felices.



## The “Questa Book” is Now Available Online!

BY JUDITH CUDDIHY

The “Questa book”—*Another Time in This Place: Historia, Cultura y Vida en Questa* authored by the late Tessie Rael y Ortega and Judith Cuddihy and published in 2003—is now out of print. But the good news is that the book’s text and photos are being made available online through the gracious volunteer effort of Dan Kuehn of Dan Frank Digital design.

When readers access the website’s home page at <https://another-time.org/>, they can locate specific sections of the book by clicking on the Table of Contents menu item at the upper right corner of the page. The items in red in the Table of Contents page are those that are already online; click on these to bring up the relevant text. Alternatively, clicking on the home page photos will also bring up specific sections of the book. The website has been set up using a blog authoring tool, so the earliest entries are at the bottom of the page. Right now, Dan is about half-way through the project, but he hopes to finish putting the remainder of the book online in the next few months.

The website is active now—so go ahead and have a look!

For those who would like to see the complete printed book, copies are available for reference and checkout at the Questa Public Library.

*Another Time in This Place* introduced the oral and archival histories of Questa

This book started (quite appropriately) in 2001 over ditch business—Judy Cuddihy was installing a head gate and Esther Garcia, then one of the ditch commissioners, came over to make sure it was being placed properly. In the course of conversation, Esther discovered that Judy was a professional editor and writer, and the topic of the history of Questa came up. As it turned out, Tessie Ortega, Esther’s mom, was hoping to write a book about what she knew about Questa’s history and life in Questa. Her father J.P. Rael had been a history aficionado and, among other things, had written a poem that is arguably the first written version of the history of Questa. Judy was interested in finding out more about our village and had already collected a large amount of

historical material.

Judy’s archival research in local, state, and federal archives and libraries about Questa (or San Antonio del Rio Colorado, or Rio Colorado, as it was earlier known) comprises the “From the Record” section of the book. Check out this section to find out how the residents of San Antonio del Rio Colorado rescued “The Great Pathfinder” John Fremont’s party during January and February of 1849, including a description of Fremont’s visit to Rio Colorado. Judy also located WPA photos in the Library of Congress and maps and other historical items to illustrate the book. The elements that were the essentials of life in Questa throughout the years—music, life at home, food, fiestas, religion—were drawn from Tessie’s recollections of life and customs in Questa during the first half of the 20th Century as well as from J.P. Rael’s papers. These constitute the “From Our Hearts and Minds,” “The Cycle of Birth, Life, and Death,” and “Everyday Life from the 1920s to the 1940s” sections. Tessie’s treasured recipes are one of the many highlights of these sections.

**There are more Questa history projects**

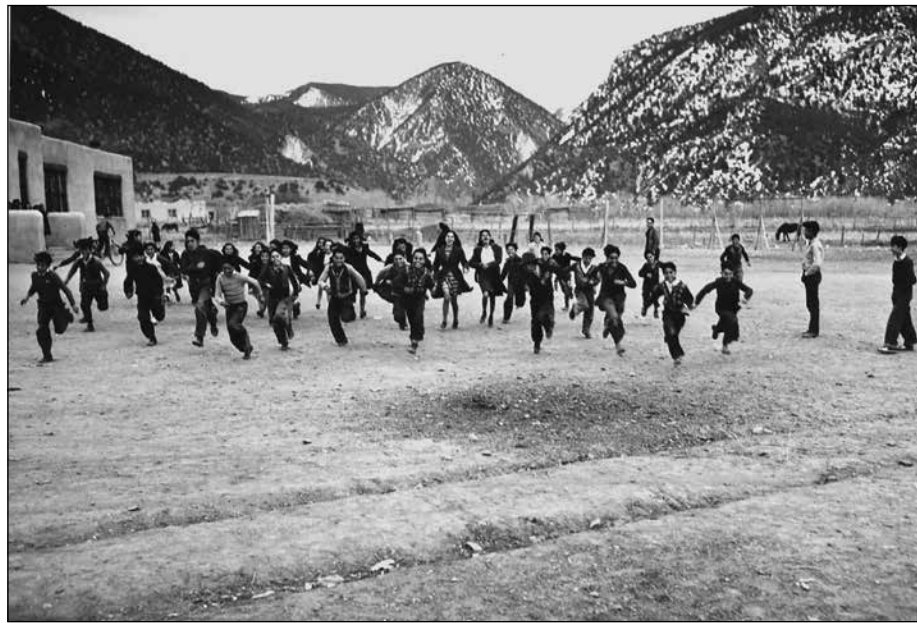
The rich history of this little village is a source of great community pride. *Another Time in This Place* is not the entire story of Questa, but it has been a beginning. There is more information available in public records, particularly at the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives in Santa Fe. Getting our history down on paper has also inspired more Questa history projects. The Questa History Trail <http://questatrail.org/> provides a walk through Questa’s history—its informational signs are located in the Questa downtown area and the restored San Antonio de Padua church and plaza. The Questa Stories website <https://QuestaStories.org/> collects the “local stories, oral histories, conversations, images, and artifacts” of our area. Check out these resources for more Questa history and for upcoming history-related events! In addition, many local families are researching their genealogies to provide a more personal aspect of our Questa history.



# Continuing collaboration with Manitos Memory Project

By CLAIRE COTÉ

Questa Stories is a collection point, archive and catalyst for exchange of local stories, oral histories, conversations, images and artifacts of, by and about the communities, peoples and places of North Central New Mexico. We are pleased to continue our collaboration with the Manitos Community Memory Project, a regional "initiative to establish community-based digital cultural heritage archives grounded in the living culture" of rural villages of northern New Mexico (Quoted from <http://manitos.net>). The project is funded by a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation. As part of this collaboration, the Friends of the Questa Library with Questa Stories recently received a "StoryBox" kit, thanks to the Manitos Project grant. The kit provides a selection of tools to 'pair up, share stories through questions prompts, and



Courtesy National Archives, photo no. 521836  
Photo by Irving Rusinow, Questa, NM

Questa Youth running at La Cienega School circa 1941

hear life experiences of people within your community" (Quoted from [\[www.onestorycloser.org/\]\(https://www.onestorycloser.org/\)\). We are looking forward to sharing the StoryBox tools](https://</a></p>
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with community members.

One such opportunity is coming up this month! Questa Stories is excited to be working with the Questa Library Summer Reading program to help provide kids in the program with the opportunity to tell their own stories and also to invite their parents or loved ones to come share their stories on July 27 at the Questa Library Community Day. Volunteers will be on hand to help facilitate the sharing of stories and to record those who are interested in doing so, to add to the local archive. All are welcome at the Questa Library on the morning of July 27; bring a story from your life or a meaningful memory to share!

We all have a story. Share yours! Add to the community archive. Call 586-5692 or [QuestaStories@gmail.com](mailto:QuestaStories@gmail.com)

Please sign-up at the [Questa Stories website](http://QuestaStories.org) to receive our posts directly in your inbox: [QuestaStories.org](http://QuestaStories.org)

## I am Tired, I am Done

By THE OLDEST TREE  
IN THE FOREST

I have been a member of this community for longer than anyone reading these words and I would like to tell my story. Community members are not necessarily people; they may not have legs or a beating heart. But we live amongst each other none-the-less. I am a member of a different cut.

I was born in Questa some time ago, 300 or 400 years ago. When I was young, I watched humans roam the area following the bison herds. As a youngster, I was witness to bands of Comanches and Utes, many riding on strange, new 4-legged creatures, riding through our hills and wading in our river.

Then, a different type of human appeared and started coming to my home with white, soft sheep, eating our grasses and wildflowers. As I came of age, I witnessed these new people spending their summers farming and grazing their animals around me.

Around 1842, the first human was dunked in water, a sacred ritual for them. Not quite 10 years later, a simple home of logs was built by Don Francisco Laforet near our river and then Don Benito and a few other men came to stay through the winter in their own newly built homes.

I watched a beautiful, large structure

being built by these newcomers in 1836, where they gathered every Sunday. By 1850, there were now about 100 families living here in the newly named Cañon del Rio Colorado.

Life wasn't always easy for us here in the Cañon del Rio Colorado. Winters could be unrelenting and we would all pray and wait for the snow to melt. To make matters worse, the original people would come and take corn and people away. The locals would sit by me and cry for their lost ones and their troubles.

Cañon del Rio Colorado became very busy after 1866 when the shiny rocks were found on the other side of the mountains, in Elizabethtown. Many people went to dig the ground there. The children began attending school in 1880 and soon after, an American postmaster changed the name to Questa - something about the old name being too long. I don't even know Spanish, but I know that was not right.

A bridge was laid over our river, the colored river, in 1913 which made for easy coming and going. And soon after, noisy, metal horses buzzed all around.

Things changed fast after that, as I started to hit my golden years. Many workers came to Questa after 1914 when molybdenum was discovered. I always knew it was there. In 1923, a mine opened and new businesses started. Jose "JL" Laureano Cisneros came to talk to me



Photo by Gordon RobinsonPhotos caption

Ronnie Robinson, beside what may have been the oldest tree in this area.

often and started farming alfalfa, raising sheep and cows, and started a large family garden. His daughter, Irma Cisneros Robinson, came to play near me as a child and I watched her grow into an old woman.

We had a lot in common then. And her sons, the two who looked alike, cherished

me. They took photographs of me and said many kind words. But I became too tired to endure another generation. The changes I have seen have been many and the weight of my limbs is too much for me now. I am done with this life. I have lived a good life. I am tired, I am done.

Gordon Robinson will miss this mighty ponderosa pine that collapsed this spring. A local resident, Kenneth Gallegos, was on his regular running route on the tailings trail when he noticed the monolith of a tree had fallen. He notified Gordon shortly thereafter.

"This was my parents' favorite tree. My mom just loved this tree," said Gordon nostalgically as he walked around the fallen branches. He had recently taken a photo of his identical twin brother, Ronnie, who was visiting from Española in front of the tree. "It's so big, it takes three people to wrap their arms around it," said Gordon.

Gordon recently placed No Trespassing signs on the tree because people were starting to take pieces. Gordon would like to see if there is any life left with one branch off the trunk that may have survived the collapse. Eventually, he will gather some friends to help cut the remainder of the mighty Ponderosa.

Thank you, Gordon, for sharing this member of our community's story.



## They Are Back

This year, over 80 artists have registered to participate in the Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival. The festival will be held within a 20 mile radius of Questa. There will be workshops, demonstrations, the St. Anthony's Church Day, a Quick Draw and a show and display of over 250 works of art at the Rail Haus Theater, part of the Alpine Lodge in Red River. All these activities are open to the public, so stop on by.

Here is an abbreviated schedule of events. On July 16th, at 9 a.m., there will be a painting demonstration at the Sheep Crossing Stop at Wild Rivers Recreation Area. That same day, from 2-4 p.m., will be a demonstration at the Questa Youth Center that will focus on Monoprinting. On July 17th, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, artists will gather at the St Anthony's Church to paint. On the 18th, from 2-3:30 p.m., is a lecture at

the Village Offices on how to use your iPhone photo settings. On the 19th, in Red River at the Alpine Lodge, will be a group artist demonstration showcasing oils, pastels and acrylics. On the 20th, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, will be a Quick Draw featuring up to 80 artists painting throughout Red River.

