

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #71

EL PUENTE BEGINS ITS 8<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!

JANUARY 2004

## THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!

Did you ever want to be a big fish in a small pond? Did you ever wonder just what makes our community tick? Did you ever hope you'd have the opportunity to effect real change? Well, this must be your lucky year.

It's almost election time and we're not just referring to the upcoming Democratic caucus. The Galisteo Community Association will hold its annual election on Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup>. Put it on your calendar. This is your big opportunity to give back, to pitch in, to step up, to lend a hand, to take part. Your community NEEDS YOU!

So, don't be shy. Don't wait for your friend to nominate you. If you think you'd like to aid your community by taking your turn on the Community Association Board, please call one of the current board members and get your name and desired position on the ballot. We hope to hear from you and see you all on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 7PM, at the Community Center

--Barbara Holloway, Vice President, 466-2118.

Barbara Cooper, Secretary, 466-3827

Barbara Seiler, outgoing Treasurer, 466-4767.

(You CAN be on this board even if your name is not Barbara!)

Cindy Lux, outgoing Board Member, 466-2121.

Richard Shuff, outgoing Board Member, 477-7723.

Mela Montoya, Board Member, 466-1430.

Ted Fleming, Board Member, 466-2367.

Tom Morin, Board Member, 466-2218.

## BEWARE AND BE WARY OF ROUTE 41

What's next on State Road 41?

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Barbara King watched in horror as an old white station wagon, going north through the center of town at some 65 mph -- way over the speed limit -- swerved deliberately to hit two dogs crossing the road. Hulabelle and Gila, sisters belonging to Priscilla Hoback and her daughter Denise McKibben, were both badly injured. One dog had broken ribs, a collapsed lung and an injured hind leg. The other had spinal and leg injuries.

"Murt at Eldorado Animal Clinic labored for hours to save Hulabelle," said Priscilla. "I know they don't belong by the highway. They got out and it was accidental that they were there. It's my opinion that the speed limit in the center of town must be addressed. When I first moved to Galisteo it used to (*cont. right*)

## LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I have resigned as president of the Galisteo Community Association as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. I have informed all board members of this decision. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the community through the Community Association for the past 17 years. I wish the current and future boards much success in maintaining the level of interest and commitment that has existed for many years within the organization. -- Joette Trofimuk

\*\*\*\*\* 17 YEARS! THANK YOU, JOETTE! \*\*\*\*\*

be a half hour between vehicles. Traffic is getting heavier and heavier. Having a policeman come out once a month and write speeding tickets -- primarily to locals, which this person was not -- is not effective. What's necessary is either a traffic light, or, preferably, a five-way stop sign (either side of church, Route 41, and Via La Puente). This accident could have been avoided."

Then, on Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>, came the great Mailbox Massacre. That morning, a trailer detached from a truck going south on Rte. 41, crashing into the mailboxes and stop sign at Avenida Vieja. Several boxes bit the dust and the impact flattened metal. The stop sign was broken off its metal post. It was extremely lucky no-one was getting their mail or walking by when this happened. At least the driver left his phone number and has promised to reimburse the owners.



The Great Mailbox Massacre (photo: Richard Shuff)



## GOOD NEWS ON THORNTON RANCH

The cluster development and open space project planned for County Road 42 has been drastically altered for the better, and Galisteo's input was an important factor in the change.

Ted Harrison, formerly of the Trust for Public Land and now heading up the newly formed Commonweal Conservancy, which will specialize in conservation development, has now contracted with the Thornton family to deal with the entire Thornton Ranch (except for around 500 acres being kept by the family). As a result, the clustered 298 housing units originally planned for the ranch's "west pasture" (south side of County road 42) have been reduced to no more than six homes on 4 acres each, set back about a half a mile from the road in a little valley, invisible from the road.

With no other development on that 1000 acres, the problem of increased traffic in Galisteo is solved. Everything else will be open space under a conservation easement, except for one large, single-residence lot (sold before this deal) just across the railroad tracks.

Commonweal is working with COLTPAC (the County open space committee) to work on access to and management of the rock art on "Petroglyph Hill" in the previously acquired County open space, as well as public trails throughout the area.

