



ISSUE #51

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WATER WATER... IT'S *NOT* EVERYWHERE

"All across the state there is less than enough water for normal needs. This is the long delayed payoff for this desert state's failure to face up to the water problem."

That was from the *New Mexican* of March 1951. Santa Fe was on water rationing, the El Vado reservoir was almost dry, and families were abandoning their homes in Torrance County.

Fifty one years later, little has changed. So let's start the year vowing to be as well informed as possible about how water (and land) policy affects our lives.

Santa Fe County has made a draft for a 40-year Water Plan and is struggling to cooperate with the City of Santa Fe, which pays some 80 percent of the County's taxes. Some hard questions are being asked. For instance, from Judy Stevens of the Santa Fe Land Use and Resource Center: "Will we continue to approve new development served by insecure leased water? If it's hard to find secure sources now, do we really think it will be easier later?"

Water is not quite a finite resource, since some comes down from the sky now and then. But as anyone dependent on small catchment systems knows, that often doesn't cut it. Without the underground resources, we would all be very very thirsty.

from our own, Jack Sullivan, which never came), as well as to County Hydrologist Katherine Yuhas and the County Manager. The letter, dated July 19, 2001, was signed by over seventy residents of Galisteo and Ranchitos. An abbreviated version was published in the *New Mexican*.

The letter read, in part: "By all general accounts, expanded water use in Eldorado and surrounding subdivisions will have a dismal long-term effect on our wells and community water supply along the Galisteo Creek and throughout the Galisteo Basin. Not to mention the impact of additional septic tanks and sewage on the Creek..."

"Water in aquifers moves very slowly and we do not yet have specific information about underground pools and the extent of upland draining upon the Galisteo Basin. However, several of us not hooked up to the Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (which is allotted only 42.58 acre-feet) have experienced a decided decline in water quality and quantity..."

"In addition, in dry seasons, draining the Galisteo Creek aquifer will create ever greater differences between low and peak flows that can do a lot of damage to habitat for native plants and wildlife." Increased runoff in Eldorado increases erosion in the arroyos that run into the Creek throughout the Basin.



Bosque - New year's Eve 2002

Photo by Richard Shuff

Last July, in anticipation of a County Commissioners' meeting about lifting aspects of the development moratorium on Eldorado subdivisions, a letter was sent from Galisteo to each County Commissioner (with special hopes for some response

"We are very worried about the unknown extent of impairment of the Galisteo Creek aquifer and the water being taken from the arroyos that feed the Galisteo Basin, especially from the Lamy wells - all to facilitate more commercial

development in the subdivisions to the North." It's time we learned some lessons from western history and applied them locally."

The Eldorado Moratorium on development was mandated in 1996 when the Lamy Well almost dried up. (Development did not screech to a stop. Over 400 lots were already approved, most now included in the 2900 residences serviced by EDU—Eldorado Utilities.) At the time, residents of Galisteo, working with the Western Environmental Law Center and later joined by the State Engineer's Office, were already involved in a lawsuit against EDU and AMREP (the Oklahoma-based corporation that developed Eldorado) over the illegal alteration of the Lamy Megawell in the Galisteo Basin, south/downhill from Eldorado.

The suit was won in all available courts, but AMREP simply returned to the original, less effective Lamy Well; it continues to pump away, relying on seasonal recharge from the Galisteo Creek and therefore affecting not only Lamy's and Galisteo's water, but that of Cerrillos as well.

At the July 24th meeting and public hearing, Eldorado residents were largely opposed to amending the moratorium. We expressed our concerns and were joined by eloquent speakers from Cerrillos (none from Lamy). Galisteo was never addressed by any commissioners, though Sullivan mentioned our letter obliquely, saying he was not influenced by numbers.

The County requires proof of a 100-year water supply for further development. BCC Chairman Duran asked if anyone had proved this. Only one or two houses had. The EDU has not. Duran complained of "the time and energy spent to squeeze blood out of this turnip," but in the end, he and all the other commissioners except for Paul Campos voted to approve the second of the three amendments to the moratorium, which allowed permits if water rights were transferred to utilities.

This despite a passionate plea from the 285 Coalition's Joellen Schoelmoller for patience. Wait, she said, for completion of the County's plan, the Simpson Ranch plan (which takes in all the Eldorado area subdivisions), and the 285 Coalition plan, so that all three could be put together. Richard Crombie from Cerrillos also asked for time: "How can you tell what a 100-year supply is for such a fast-growing County? It's a dangerous game. Wait until we have enough knowledge."