The catered Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, July 20th from 5-7 p.m. at the Rail Haus Theater, 417 W. Main in Red River. This show will feature over 250 works of art and will be open Saturday, July 20th from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, July 21st from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to come and be a part of all these activities during the Wild River Plein Air Festival. For more information, please see [www.wildriver-spleinair.com](http://www.wildriver-spleinair.com)



Courtesy Photo

Plein air painting by the gorge 2018

## Local Artist Opportunities

Did you want to be part of the Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival but missed the registration deadline? We have two great opportunities for you! The first is the offering of two local artist scholarships. One scholarship is for a youth, 18 or younger, and one is open to anyone residing in the Questa area. For our full schedule and scholarship information visit our website, [www.wildriversplein-air.com](http://www.wildriversplein-air.com).

The second opportunity is our Wild Rivers Plein Air "Locals" Display. Rael's Market, along with the Questa Creative

Council, will be hosting a display for any local artist interested in hanging a 2-dimensional piece of work during July. The artwork must be turned in Monday, July 8th to Rael's Market. It must reflect your interpretation of Wild Rivers Recreation Area and must be framed and ready to hang. The artwork must be for sale. If sold, Rael's Market will retain 30% while the artist retains 70% of the sales price. All unsold work will come down on July 31st.

For more information on both these opportunities, please see [wildriverspleinair.com](http://wildriverspleinair.com)

## NeoRio 2019: Universal Elements



Photo credits are Top - Loralee Mattison; bottom - Nicholette Coddling

The view of the gorge from the event and participants enjoying the poetry and music salon, NeoRio 2018. **SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 21, 2019, 4-9pm**  
Montoso Campground, Wild Rivers, Rio Grande del Norte National Monument

Preparations for NeoRio 2019 are in full swing! We are working with artists and collaborators to create new works and experiences exploring this year's theme, "Universal Elements." It coincides with the United Nations' annual theme "International Year of the Periodic Table of Elements" and the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the Periodic System.

NeoRio artists will be announced soon! In the meantime, please consider becoming a NeoRio volunteer this year and spread the word about this unique

event. Come discover unique art installations along the rim of the Rio Grande gorge, related hands-on activities, afternoon music and poetry salon, a delicious, farm-to-table feast and music, artist talks, an evening campfire and more.

*The event is free; donations, sponsorships and volunteers are what make NeoRio possible! More information can be found at:*  
<https://leapsite.org/>

*To volunteer or contribute in another way, please contact Claire: 575-224-9066 or [clairecote575@gmail.com](mailto:clairecote575@gmail.com)*

### Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival (WRPA) Calendar of Events



#### JULY 16

8-1am Demo at Sheep's Crossing-Wild Rivers Recreation Area (WRPA)

2pm-4pm Demo at the Youth Center-(WRPA)

#### JULY 17

9am-12noon Artists paint/demo at St Anthony's Church (WRPA)

#### JULY 18

2pm-3:30pm-Artist talk - iPhone Camera-Village Offices (WRPA)

#### JULY 19

1pm-3pm-Group Demo - Alpine Lodge-Red River (WRPA)

#### JULY 20

9am-12noon-Red River Quick Draw (WRPA)

5pm-7pm-(WRPA) Awards - Rail Haus Theater, Red River

10am-9pm (WRPA) Show Open-Rail Haus Theater, Red River

#### JULY 21

10am-5pm (WRPA) Show Open-Rail Haus Theater, Red River



## Mysterious Rock Cairns Appear on Quintana Road



Anyone driving down Quintana Road in El Rito, north of Questa, has to notice little stacks of rocks along the roadside. Someone walking may think, “Oh, here is a cairn to mark a trail!” And then, another and another and it gets confusing and finally it becomes evident that these are not trail markers, this is art!

The mystery has been solved. The stones were stacked by Sandra Wagner. She and her husband found the Star House in El Rito through the Questa Lodging Project. It was their base of

operation for two months as they sold their home in Dallas, Texas and looked for a home in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico to retire. The Star House was perfect, it allowed them time to explore the areas they were interested in as well as the community of Questa. They recently purchased a home outside of Walsenburg, Colorado and are delighted to call this area home. “Everyone was so nice and the surrounding countryside was beautiful. After city living in Big D, we were ready for a slower pace. Now we will be

the destination for family and friends when they need to escape the city!”

Sandra is tickled that her cairns are being featured in the paper. “I became known as a stone stacker by some of the neighbors. Little did I know that during my two months stay my cairns would become a subject of much discussion among the surrounding residents, to the point that they would stop me as they drove by and ask me point blank if it was me. Some of the neighbors even started their own creations!”

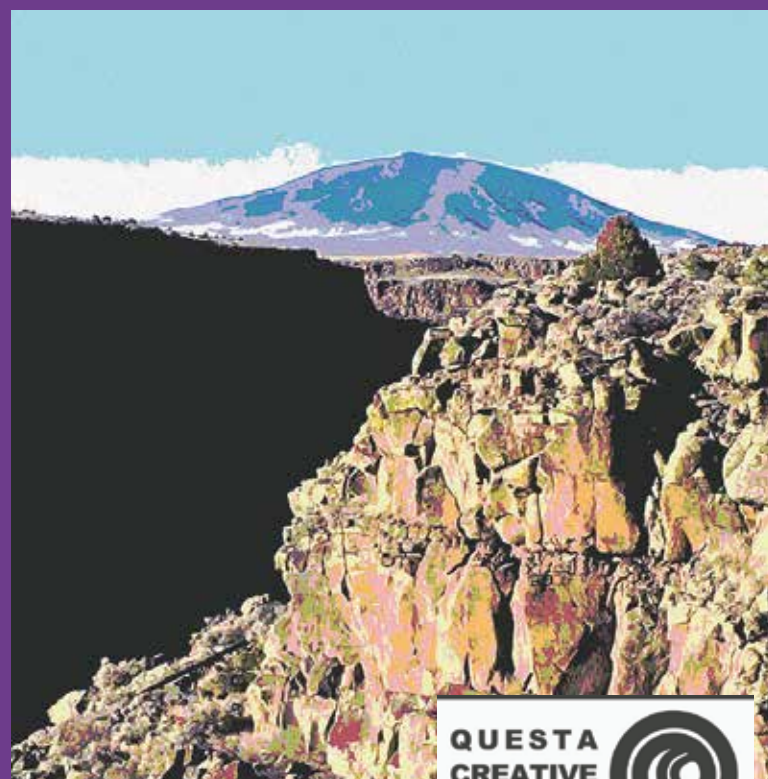
Sandra goes on to say that it is a great road to stack stones, so much raw material to build from. The road grader has been through and weather affects them...at one point there were over 180 cairns, large and small. It is fun to walk down the road and count them as you go and add to the collection. “I miss my walks down Quintana Road now that we have relocated. Once we are settled in, I plan to start walking and building again...like playing in the dirt for big kids!”

# Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival

July 16-21, 2019

Come out and watch over 80 artists paint our beautiful area! Artists will be out painting from Amalia to San Cristobal to Bobcat Pass to Wild Rivers! On July 20th and 21st view over 200 completed paintings at the Rail Haus Theater in Red River! Awards are July 20th from 5-7pm.

see full schedule in the paper or on [wildriverspleinair.com](http://wildriverspleinair.com)





# New Book by Taos County Writers Launches in Questa!

LATE BLOOMERS:  
THE MOVEMENT

LITERARY GEMS BY TAOS  
BOOMERS IN THEIR PRIME

In this book, eight Taos County writers, ages 57 to 82, share with the world richly-woven short stories and poetry. The participants are Abigail McElhaney, Deborah Pender Hutchison, Gabrielle Herbertson and Ellen Wood of Questa; Laurie Graham Lambert of Red River; and Andres Vargas, Maria Teresa Garcia and Kika Vargas of Taos.

Editor Ellen Wood, columnist and author of *The Secret Method for Growing Younger—Volumes 1 and 2*, recognized the cultural movement and was inspired to begin a book with a request for submissions by talented Taos County writers over 50.

“Life needs time to marinate into experiences we can write about with wit and wisdom, and writers who have passed the half-century mark are more likely to have developed their craft,” Wood said. “This book is intended to ignite passions and embolden others our age to add their unique contributions to the world.

“Our Muses are loudly and wildly signaling us to abandon the couch and TV and innovate, be passionate



## LATE BLOOMERS LAUNCHES

**July 13 at Questa Public Library at 7 pm.** The address is 6-1/2 Municipal Park Road, just off NM Highway 522, north of Questa Health Center. The public is invited, and admission is free.

**July 20 at SOMOS in Taos at 7 pm.** The address is 108 Civic Plaza Drive. The public is invited, and admission is free.

and inspire others. We're listening and expressing ourselves with enthusiasm: in art, music, writing, theater, fine cuisine, volunteer work and other callings.

“We're ready to shun the Lesser Gods – those minor deities who had us primping and scrimping. We're perfect as we are and we don't have a family of mouths to feed.”

Wood noted that Taos has a tradition of nurturing writers and giving them a home to create. “It's unique cultures, mountains and spectacular views arouse our muse – and inspiration takes less time to reach us here than anywhere else.

“It used to be that a Late Bloomer was the odd exception among millions of people in the second half of their lives. Nowadays it's the other way around. We are the new Late Bloomers, part of a movement of age-mates, encouraging each other to express ourselves with whatever talents we were given.”

The book launch parties in Questa and Taos will include short readings by several of the authors, book signings and refreshments. Admission is free. Five percent of all author royalties is donated to Questa Creative Council and five percent to SOMOS, Taos' literary society. For further information, contact Ellen Wood: 575-586-1363 or [ellen@howtogrowyounger.com](mailto:ellen@howtogrowyounger.com)

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT LATE BLOOMERS

*Late Bloomers: The Movement is a winning combination of poetry and stories by New Mexico Taoseños 50 and older that will inspire you to reclaim the talent you put on the shelf a long time ago.*

–Larry Dossey, M.D.

World-renowned

Mind/Body Medicine Physician and Author of *One Mind: How Our Mind Is Part of a Greater Consciousness and Why It Matters*

*“Civilization may be unraveling in a lot of areas; some of its structures may be collapsing; but it is also in the midst of a tremendous upheaval of creativity – a flood of innovation and genius and love pouring out of millions upon millions of people -- a Great Awakening.”*

– Rob Breznsky, author of

*Pronoia Is the Antidote for Paranoia.*

This Great Awakening is a cultural movement that is happening – especially for people 50 and over – and the new book, LATE BLOOMERS: The Movement – Literary Gems by Taos Boomers in Their Prime, fits right into it.

## Lauds

By LAURIE GRAHAM LAMBERT

When the color of morning surpasses all reason, and when the sky exceeds inventory of every imaginable blue, then I know I've awakened in New Mexico.