All the Thornton Ranch's development rights (for some 600 units) are being concentrated in the northeast corner, off 285, over six miles from Galisteo. The site is once again situated in a natural bowl that is invisible from the highway, and vice versa. A year ago this seemed an impossibility. "It feels like a much better path," said Harrison. "The Galisteo community gathering in November of 2002 clarified Galisteo's concerns and directly influenced my decision-making on how and where development might best be pursued."

Commonweal is working with adjoining owners in the central Galisteo Basin, including the state, and with Rancho Viejo to the north, to maximize conservation strategies for 10,000 acres that will reduce overall impact to between 50% and 35% of the development density potential. The vision is for a 25,000-acre protection area. They hope to bring in investors and to form a local builders' co-op rather than working with a conventional developer.

Commonweal's development is planned for 100 acre feet of water, taken from around 1300 feet depths. "This assumes a very efficient approach to water use," says Harrison. (The County recommends .15 - .20 acre-feet per family.) The water rights come from the Thornton Ranch and a transfer from the Philip McKee estate.

The time line: Commonweal hopes to get all the water rights under contract in five years. They will acquire the property in phases, shooting for development approval in early 2007. Hydrological work begins in February and land analysis on drainage and the conceptual planning will proceed apace. In the late spring or early summer Commonweal hopes to have another series of local community meetings.

## UPDATE ON LAND USE COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee for the Galisteo Community Land Use Plan met on Dec. 9, 2003 with UNM Professor David Henkel. The subject was further collaboration with his planning students in the Spring semester of 2004. They are particularly helpful in gathering and organizing data and will save the steering committee a great deal of time and effort. Four or five students will be available on a "very part-time basis" over a 13-14 week period from late January to early May.

Henkel's course will require the students to analyze the Galisteo Community Survey (see EL PUENTE #66) and to work with data and maps on such subjects as demographics, water, soil and climate. After discussion, the Steering Committee agreed that water was the primary concern, followed by traffic. The students can research water rights in the Galisteo area at the State Engineer's Office; they can research the number of wells currently operative in Galisteo, as well as the number of wells that can potentially be drilled here; they can also track down relevant hydrology reports, collect information on traffic from State and County sources, and make it all available to us.

Henkel, like County planner Jack Kolkmeier, favors the regional approach to planning. Students can also gather information from our neighbors outside the area (ranches, villages), facilitating predictions about the future impact on Galisteo of outside developments.

On the question of stabilizing Galisteo's official boundaries, he recommended that we talk to the owners/managers of our neighboring ranches to see if they want to be included in the Galisteo planning area. If not, how would they relate to the Community Plan, if at all? They might, for instance, participate on a consulting basis. It is important that everyone be involved to the extent that they are able.

In addition, Dr. Henkel recommended that we continue conversations with the County to ascertain what is most critical to their planners; where we should start; what data they already have on existing land use and proposed development, and how we can use their GIS (Geographic Information System) and other maps.

The Steering Committee is considering subcommittees to deal with: water, traffic, village boundaries, historical and archaeological issues, development within Galisteo, outside development and other local Community Plans (especially the 285 Corridor), community outreach and education, land use, natural systems, and open space/trails.

On December 11, a follow-up conversation with Beth Mills from the County provided further details. She can provide some GIS maps in hard copy. She suggested that the students could do field observation studies on traffic; they can survey the number of times Galisteños go to Santa Fe and elsewhere, the number of commuters living south of Galisteo who pass through the village twice a day, and so forth. She thought that the Historical Background section would be another good place to start.

*(Synopsis from two reports by Richard Griscom)*

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Jan Saunders

Birding the routes 41/285 corridor to Santa Fe is a regular weekday opportunity for those of us who live here and work there. As your car flushes out many "little gray birds" from the grass along the shoulders, you can drive slowly enough to get a good look at many different species including Bluebirds, Sage Sparrows, Horned Larks and Meadowlarks. But I must admit to almost running off the road more than once while craning my neck to identify some "really big bird" high in the sky over the highway. There seems to be a fair amount of large bird traffic flying across both roads in the general direction from Pecos/Las Vegas to Rio Grande/Cochiti. More than once I have observed Great Blue Herons, Ospreys, and Golden Eagles winging along at a hasty clip.

