

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #83

MARCH 2005

## ELECTIONS HELD AT GCA ANNUAL MEETING

Well over a quorum of Galisteo residents attended the annual GCA meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. It turned out to be a rapid (under an hour!) and good-humored gathering, efficiently run by President Tom Morin.

Retiring Board members Barbara Cooper, Mela Montoya and Barbara Holloway were applauded for their (combined ) 40 years of service.

New Vice President Kathleen Murphy and Secretary Linda Braun (in absentia) were elected by acclaim — our euphemism for unopposed. Standing Board Members Anna Cárdenas, Ted Fleming, and Richard Shuff were re-elected by the same means, as were new Board Members Nick Merrick, Linda Durham, and Alternate Beth Foote, the last two for one-year terms. Morin had printed up natty little ballot booklets, a first and probably a last, since they were never used, thanks to the acclamation process.

President Morin began the meeting with a run-down of what the Board had accomplished this year. Good collaboration with the County on several issues was a persistent theme, including the speeding problem, the Quit-Claim concerns (which are not over yet), and working with the Water Board on a new community well for back-up. Our Commissioner Mike Anaya has been a great help.

Morin also announced that the County will be ready in the fall to begin work with us on the Traditional Community Land Use Plan, so that committee will spring back into action and there will be plenty to do for anyone interested in participating.

Treasurer Frank Hirsch began his report with "Send Money." The annual or sometimes bi-annual fund raiser is under way and there is a shortfall of some \$3500 (so dig into your pockets). The GCA's annual budget is \$5900, spent on building and playground maintenance and insurance – which alone costs over \$3000. New lighting for the Community Center was deemed (*cont. p.2*)



GVFR 2005: *Left to right:* Nick Contreras, Chief Jean Anaya, Richard Griscom, Esteban Padilla, Melissa Ortiz, Miguel Padilla, Assistant Chief Linda Anaya, Brian Moya,

Socorro Contreras, Lucy Lippard, Charlie Holloway, Janice Griscom, Steve Moya. *Not pictured:* Tana Cárdenas, Harmony Hammond, Frank Lux, Shira Schwillie, Sean Sohn.



too expensive, so two big floodlights are in place instead. The Community Center was rented for events 12 times in 2004, the same as 2003. And there were twenty-two yoga classes, now defunct. Talks were given at the Center by Linda Durham and Dan Murphy. Spring Clean Up Day and the very successful Second Annual Chili Challenge rounded out the list.

Discussion centered on the Mailbox issue. The new cluster bank of mailboxes may be a done deal. Or maybe not? A legal source has told us that the Post Office cannot force us to change. Unfortunately this news came after the meeting. Stay tuned.

The Post Office's concerns are safety, setback, and Identity Theft. (Although we have heard stories about cluster boxes also being broken into.)

If they are installed, **everyone's boxes will be behind the church**, including those for Ranchitos. And the good news is that they will actually be in order, according to our addresses! The bulletin board already in place will become far more useful as we'll all see it daily; it will be covered in glass to protect postings.

Here's how it works: If we get a package or anything that doesn't fit in our regular box, a key to a bigger box (there will be a lot of them) will be left in our box; that key will stay in the bigger box's lock and only the postman can remove it. This means we would no longer have to pick up packages at the Coronado Post Office in Santa Fe. A resident who has experienced this system vouches for its efficiency.

Vince Roybal has kindly offered to deliver the newsletter and other community flyers as long as he remains our postman, which could be as long as four more years. Hallelujah! We assume we can also keep our old mailboxes if we so choose.

The question was also raised about why we are still forced to have Lamy as an address instead of Galisteo, since there is no longer a Post Office in Lamy. The Post Office spokesperson claims the PO has nothing to do with this and can't correct it.

The only solution would be for us to **hire a postmaster in Galisteo, to work out of her or his home**. The pay is dreadful (\$500 per month) but it would only have to be open 2-3 hours a day. (Someone suggested that perhaps the GCA could add to that salary, but that doesn't seem likely, given the extent of our ongoing expenses.) **Is anyone out there interested???**

The speeding problem is still under consideration. Susan Long remarked on a smallish LED sign on Siringo that shows your speed and acts as a deterrent; maybe we could get one of these at each end of the village? (Your editor, whose view is already enhanced by seven signs at the south end of the village, hopes for no more additions at that spot.)

**\*The Post Office warns us that we can no longer use our old HC 75 addresses. Period. The mail will be sorted in Albuquerque and anything with the old address will simply not be delivered.**

If the cluster box plan goes through, EL PUENTE's big box will be moved to the editor's driveway (14 Avenida Vieja) so notices and articles can still be delivered.



## RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS

Jan Saunders

Galisteo is bubbling with the liquid, melodious, gurgling song of our huge flock of very vocal, glossy Red-winged Blackbirds. The fact that they gather in huge flocks during the winter and prior to the breeding season is obvious to all who live in our village.

It's a sure sign of spring when you begin to hear the "konka-reee" call of the polygamous males in their efforts to stake out their claims to both females and territory. As the males gurgle out their territorial call, they flash their brilliant scarlet and yellow shoulder patches, or epaulets.