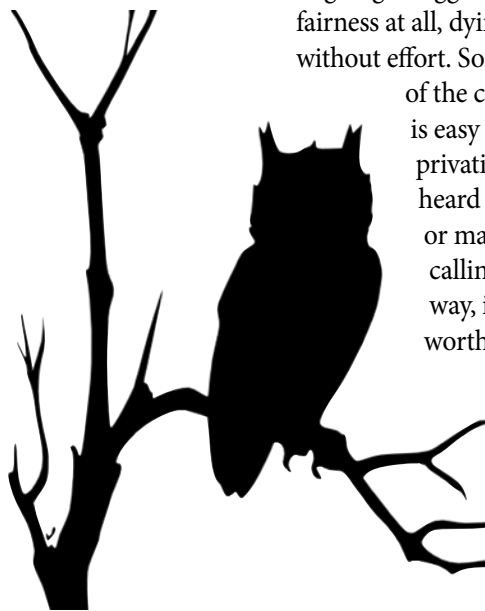
The silence is strangely audible today. So quiet I can hear blood whooshing through my veins. Frost encases the willow canes along my path. Rose hips, bright as rubies, adorn bare thornstems. Tomorrow I will bring a gathering basket. Tea for winter.

A goshawk killed a grouse and left a spread of feathers, nothing else. I carefully tuck several semiplumes into my pocket: an offering for a friend's fly-tying habit. It is murderous country up here. Everything to good use.

Beyond the bridge, rocks crunch beneath my shoes, making this stretch of track uncharacteristically noisy. A neighbor had the rocks hauled in to alleviate mud on his truck, but I think I'd

rather have a dirty vehicle than a loud walk. Soundlessness is a luxury. Especially when the things worth hearing are allowed, enough quiet to be heard.

There is a barred owl, I tell you, that has been hunting in daylight. He roosts just up the mountain, and I try, without success, to find pellets or some other sign of his tree. I see him slicing through the spruce corridors, flushing doves, and I hear his tenor hooting, but I've found no trace of where he lights. He is becoming a myth. A diurnal barred owl is worth a long listen.



I am just a few hundred yards from home, bushwhacking down the mountain, when I step over a coyote carcass. It's been expertly harvested. Only the paws and dry pelt remain. I hope he had a swift death. To survive outdoors here is an ongoing struggle, so if there is any fairness at all, dying should come without effort. So much is made of the coyotes' guile. It is easy to overlook their privations. I am sure I've heard the grieving pack, or maybe they were just calling for him. Either way, it is another song worth hearing.

I go inside and unpack the grouse feathers. They join the stones and twigs atop

my desk. Wooden hearts, half finished, await the sandpaper. A leather binder holds my writing, vegetarian hypocrite that I am. Books on wild plants, mushrooms, animal tracks and history are stacked neatly and not-so-neatly. It is a small desk, a good desk. The desk of student and disciple.

This bend in the river claims me. It is where a morning meander can turn into a discourse about nothing and everything. Where sounds have meaning beyond ambient chatter.

Where New Mexico becomes a verb.

*Laurie Graham Lambert of Red River is one of the participants in the new book: "Late Bloomers: The Movement" which launches July 13 at the Questa Public Library at 7 pm. She was born on the Summer Solstice, 1961. What nourishes her? Trail running, writing, and carving hearts from forest wood. Though she has traveled far and wide as a snowshoe racer, she would be thoroughly content to never leave these mountains again.*



# OSCAR

WINNING MOVIES  
IN REVIEW

## MICHAEL'S MOVIE MOMENTS

REVIEWS OF THE YEAR'S  
OSCAR-NOMINATED MOVIES  
AVAILABLE FOR RENT OR STREAMING

By MICHAEL YOUNG

JULY'S MOVIE REVIEW:  
RGB



If you lean left politically, you can't help but love that feisty little Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, affectionately known as RBG. She has, at her ripe age of 86 this year, missed her first day of court hearings in nearly 26 years of service on the nation's highest bench due to cancer surgery.

Ginsburg started out on the Supreme Court more or less in the center of the spectrum. But, over time, conservative appointments - especially those of Roberts, Gorsuch and Kavanaugh - have shifted the court significantly to the right leaving Ginsburg as one of the few consistently liberal justices, usually now, on the dissenting side of the decisions. Her position on the bench, perhaps in combination with her uncharacteristically diminutive stature, has endeared her to lefties, who have embraced her with a kind of cult status. As this documentary consistently points out, she is memorialized as a cultural icon on tee shirts and coffee mugs and represented as a super-hero on internet memes and in rap songs. She, clearly, is a force to reckon with and yet, as Louise Keller (Urban Cinefile) writes "This petite woman with a giant mind is reassuringly polite, calm and articulate."

We expect documentaries to have certain elements of 'truth' to them. As such, we entrust to the filmmakers that they are delivering a story that, if not totally accurate, is at least consistent with a stated point of view. So, yes, I

learned a bit about Mrs. Ginsburg. But, mostly what I got from the film was a simple reinforcement of my original point of view. Yes, I learned that her husband was amazingly supportive and, given their long history, it seems evident that they adored each other and had an admirable marriage. But is it realistic that she was as 'perfect' as everyone portrays her here? One of her children reflects that their father 'did the cooking, she did the thinking!' That is a powerful statement and begs a whole line of inquiry. Did Marty, her late husband, have any misgivings at all? How happy was he? Was this statement, from one of their children, the start of an exploration of problems or difficulties in the marriage and the family? Or, as it was portrayed, just one more positive statement about a 'living legend'?

The point of view in this documentary is overwhelmingly positive. The result, though, is not the portrayal of a real person. All of us entertain some small corners of 'resident evil'. Where is Ginsburg's? There isn't any, if we are to believe the point of view of this movie. Is that a reasonable conclusion about her, about anyone?

Aside from a short quote from the president and a longer interview with Republican Orrin Hatch, who very carefully criticizes her, there is no criticism of Ginsburg in this film. No sign of failures, although the life of any successful person is full of them. This film is simply too simple, and for that it fails as a good documentary. This is our first movie, in this year's documentary category and was directed and written by Julie Cohen and Betsy West, two documentarians with a long history of making films, none of which I have seen before.

If you like Ginsburg, you'll love this movie. If you don't, you probably won't even watch it. If you are in the middle, you might learn something and will probably leave the theater wondering if she is a real person, or a creation out of some Wonder Woman comic book. I give RBG just two stars and most of that is because I like the person, not the movie.

# JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW CHRISTMAS IN JULY



**SATURDAY**  
JULY 20 • 10:00AM TO 4:00PM

**IN QUESTA AT THE LIGHT**

- ARTS AND CRAFT • FOOD VENDORS
- ENTERTAINMENT

The Forest Service will be present with a booth to allow folks to make ornaments for the National trees that will be going to Washington.



Vendors of all types are needed and they can reach Dina at 575-586-2258 if interested.

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**THREE RECIPES FROM THE RIVER ROAD.  
SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH BRUNAZZI.**

**BARBECUED FISH**

You'll need 2 red snappers or trout (about 4 lbs.).

**Sauce**

- 1 stick melted butter (or vegetable substitute)
- 3 T grated onion
- 2 T parsley
- 2 T Worcestershire sauce
- 2 dashes hot sauce (we like Cholula)
- 2 fresh lemons juiced

Salt and pepper the fish, and place on a large sheet of heavy foil. Pour sauce over fish. Seal foil, making sure there is no leakage. Place on grill, one with hood if possible, on low heat. The foil package should be placed away from the point of highest heat, where the chips or brickets are. Turn every 20 minutes for 1 1/2 hours being careful not to tear foil. Remove from foil and place fish on grill. Leave on grill for 10 minutes; turn and leave another 10 minutes, basting with sauce remaining in foil package, and if not enough, make up a bit more.

**BARBECUED SHRIMP**

You'll need 1 lb. fresh or fresh frozen shrimp in shells.

**Sauce**

- 3 sticks melted butter or vegetable substitute
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 T chili sauce
- 1 C white wine
- Hot sauce to taste (we like Cholula)
- Dash of: paprika, oregano, salt and pepper
- 1 lime or lemon, sliced

Prepare shrimp: take off the heads, then with a very sharp knife slice them down the back and remove black line (central nerve). Leave the shell and tail on. Marinate shrimp for 1 hour or more in the sauce made from the above ingredients. To cook: broil shrimp over charcoal fire, turning and basting often. If preferred, bake in a 300°F oven, basting shrimp often with sauce. Baking about 30 minutes. Do not overcook.

**STEAK MARINADE**

This is for 2 1/2 lbs. of steak.

- 1/2 C chopped onion
- 1/2 C lemon juice
- 1/4 C vegetable oil (look for non-GMO)
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/2 t celery salt
- 1/2 t pepper
- 1/2 t thyme
- 1/2 t oregano
- 1/2 t rosemary
- 2 cloves garlic, minced

Combine all ingredients except steak. Marinate steak 4-5 hours, turning several times. Cook on

grill over hot coals to selected wellness. Baste with the marinade during broiling. Serves 4.

**BARBECUE MARINADE**

Adapted from The Cotton Country Collection, 1989.

- 1/4 C vegetable oil (look for non-GMO)
- 1/4 C bourbon or dry sherry (try both, and see which one you like)
- 2 tbs soy sauce
- 1 t Worcestershire
- 1 t minced garlic
- Cracked pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in a container with a tightly fitting lid. Shake or stir to mix. Add the meat. If used to marinate roasts leave for one or two days; if steaks: at least four hours; if chicken or fish: at least two hours. Turn the meats several times during marination.

**SUBMITTED BY  
ROBYN BLACK, FOOD EDITOR**

**WATERMELON FETA SALAD**

8 servings, 15 minutes prep. Best tasting when served one hour or less after being made. This refreshing salad is simply dressed with olive oil and lime juice. Perfect for summer..

- 8 lb. whole seedless watermelon, cubed and chilled (about 12 cups of cubed fruit)
- 1/2 C extra virgin olive oil
- juice of 3 whole limes
- 1 1/2 t. salt
- 3/4 t. black pepper
- 1 C fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 1 1/2 C crumbled feta cheese (sheep's milk suits this recipe best)

**Instructions**

- Cube the watermelon into 1 inch chunks (no rind). Place them in a colander to drain as you cu.
- In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, fresh lime juice, salt and black pepper to create a dressing.
- Then, in a very large bowl, place the watermelon chunks and pour the dressing, add the chopped mint and toss gently to coat.
- Add the crumbled feta. Stir gently to integrate. Chill until served.
- Remember that the feta will begin to dissolve soon after being added. If this salad is not being served right away, wait to add the feta until ready to serve.



**QUELITES or LAMBSQUARTERS**

Chenopodium album is a fast-growing wild edible plant, known in Spanish as Quelites and in English as Lambsquarters. Traditionally, Quelites were enjoyed as a beloved delicacy throughout Mexico and Neuvo Mexico. The old English named this nutritious relative of spinach and beets its common name. These days most people think of this wild spinach as a weed, but the nutritious edible delicacy is making a comeback. The magenta tipped variety, more prevalent in Southern New Mexico, is so popular that the seeds are available commercially from organic seed catalogs. Around here it is a soft velvety green and doesn't get as tall.

One mature stalk of the magenta variety, when watered, can get to be 5-6 feet tall and can provide a whole winter's supply of frozen spinach. The local variety is also good for freezing. You do not have to blanch it or do anything other than make sure it is clean and put it in a frozen zipper bag. Use it in any recipe that calls for spinach.

Be sure to save some seed, or simply let some plants go to seed and you will have a huge crop of volunteers next year.