Closer to the horizon (and a bit easier on the neck) over the grasslands along both sides of the highway around the Saddleback Ranch is a great location for spotting Red-tailed Hawks and Northern Harriers. Both are "raptors," or birds that use their talons to catch their prey. Since the Red-tailed is New Mexico's "default hawk," most large, broad-winged, short-tailed hawks you see will be this handsome bird. The Northern Harrier has long wings and tail and sports a conspicuous white butt patch as he rocks slowly back and forth flying low over the grasslands in search of food. Both are here year round.

During the summer months, pairs of American Kestrels sit hunched over the telephone lines searching the grass below for lizards, insects, small mammals and birds. Where there is no conveniently placed wire for perch hunting, this smallest of falcons will hover or "kite" over prey before dropping out of the sky to make a kill. I always see at least one kestrel as I drive past Linda Vista Stables and another two or three near the railroad tracks at the junction of 41 and 285.

No article on "Road Birds" would be complete without mentioning that favorite symbol of the Southwest, the Greater Roadrunner. What a gutsy, tough, and classically comical bird is this member of the cuckoo family! I count myself lucky at each and every sighting.

At dusk, when you're driving by Vista Clara Spa and Linda Vista, check out the tops of the telephone poles for the spooky silhouette of a Great Horned Owl, also known as "The Tiger of the Skies." Nesting in the cottonwoods along our Bosque, the largest of New Mexico's owls comes out in the evening to perch high on the top of a telephone pole before taking to the night skies. Owls hunt silently on down-like wings, preying upon unsuspecting mammals -- including house cats. What a treat it is for us large mammals to see this impressive hunter silhouetted against the eastern sky reflecting a Galisteo sunset.

KEEP IN MIND that our elegant Community Center is for rent: free to events that are open to the whole community; \$50 for residents of Galisteo for private events. Call Mela, 466-1430.

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

David van Dyk won second place for poetry in the *Santa Fe Reporter's* writing contest last month. His poem was so short we can reprint it here:

*running through the dark confines  
of the labyrinth  
to find you  
i noticed the beggar had used  
your cashmere scarf  
to line his hat*

The \$12 lunch at the **Galisteo Inn** received an enthusiastic review in *Crossroads Weekly* in November, as a postscript to visiting the **Allan Houser Sculpture Garden** on Haozous Road north of County Rd. 42. If you've never been to this neighborhood art treasure, it's open for guided tours by appointment (471-1528). Some 85 of the famous Apache sculptor's works are on view over acres of trails. There is also a gift shop/gallery.

**Morgan Gafford** was interviewed for the "Speak Out" column in the Eldorado section of the *New Mexican* on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>. Asked whether he would be doing a lot of shopping on the Internet over the holidays, he replied, "No, I don't shop."

**Pamela Markoya** and **one of Evelyn Gregory's beagles** got their pictures in the paper (separately) in late fall.

Bart Durham, rare books dealer, died on December 18<sup>th</sup>. He was the father of **Rocky** and **Daisy Durham**, and ex-husband of **Linda Durham**, whom he met in a coffee shop in Greenwich Village in the early 1960s.

The newly repaired **old bridge** is finally up to scratch. This time a great job was done, complete with shiny railings and solid timbers. Now let's hope there are no 100-year floods (one wiped out the old steel truss bridge early in the century).

If Governor Richardson's plan for a **commuter rail line** between Albuquerque and Santa Fe ever happens, there may be a station at Eldorado, and there might even be one "as far south as Galisteo" if the old (now trackless) New Mexico Central bed were used.

A few months ago, the New Mexico Legislature appropriated money to complete the **widening of US 285 to four lanes** between Lamy and Clines Corners. First an environmental impact study has to be made. Actual construction (some \$20 million worth) will probably be started within the next six years.

After four years in Congress, **federal legislation to protect the Pueblo and Spanish colonial ruins and petroglyph sites of the Galisteo Basin** (and environs), is one step closer to passage, as of November. The Senate and House have now both passed versions of the bill sponsored by Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall. 24 sites and 4,591 acres will be potentially protected. More could be added as research continues.

In the Senate version, the government can only acquire land owned by the state or with the consent of the private owner. The House is insisting on stronger language that allows private landowners to *remove* their land from protection upon written request. Many sites are on private land; many have already been damaged and destroyed.



