

ISSUE #105

MAY 2007

GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR STARTUP MEETING

Tuesday May 29th, 7PM, at the Community Center.

It's our 20th Year -- Be a part of the fun!

Questions? Call Barbara Holloway, 466-2118.

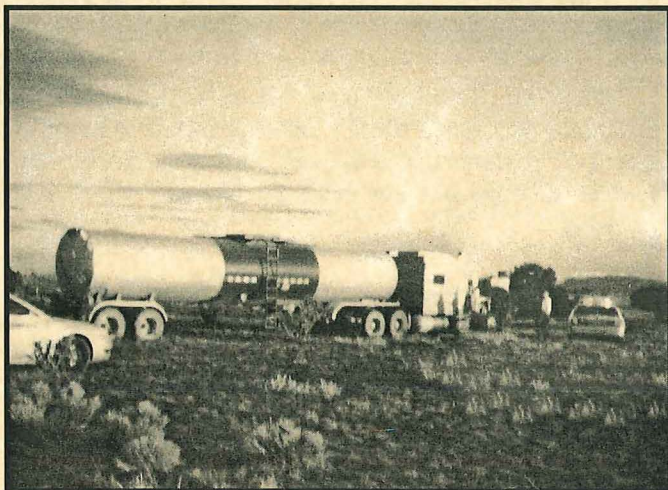
GCA BOARD ELECTIONS

The annual Galisteo Community Association elections finally took place on April 19th, though a quorum was met only through proxy votes. It was short and sweet, the following offices filled by nomination, then acclamation.

Linda Braun was re-elected Secretary. **Harmony Hammond** and **Amy Tremper** were elected to the Board and **Steve Tremper** becomes the Alternate member. They replaced outgoing board members **Maria Ortiz y Pino** and **Ted Fleming**. **Barbara King** -- the former Alternate -- became a regular member when Richard Shuff left. **Freddie Cárdenas** remains President, **Kathleen Murphy** Vice President, **Corinne Anaya** Treasurer, **Ana Cárdenas** and **Rob Civitello** board members.

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7PM at the Community Center. (The next one is May 17th.) All meetings are open. The first half hour is a Public Forum.

It was also announced that Corinne Anaya would sponsor the next **Saturday Coffee/Book Exchange**; date to be announced.



MOVIE SET APPROVED BY CDRC

On April 19th, the CDRC unanimously approved the Cerro Pelon Ranch's application for "expansion of a legal non-conforming use" at the movie set. The previous public hearing was tabled due to letters received from Galisteo residents; the CDRC recommended a community meeting. It was held on April 2nd at the Community Center. Ranch managers Amy and Steve Tremper answered questions to general satisfaction.

The prime community complaint was the blinding night lighting at the set. As a result, the ranch will institute self-policed lighting limitations. All lights will be south-facing and blocked with flags to minimize impact to the north. Mercury Vapor lamps on 24' poles will be replaced by lower Halogen lights. The very visible large tents on the crest of the northern hill will be camouflaged.

Traffic was another community concern. The applicants cited a letter from Ruben Gonzalez of the NMDOT stating that NM 41 is adequate for all transportation to the ranch. The guard house that admits incoming traffic to the ranch is set a considerable distance from the road to prevent snarls on 41. Movie traffic will occur between peak traffic times. Cerro Pelon will require that all large trucks enter the ranch from the South rather than through the village.

Freddie Cárdenas, GCA President, and other area residents spoke in favor of the applicants, remarking that the set has employed hundreds of people for commercials and videos.

CDRC approval means that the "temporary" set construction for one movie can be recycled for use by other productions rather than tearing the whole set down each time, which seems ecologically unsound. The "expansion" applies to the low-lying part of the set which is not visible from the village. The Trempers said that this was "a process," and that they would be glad to meet with the community if other issues arise.

(Thanks to County Community Planner Andrew Jandacek for information.)

Left: At dusk on May 7th, an asphalt tanker belonging to Kamrad Trucking of Amarillo, Texas went off the west side of NM 41, north of the village, broke through a fence and stayed upright until it came to a halt several hundred yards into the field.

(Photo: Lucy Lippard) (Cont.p.2)

The veteran driver was traveling behind his son-in-law in another truck when radio contact was suddenly cut off. The driver was not speeding and alcohol was not involved. The accident's cause was a medical condition. The GVFR and a sheriff were immediately on the scene and the driver was transported to the hospital.