Some birds will stay here year round, while others migrate north into Canada and even Alaska for breeding. Some ornithologists believe that this species may be the most numerous in North America. With a range covering all of the U.S. and large areas in Canada and Mexico, it is certainly one of the most widespread. You can be certain of finding these birds in almost any marshy, bushy wetland within their range.

Hint: When you see or hear a flock of Red-Winged Blackbirds, check it out for the distinctive Yellow-headed Blackbird. Its bright yellow head and breast make a startling contrast when mixed with the red wings of its cousins.

\*

An eye-witness report from a birding friend tells me that the cranes and snow geese just left the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge for their summer feeding and nesting grounds. Apparently it was a thrilling sight to see them all rise, circle many times, and finally make the critical decision to heed the call to leave New Mexico and head north.

\*

February was FEED THE BIRDS MONTH. If you missed it, you can celebrate in March. Soon the hungry spring migrants will be coming through on their way north. The buzzards will return by the end of March, and. Hummingbirds are due in April.

Wishing you a joyous spring full of wildflowers!

## PRONGHORNS AMONG US

We're seeing a lot of pronghorns in the area, vying with other livestock for emerging grasses encouraged by wet weather. Their name comes from the prong on the side of the male's hooked black horns. Although pronghorns are always called "antelope," they are in fact a unique species – *Antilocapra Americana*. According to Douglas Carter (in the *Wildlife Center News*, Fall 2004), they evolved independently in North America and are actually more closely related to goats. Two of the five species are considered endangered.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were an estimated 30-60 million pronghorns in North America. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, they had nearly disappeared, thanks to habitat loss and unregulated hunting. Biologists and sportsmen intervened just in time and by 1980 there were some 670,000. In the mid-1980s they began to decline again, "mostly due to the fragmentation of their landscape, and more recently, the drive to drill for natural gas in the West." (cont. p.3)

The pronghorn is the fastest animal in North America and can reach speeds of 60mph, "second on the globe only to the cheetah," and with greater staying power. Their coats are natural camouflage and their vision is as strong as ours would be through eight-power binoculars. Their eyes are set high and back, which allows them to see almost 360 degrees. They can spot predators from any angle up to four or five miles away and have keen hearing and sense of smell.

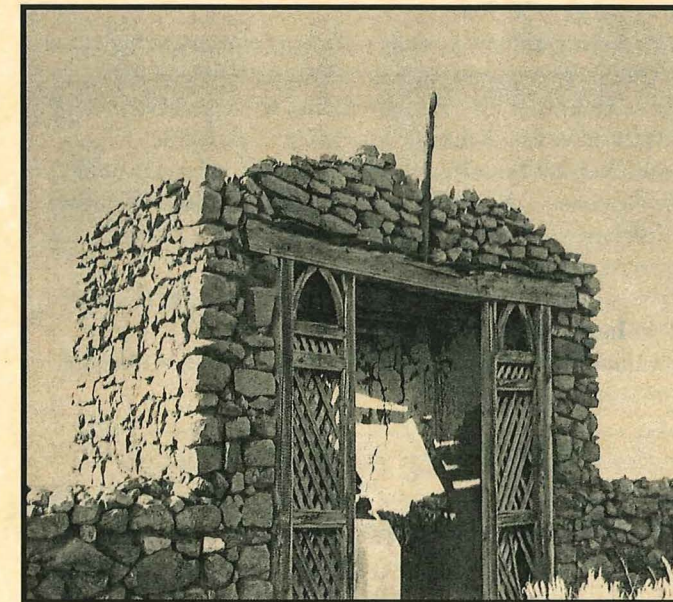
There are few natural predators who can run as fast, though pronghorn young are at risk from coyotes, bobcats, and golden eagles. Pronghorns signal danger to the rest of the herd by flaring and raising their white rump hairs. A chain reaction warns all others in the area. Sadly, however, for all their skills, pronghorns have not been able to adapt to fences.

And when the mothers are foraging, they leave the fawn in high grass. If you see one, do not disturb it. (The same goes for baby mule deer or elk). But if the fawn is wandering around calling out, you've probably found an orphan. Contact the Wildlife Center (505-753-9505) or NM Game and Fish about what to do.

## GALISTEO'S CAMPOS SANTOS

Galisteo's "old cemetery" (the oratorio below) probably dates back to the formal founding of the village (1814-16 with additional grants in the 1820s and 1840s). The oldest (legibly dated) gravestone that survives is from 1876, but many of the stones are undated or illegible. Older wooden crosses will have gone back to the earth (or, sadly, been sold in antique stores).

The "new cemetery" on the north side of CR 42 dates to 1912, when the old one was closed. The handsome new gates shown below were designed by José Ortiz y Pino, who also oversaw construction under the aegis of the church's Cemetery Committee, with Maria Ortiz y Pino and Deacon Tom. The old gates will be auctioned off as a benefit for the Church.