Eat it fresh in salads throughout the summer and fall. One popular way to eat it in Mexico is to place the raw leaves in a bowl, grate onion on it, to taste, and add hot beans, muy delicioso! Another method: Crumble up bacon in a skillet and add red onion. When the onion is done add a lot of quelites, they cook down to nothing, so don't be stingy. Cook until tender, yum yum!



Photo by Lou McCall

Quelites in Spanish and Lambsquarters in English, a wild spinach delicious cooked or in salads.

**TUMBLEWEED**

Salsola tragus is the name of the common tumbleweed that we see rolling around in the wind, dispersing its seeds as it goes. It is also known as Russian thistle and does well in arid climates. It can be very invasive, and some farmers hate it. The first tumbleweed appeared in South Dakota in the late 1800s, its seeds were thought to be hitch-hikers on a shipment of flax seeds.

Whether you think of it as a nutritious food or a noxious weed, try eating it! It can be a very tasty summer salad. Pick it when it is young and tender and put it in the refrigerator to get it nice and crispy. Then pour your favorite tangy vinaigrette or Italian dressing on it and you will be surprised at how refreshing and delicious it is. I prefer to eat it by itself, it also plays well with others in a tossed salad.

If you are a rancher, you may never see tumbleweeds, since livestock love it so much. You can also pick it when it is more mature and has a higher protein content, especially after it goes to seed. Back in the Dustbowl era, tumbleweeds kept families alive. Try canning it, either plain as a vegetable or pickle it and store it as a survival food, it worked in the Dustbowl!



Photo by Lou McCall

Young tumbleweed is delicious in salads and loved by livestock. As a canned food, it kept countless people alive during the unfortunate Dustbowl years.

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# Crazy Good Family Recipes at the Crazy Beaver



BY ROBYN BLACK,  
*Food Editor*

The Crazy Beaver is a relatively new restaurant venture in Garcia, Colorado between owner Matt Cordova and leasors Linette Ramirez and Bill Donnithorne. While the building's history began with The State Line Tavern over 30 years ago, its new managers have cultivated the traditional recipes that have been in Matt's family for generations.

The State Line Tavern was built by Moises Cordova in 1984. In 1996 Moises' son, Matt Cordova, took over, remodeled and renamed it Moe's. Moe's was a hopping place with a dance hall, special evenings with Chippendale's dancers, lots of weddings, a just all around fun bar and grill!

Moises Cordova died in 2005 and his wife Theresa wasn't sure she wanted to keep it, since it was becoming too much work for her. A couple of years later there was a fire and Theresa decided no, she definitely did not want to do this anymore. That is when Matt stepped in and renovated it after the fire. In 2015, Matt and his wife Donna

bought Moe's from Theresa, it continued to be a great local watering hole and a place to grab a bite.

In 2018, Matt leased the place to Ramirez and Donnithorne and trained them to replicate his mother Theresa's and his grandmother's recipes. Matt renamed it The Crazy Beaver and here we are today. Stroll around the restaurant and ooh and ahh over the beautiful motorcycles in the back by the pool table!

If you have not been to the Crazy Beaver, take a little drive to Garcia and enjoy a great place and a great meal. Amble down Highway 522 to Costilla and take a left at the gas station, follow the road to the Crazy Beaver!

We had company in from out of town and could not think of a better, off the beaten path place to take them so they could see the charm of Northern New Mexico/Southern Colorado. We started with chips and salsa (the salsa is awesome) then moved on to chicken enchiladas, taco plates and a quesadilla. There was not one grumble from anyone, only compliments on how delicious the food was...the compliments came between bites because no one could put

their fork down long enough to have a conversation!

The menu has lots to offer, breakfast offerings include Huevos Rancheros, burritos, pancakes, Menudo on Sundays, kids meals and much more! For lunch and dinner you can choose from an enchilada plate, taco plate, smothered burrito, hamburger with fries, Frito pie, kids meals and more. They serve domestic and imported beers and wine.

On Crazy Beaver's Facebook page they will keep you updated on what live entertainment will be offered over the summer, including a Friday night bike night. You'll also be able to keep up to date on when they'll be having food and beverage specials, as well as prizes.

You can find The Crazy Beaver at 101 County Rd 13.2, Garcia, Colorado 81152. Call them at (719) 672-9022. Their hours are: Wednesday through Saturday 12 pm until 8 pm, Sunday 9 am until 5 pm. Coming up in the near future Matt will move into his new motorcycle shop, Fathead Customs, in the same building. Watch for the grand opening!







We are excited about the upcoming 2019-2020 school year and look forward to working with the students and parents in the community. We would like to welcome our new principals, Ms. Carla Archuleta and Ms. Cathy Gallegos, to the Questa Independent School District.

Our Alta Vista and Costilla principal, Ms. Archuleta, comes to us from Alamosa, Colorado with 29 years of experience in the educational setting. Her experience includes teaching upper elementary, middle school math and middle school science. She stepped out of her teaching career to explore administrative roles as an elementary principal, middle school principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent as well. As a superintendent, she was immedi-

ately challenged by the state of Colorado. Her challenges included moving the middle school from a turnaround school with a possible school site closure the following year. Working as a team with the school board, middle school principal, middle school staff, middle school students, parents, and community members they beat the odds and met the challenge. It is her hope that this will be a positive start with more good things to come for Alta Vista and Costilla schools.

Our new high school principal, Cathy Gallegos, has been in education for twenty years. She was a middle school English, social studies, and yearbook teacher for 17 years. During her tenure as an elementary principal, her schools moved from a D grade to a B in the course of just one school year. She credits the success of her schools with the outstanding staff, students, and parents she was lucky to work. She is looking forward to working with the community of Questa to continue that success in this community.

**General News**



Courtesy Photo

**Carla Archuleta, new principal for Alta Vista Elementary and Intermediate School and the Rio Costilla Southwest Learning Academy.**

\*The high school is currently running their credit recovery program. Students are able to retake a core class and receive credit to use toward graduation.

\*Planning for the new school year is also taking place

\*Administration and teachers will attend an Avid Conference in July to receive training for this exciting new program that will be introduced into the schools.



Courtesy Photo

**New Questa High School Principal Cathy Gallegos.**

\*2019-2020 school registration is being held in July. All district schools will hold the registration together.

We welcome you to come see us if you have questions, concerns and or input.

Michael P. Lovato, Superintendent  
2556A Wildcat Rd.  
Questa, NM 87556

Office Phone (575) 586-0421  
Cell Phone (575) 779-1232

# Great Turn Outs for Questa Public Library Programs

**QUESTA KIDS BLAST OFF**

The 2019 Summer Reading Program launched June 7th at the Questa Public Library. In June we had four great Fridays with fun activities, crafts, special programs and the opportunity to read from the new books about the universe recently added to our collection. There is more fun and excitement planned for July. We will Search the Universe on July 5th, Explore the universe with the Alamogordo Space Museum "Wonder on Wheels" on July 14th, and Race to the

Moon on July 19th. The final program is July 27th when Community Day will bring activities with TWIRL, great local musicians, and a wonderful picnic to the library.

It is never too late to enjoy Summer Reading at the library! Meet your friends at the library and find out how to enter the special drawing on Community Day. The grand prize is a telescope! Will you be the winner?

**FREE FOOD AND FUN**

Summer is in full swing and the

Friends of the Questa Public Library invite everyone in Questa and surrounding communities to join us at the Questa Library for a free picnic and fun at our Community Day on Saturday, July 27, from 9:00 AM to 2:00PM.

Community Day marks the end of the library's Summer Reading Program, "A Universe of Stories" when kids from the program will receive awards for their achievements. Kids and families will enjoy activities with TWIRL, make crafts, listen to live local music, chow

down with a free barbeque picnic, find a bargain or two at the used book sale, and explore the community yard sale. Something for everyone!

Anyone can participate in the community yard sale by paying a \$10 fee and setting up their wares in the library's parking lot. Proceeds from the sales go directly to the individual seller. Need to know more? Contact the Questa Public Library at 586-2023. See you at the library on July 27!



## JULY EVENTS AT QUESTA LIBRARY

**July 4**  
**Holiday-Library closed.**

**July 5 1:00pm-3:00pm**  
**Search the Universe.**

Who knows what we will find out there! SRP ages 4-12.

**July 9 2:30pm**  
**Friends of the Questa Public Library board meeting**  
Interested parties welcome to attend.

**July 12 1:00pm-3:00 pm Alamogordo Space Museum "Wonder on Wheels".**  
From our New Mexico experts of all things "space". SRP ages 4-12.

**July 13 7:00 pm**  
**Book Launch Party**  
"Late Bloomers: The Movement," edited by Ellen Wood.

**July 18 Wildcat Kitty Club 10:30am -12:00 noon**  
Parent and child music, activities, sharing, stories, and snacks. Children ages 0-3.

**July 19 Race to the Moon. 1-3 PM.** Has it been 50 years since the first man walked on the Moon? SRP ages 4-12.

**July 27 Out of This World Fun for all at Community Day.**  
End of Summer Reading Program awards! Activities with TWIRL, music and entertainment, book sale, community yard sale, and a FREE PICNIC LUNCH.

**July 29 3:30pm**  
**Questa Library Book Club at Rael's Market**

The book of the month is "Where The Crawdad's Sing" by Delia Owens. This book, a favorite of the patrons at our library, is described as "painfully beautiful" by The New York Times Book Review.

**Every Thursday 2:30-5:00 PM**  
**Dropped Stitch Sewing Group**  
Bring your latest fiber art project. We help each other and have the best time in the process.

## Rio Costilla SW Learning Academy Honor Roll for Qtr 4 SY 2018-19

Name	Grade	Type
Andrianos, Melissa	6	Principal's Roll
Liliana Martinez	6	Principal's Roll
Vallejos, Esperanza	4	Principal's Roll
Hernandez, Diana	6	Honor Roll
Woodruff, Saphira	6	Honor Roll
Smith, Sophia	5	Honor Roll
Jenkins, Sophie	3	Honor Roll
Vallejos, Marlana	6	Honor Roll
Jenkins, Kaleb	4	Honor Roll
Pacheco, Vanessa	3	Honor Roll
Rael, Hailey	3	Honor Roll
Vallejos, Jacob	6	Honor Roll
Jenkins, Jackson	5	Honor Roll
Roybal Jr., Luis	4	Honor Roll
Vigil, Chanell	4	Honor Roll
Smith, Remington	3	Honor Roll
Tannahill, Wesley	3	Honor Roll
Tannahill, Jeremiah	2	Honor Roll
Rael, Ashlynn	6	Honor Roll
Rowell, Sean	4	Honor Roll
Ortiz, Marissa	5	Merit Roll
Ortiz, Sierra	3	Merit Roll
Roybal, Maximus	3	Merit Roll
Cordova, Hayley	3	Merit Roll



Courtesy Photo

Questa Independent School District is proud to have a new activity bus to accommodate every student. The specially equipped bus has many features such as a state of the art wheelchair lift. Pictured with the bus is QISD School Board President Daryl Ortega, Athletic Coordinator Manuel Gonzales, Maintenance Director Steve Gomez and Superintendent Michael Lovato.

# \$1000 IN CASH PRIZES

## 3RD ANNUAL QUESTA FISHING DERBY 2019



### SATURDAY JULY 13

8:00AM - NOON

EAGLE ROCK LAKE  
IN QUESTA

**\$20**  
Registration on-site  
starting at 7:00am

## BIGGEST FISH WINS!

And there is a Kid's Category too!