On a happier note, the first amendment (which really would have broken the moratorium) was unanimously rejected by the commissioners, and the third, which makes allowances for conservation/recycling, was unanimously approved.

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In fact, no one can do much of anything until City, County and State decide on a jointly feasible water policy.

Santa Fe City and County recently asked the federal government to give them permanent rights to imported river water from the San Juan/Chama Project, which has carried water through a tunnel system from southern Colorado into New Mexico since the early 1970s. Currently these rights expire in 2016. City and County hope to build a diversion system that would allow their annual share of 5,605 acre-feet to be taken directly from the Rio Grande. So far, only a fraction is used to offset the effects of pumping from the Buckman Well Field. An acre-foot — 325,851 gallons — is assumed to provide enough water for three average families per year.

Until the diversion is operable, the "100-year-supply" is pie in the sky, or under the ground. A perpetual contract is doubtful. Forty years may be the best we can hope for, since the feds will want to reserve the right to charge higher fees or change the amount of water. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — now preparing a study on the environmental impact of change in existing contracts — must also consider the effects on endangered species and on Native American water rights.

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One of the most controversial statewide issues is to what extent development should or will replace agriculture, especially traditional small farming and ranching. Galisteo has not had a communal acequia system since the 1870s and there is nothing left of the agricultural economy that once supported the village. For better or worse, we are in the next stage — hopefully controlled and sustainable growth. A crucial factor will be the potential restrictions on digging (and metering) private wells.

For now, a new Galisteo subdivision has just been given the go-ahead. Haciendas Tranquilas, 293.59 acres just north of Goose Downs, dormant for years despite a series of hopeful real estate signs, is now active. At the end of 2001, Dallas resident Victor Balles, who has a second home in Galisteo, was approved by the County to develop five lots of 50+ acres. In five years the subdivision is eligible for lot-splitting either as family transfers or as an "upgraded subdivision" of 6-24 lots, though the latter is a much more difficult process. As part of the former McKee Ranch holdings, the land has substantiated water rights. Each lot will have .57 of an acre-foot, and some rights are left over.

Water policies that will drastically affect the future of our place are being decided daily by our public institutions and elected officials. EL PUENTE will continue to report on events directly or indirectly affecting the community, including elections. For instance Eldorado Utilities may be sold to the Illinois-based Utilities Inc. And Galisteo Michael D. Anaya will be running for County Commissioner in the upcoming, newly redistricted elections. Stay tuned for his views on the issues.



Patricia Heller, leader of the exuberant carol-singing at December's Community Holiday Brunch, leads the way with John Vanderschuit and Onesimo Montoya on guitar. (Not visible: musicians Austin Allen and Melanie Monsour on keyboards.) Photo: Richard Shuff.

PEDACITOS: BITS AND PIECES

The **Bridge Series** of culture and entertainment offerings at the Community Center, produced by **Marghreta and Melanie**, got the go-ahead from the GCA Board at the December 13th meeting. But the film series proposed by **Frank and Cindy Lux** was voluntarily withdrawn after a discussion of money and program. **Richard Shuff** will continue to arrange the art shows.

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In December, **Sheldon Allen**, age 9, entered a Tolkien-inspired art contest for youth and won a prize for his dragon sculpture, *Smaug*. It was exhibited at the Chalk Farm Gallery in Santa Fe.

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In the first week of August 2001, **Greg O'Byrne** rode his bicycle 575 miles across Montana with 1300 other people, in order to raise money for AIDS vaccine research. Together they raised nearly \$3,000,000. Greg personally (with help from some Galisteños, among many others) raised \$16,000. He notes that over 430,000 Americans have died of AIDS in the last 19 years. Worldwide the figure is 18.8 million people, with over 34 million in the wings with HIV. For many, a vaccine will make the difference between life and death.

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Moises Gonzales, Rio Arriba County's dynamic young Assistant Planning Director, is running for the Democratic nomination for **State Land Commissioner**. His background is in Carnuel and San Pedro and his wife is from Santa Clara Pueblo. His platform is based on a belief that "local communities should play a major role in planning state lands." The State Land Office administers some 9 million acres of State Trust Lands, some of which are in the Galisteo Basin — notably the Pueblo Blanco ruin south of Cerro Pelon, acreage near the new Santa Fe County Open Space south of County Road 42, and parcels within the former Thornton Ranch.

