

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #86

JUNE 2005

SUMMER CALENDAR

JULY 16-17: RODEO DE GALISTEO

AUGUST 13: THIRD ANNUAL GALISTEO

CHILI CHALLENGE

OCT. 15-16: GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY: Over the summer we will explore the possibility of bulk mailing for the newsletter, since not everyone picked up their May issues from their *old* mailboxes last month. (This time we will put the flags up.)

It is very important to us at EL PUENTE that everyone in the village be equally informed about local issues. That's the whole point of the newsletter. If we can't reach everyone, it's not worth the time, energy, and money it takes to produce it.

MIGHTY WESTERN PLAYERS

The Mighty Western Players was a group of local men who got together in the 1980s to do theatrical vignettes or re-enactments, sometimes on horseback. They showed up for grand openings or private parties, performing at the Legal Tender, the Cerrillos Fiesta, and other public events.

This photo was shot in 1987 on the portal of the Ortiz y Davis hacienda (now Gwyn house) when John Benjamin owned it. A cousin of Benjamin's who was staying with him came sleepily out of his room one morning and found six men pointing their guns at him. Welcome to Galisteo!

From left to right, back row: Lester van Norman and Antonio Chavez; front row: Jack Caffrey, Sean Caffrey, Rudy Sena, and Park Dutton Hofer.

(Thanks to John Benjamin for the photograph and Antonio Chavez for the info; photographer unknown.)



UPDATE ON FORD RANCH

Since EL PUENTE covered the Ford Ranch a year ago, there have been a few changes. To begin with, Kathryn and Richard Cozad, the former Ranch Managers, were gone by the Fall. They were replaced on May 1st by Amy and Steve Tremper. (Their good reputation precedes them, as they have friends in the village who knew them as ranchers in Colorado.) While the Trempers are still learning the ropes, they say they "love it."

Good water is still a problem. According to the agronomist, Ron Walser, the fields have had to be watered by hand. Amy Tremper says the water is now "coming along. It's not perfect, but we'll get there." The fruit trees are doing very well; the grapevines are barely visible.

Although the vast fields we see from the village are not yet, as was promised last year, "green and beautiful," native grasses are being planted and the clover will come next year. The pond is complete and part of the recycling system. The first crop will take three years.

From a distance, said Tremper, "You have no idea how hard we've been working in the six weeks we've been here. Every rock in the field has been picked up. We've had 20 laborers at a time out here. Give us a year and people will find it something to be very proud of."

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD COUNT

Jan Saunders

At 6AM on May 14th, three intrepid Audubon volunteers sallied forth from the church parking lot to record and report to the Santa Fe County Audubon Chapter the number of bird species in the Galisteo area. We birded around the village, under *el Puente*, along the Bosque, in Ranchitos, and on the trails of Vista Clara.

In addition to the usual suspects, we spotted the following interesting species: Black-headed Grosbeak, Great-tailed Grackle, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Downy Woodpecker, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and a Black Phoebe.

Significant in their absence were Wrens, Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, and the American Kestrel. Later in the week, neighbors called to report sightings of a pair of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, a Northern Mocking Bird, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and a male Lark Bunting.

Take time to look up these last two birds. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is a stunningly beautiful bird seen here only during migration and not on last year's count. The male Lark Bunting in breeding plumage is a small black bird with white wing patches. After the breeding season is over, he returns to the usual drab, sandy tan color he shares with the female of the species.

A neighbor reported five different species of dead birds around his yard. I reported this to Audubon, but haven't yet gotten a response. Since this could be a significant indication of a wider problem, please let me know if you are also finding dead birds. (Remember to wash your feeders periodically in a weak solution of bleach.)

If you would like to join in on bird counts, please call. We welcome the help. It is a great experience. I learn at least one new bird or bird song every year.

Remember: "In the end we will conserve what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." – **Baba Dioum**, African conservationist.

SPEEDING REPORT

On Galisteo's behalf, B  b   Givaudan attended a meeting at the Department of Transportation (DOT) on May 24th with David Martinez and John McElroy. After analyzing the speed tests, the DOT proposes to change our speed limits to three zones instead of two. The current 55 mph zone would be maintained outside the village, then it would slow to 45 mph approaching the village, and 35mph within the village.

DOT will come and figure out where these zones will stop and start. Then they will go through a "speed resolution process," which is a legal procedure, at a BCC meeting, perhaps on June 16th. When the change is made they will notify Law Enforcement and everything should be effective by early July.

According to the DOT, people drive slower during rush hours because of more traffic, and faster during off-peak hours. The results on January 20th with a "random testing" method (100 vehicles picked at random checked manually with radar) were not alarming. Average speeds were below or just slightly above the limits at various times during the day.