The truck was driven smoothly out through the break in the fence. The driver is recovering. We were all very lucky.

FIRE NEWS

Do you have any idea how much time and energy is contributed by the volunteer firefighters in the County departments like our own GVFR? Read on.

Many village residents are not aware of the tremendous effort made by GVFR members so that our village remains safe in medical and fire emergencies. "It's a calling, to serve the community," says Ken Spicochi, a veteran firefighter who works with both Galisteo and Eldorado.

Each firefighter gradually receives certificates in a long list of trainings, such as swiftwater rescue, pump operations, wildland fires, vehicle extrication, sawyer (chain saw) training, high angle/low angle rescue (with ropes), truck maintenance, emergency vehicle operations, hazmat training, burning building/structure fires, pre-plan training, traffic control, safety aspects, and updating equipment on the vehicles to handle any eventuality. First Responder, Basic and Intermediate EMT (Emergency Medical Technicians) take months of studying. There are monthly business meetings that must be attended to receive PERA insurance on retirement. Volunteers attend conferences and trainings all over the state, foregoing weekend leisure time. Though the GVFR serves primarily rural villages, the members are trained just like those in big cities.

You may see the volunteers driving around the community to determine how each house would be approached in an emergency. There is continuing hydrant and hose testing. And in all areas, there is a never-ending series of new trainings and refresher courses, as well as learning new approaches and advanced equipment. For instance, the GVFR has acquired a rescue saw for ventilation on pro-panel and metal roofs; they also have a thermal camera that locates hot spots after a fire; and new gas analyzers.

Because we live in an arid land, the GVFR is now practicing fighting fires with foam, which saves water and does a better job by smothering rather than just dampening fires. They used a small portable foam unit on a recent 78-acre brush fire in Stanley, and it was very effective.

The GVFR will be in attendance for the Century Bike Race that will come through Galisteo from 9 to 4 on Saturday, May 20th. They also cover other local events such as the rodeo and the movie set.

By now you should be overwhelmed with gratitude for the GVFR's dedication. Say thank you by giving time or money to the Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue!

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

The potential sale of **La Tienda Anaya** has initiated much local discussion about the community acquiring the property. The long-desired local coffee shop and possibly affordable housing could both be accommodated by such a project. This is only in the talking stages at the moment. More next month if an actual plan materializes.

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The sign at the **Phillip Watts III Playground**, behind the mailboxes, was vandalized with spray paint recently, much to the dismay of family members, who deplored the lack of respect for the memory of a deceased community member, and hoped the perpetrators were "proud of their artwork" – now erased.

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Animal scientist **Richard Patton**, longtime Galisteo resident, was featured in the Eldorado section of *The New Mexican* in April for his research into animal digestive systems, how to keep the environment safe for animals and the ways different food elements affect animals' lives. He recommends natural diets, frozen and freeze-dried diets, or canned food with less corn and rice than are found in most dry foods.

*

Harmony Hammond was interviewed and pictured in *Pasatiempo* (May 4) concerning her participation in a panel during a May 11-13 conference about Judy Chicago's *Dinner Party*. Preparatory materials for this iconic feminist artwork are being shown at LewAllen Contemporary, 129 West Palace, Santa Fe, through June 18. (Chicago herself has ties to Galisteo through friends and her husband Donald Woodman, whom she met at a Galisteo rodeo; he lived here and worked for Agnes Martin.)

*

Santa Fe County is considering buying **Our Lady of Light Church in Lamy** so that the \$50,000 awarded for its restoration by the Legislature (for public property only) can be accepted. The former owner – the Archdiocese of Santa Fe—deeded it to a trust under the condition that it be used for community purposes. The church was built in 1926 after a flood destroyed its predecessor.

*

The indefatigable **Muriel Fariello** sounded off in *The New Mexican* (4/23) on the need to get rid of both Paul Wolfowitz and the World Bank, "which has been for years a dumping ground for political cronies who fall out of favor with the American presidents they served."

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Deborah Madison's book *Vegetable Soups* has been nominated for a James Beard Foundation award. Madison sees soup as a "year-round kind of food... one of the quicker things you can do," and suggests transforming soups with different garnishes.