# Wetlands Sustain our Communities

By TONER MITCHELL

In some circles, “wetlands” is a dirty word. This is due to the fact that wetlands – generally defined as an area of land that is saturated with water - are increasingly rare these days due to human development, roads, and other historic land use practices. Wetlands straddle the line between terrestrial and aquatic, which is why they are known harbor to many different species. It’s this ecological diversity that makes people nervous when they hear the word, like wetlands are something to avoid, to tread lightly on in fear of the government hammer. For all the drama, one would think that wetlands aren’t just another piece of land or, as the case may be, water.

As a matter of decisively proven fact, they aren’t just another piece of land. Wetland ecosystems comprise havens for so much wildlife, not only because they collect water, but nutrients as well. It must be remembered that these ecosystems include humans, for whom wetlands provide the otherwise expensive services of flood abatement and water purification for free. By design, wetlands capture peak flows during snowmelt and monsoon rain storms. They cause floodwaters to spread out and dissipate their destructive energy. And thanks to wetland’s unique communities of microorganisms, they neutralize natural and even some artificial toxins.

Arguably wetlands’ most important benefit – especially to agricultural villages like Questa – is their ability to store large amounts of water and gradually release it to creeks and rivers. The significance of water storage is most pronounced late in the irrigation season or during drought years, when streams fed by headwater wetlands have higher flows, while those with damaged or nonexistent wetlands peter out.

Considering the age-old tradition of acequia irrigation: we love to tout the notion that flooded alfalfa fields filter water to shallow aquifers and sustain our streams. When we speak of this, we are actually expressing pride that we are behaving like wetlands.

Since 2000, a partnership that includes the Forest Service, New Mexico Environment Department, the Quivira Coalition and other non-profits, corporations, and the Valle Vidal Grazing Association have collaborated on restoring riparian and slope wetlands in the Comanche Creek watershed in the Valle Vidal. This work entailed repairing head-



*Courtesy Photo*

The results of raising the stream bed by 18 inches, water spreading across a broad floodplain and sinking in.



*Courtesy Photos*

An incising headcut in Midnight Meadows. Multiply its depth by the area of the meadow and you get the amount of potential water being lost. The distance from the grass to the water is the drop in water table.

cuts, reducing bank erosion, and reconnecting stream channels to their floodplains. In many places, stream channels were lifted up to 18 inches, which lifted the water table by an equal amount.

If not for this restoration, last year’s drought would have left the watershed crippled instead of just limping. Thanks to its beefed up wetlands, the upper Comanche Creek meadows are now harvesting this year’s heavy snowfall to provide more grass for elk and cattle, more

water for Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and more irrigation water for Costilla, Amalia, and villages across the border in the southern San Luis Valley.

Questa will see such benefits from a similar project funded through the Natural Resources Damage Assessment settlement, funds that will also be used to restore more of the Red River in Questa. The project is planned for the Midnight Meadows in the headwaters of Cabresto Creek and the Red River, where deep

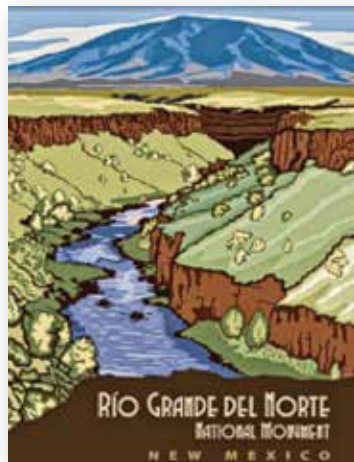
channel incisions and headcuts have caused important wetlands to drain and lose their water-holding capacity. This project is an extremely important one that will benefit Questa for years to come, in wet years and, especially dry ones. I like to think of it as a low cost insurance policy that will allow folks to continue to graze livestock in the headwaters, fish clean and cold streams, and to grow alfalfa and other crops as they have since Questa was first settled.



## Wild Rivers Campfire Lectures this Summer

The Second Saturday Campfire Talk series is entitled "Cuentos y Historias de Questa, A Glimpse Into the Past." The speaker for July 13th at 7pm at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center will be Bob Jaramillo; a resident, teacher and historian of Questa. Bob's program is titled El Norte - Landrace Communities, Culture, Crops and Livestock, which will look at the development of the Questa area through local agriculture and animals. This is an interesting angle to our local history and should not be missed.

The Third Saturday Campfire Lecture series is on topics related to studies and research going on in the National Monument. It will be held on July 20th at 7pm at the Wild Rivers Visitor Center. This month's speaker will feature archaeologist, Emily Donald Brown. Dr. Brown will discuss some recent archaeological discoveries in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Emily Donald grew up in El Rito in the 1980s and is remembered by many of El Rito's long



time residents. We hope those who know Emily will come to visit with her and learn about her interesting findings of the past.

*Second & Third Saturdays in July and August The Rio Grande del Norte National Monument at Wild Rivers will be hosting Campfire Talks & Lecture Series at 7PM. All events will take place the Visitor Center Amphitheater. Please come join us!*

## Setbacks with Questa Trail Project

The team has suffered a setback in expected funding and is therefore having to scramble to raise additional monies to finish the trail this summer. This is the last year that the hard-working team members can devote to the project, so your good thoughts and generosity will be appreciated.

We are still moving toward creation of a fully walkable route and long-lasting trail signage for the community and our visitors to enjoy into the future!

Many thanks to the Northern Rio

Grande National Heritage Area and Chevron for their continued support, and a special thanks to supporters who have made recent donations. The Questa History Trail is moving toward accepting donations on their website, stay tuned! Donations can be made by mailing a check to PO Box 1025, Questa NM 87556.

*Find more information about donations online at [QuestaCreative.org](http://QuestaCreative.org) or send questions to [questacreativecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:questacreativecouncil@gmail.com) with subject line-History Trail. Find full History Trail info at [QuestaTrail.org](http://QuestaTrail.org).*

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Courtesy Photo

Picture taken in late April. By summer, the eave will cast a shadow over the entire wall, preventing sunlight from entering the house.

## Working Smart Not Hard at the QHouse

BY MICHAEL YOUNG

### Air Conditioning During Summertime

In my second article in this series I talked about how we use passive solar heating for almost all the heating in our home. What I didn't talk about is how we cool the house during the summer. The same features that heat our house also help keep it cool during the hot summer months. The thick walls and massive amounts of insulation not only keep heat inside the house, but they also keep the summer heat from coming into the house in the reverse direction - Insulation works both ways.

Additionally, the roof eaves on the south side of the house were precisely determined. Using trigonometry, the distance of the overhang was calculated so that, given the angle of the sun during the hot summer months, the eave actually prevents the sun's rays from entering the huge south-side windows. Basically, as the sun reaches a point higher in the sky, the passive solar heating mechanism gradually turns off with the eave shielding the windows.

Between not allowing sunlight into the house and keeping outside heat from

entering the house through the walls, the house stays very cool during the summer with no energy cost. We also open the windows at night to allow fresh cool air into the house, and close them up during the day so are able to keep the house at a comfortable temperature when it is hot outside. This is a trick that has been used by ancient peoples for millennia, especially in those cultures and climates that use adobe construction. The hottest we have seen inside the house is approximately 76 degrees and that is when it is in the high 90s outside.

### The Sewer System

Like many rural homes, we use a septic system. And there is nothing particularly different between our system and anyone else's. We did size it to be a little bigger than necessary, to allow the possible addition of another bedroom and bathroom, but otherwise it is a standard septic tank.

What is a little different, though, is we have two sets of sewer pipes; the black water system runs waste from the toilet and the kitchen sink directly to the septic tank. The gray water plumbing, however, gives us the option of recycling our grey

water to use for watering plants or other usages outside the house. (Grey water is the waste from the shower, bathroom sink and washing machine). There is a valve located right outside the house which allows us to divert grey water to external use, or to let it to go directly into the septic tank. This is another way to save water.

### Telephone, Internet, and TV Service

There are some downsides to being 'off-the-grid' like we are. And the most difficult problems have to do with communication systems. Although installing a 'land-line' is an option, like more and more people, we rely on cell phones. Service is good here, but not perfect.

Internet is another difficult problem. When we first moved up here Kit Carson Telecom installed a radio-based system to service this part of the world and it worked fairly well. However, after they changed management, they decided that their 'mission' was only to service those people who also had power lines coming in through Kit Carson. Since we don't have one of those, they then decided to terminate our service. (They did say they would provide us with fiber optic in-

ternet service if we would pay the \$28,000 to install power lines up to our house. Would you pay that much for internet?)

In its place, we installed a satellite internet system, first with Dish and then with HughesNet. Satellite internet is extremely fast (we frequently get 50mbps service), however satellite systems have a little 'bonus feature' called latency. What that means is that, even though the download speed is very fast, it can take as much as a second or two to set up the transmission package. So, what happens is that your service is choppy. Although you would think 'buffering' would solve the problem, it doesn't. So, the bottom line is that streaming media are difficult to do consistently. The service works well enough for normal internet usage, but streaming movies is not so easy. Our Dish TV system works fine most of the time, but being satellite based, it too is subject to occasional problems, especially when thick clouds get between the satellite and my antenna. While it is true that we don't have any wires or pipes coming into our house, we do have some satellite and microwave connections.



# What's Happening to Our Piñon Trees?

By CHRIS COTE,  
LATIR FIRE CHIEF

As you look across the landscape of our Piñon pine and Juniper forest, you might wonder about the different colorations that do not look as green and healthy as the surrounding forest.

We are experiencing some insect infestation. The most prominent at this time is the Pinyon Needle Scale (matsucoccus acalyptus). Tiny, sap-sucking insects kill the needles of the Piñon tree, thus seriously weakening the tree. This reduces new growth and stunts the tree.

Mating occurs in early April. Eggs are laid in masses around the collar, branch crotches and underside of larger branches. The eggs are covered by a white, cottony wax. Newly hatched nymphs settle on the previous year's needles. Second stage nymphs form in late summer and overwinter on the needles. There is one generation per year.

Needle Scale can be combated with Neem Oil during the emergence phase of the insect, which happens here in

early spring. Once they get in their black, waxy coating, they are difficult to mitigate. Fortunately, the mortality rate of trees with this infestation is fairly low and limited mostly to small trees.

To decrease the spread of Needle Scale, be sure to inspect trees for scale before digging them up from the forest or purchasing. Heavy infestation can be mitigated through the application of foliar systemic insecticide before eggs hatch in May and early June (missed that opportunity!), then again at 7 to 10-day intervals twice more to poison the nymphs. Cutting or burning small infested trees is the only effective control.

Stay tuned for next month to learn more about the Bark Beetle.



## Latir Clean-Up and Chipper Day! Saturday, JULY 20th

Through the support of Taos County Solid Waste Management, Latir/El Rito, as a community striving to become "Firewise," is able to offer this opportunity to clean up "slash" from our properties. The wood debris from your land will be chipped and hauled away.

**Date:** July 20th, 2019

**Time:** 9 AM to 2 PM-Nothing will be accepted after 2pm.

**WHERE:** The Taos County Road Maintenance Department, behind the building which has been the Living Word Church on the west side of SR522, south of El Rito Road. The entrance will be marked with orange traffic cones.