Thanks to B  b   for this report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

On June 2nd, after a lot of hard work by the members of the GVFR, the Fire Station was white-glove clean and neat; the files were all in order; the trucks and equipment were spotless; the garden (thanks to Shira Schuille) was flourishing, and GVFR members were resplendent in their badges and uniforms, awaiting the official annual inspection.

It was an exacting, but good-natured process, in which every detail of the station and the department process was examined by Stan Holden -- the County Fire Chief, Martin Vigil -- Assistant Chief for Emergency Management (County and City), Kimmet Holland -- Assistant Chief for the Emergency Medical Division, and Buster Patty -- Fire Prevention Captain.

The hard work paid off. A few details needed improvement or alteration, but all in all we passed with flying colors and the County officials were very complimentary about Chief Jean Moya, former Chief Steve Moya, the other officers, and the department in general. Chief Holden spoke about the successful revamping of the County department, its funding, and the politics involved. He and the other officers told their own career stories. One of Charlie Holloway's dogs provided local color.

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The GVFR Open House on June 4th featured great food, helicopter, and snakes (a big hit), though too few of the attendees were from the village. Support your Fire Department!

Please Note: the GVFR's mailing address is 39 Avenida Vieja; a "regular" mailbox at the station itself is available for drop-offs.

PART II: REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF THE GALISTEO

Toby Herbst

I have identified at least five species of lizards here in the Galisteo Basin. (The subspecies identification is suggested, but not positive.) By far most common in this area is the Fence Lizard, probably a subspecies -- the Northern Plateau lizard. Our homes and walls, especially with rough stucco, stone or wood surfaces, have created the perfect habitat for these little creatures. They can be seen doing "push-ups" (an aggressive territorial display) on the walls. The Northern Plateau Lizard is about 3-7" long and its back has a complex pattern of stripes and blotches in grays, whites, and browns. The male has blotches of bright blue under sides and throats. They are insectivores, primarily eating beetles and ants.

The second most common lizards are the long, elegant Whiptails. A number of species and subspecies of these swift, long-tailed lizards converge on our area and I have not taken the time to sort out who is who. This would make an interesting project for junior herpetologists. The Whiptails range in size from 6 to 12" and are diurnal hunters of insects.

The Galisteo Basin is also an area where three species of Horned Lizards converge. These are the Texas, the Short-Horned and the Round-Tailed. Again I have not completely sorted them out, but I believe I have identified the last two. Horned Lizards (or Horned Toads, as they are more commonly called) have a unique look with their flat oval-shaped body and sharp-looking horned spikes on the head and periphery. Day hunters, primarily feeding on ants, they have a unique defense mechanism of squirting blood from a gland under their eyes. They can squirt up to three feet away.

The final lizard I have identified is the Collared Lizard, *Crotaphytus Collaris*. This is by far my favorite. He is 8-14" long, brilliant green with patterns in white, black and yellow. The males have a bright yellow head. These lizards have the ability to run on their hind legs, using their tails as a counterbalance. In this mode, they look like miniature Tyrannosaurus Rexes. Collared lizards are highly territorial and the males can be seen doing push-up displays with their rivals on prominent rocks or other landmarks marking the edges of their territories. They are often feisty and nippy when first caught. Eventually they calm down and are quite gentle. However, please leave them in the wild. Collared lizards are day-time hunters of both insects and other lizards.

By no means are these all the amphibians and reptiles living with us. I leave the rest for future herpetologists to identify and investigate. Please be considerate and respectful of these cold-blooded denizens of the Galisteo Basin.

EDITOR'S NOTE: On the heels of Toby's first article, on snakes, a rattler was sadly killed in Bill Huckaby's yard. He thinks it was a prairie rattler. It may also have been the one that bit Jean Moya's sister a few months ago. When its head was cut off, a stream of venom squirted out, hitting Basil Davis, who was helping out. (The venom is not dangerous if it doesn't enter your bloodstream.) Huckaby regrets having to kill the snake, but it was living only a few feet from his front door.

For future reference, if you find a snake in your yard or house, call Toby Herbst (466-7640). He will relocate it (with assistance from Jan and Kevan Saunders), and recently did just that when a Rattler was found at Diane and Vernon Wilson's in Ranchitos.

GCA REPORT

Linda Braun, Secretary

At the May 16th Galisteo Community Association Board meeting, Richard Griscom made a presentation on Governor Richardson's initiative to lower gasoline use and increase **commuter transportation options** between Belen, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and points in between (See *EL PUENTE*, May 2005).