Oratorio, Galisteo, c. 1929 (Photo: H. Sage Goodwin. Courtesy Museum of New Mexico, neg. no. 119-565)

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

**Fritz Scholder**, noted Native American artist and once Galisteño, friend and former husband of **Romona Scholder**, died in February in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 67.

\*

**Harmony Hammond's** solo exhibition at the newly remodeled Center for Contemporary Art on Old Pecos Trail opens April 9<sup>th</sup>. This is an all-Galisteo enterprise: the catalogue is by Context Design (**Tom Morin**) and the text is by **Lucy R. Lippard**.

\*

It turns out that the **mail theft** mentioned in the last issue was not perpetrated at the box, but in the Albuquerque Post Office by a ring of employees systematically stealing checks, reprinting them in other names, and cashing them. **Joe at Quiksend** says theft directly from boxes does occur now and then; the thieves follow the postman and get there before the legal recipient. Eventually the bank takes responsibility, but it's a real hassle.

\*

A forthcoming book from UNM Press-- *Anarchy and Community in the New American West*, by Kathryn Hovey, traces the evolution of the **village of Madrid**, seen "as an embodiment of the postmodern West." (Tell that to the regulars at the Mine Shaft!)

\*

Another book of interest to those who look west in the Galisteo Basin is William Baxter's fascinating story of **the Ortiz Mine Grant** and other shenanigans: *The Gold of the Ortiz Mountains*, is published by Lone Butte Press (32 South Fork Extended, Santa Fe, NM 87508) and is a bargain at \$10.

\*

Coming Soon: **The Vista Grande Senior Center** will be built by next fall on County Land near the Vista Grande Public Library in Eldorado, servicing all rural areas south of US 25, including Galisteo.



New gates for the "New Cemetery." (Photo: Richard Shuff)



**News From the Galisteo Inn**  
**Make your reservations early for our**  
**EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH, March 27, 11AM-2PM.**  
**Look for exciting news about live jazz on our patio**  
**coming in April.**  
**La Mancha Bar and Grill will be**  
**closed Sunday March 20 for a private event.**

NOTICE: The box above is a paid ad, a first for EL PUENTE. The Galisteo Inn has inaugurated this in order to let the community know about events and closings for private parties. The April issue will include an advertising insert which will be open to other advertisers. We'll see how it goes. Let us know what you think.

**THE PREVIOUS EDITOR OF EL ARROYO (WHAT LIES BENEATH) HAS RETIRED. WE'D LIKE TO KEEP THE APRIL FOOL'S EDITION ALIVE. ANYONE OUT THERE FEELING FUNNY? CANTANKEROUS? OUTRAGEOUS? THIS IS THE ONE TIME A YEAR WE STOMACH THE ANONYMOUS (BUT NOT THE MEAN). SEND ENTRIES TO EL PUENTE BY APRIL 5.**

## EL PUENTE SPONSOR FREDRICA GRIES

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: Box 77 (Rte. 41 at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by **April 5th** for next issue. *PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE ADS.*

#### WANTED

**Part-time Dishwasher:** Fri. and Sat. nights, Sun. days: Eddie, Galisteo Inn, 466-3663 or stop by after Jan. 18, Wed.-Sat. 4-5PM. Couple living in Santa Fe **looking for 2-4 BR house to rent** in Galisteo. Local references. Peggy and Arthur, 471-0224.

**The Lease is up!** Couple wishing to remain in Galisteo searching for 2+ br rental/lease/purchase/house sit. Call David 550-5501 or 466-8686.

#### FOR SALE

**Anatolians: Turkish livestock guardian dogs.** Born & raised with sheep, goats, horses, poultry. \$1000 + up, depending on level of livestock training. Buy the best to guard your valuable animals! Tim, 982-7782 or 577-6162; Wendy, 610-8326.

**Fresh Eggs,** \$2.50 a dozen. Kathleen Murphy, 466-2659.

**Futon couch, chest of drawers and other furniture.** Donna, 466-9296.

#### SERVICES

**For your welding needs:** call Richard Molina, 466-9696.

**Looking for a new car or used vehicle?** Our own Galisteo Native Adan Cárdenas is a new Sales Rep for Santa Fe Mazda Volvo Suzuki. Call him 471-6700 or at home at 466-8967.

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

**Tree Cutting & Trimming Service, Fence Building, Odd Jobs; E-Bay too!** Call Mark, 466-1267.

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. **For baby-sitting, petsitting and animal care,** call Mercedes, 466-7285.

**Need a permit? Computer Aided Drafting Support:** for architects., Engineers, Contractors and Homeowners. 4 yrs. experience/local references. Call Adan Cárdenas, 466-8967.

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

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

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

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

**I will take care of your pets or watch children,** Simone Montoya, 466-1518

**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, 466-7723.

**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.

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

**Private Exercise Training with Ron Helman,** 35 yrs. exp. ALL levels welcome. Also **Video Services/Professional Shooting and Editing;** output to DVD; download samples and information on exercise at; 466-1919.

"First Saturday" monthly all-day **workshop at Light Institute;** lunch at Inn. 466-1975 or 466-1458.

**Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection.** Call 466-0530 or 470-5973.

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

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