**WHAT:** Bring loads of slash from your property, aligned "butt end" out from your truck or trailer. Deliveries accepted anytime from **9 AM to 2 PM ONLY**.

No material may be dropped off before this date.

**HOW:** Remove stiff branches from limbs. Remove limbs from trunks.

All uncapped trucks must be tied down. If you arrive in a truck that is not tied, you will not be allowed to unload. Since Chipper Day is only for chipping, no garbage or trash will be accepted.

Chris Cote

Taos County Wildland / Urban Interface Coordinator  
Chief, Latir Volunteer Fire Department  
575-779-5937 Cell



**SATURDAY**  
JULY 6: 3PM

**JOIN US**  
**IN COSTILLA!!**

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!**

at the Torres Ranch, 4400 HWY 522

\$10 Adults • \$5 Students • Kids 8 & Under FREE



# Welcoming Home Activ8 Youth



By JANIE CORINNE

Our community has once again shown up to support our kids, and soon it will be time to welcome them home!

In mid-July, five teens and two adults will travel to Dallas, Texas for a five-day training institute that will empower them to be catalysts for change in their home communities, specifically around preventing and decreasing the impact of alcohol and drug use. The sponsor of this big event is Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America

(CADCA), the leading training organization for local coalitions such as Vida del Norte here in northern Taos County.

Amalia Gonzalez, Angelica Lovato, Joaquin Arellano, Kaylee Piper and McKayla Young are the trendsetters who will be taking part in this training institute, along with fellow teens from across the country. They are members of Activ8, the youth drug prevention coalition that was founded this spring after 22 local teens attended the Opioid Summit in Rio Rancho. Maria Gonzalez, coordinator of the Vida del Norte Drug Free Coalition, and Officer Zack Garcia, Vida Coalition law enforcement representative, are the adults helping these young people make this journey.

Here's where you come in... Join the Activ8 teens, Maria and Zack at a Welcome Home event! They'll have just returned home from Texas and will have plenty to tell about what they experi-

enced and what they are inspired to do!

How did this trip become possible? With registration fees for the Youth Leadership Training Courses of more than \$400 for each teen plus transportation and lodging, Ms. Gonzalez reached out to the community for support. Within a few short weeks, more than \$2000 was contributed. Huge thanks go out to Questa Lumber and Hardware, The Knights of Columbus, Archuleta's Home Improvements, Rio Grande Motor Sports, Romero's Excavation, Kit Carson Electric, Centinel Bank Of Taos, Andamo Sanchez,

Ambitions Consulting Group, Marcus Mascarenas, and Michael Rael for their contributions.

A raffle raised the remaining funds, with generous prizes from Premier Outfitters Cabins, Benavidez Photography, Northstar Tire & Auto, CarQuesta, Frank's Eats and Sweets, JB Chevron,

Primetime Pizza and Wildcat's Den.

The saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," rings true, and our village is doing its part to make life healthy, safe and secure for our kids. Please join our kids on July 22nd to welcome them home.

For more information or to volunteer in any way, contact Maria Gonzalez, maria.gonzalez@VidadelNorte.com, 575 779-2260.

## WELCOME OUR KIDS HOME!

Monday, July 22nd

Questa VFW

6 – 8 p.m.

Potluck supper:

**please bring something for the table**

Everyone welcome, all ages!

# Shootout at Frye's Old Town Parking Lot Red River



Photo Provided by the Jewellery Lad, Red River

## The bad guys.

A Red River tradition since 1959, the crowds gather in Frye's Old Town parking lot for an old-fashioned melodrama and western-style shootout show, padnah! The show is designed to entertain young children. Locals play the good and bad guys: characters are Silly, Doc, saloon girls, Corabelle, and Annabelle, and they all keep us in stitches. Frank from Capo's returns as the irascible Doc, and who will be Wild Bill? Come find out! (Please note: real guns shooting blanks are used, so be prepared for some loud fun!)

On most Saturdays, Native American dancers from Taos Pueblo perform just prior to the Gunfight Show. They also have been coming to dance since 1959!

Dates for summer 2019 Gunfight Shows: Saturdays at 4, June 29-Aug. 3. Special show Thursday July 4!

On Thursdays at 4, we have Wild West Music on the front porch featuring Kate Mann & Mark Dudrow.

Dates for summer 2019 Wild West Music: Thursday, June 27 through August 1.



Those who attended the Questa Del Rio News Birthday Party in February were given an old newspaper from Jason Rice's collection, of Jay's Unique Thrift Shop. So many papers from so many locations and different eras! This cartoon was on the front page of the the San Jose Mercury Herald from April 17, 1921.



# The 50th Lorien Commune Celebration

By MARIA  
(LONSDALE) MIKHAILAS

I have called the Lorien Community in El Rito north of Questa, home since it began 50 years ago. I am the only one who is still here from that pivotal year of 1969. Our commune was located right next to Rufino and Cordy Garcia's land, who were great neighbors even after hippie dogs killed his sheep! Felix Quintana's family and the Mascareñas down the hill on the highway were also very kind to us. Many of the early community members who joined later still live here and raised their children here.

This 50th Year celebration will celebrate our community and our children. At the gathering, some of the original commune as well as early community members and their children will speak, offer music, or dance. Others from around the area, who also grew up in Taos County from that time, will be speaking on cultural change in their own way.

The hippies who came here in 1969 were idealists, wanting to live in harmony with the land and live a more peaceful life of brotherhood and love. We quickly discovered that to live that ideal life requires a profound inner change!

Charles Lonsdale bought this land in late Fall 1968, with a group of friends from San Francisco, and began the commune experiment in 1969. I joined him early that spring and we eventually married and had two daughters. We began studying with Herman Rednick, a Taos

artist and teacher of the mystical Christ path. He taught us to focus on cultivating the true self, guiding us off drugs and alcohol and to change instincts of conflict to beneficent qualities to find our true humanity. Herman had previously located the land that Lama Foundation is founded on in 1967, before coming to Lorien. The founders of Lama, Barbara (Asha) and Stephen Durkee and Jonathan Altman were early students of Herman's.

Herman Rednick passed away in 1985. He predicted that another teacher would come in seven years to guide us further on the spiritual path. And that

**THE 50TH LORIENT COMMUNE CELEBRATION**  
 Saturday, July 27th, from 10am to 6pm  
 In the Lorien Meadow  
 Follow the signs at El Rito Rd, 7 miles north of Questa on 522

is when Lama Karma Dorje, a Tibetan Buddhist lama from Santa Fe brought Buddhism to El Rito. Buddhism cultivates loving kindness to all beings, generates compassion and brings the mind to a still focus.

Some of Herman's students acquired

more land, funds and labor and with Lama Dorje's guidance, built the Kagyu Mila Guru Stupa in Lorien. Lama Dorje calls stupas 'peace monuments' that radiate the essence of the universal Buddha nature within all of us. Lama Dorje wanted this stupa to honor Herman as well as Mila-repa; an unusual yogi in old Tibet who, from a murdering magician, became one of the most respected saints in all of Tibet. Herman was deeply impressed with Mila-repa and his life, which moved him to tears.

From those early years, our community grew and started a non-profit organization called Earth Journey, Inc. which manages the properties for retreat, meditation and prayer and the memorial labyrinth. Earth Journey promotes activities based on Herman's teachings of the Path of Love, Kagyu Tibetan Buddhist teachings and retreats, and more recently the esoteric philosophy of Alice Bailey, as well as a fourth stream of Divine Feminine studies and retreats. Earth Journey has published a number of books under the name of Open Door Publishing, about the path of love. For more information, visit [earthjourney.org](http://earthjourney.org).

In 50 years so much has changed. So many challenges, growth through suffering as well as beauty, many blessings of new beginnings, and happy aspirations towards the future.

Come join us in celebration on July 27th! Entry and lunch are free. As well as the presentations, there will be free demonstrations and also crafts and books for sale.



## Doing Something!

Vida del Norte Coalition teen members - the Active8, and Singing River Field Center youth, began Questa Farmers Market beautification and improvement projects in early June, with funding from LOR Foundation.

Photo By E. Wilde



## Local Businesses to Receive Marketing Help!

The Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF), in an ongoing effort to transition the economy from a mining town to a tourism destination, has hired a summer intern to provide digital marketing to local businesses. "We know that tourists find businesses online at ever increasing rates, so it just makes sense to help Questa businesses market themselves online," said Lindsay Mapes, Economic Development Director for the QEDF.

This summer, you may see Rachel Kuc', a Questa resident and student at UNM-Taos, visiting your business. She is taking photos, creating business descriptions, and even adding menus, hours of operation, and contact information to websites like Google, TripAdvisor, and Yelp. For businesses that have an existing online presence, she will be enhancing with updated and relevant content.

"I look forward to meeting with all of the business owners in Questa this

summer. Everyone has been so welcoming to me since I have lived here. I look forward to this opportunity to use some of my computer skills to help this community really shine online," said Rachel.

Rachel is starting with restaurants and tourist lodging businesses first, then other tourism-related businesses, and will then target non-tourism-centric businesses until she resumes classes this fall at UNM-Taos.

*If you would like to meet with Rachel, contact her at 586-2149 or [rachelkuc@gmail.com](mailto:rachelkuc@gmail.com)*



*Courtesy Photo*

Rachel Kuc'

## WELCOME NICK- Our New Americorps VISTA Volunteer!

The Questa Economic Development Fund would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Americorps VISTA Volunteer, Nick Nagawiecki. Nick grew up in Mt. Prospect, Illinois and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture from Iowa State University this past spring. In his last semester at school, he worked on a project in Acoma, New Mexico which was his first visit to New Mexico. "I immediately felt that I needed to spend more time here," said Nick. He decided to volunteer with AmericorpsVISTA in Taos County to put his new skill set to good use for a community.

Nick arrived on June 11th to Questa and is splitting his time between Taos Entrepreneurial Network (TEN) and Taos MainStreet, Questa with the QEDF, and Colfax County.

"I immediately felt welcomed by the kind people of Questa and I am constantly awestruck by the diverse landscape. I am sure that we can work to

create safe and beautiful spaces for the community, starting with the farmer's market project," commented Nick.

Nick will be in Questa at least two days per week through June 2020. Please give him a warm Questa welcome by stopping by the Questa Visitor Center or say hi when you see him at the Questa Farmers Market.



*Courtesy Photo*

Nick Nagawiecki

### Reunion *Continued from page 1*

way 522. The historical parade is set to begin at 9 a.m., followed by many other events during the day. Evening entertainment will be offered by neighboring Nuevo Americana Music Festival (\$5-\$10/person) and Sunday events begin with a Bilingual Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 9 a.m.

### EVENTS

#### Saturday July 6th

Historical Parade  
Historical Ceremony  
Special Guests

Veterans, Senior Citizens, Professionals Celebration

New Mexico Cultural Traditions  
New Mexico Musical Traditions  
Historical Points of Interest  
Photo Exhibit  
New Mexican Food/Art/Other Vendors  
Prizes  
Reunite with Family, Friends and Neighbors  
Nuevo Americana Music Festival

#### Sunday July 7th

Bilingual Catholic Mass  
Community Breakfast



### Positive Thoughts *Continued from page 1*

was almost inconceivable. Should any one of these factors not come forward, the United States of America would not have emerged, won independence, or established right relations with Mother England.