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Tom Morin's and Isabella Gonzales' house was recently pictured in the Santa Fe Real Estate Guide as a prime example of Beverley Spears' much admired architecture practice. Spears also designed a home on Camino Libre in Ranchitos and is the author of the 1986 book *American Adobes: Rural Houses of Northern New Mexico*. She was quoted as saying "We will not do houses larger than 5,000 square feet. It's kind of an arbitrary cutoff but very large houses use too much building material and require a lot of energy for maintenance, and they tend to be eyesores on the landscape."

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Nacha Mendez (aka Marghreta Cordero) was recently called "a Latina K.D. Lang" by New York's *Time Out* and "a reincarnated Gertrude Stein" by the *Bay Area Reporter*. In the *New Mexican*, she was quoted in an article on local astrologers' predictions for 2002, saying that "higher knowledge or higher learning will be more prominent" in the coming year.

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In a recent newspaper article about gifts that make a difference, **Marilyn ("Pete") Forbes** was cited for giving "the gifts of education and encouragement to American Indian kids for over 10 years through the Futures for Children's Friendship Program."

For those who have puzzled over the intriguing menagerie at the west edge of the village, read the feature on **John Masee** in the December issue of *The Magazine*. He described his vision of "vast plains of mad sculptures of Elephants and Giants. Of Forgotten Heroes and Imaginary Beasts. A Garden of Many Possibilities depicting the History of Sculpture from pre-Neolithic to the post-present." Masee sees his sculpture as architecture. For instance, his elephant piece offers shelter (one could live in the base), and sustenance: the base's sides come up, so a vendor could sell his wares and "procure food, clothing, and human interaction."

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Vegan chef **Al Chase** and his Galisteo-based Institute for Culinary Awakening was featured in the *New Mexican* Eldorado section. Chase promotes an organic, plant-based diet that helps people "stay grounded, have energy, stamina, and clarity."

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Elections were held on Jan. 8. Everyone stayed right where they were: Steve and Jean Moya, Chief and Assistant Chief; Charley Holloway, Captain; Brian Moya and Nick Contreras, Lieutenants; Linda Anaya, Medical Officer; John Fitch, Secretary; Bob Harte and Alison Tinsley sharing Treasurer. Bob also heads the Ways and Means Committee and Alan Langer is our Fire Investigator, filling that slot for part of Santa Fe County as well.

Mike Datoli hand-delivered the \$1,996 from the GVFR raffle to Ladder Co. # 20 on Lafayette Street in downtown Manhattan. They were flabbergasted and very grateful that such a tiny town was donating this sum to them. Thanks to everyone who attended the dedication and donated/contributed to the raffle.

Don't forget to contact your homeowner insurance about the updating of our Insurance Services Office (ISO) improved rating to Class 6 in the village and Class 8B in Ranchitos. It should bring your rates down.

This is a very dry winter. The GVFR was called to a brush fire in December. So be careful, and be safe.

DEATHS

We were sorry to hear of the death of Ethel L. Moya, Fire Chief Steve Moya's mother, on Dec. 30th, after a long illness. She is survived by Daniel Moya, her husband of 65 years, and five children, as well as 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Moya graduated from the Loretto Academy and worked for a while as an usherette at the Paris Theater (now the Lensic). She also worked for the State. Then she and her husband owned and operated Danny's Cleaners in Santa Fe for almost 30 years. In their retirement, dancing was a passion.

Ethel Moya was buried at the Rosario Cemetery after a rosary at Our Lady of Guadalupe and mass at St. John the Baptist Church. Steve, Brian, and Craig Moya were among the pallbearers. Our condolences, especially to the Galisteo branch of her family, which has had a hard year.

Our sympathy also goes out to Marghreta Cordero and Ken Kuhne, both of whom also lost parents in the last month.

BULLETIN!!!

**FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOR THE
COMMUNITY, SUNDAY JANUARY 27
9:00 AM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.
GCA'S TREAT.**

THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING GREAT

by Ron Helman

As you know, this is the time of the year when everyone is promoting various new diets and exercise plans, not to mention trendy equipment. If it's any help, I can tell you that there hasn't been anything NEW in decades.