Members of the board expressed concern that the new cluster mailboxes are not **handicap accessible**, which poses a problem for some Galisteo residents. President Tom Morin agreed to contact the Post Office and see what their response is. There was also talk of finding someone in the village with a small Bobcat who could level the ground around the boxes and under the wood chips, to make access easier. The Board will contact PNM to find out about any wires that might run underground before this project is begun. Both the **gate and the sign to the park** behind the mailboxes will be moved to improve visibility and access.

A request was made to put up a "No Vehicles" sign at the creek to better maintain the ecosystem there and prevent other vehicles from getting stuck in the mud. The board will look into this.

Maggie Steele will attend the Monday, June 20th GCA Board meeting to inform the board of **public monies available** for the improvement of parks, playgrounds, and public spaces as well as for senior assistance in the community. She will speak from 7-7:30 during the open forum period, and anyone interested is of course welcome to attend.

This **summary of the minutes** from each GCA meeting will be posted monthly on the bulletin board at the mailboxes for everyone to read. In addition, the complete minutes are always available to anyone who wants to see them.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

It seems we may have a **bobcat crossing** (but no Bobcat Bite) near the *creston*, or hogback, to the north of the village, where **Jan Saunders** saw a bobcat run over by a car last month. **Michael J. Anaya** and **James Mares** have seen the cats crossing the road and entering a trail in the gully on the east side

Corinne Anaya was the featured employee in First National Bank advertisements in May. When asked what she likes most about the banking business, she replied "Everything! I have always loved being a banker."

Isabella Gonzales's work was highlighted in a review in the June *Art News* and she was featured in a full-page illustrated piece in *The Santa Fean* as one of "five artists to watch."

Longtime residents **Joette and Nick Trofimuk** and **John Benjamin** have put their houses up for sale. Both are historically important. Benjamin's may be as old as the late 18th century, and could have been the 1795 military garrison. The Trofimuk's was the WPA-era Galisteo School in the late 1930s (*continued p. 4*)

and '40s. (Joette and Nick will remain in the village; they have other land here.)

Martin Horowitz's gold-leafed grenade was vandalized for the second time while installed briefly at **Linda Durham's** in Galisteo. It is now back on Paseo de Peralta in Santa Fe.

Leslie Dilworth was quoted in *The New Mexican* about the plans for the new Civic Center. She said she would have preferred to see something "that speaks more of this century."

The wrong address for the **Alzheimers Association** was quoted in **Manuel Anaya's** obituary. If you would like to send a contribution in his memory, send it to: 9500 Montgomery, suite 209, Albuquerque, NM 87111.

The painter **Deborah McNaughton**, a former Galisteña, died on May 17th of cancer. Donations in her memory may be made to the Audubon Center, or to the Santa Fe Artists Emergency Medical Fund.

A write-up of **Ron Helman's** exercise training in *The New Mexican* quoted **Deborah Madison**: "I am not a sports person. I had to drag myself kicking and screaming. But I've definitely gotten stronger. That's the most amazing thing..."

On graduation from Santa Fe Prep, **Ben Merrick** was honored as a "Scholar/Athlete" for maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and making "significant contributions to at least two school sports."

William Haskell was chosen as the poster artist for the Santa Fe Wine Festival at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, July 2-3. He is also in a group show at Manitou Galleries, 123 West Palace, Santa Fe, July 8-31.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR JOHN YOUNG

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

FREE

Doublecast iron white enamel sink w. faucet; outside dimensions, 42 x 25". Harmony, 466-3932.

Horse manure from Linda Vista Stables. Call Maria, 466-8930. From Vista Clara: **Very nice Spa bathrobes.** Community members can stop by to pick one up at the Lodge, M-F, 8:30-5. Worms to start your worm farm! Call Liz, 466-6003.

WANTED

Cell phones for the Santa Fe Centro Rotary Club. They'll be put to valuable use and kept out of the Landfill. Call Kevan Saunders, 466-6620, for info or to donate.

FOR SALE

'64 **Lincoln Continental**, with original manuals; runs, but needs your TLC. \$3,000. Call Sher Colquitt, 984-8178.

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.

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 now a Sales Rep for Santa Fe Mazda Volvo Suzuki. Call him 471-6700 or at home at 466-8967.

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, restoring, minor repairs, 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.

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 and Power Circuit Classes with Ron Helman. Call 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+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributing Editors:** Linda Braun, Isabella Gonzales, Richard Griscom, Jan Saunders. **Distribution, Production, Photographer:** Richard Shuff. **EL PUENTE logo** by Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: Sept. 5th. TO BE A SPONSOR: send \$75 to GCA, note "for newsletter."**