*

Isabella Gonzales' ceramic sculpture *Stones. Bones. Words* (with wooden boxes made by **Antonio Chavez**) was on the cover of the *Rio Grande Sun* and reproduced in *Pasatiempo* May 4th.

(Cont. p.3)

The Hoback family has sold the vintage Pink Adobe restaurant to a Vermont-based hotel group.. One "Patricia" (aka **Priscilla Hoback**, whose mother, Rosalea Murphy, founded "The Pink," noted in *The New Mexican* (5/8) that many artists worked there and often went on to become well known.

*

The Spring issue of *Santa Fe Trend* includes photographs by **Nick Merrick** and **Ben Tremper** (Steve's and Amy's son, who also specializes in architectural photography). A controversy around **Earth Works Institute's** arroyo project with the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and former Galisteña **Bobbi Foshay-Miller's** new home in Santa Fe are also featured.

*

The national *AARP Magazine* announced that part-time Galisteño **Judge Reinhold** would be fifty on May 21.

CHANGES IN LATITUDE

Jan Saunders

On a cold rainy Cinco de Mayo, I dropped into the Galisteo Bosque for a few hopeful moments of spring birding and hit the jackpot. The sights and sounds below El Puente were nothing short of tropical. The calls and colors of the neo-tropical migrants were stunningly beautiful. Bright flashes of hot reds, citrus yellows, and glowing oranges were everywhere. From the ratcheting chatter of the Bullocks Oriole to the wolf whistles of the Grackle, the atmosphere vibrated with a rainforest-like quality. I half expected to see spider monkeys swinging from the cottonwoods.

In a span of fifteen minutes, I managed to get my binoculars trained on the following birds: Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Cedar Waxwings, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Spotted Towhee, Common Grackle, American Robin, both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, and (of course) Ravens, Turkey Vultures, our three species of Doves, and European Starlings.

International Migratory Bird Count Day is Saturday, May 12th. I will be birding in the Gila and Audubon is desperately looking for someone to do the count here in Galisteo.

UPDATE ON COUNTY ROAD 42

The hardworking Road Committee has been given the date of **May 29th at 10AM** for a hearing before the Board of County Commissioners at the County Courthouse on Grant Street in Santa Fe. A final presentation will be made to the BCC urging modifications to the design of paving County Road 42 (aka Camino de los Abuelos) in order to keep it a country road. Re-seeding and fewer culverts will be recommended and a capital outlay will be requested so that Miller Engineering can include these alterations in the design.

Robert Martinez of the Department of Public Works believes that these alterations, requiring more extreme cuts to the road, will raise the County's projected \$11,000 cost for re-design.

A CR 42 planning meeting will be held May 19th or 20th at the Community Center. Call Barbara Pfeiffer (466-4088) to check the date, and please support your Road Committee by attending both the planning meeting and the BCC hearing.

HARMONY FARM OFFERS BOUNTY

With the federal Farm Bill being renegotiated and hopefully updated, gas prices soaring, and Americans finally beginning to understand something of the ecological crises that could be coming down the pike, local organic produce should be near the top of our lists.

As author Barbara Kingsolver pointed out recently on the radio, most of our foods travel some 1500 miles to reach our refrigerator, consuming almost as much fossil fuel as our cars. One small but important way of dealing with climate change is to become a "locavore" – someone who grows their own food and/or buys it all from local sources. (In Galisteo we have an influential advocate for the practice in Deborah Madison.)

Harmony Farm of Abiquiu offers a "bountiful basket" membership for a fee of \$500 beginning June 2. It provides you with 25 weeks (June through November) of an assortment of their harvest – vegetables, herbs, chiles -- to be picked up at the Santa Fe Farmers Market (at DeVargas Mall this summer) each Saturday between 7:30 and 11AM. The basket contents are worth from \$20-40 per week, so it's economical too.

Membership is limited. If you are interested, call Richard Belanger at 505-685-0724; or e-mail: richar@cybermesa.com, or check out the website at www.harmonyfarmnm.com.

Harmony Farm is a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and longtime participant in the Santa Fe Farmer's Market. A CSA forms direct ties between farmers, consumers, and the land. Members support the farm and the farm in turn provides members with "a delightful quality, quantity and variety of fresh produce" for a whole growing season. "This relationship," says Belanger, "is a conscious and active step toward supporting our rural areas...bridging the gap between people and their food sources." Or as Kingsolver put it, "We have a new relationship to where we live. We are what we eat!"