Good health is a combination of several components put into practice. It has been my experience that change of *the mind* is the central issue. Many people have bottomed out when this occurs, but it does not have to go that way. People with good intentions regularly set themselves up for failure. I'm told that 85% never achieve their goals in fitness. Added to that, 65% of Americans are overweight. Trying the same approach will fail again.

A thorough evaluation of your values may place your health at the top of the heap. I suggest that you sit down quietly with a piece of paper or a journal and see what comes up when you start to write. It may surprise you. To paraphrase Nelson Mandela, "Man is not afraid of failure, but of the possibility of being great."

P.S. Please note that the 2002 Directory has the address and box number wrong for me and Pamela Markoya: it should be 5614B State Highway 41.

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR THIS MONTH:
JOHN YOUNG**

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Put in Box 77 (South on Rte. 41 at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by **Feb. 10** for next issue. Please advise for reprinting.

FOR RENT/SALE

Mobile Home for rent in Galisteo village, with great view: 2 BR, 1 Bath, utilities paid. \$700 per mo. Call 505-832-9870.

Home and studio for rent, now-March, furnished, 2 BR, 1.5 B, walled garden, hilltop view. Dates flexible, price reduced w'out studio; Utilities/phone not incl. \$2,000 mo. 466-3903.

Flowering house plants, culinary herbs in beautiful pots. Reasonably priced. Janice Griscom, 466-3996.

SERVICES

Galisteo Woodworks: for your custom woodworking needs. Furniture and furniture repair. Antonio Chavez, 466-3601.

Galisteo Caretaking Services: For the Chores You Ignore! short notice, small jobs, housesit, have truck. Richard, 466-7723.

Electrical Concepts: Residential/Commercial/Industrial. Hansi Mohn and Michael Anaya, 988-8853.

Native Bloom, Landscape design/maintenance. Linda, 466-4658.

Home and Garden Services, Marghreta, 466-6696.

Gypsy Doodle, call Beth for **housesitting and petcare** in Galisteo. 660-6012.

Computer trouble-shooting and upgrades, software installation, tutoring. Database specialist with 19 years experience. PCs only. \$35/ hr. Johnny, 466-0392.

Restore your old photo: We copy, repair, and reprint your favorite damaged or fading photos. Richard/Cara 466-7723.

Private exercise and Yoga Training with Ron Helman. 34 yrs. experience. All levels and conditions welcome. 466-1919.

Linda Vista Stables: Beginner western riding for children and adults; 1-2 hr. trail rides; short-term boarding. 466-8930.

Carpentry: Closets, hand-carved dining room tables, patio benches, custom gates, doors, etc. 35 years experience, local references. Onesimo Montoya, 466-1430.

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home; also limited boarding. Twenty years experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

Gold and silver jewelry with stones. in Galisteo village, Silvio Mazzaresse. Call 490-2062 for directions.

Imagine your precious photos set to beautiful music, artistically presented on a CD. Participate in the process, pass on to your loved ones. To review a CD, call Johnny at 466-0392.

Galisteo Dream Group: presented by Ann Yeomans, M.A. Join us for a weekly Jungian/ archetypal approach to dream work, beginning Tues. Nov. 20 from 6-8 PM, Call 466-6070.

Editing/Writing Services by local college English instructor, freelance editor, author: Katherine Minott, M.A., 466-6668.

Healing Crosses of Galisteo by Maria, 466-8930.

Nizhoni School: High School, grades 9-12, **College of Divinity, Academy of the Media.** Some classes will be open to the public. Information: 466-4336 or 466-1975.

Stonemasonry: patios and walls, Paul Kozak, 466-3894.

Acupuncture, herbal medicine, feng shui, nutritional counseling, massage. Connie Fisher, Doctor of Oriental Medicine, 470-9314.

Athan Merrick (15 yrs old): occasional **babysitting** weekends and some evenings; 466-9040.

Car and Truck Detailing: Will clean and vacuum the inside of your vehicle and do the windows. Call Miguel Padilla, 466-8930.

Passive Solar Builders: Locally owned general contractor since 1980. Quality home construction, renovations: Charlie, 466-2118.

One of a kind sterling silver jewelry, made by ancient lost wax process, and decorative art in wood and tin. Barbara and Joe Cooper, El Estudio, #18 the Hill. Call 466-3827 or 466-0133.

Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving: scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, coats, handwoven of luxurious chenille. 466- 2118.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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