## ACTION STRATEGY FOR GALISTEO WATERSHED

Richard Griscom

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Galisteo Watershed Restoration Project held its monthly meeting at the Galisteo Fire Station. The purpose of the meeting was to make the initial presentation of the draft Watershed Restoration Action Strategy and to solicit feedback on it. The broad themes are: 1) **Flooding**; 2) **Russian Olive/Tamarisk mangement**; 3) **Soil erosion**; 4) **Piñon die-off**; 5) **Open space and urban growth**; 6) **Wildfire**; 7) **Grassland health**; 8) **Water availability**.

The Action Strategy will be refined in the coming months to reflect feedback from the residents of the watershed. Then it will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners with the request that the BCC support it by resolution. It will serve as a guideline for future restoration projects in the watershed, and perhaps as a model for other areas.

An association of the residents of the Galisteo watershed is in the planning stage. The purpose of the organization, once formed, will be to promote the health of the watershed through projects consistent with the Action Strategy. It will also promote watershed health through advocacy with local and state governing bodies.

*Next meeting of the Watershed Association is Feb.4 (at a member's home; call Tracey at 982-9806 for directions).*

**NOTICES:**The handsome new Galisteo Directory, courtesy of the GVFR, is out; everyone got 2 copies, but if you didn't get one, or need more, come by the Fire Station any Tuesday night and pick 'em up.

If you are a part-time resident or do not have a mailbox in Galisteo and somehow have managed to see a newsletter, we are happy to send it to you elsewhere if you provide ten stamped, self-addressed envelopes. Call 466-1276 or leave in EL PUENTE mailbox.

## EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH: Bobbie Foshay-Miller & Chuck Miller

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

**ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY.** Contact: Box 77 (Rte. 41 at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by **February 10** for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE OR TAKE OUT ADS.

#### WANTED

**Old adobe bricks:** Got any lying around outside? I want to buy a few. Call Harmony, leave message, 466-3932.

#### FOR RENT

**New house, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, walled yard, dogs ok:** \$1100 per mo. + utilities; furnished. Priscilla, 466-2255.

**Fully furnished house and/or guest apartment,** 3 months, flexible dates between January and April '04. Call 466-6003.

### FOR SALE

**First annual Galisteo Chili Challenge t-shirts** – red and green, M, L, XL. Call Tom Morin, 466-2218.

### SERVICES

**Reliable Handyman,** Call Kevin, 466-3559.

**Artists' and Writers' Dreamgroup** with archetypal therapist Ann Yeomans, alternate Tuesdays, 6-8PM. Please call 466-6070. Call **Beth** for **housesitting/ petcare/vet runs/odd jobs/studio assistance/party help/you name it...** in Galisteo, 470-7606.

**Galisteo Caretaking Services:** For the Chores You Ignore! short notice, small jobs, housesit, have truck. Richard, 466-7723. **Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection.** Call 466-0530 or 470-5973.

**Dave's Auto Repair:** tune-ups, oil change, minor repairs, auto restoring, painting, local refs. free estimates. David Montoya, 466-2097.

**S. B. Lejo/ Sina Brush** is taking special orders for original antique Mexican furniture. Call 577-4045.

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

I will take **care of your pets.** I can also **watch children** when needed. (I am thirteen years old.) Simone Montoya, at 466-1518 **Nizhoni School: High School,** grades 9-12, **College of Divinity, Academy of the Media.** Some classes open to public. Info: 466-4336 or 466-1975.

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

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

**Restore your old photo:** We copy, repair, and reprint your favorite damaged or fading photos. Richard/Cara 820-3616.

**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:** Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors, 35 yrs. experience, local refs. Onesimo, 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.

**Acupuncture, herbal medicine, feng shui, nutritional counseling, massage.** Dr. Connie Fisher, 470-9314.

Ben Merrick (16 yrs old):occasional **babysitting** weekends and some evenings; 466-9040.

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

**One of a kind sterling silver jewelry/ decorative art, wood/tin.** Barbara & Joe Cooper, El Estudio, 466-0133.

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

### +++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

**Editor:** Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributing Editors:** Barbara Cooper, Isabella Gonzales, Jan Saunders. **Production:** Insty-Prints, Santa Fe. **Photographer:** Richard Shuff. **EL PUENTE logo** by Cara Lee. **Please send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: FEB. 10th.**