Forward thinking rooted in faith and a belief in human ingenuity inspired and supported the three men who are behind the words and wisdom of the Declaration of Independence. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson held a shared vision, sparked by their life experiences as well as their wishes for humanity. Jefferson wrote, "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness ...". The vision of a new democracy went on to state "that whenever any form of Government becomes

destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

This July 4th, as rancor, disrespect, and lack of civility all too often now come from the seats vested with the power of the people, let us remember the vision entrusted to all future generations by the founders of this nation. Independence requires and rests upon the interconnected, interdependent, collaborative and creative functioning of a people united. Abraham Lincoln restated this wisdom less than a hundred years after 1776, "A house divided falls." So, this July 4th, let us take up the vision along with its limitless and inconceivable positive thoughts for human kind.



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# ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY

SKYDANCE ESOTERIC ASTROLOGY by Charlene R. Johnson  
JULY 2019

## RETROGRADES

**'The false idea of believing that you are what you have or what you do, is a backwards way of assessing and living life.' —Wayne Dyer**

On July 8th, Mercury and Vulcan both go retrograde joining Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Pluto, meaning half of our 12 planets will be in retrograde mode. Retrogrades are an illusion; a perception from earth of a planet going backwards, which of course, they don't do. The perception is the result of differing elliptical orbits; nonetheless we still feel the effects from thousands of years of stargazing. While many people bemoan retrogrades, esoteric folk know that retrogrades are the most spiritual expression of a planet and a time when more opportunities exist regarding whatever subjects those planets rule.

While direct planets have limited and specific meanings, retrogrades fling the door open to new interpretations.

Of all the planets which go retro, Mercury receives the worst rap. While it's true that electronics may malfunction and you don't want to sign new contracts during this time, it is an excellent time to ponder future decisions. Things that have been stuck will now loosen; rigid attitudes will soften and while you may not want to make the final decision just yet, this is a great time to gather the facts, align the relevant factors and be prepared to launch as soon as Mercury goes direct again.

**Everyone:** Be contemplative but hold off making any important decisions until after August 1st when Mercury and Vulcan go direct again. The other 4 will continue retro for a while.

**ARIES ♈ Planet: Mercury ♀ MARCH 20 – APRIL 19**

**Dynamic:** You feel energized again, but mid-month, you may drop back into confusion.

**Direction:** All is well; it's simply time for contemplation

**Soul Thought:** "All action results from thought, so it is thoughts that matter." Sai Baba

**TAURUS ♉ Planet: Vulcan ♁ APRIL 19 – MAY 20**

**Dynamic:** Just when you thought you were getting ahead you may feel like you're being drawn back.

**Direction:** It's all an illusion; trust in the process.

**Soul Thought:** What does it mean to come full circle?

**GEMINI ♊ Planet: Venus ♀ MAY 20 – July 20**

**Dynamic:** It's a gentle time, a good time.

**Direction:** Try on something silky and soft.

**Soul Thought:** When feelings might be trusted.

**CANCER ♋ Planet: Neptune ♆ July 20 – JULY 22**

**Dynamic:** This challenge is about your spiritual aspiration versus a need for practical resources.

**Direction:** Know that the Universe is on your side, whatever your immediate environment.

**Soul Thought:** When deep waters are crystal clear.

**LEO ♌ Planet: Sun ☉ JULY 22 – AUG 22**

**Dynamic:** About mid-month when you begin to experience your favorite energy, your favorite partner offers a challenge.

**Direction:** Remember that challenges are how we grow.

**Soul Thought:** "Judgements are what causes experiences to be painful." Harry Palmer

**VIRGO ♍ Planet: Moon ☾ AUG 22 – SEPT 22**

**Dynamic:** You have lots of details to attend and sometimes, blessings to bestow.

**Direction:** Eventually you have to stop researching and organizing and just DO it!

**Soul Thought:** It's time!

**LIBRA ♎ Planet: Uranus ♁ SEPT 22 – OCT 22**

**Dynamic:** This could be a challenging month for romance, partnership and possibly finances.

**Direction:** Raise everything to its higher power: romance – unconditional love; partnership – with the Highest Partner; finances – what you value most.

**Soul Thought:** "Not in this world less, but in both worlds more." Helena Blavatsky

**SCORPIO ♏ Planet: Mars ♂ OCT 22 – NOV 21**

**Dynamic:** Romance may take up some time.

**Direction:** As you go from pensive to popular, remember to practice harmlessness.

**Soul Thought:** One sure way of working off karma is unconditional love.

**SAGITTARIUS ♐ Planet: Earth ☷ NOV 21 – DEC 20**

**Dynamic:** You may start feeling lighter and more magnanimous midway through the month.

**Direction:** Think generosity, especially toward your partner.

**Soul Thought:** "It has to be everybody or nobody." R. Buckminster Fuller

**CAPRICORN ♑ Planet: Saturn ♄ DEC 20 – JAN 19**

**Dynamic:** Burdens are light and things are illuminated.

**Direction:** On July 9, go look up at Saturn, the closest it will be to Earth all year.

**Soul Thought:** Footprints in the Sand.

**AQUARIUS ♒ Planet: Jupiter ♃ JAN 19 – FEB 18**

**Dynamic:** You may feel frustrated in what you're trying to accomplish.

**Direction:** Ask any athlete: hurdles are meant to be hurdled.

**Soul Thought:** "If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere." Frank A. Clark

**PISCES ♓ Planet: Pluto ♇ FEB 18 – MAR 20**

**Dynamic:** Nothing to stop or slow you down.

**Direction:** At least not from the outside; the inside is up to you.

**Soul Thought:** Huskies racing a sled over frozen tundra, having fun!

## DATES TO REMEMBER JULY 2019

**JULY 3 3:15-4:00 PM**

BookMobile, Questa Post Office

**JULY 4**

Independence Day

**JULY 4 10:00 AM**

Red River 4th of July Parade

**JULY 2 6:00 PM**

Questa School Board Meeting

**JULY 5 1:00-3:00 PM**

Questa Library Summer Reading Program

**JULY 6 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Dharma Talk with Lamas Yeshe & Zopa,  
Herman Rednick Center, El Rito

**JULY 6-7**

Costilla/Amalia/Garcia/Jaroso Community  
Reunion, *See Page 1*

**JULY 7**

World Chocolate Day

**JULY 7 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**

Questa Farmers Market,  
Music by Nick Hans, Arroyo Seco

**JULY 11**

Cheer Up The Lonely Day

**JULY 11-14**

Michael Martin Murphey's American West  
Fest, Brandenburg Park/RR Conference Center

**JULY 12**

Simplicity Day

**JULY 12**

Week of Major League All-Star Baseball Game

**JULY 12 1:00-3:00 PM**

Questa Library Summer Reading Program

**JULY 12 11:00 AM-2:00 PM**

Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry!

**JULY 13 8:00-NOON**

Questa Fishing Derby, Eagle Rock Lake

**JULY 13 7:00 PM**

LATE BLOOMERS Book Launch,  
Questa Public Library

**JULY 13 7:00 PM**

Campfire Series, Speaker Bob Jaramillo Wild  
Rivers Visitor Center

**JULY 14 10:00 AM-2:00PM**

Questa Farmers Market, Music by Wear  
and Tear, Peter Oviatt and Jimmie  
Killingsworth, Taos

**JULY 15**

Give Something Away Day

**JULY 16 6:00 PM**

Questa Village Council Meeting, Village Hall

**JULY 16 6:00 PM**

Questa School Board Meeting

**JULY 16 10:00 AM**

Red River Chamber Board Meeting,  
RR Conference Center

**JULY 16 5:30-6:30 PM**

Full Moon Community Yoga, Free at OCHO

**JULY 16-21**

Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival, *See Page 15*

**JULY 18**

Get to Know Your Customers Day

**JULY 18 10:30 – NOON**

Wildcat Kitty Club Questa Public Library

**JULY 19 1:00-3:00 PM**

Questa Library Summer Reading Program

**JULY 19 11:00AM-2:00PM**

Free Food at North Central NM Food Pantry!

**JULY 20 7:00 PM**

Campfire Series, Speaker Emily Donald  
Brown, Wild Rivers Visitor Center

**JULY 20 7:00 PM**

LATE BLOOMERS Book Launch,  
at SOMOS in Taos

**JULY 21 10:00AM-2:00PM**

Questa Farmers Market, Music by Chris and  
Rodney Arellano of Costilla

**JULY 21 11:00AM**

Cristina Masoliver and her Puppet Show  
at Questa Farmers Market

**JULY 23 6:00 PM**

Questa Village Council Meeting, Village Hall

**JULY 23 5:00 PM**

Red River Town Council, RR Conference Center

**JULY 27 9:00AM TO 2:00PM**

Questa Library Community Day, *See Page 18*

**JULY 28**

National Parent's Day

**JULY 28 10:00 AM-2:00PM**

Questa Farmers Market, Music by Jonathan  
Hutchison, singer/songwriter of El Rito

**JULY 29 3:30 PM**

Questa Library Book Club at Rael's Market

For a complete list of July Events in Red  
River, go to [https://redriver.org/events/  
calendar/2019/7](https://redriver.org/events/calendar/2019/7)

**JULY IS:**

Independent Retailer Month  
National Parenting Gifted Children Week  
(3rd week)

World Watercolor Month  
National Cell Phone Courtesy Month

Independent Retailer Month  
National Picnic Month  
National July Belongs to Blueberries Month

To discover your Rising Sign, or for more information, contact Charlene R. Johnson,  
[www.SkyDanceAstrology.com](http://www.SkyDanceAstrology.com), or email: [SkyDance@SkyDanceAstrology.com](mailto:SkyDance@SkyDanceAstrology.com)

Esoteric Astrology is focused on the rising sign more than the sun sign (we suggest you read both) and provides clarity, direction and answers for those seeking a higher level of life.



**HELP WANTED**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

**YOUTH CORPS** is accepting applications for our Summer Questa Crew. Multiple positions for 17-25 year olds this summer. Earn \$760 every two weeks, and \$1,252 Education Award. We are also seeking an Assistant Crew Supervisor, and a Supervisor. Apply online [www.youthcorps.org](http://www.youthcorps.org), or call (575) 751-1420.

**FOR SALE**

**Solid oak regulation pool table**, cue sticks, balls, lights. Great condition. Previous owner: Ray Vinella. \$1500, call Lynn or Krissie at 586-0515.

**LAND FOR SALE**

**35 gorgeous off-the-grid acres** in Sunshine Valley. PRICE REDUCED to \$40,000. Call 575-586-1363

**If anyone needs chile,**

Mariachi Questa still has green (\$9) and red medium and hot (\$7). Please spread the word!

Ask any Mariachi member or call 779-5601.

**Freshly harvested Tipi**

(teepee) poles for sale. Poles are pre-order and harvested for you. Denubbed, peeled, and dried. Delivery and set up available for an extra charge. Multiple lengths available. Contact Wendy for price: [thetipilady@gmail.com](mailto:thetipilady@gmail.com) or 541-497-0287.

**Half acre Lots for sale by owner** with financing 10% down, \$250.00 a month payments. Located in Questa, Village water and Sewer, natural gas, power and telephone. Close to schools with village maintained streets. Located on Shirley Drive off Don Martinez Street. Call Jana 575-770-3812.