Until Galisteo gets its own CSA (wishful thinking?) this is a wise way to go.

HEADS UP FROM THE WESTERN GALISTEO BASIN

One of the issues discussed at the Galisteo Watershed Partnership meeting on May 4th was the sudden interest in mineral rights in the Galisteo Basin, especially renewed drilling for oil and gas on the former Cash Ranch off NM 14, on the western border of Cerro Pelon Ranch. The Cash Ranch has been subdivided for development but has little water.

A lot of the mineral rights in the Galisteo Basin are privately owned. A company called Tecton owns the mineral rights on the Cash and Lone Mountain ranches and over 50,000 acres of contiguous underground rights south of CR 55A, including much of the old Ortiz mine grant.

In the mid 1970s and early '80s several dozen wells were dug in the Galisteo watershed, including isolated ones on Cerro Pelon and Zorro ranches. The Galisteo Basin has a lot of oil-producing Mancos Shale, similar to the giant Permian Basin around Midland, Texas. Prices are rocketing at the State and Federal auctions where rights are leased. In one case seven leases, supposed to be worth about \$200 each, amounted to \$500,000. It is impossible to buy a lease for land protection (Cont.p.4)

or conservation; if the minerals are not developed within 10 years you lose the lease.

Many of us do not own the mineral rights on our own land and most of us have no idea whether we do or not. (Your title policy should reference mineral rights.) If a company owning the mineral rights decides to drill on your land you have no recourse, except they can't come within a certain distance of your home.

This is happening state-wide. Worse yet, a common technique called "fracking" (fracturing) -- in which 2% potassium chloride and sand are injected into the earth and exploded -- can kill wildlife and livestock and destroy ground water quality if accidentally released in concentrated quantities.

It's all happening just to the west of us at the moment, but you can bet they are thinking about us too. Groups are forming to monitor sales and close up the loopholes in State law.

Higher-Speed (Microwave wireless Internet) is now available in Galisteo. Installation is \$300, monthly fee \$49.95. Typical speeds from 1 megabit download and 768 kilobit upload (speeds may vary). For details call Steven Grabiell at 867-3296 (sgrabiell@higherspeed.net) or visit www.higherspeed.net. (Received with a contribution to El Puente from Steven Grabiell, POB 220 Edgewood, NM 87015.)

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GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: 14 Avenida Vieja or call 466-1276 by June 12th for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE ADS.

WANTED

Highly responsible woman with experience in Galisteo seeks **summer house-sitting situation**. Loving care of pets and gardens. Excellent local references; call Priscilla Barton 520-896-3315 or e-mail pwbarton@theriver.com.

FREE

Horse manure from Linda Vista Stables. Call Maria, 466-8930.

SERVICES

White Dog Cyclery: Certified bicycle maintenance/repair. Your family bicycle service. All bikes, no repair too big or too small! Call Frank, 466-2121.

Saturday Art Classes for children and adults, Retablos and watercolors. 10-12AM or 2-4PM, weekdays or weekends, \$150 for 6 weeks. Catherine Ferguson. 466-2765.

Native Bloom, Landscape design/maintenance. Linda, 466-4658. Call Beth for **housesitting/petcare/vet runs/odd jobs/studio assistance/party help/you name it...** in Galisteo, 470-7606.

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.

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

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

Ron Helman, Life Coach: see www.ronhelman.com; 466-1919.
Like things done right? Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, and drip systems plus Gopher Control. David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

Baby-sitting, petsitting and animal care, 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.

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

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

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors, 35 yrs. experience, local refs. Onesimo, 466-1430.

Need a pet sitter or house sitter? I will do short or long-term care, occasional overnights, refs. available. \$35 per day and up. Call Maria, 466-8930.

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

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

One Room at a Time, Organize, Clear Clutter. Redecorate, Archive Memorabilia. Call Pamela Markoya, 466-9191.

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

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. **EL PUENTE logo** by Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: JUNE 12. TO BE A SPONSOR: make out check to GCA for \$75, note "for newsletter," and send to address above.**

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Also — Join us in the Cantina on Wednesday nights for \$2. beer specials!