**WANTED**

**SCRAPPED VINTAGE VEHICLES** for truck bed garden

landscaping at the Farmer's Market site. Old and rusty, one piece or different parts. Contact Farmers Market Manager Gaea McGahee at (575) 224-2102 or [growersmakers@gmail.com](mailto:growersmakers@gmail.com)

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Questa Del Rio Colorado News looking for:** Questa, San Cristobal & Lama, and Educational Correspondents and a Social Media Coordinator. Email [news@questaedf.com](mailto:news@questaedf.com) or call 575.586.2149. Can start immediately!

**NOTICES**

**RED RIVER COMMUNITY HOUSE BINGO** Every Monday, Thursday, & Friday night at 6:30 pm Check website calendar for changes: [Redrivercommunityhouse.com](http://Redrivercommunityhouse.com) \$20 cash per person for 10 games

**Len Beke has joined the**

**Manitos Project** and is working to recover the Spanish language place names in our communities of northern NM and Southern CO. If you are interested or have information to share, please contact him. His email address is [lenbeke@unm.edu](mailto:lenbeke@unm.edu) or [www.facebook.com/manitotopos/](http://www.facebook.com/manitotopos/) This is a wonderful and worthy project!

**A note from Lisa:** You can listen to my new June radio programs, both Voices from Questa and Beyond and Farming through the Seasons, by visiting [CulturalEnergy.org](http://CulturalEnergy.org). Look in the column on the left and click on 'Listen In.' When the page comes up, scroll down to June Shows, click on either show and you can listen to the entire program. You can also scroll down to April Shows to listen to my introduction to new Farming through the Seasons programs returning to the Air. A Big Thank-You to all who have made this paper a success! Lisa

**Scholarships for Local Artists!**

Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival –Tuesday – Sunday, July 16 – 21. The Festival is now full, with over 80 artists registered! While the registration is closed, we do have two scholarships for local folks; one adult and one youth. You can also be placed on our waiting list by emailing us at [wildriverspleinair@gmail.com](mailto:wildriverspleinair@gmail.com). Finally, you are always welcome to come paint alongside the other artists and watch the demos, you just can't join in on the competitions! For more information visit: [www.wildriverspleinair.com](http://www.wildriverspleinair.com) or call Peggy at (505) 974-5314.

**Latir Clean-Up and Chipper Day,**

Saturday JULY 20th, 9 AM to 2 PM only. Clean up "slash" from your properties. Bring the wood debris from your land to the Taos County Road Maintenance Department. It is at Mile Marker 26, behind the former Living Word Church, west side of SR522, south of

El Rito Road. The entrance will be marked with orange traffic cones. See article on page 22 for more information or Chris Coté at 575-779-5937 Cell.

**Questa Farmers Market** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Sundays at the Questa Visitor Center Parking Lot.

**JULY MUSIC AT THE MARKET**

July 7 Nick Hans, Arroyo Seco

**July 14 Wear and Tear,** Peter Oviatt and Jimmie Killingsworth, Taos

**July 21 Chris and Rodney Arellano of Costilla,** New Mexico PLUS Cristina Masoliver and her Puppet Show at 11:00 am

**July 28 Jonathan Hutchison,** singer/songwriter, El Rito

**Good News For Dog Lovers:**

Red River Now Has A Dog Park, YAY! We hope to have more details for you in the August issue, stay tuned...

**The Questa Visitor Center is now open 7 days a week,** 10am-3pm for the summer. Check us out when you visit the Questa Farmers Market on Sundays! The address is 1 NM Highway 38. (In Questa turn at the light onto Highway 38 and make an immediate left into the parking lot). 575.586.2149.

**Costilla-Amalia Community Reunion**

(including Garcia and Jaroso, CO) July 6-7, at the Plaza De Arriba in Costilla. There will be a parade, historical ceremony, vendors and a music festival, a Catholic mass on Sunday, something for everyone and lots of family fun. The Facebook page "Families of Costilla and Amalia" will keep you current on all things Costilla, Amalia and that area of Northern Taos County (NoTaCo).

**Music lessons** - piano, guitar, ukulele, accordion, base, saxophone and recorder, contact Nat Wilson, 575-779-2725, lessons at La Sala in Questa, 2331 Hwy 522.

**Bluegrass Music Jam The Juice Caboose** in Red River, every Thursday night at 6:30 pm

**Weekly Music Jam Rael's Coffee House** in Questa, Every Thursday at 6:00 pm.

**YOGA IN RED RIVER**

Taught by Carol Swagerty

10:00 a.m. Monday & Wednesday at LiftsWest Meeting Room

10:00 a.m. Fridays at Red River Community House (month of July only)

\$10 for one time drop-in, \$35 for 5 class pass, \$24 for 3 classes

**Need Something? Have Something?**

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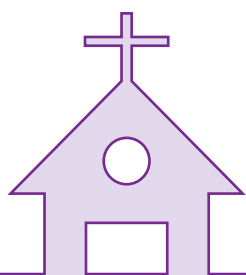
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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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### ST. ANTHONY DE PADUA CHURCH IN QUESTA

Father Andrew Ifele 586-0470  
 Saturday 6pm,  
 Sunday 7am in Spanish -11am in English

### MISSION CHURCHES:

Sagrado Corazon in Costillo - Sunday 9am  
 Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in Cerro- 2nd & 4th  
 Saturdays 4PM  
 Santo Niño in Amalia- 1st & 3rd Saturdays 4pm

### HARVEST QUESTA

Pastors Kristi & Johnny Gonzales  
 2558 Hwy 522  
 Sunday 11 AM- 12:30 PM  
 Phone 575-770-5906  
 Visit us online: HarvestQuesta.org

### LIVING WORD MINISTRIES

Pastors Peter and Gayle Martinez  
 12 Llano Road  
 Service: Sunday 10:30 am  
 Nursery and Kids' Church at 10:30am  
 Wednesday Bible Study 7pm  
 www.lwmsite.org  
 586-1587

### PATH OF LOVE

Teachings of Herman Rednick  
 Sunday 8am class and meditation  
 586-1454, Hilece  
 Sunday 11am Alice Bailey Theosophy Study Group  
 586-4641, Francis

### QUESTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 miles north of Questa on State Road 522  
 We are excited to offer Bible Class at 9:30am on  
 Sundays  
 Followed by worship at 10:15am  
 We pray you will join us!

## KAGYU MILA GURU SANGHA

Tibetan Buddhism  
 Thursday at 4pm Chenrezig  
 Friday 8am-Green Tara  
 gabrielle.herbertson@gmail.com  
 www.earthjourney.org  
 586-1454 or 586-1038

## RED RIVER

### CROSS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

(Standing in the Gap)  
 The Way Coffee House, 201 W. Main Street  
 Sunday 10:00am, Wednesday 6:30pm  
 Children's Church at Both Times  
 Pastor Chris Torres (505) 600-5859

### FAITH MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Corner of River Street and Copper King Trail  
 Sunday 10:30am

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RED RIVER

103 High Cost Trail  
 Sundays 8:15am and 10:30am  
 Pastor Joe Phillips 754-2882

### ST. EDWIN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

North End of Silver Bell Trail  
 Saturday 6pm (Confession prior to Mass or by appt.)  
 Father Andrew Ifele 586-0470



## QUESTA LODGING PROJECT CLASSIFIEDS

Call 586-2258 or email Lodging@QuestaEDF.com

### HOUSING AVAILABLE JULY 1ST

**Located in Questa. Furnished two-bedroom, 1 bath, washer and dryer,** minimum lease - 6 months, \$700 deposit required at move in, monthly rent - \$700 per month (all utilities included), application and list of references required, non-smokers, NO pets.

**Beautiful lofted 1 bedroom 1 bath home in Lama,** house sits on 3 acres and is only 5 years old. Perfect for 1 person or a couple. There are many special features to this home. Rent is \$1250 per month plus utilities.

**3 Bedroom 2 bath, 2 story home,** radiant flooring, wood stove, located in Questa on Llano road, minimum 1-year lease, \$850 per month, \$1700 move in deposit (first & last), no pets, no housing accepted, tenant pays all utilities.

**3 spacious bedroom, 2 full Bath,** Master Bedroom with walk-in closet & on-site bath features a Garden tub & double sinks, Formal Dining room, Large living room, Sunny Kitchen with newer appliances and island, Separate Laundry room with New Washer/Dryer tenant may use, Window blinds throughout, Skylights & Vaulted Ceilings, Plenty of storage, Huge covered deck, on one acre, apple trees & beautiful daylilies grow naturally, Oversized 2 car garage, \$1450 per month plus \$1000 move in deposit

### HOUSING WANTED

**61-year-old disabled man looking** for a 1 bedroom 1 bath, house trained cat, can afford \$650 utilities included.

**Family with 2 young children and house-trained Fox Terrier dog,** looking to relocate from Texas to El Rito area. Looking to rent up to \$1500 until they purchase. Not looking for manufactured home.



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 Questa Del Rio News



## Firewood Permits Available for Carson Ranger District.

Fuelwood permits for dead and down timber are available for purchase at Carson National Forest (CNF) ranger district offices. The price is \$20 for 5 cords, with a maximum of 10 cords per household per year. Customers may purchase permits by check, credit/debit card, or cash.

Any wood removed from national forest land must have a permit. CNF permits do not transfer to other forests and will expire at the end of the year. With the permit, the woodcutter is provided cutting and transporting instructions including fuelwood locations. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to know where they are cutting, as well as to follow the rules governing the permit.

The public may purchase fuelwood permits at the Questa Ranger District offices Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 1:30 -

4:00 p.m. excluding Federal holidays. Please call ahead to be sure the office is open and personnel are available to sell permits. Forest maps are for sale at the Taos Visitor's Center.

Permit holders should be prepared for unpredictable weather changes and be properly equipped to safely harvest wood. Please dispose of litter in trash cans or "pack it out" and close all forest gates after passing through them.

Check the Carson National Forest webpage [www.fs.usda.gov/carson](http://www.fs.usda.gov/carson) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/CarsonNF/](http://www.facebook.com/CarsonNF/) for updates on office hours and permit sales availability.



## AA MEETINGS

**Sundays 10-11:00 am**

Open Meeting  
 Questa Youth Center

**Mondays 7:00pm**

Harvest Questa  
 2558 Highway 522

**Tuesdays 7:00pm**

Erik's Workshop  
 417 E. High St., Red River

## AA WORDS OF INSPIRATION FOR JULY

Recovery is a progression, not perfection.

## Yoga Sala schedule

**Monday, 4:30-6 pm**

Slo Yo with Lou.

**Tuesday, 9-10:30 am**

Gentle Flow/Restore with Gaea.

**Thursday,**

**10-11:30 am**

Gentle Basic Yoga with Willow

**Thursday evening, 5:30-7 pm**


Flow/Deep Stretch with Gaea.

**Free** on the full moon,  
**July 16, 5:30 -6:30pm**

8 Highway 38, Questa  
 Yogasalaquesta.org



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**AH, PICNIC TIME!**

(please read our "FREE" ad on page 8)

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be a part of the creative action!

**QUESTA CREATIVE COUNCIL** 

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**QUESTACREATIVE.ORG**

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